

2023 48th PMFT Rules & Regulations

*****Important Rules Changes- Please Read Thoroughly*****

2023 Tournament Registration:

Registration for the tournament begins at 1 PM on Thursday, July 27th and ends at 9 PM that evening. No late registrations will be accepted. There will be two days of fishing: Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th. The awards ceremony will be held July 29th, Saturday evening. If you are pre-registered, please stop by during regular registration to confirm you are still participating and pick up the program, rules and regulations, meal tickets and swag bags. If you are participating as a sponsor or sponsor guest, you are still required to register during open registration. A captains meeting will be held at 9 PM. If you are unable to attend the meeting it will be livestreamed on our Facebook page: Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce

Bad Weather:

One day of fishing constitutes a Tournament.

Weigh-In-Station:

Tournament Headquarters is located in Port Mansfield, Texas at the Chamber of Commerce Event Center. Anglers submit fish for weigh-in, measurement, and recording by the official weighmaster or deputy weighmaster at Tournament Headquarters. Anglers must submit fish for weigh-in in person at the designated time slots. All fish submitted for entry and weigh-in must be in edible condition. Anglers are restricted to weighing in once a day. Each BOAT may submit no more than THEIR ALLOTTED FISH FOR EACH ELIGIBLE SPECIES IN THEIR BOATS DIVISION. An official fisheries biologist will be at the weigh-in station for inspection, determination of the species, and freshness of the catch. Any fish that does not meet any applicable State or Federal regulation limits at weigh station will be disqualified and no substitution for that species may be made by that angler. Advice of the weighmaster or biologist will be given to the Tournament Board. ***The decisions of the Tournament Board on any and all PMFT issues or disputes are final.*** Photographs of fish in question may be used to make a decision. All fish in both bay divisions must be weighed in on the day they are caught. Angler must select the heaviest fish to be weighed. Angler must accompany his or her fish to the weigh station and initial weigh card to ensure accuracy. No one may fish from any tournament boat who is not a PMFT registered angler. All captains or boat operators must be registered in PMFT for the angler's fish to be eligible for PMFT awards. All fish are subject to further inspection if deemed necessary by the weighmaster. All anglers must adhere to all State and Federal regulations.

All bay division boats that catch must weigh in their catch each day. (Exception: If a boat is assisting a disabled vessel which in turn prevents the boat rendering assistance from making the weigh in on the first day only.)

Legal Fish:

ALL ANGLERS MUST HAVE A VALID 2023 TEXAS FISHING LICENSE AND A SALTWATER STAMP.

All fish of any species must meet length limitations according to current Texas Saltwater Regulations. Mutilated fish will be disqualified.

Night Fishing:

Night fishing **IS NOT** allowed in the Bay and Kayak Divisions.

Bait:

In accordance with Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations, the Tournament will allow the use of all live and artificial baits except in those that choose to participate in the Terry Neal Perpetual Award and the Tom Floyd Perpetual Junior Award.

Tackle:

The Tournament will be conducted according to the rules of the International Game Fish Association, unless otherwise stated.

Juniors:

Entrants in the Junior Divisions, both bay and offshore, must be 16 years of age or younger as of the tournament registration date. Birth date before July 27th will be ineligible for 48th PMFT 2023.

Polygraph Tests:

Polygraph tests may be administered to any contestant. Statements may also be taken from members of a contestant's fishing party. Any contestant who is a contender for any award **MUST BE ACCESSIBLE BY PHONE** and should refrain from alcohol abuse and or using any drugs. Entry in this tournament constitutes an agreement to submit to and pass polygraph testing. Failure to pass will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament and exclusion from any trophies, titles, awards, prizes and fish pots. Such test shall be taken at the time and place requested by the PMFT Tournament Board. **The test may take up to three hours.**

Any protest must be filed in writing and hand delivered to a member of the Tournament Board or the Tournament Director on the day of the alleged infraction. NOTICE: Any participant who refuses to take the polygraph or does not pass the polygraph or is disqualified by the Tournament Committee for any other reason will be BARRED from future Port Mansfield Tournaments from July 28th, 2023 forward.

Tournament Board and those associated with weigh in (weighmaster, biologists) are required to immediately report fraudulent activities to Texas Parks and Wildlife law enforcement.

Conservation:

To preserve game fish, anglers are encouraged to release those fish that are smaller than those already caught. All fish caught are property of the angler. The tournament will not be responsible for disposal, storage or refrigeration of any catch.

Responsibility:

Angler agrees to act responsibly during the tournament and agrees to all Rules and Regulations. Angler agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Tournament, The Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, and its board and members from any claims by anyone against any of them based in any way on any act or omission of the angler during or in relation to the Tournament. **ONLY FISH IN THE SPECIFIED DIVISIONS OF THE PMFT WILL BE WEIGHED IN BY THE WEIGHMASTER STATION. ANY UNAUTHORIZED FISH BROUGHT TO WEIGH IN WILL RESULT IN BOAT/TEAM DISQUALIFICATION.**

Changing Divisions:

After registration, any angler wishing to change divisions (for instance, offshore division to bay division due to weather) shall report to the Tournament Director prior to switching divisions. Fish entered in one division will not count in any other division. The tournament director will evaluate such request and either approve or deny based on the circumstances.

PIGGY PERCH DIVISION

The Piggy Perch tournament is on Saturday July 28th. Parents must register their children at our Registration on July 27th from 1 PM to 9PM. Children can begin fishing at 7 AM. Weigh-in is at 11 AM. Awards are at 11:30 AM. Rules will be given to parents at the time of registration and are also available on our website.

*****PLEASE RELEASE ALL PIGGY PERCH THAT WILL NOT BE WEIGHED IN FOR CONSERVATION OF THE SPECIES******

BAY DIVISION

The Bay Division will consist of two separate divisions: **OPEN DIVISION**- meaning you can throw bait and/or artificial and **ARTIFICIAL ONLY DIVISION**. Each **BOAT/Team** cannot exceed 5 anglers. Each **Boat/Team** must specify which division they are fishing upon registration. **Wade fishing is allowed but all anglers MUST remain in sight of their boat.** All members of the same boat must be registered in the same division. Each bay division will have awards for **BOAT, WOMEN, and JUNIOR** (16 and under) for 1st and 2nd place along with the Grand Champions. A Grand Slam Bay will be awarded to the **BOAT** who weighs in 2 legal redfish and 1 legal flounder, (Catch 22 Format) each day and has the most combined weight for the two days of fishing. The awards are for Redfish and Flounder. **Please note: if you are registered as a Bait Boat in the OPEN DIVISION a Women or Junior cannot win in the ARTIFICIAL ONLY DIVISION. Also, if you are registered as an Artificial Boat in the ARTIFICIAL ONLY DIVISION a Women or Junior cannot win in the OPEN DIVISION.**

Bay Fishing Hours:

Anglers may start fishing at 6:45 AM both days; bay anglers must be in between Mansfield Marina and the Weigh Station no later than 3 PM on the Friday and Saturday of the tournament week. Weigh-in will not begin until 1 PM.

Bay Scoring ****CATCH 22 FORMAT – Weight / Length / Time****

Each BOAT will be allowed to weigh in 2 Redfish and 1 Flounder not measuring greater than 22 inches per species per day. In the event of a tie on weight, the fish with the most length wins. In the event of a tie at this stage, the angler who weighed in first is the winner. **All bay anglers are restricted to one fishing line in the water per angler at any given time. Any fish hooked and handed to another angler to reel in is disqualified**

LIVE WEIGH IN AND RELEASE BONUS:

Each fish safely weighed alive and safely released will receive a .25 pound bonus per species. (.75 pounds per day per boat Maximum).

Bay Junior Division:

The same rules will apply to both junior and adult anglers. Juniors may qualify as Grand Champion Bay or Grand Slam Bay. All Junior Bay Division entrants must hook and play their own fish. **A fish hooked and handed to a junior to reel in is not a legal catch.**

KAYAK DIVISION

The Kayak Division is an OPEN Division. Meaning you can throw bait and/or artificial. This division will have awards for 1st and 2nd place along with the Grand Champion. A Grand Slam Kayak will be awarded to the angler who weighs in 2 Redfish and 1 Flounder, (**CATCH 22 FORMAT**) each day and has the most combined weight for the two days of fishing. The awards are for Redfish and Flounder. **All Kayak anglers are restricted to one fishing line in the water per angler at any given time.**

Kayak Fishing Hours & Launch Location:

Kayak anglers may start fishing at 7 AM both days. Weigh in times for kayak anglers will begin at 1 PM and end at 3:30 PM on the Friday and Saturday of the tournament week. Kayak anglers much launch from Port Mansfield.

Kayak Scoring **CATCH 22 FORMAT – Weight / Length / Time******

Each angler will be allowed to weigh in 2 Redfish & 1 Flounder not measuring greater than 22 inches per species per day. In the event of a tie on weight, the fish with the most length wins. In the event of a tie at this stage, the angler who weighed in first is the winner.

OFFSHORE DIVISION

Fishing Hours:

Offshore boats may not leave their dock or Port of Choice until **6 PM the Thursday evening of the tournament week**. Fishing time starts at **6 AM the Friday morning of the tournament week**. Final weigh-in is on the **Saturday of the tournament week from 1 PM to 5 PM**. Offshore boats must be in between Mansfield Marina and the Weigh Station by the final dock time of 5 PM. Please allow yourself enough time to make it in from offshore and to the Weigh Station at the Port Mansfield Event Center by the final dock time.

Offshore Rules for 2023:

IGFA RULES APPLY EXCEPT THE ANGLER CAN BE ASSISTED TO THE CHAIR OR INTO THE HARNESS.

All fish must be caught in accordance to State and Federal Laws to include NOAA regulations.

No shooting, explosives, entangling devices, nets, long lines, electric reels or other non-sporting devices may be used.

Fish must be weighed-in in edible condition. This rule will be strictly enforced. Remember to take plenty of ice and/or insulated bags.

No mutilated or frozen fish will be accepted.

Highest score determines the winner(s). In the case of a tie on weighed fish, length prevails. On released billfish, the boat with the earliest release time wins. If there is a tie between boats with weighed fish and released fish, the boat with the most weighed points wins.

Each angler may weigh in only one fish per species per day even if you choose to weigh-in Saturday only. **PMFT Offshore is no longer a two-day combined weight. Single heaviest fish will win!**

Anglers:

Anglers must be registered in the offshore division and specify the boat on which fishing will be done. The fish must be weighed in from the boat on which it was caught or if from a boat fishing other ports, the angler may transport fish by land. Fish and/or anglers may not switch boats. Anglers from other ports must be in the weigh-in line by the final dock times to qualify.

Offshore Boats:

Offshore boats may fish from other ports and weigh in their fish at the Port Mansfield Event Center, or angler may transport catch by land. The angler and the boat being fished from must register before the start of the Tournament.

Offshore Division Scoring:

- A) Blue Marlin will be scored as follows: weight of the fish multiplied by three (3). Minimum length for Blue Marlin is 101".
- B) White Marlin and Sailfish will be scored as follows: the weight of the fish multiplied by five (5) plus 100. Minimum length to qualify is 67" for White Marlin, 64" for Sailfish.
- C) Other offshore fish—Blackfin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Bonito, Ling, Wahoo, Dolphin and King Mackerel. All will be scored one (1) point per pound. **JACK CREVALLE, BARRACUDA AND AMBERJACK ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS OR FOR THE TOURNAMENT.** Catch is limited to the single heaviest fish per eligible species per day of fishing.
- D) Catch and release Class: Any offshore fisherman may elect to Catch and Release his billfish. Points for Catch and Release trophies will be awarded to the following only:
 - BLUE MARLIN.....800 POINTS
 - WHITE MARLIN.....500 POINTS
 - SAILFISH.....300 POINTS

TO QUALIFY FOR CATCH AND RELEASE POINTS, A PHOTO OR VIDEO FROM A DIGITAL CAMERA IDENTIFYING THE FISH BEING RELEASED MUST BE SHOWN. PHOTOS AND VIDEOS MUST SHOW THE OBJECT OF THE DAY. ANY CONNECTIONS FROM A VIDEO CARD TO A COMPUTER MUST BE PROVIDED TO DOWNLOAD PICTURES. ALL PICTURES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE WEIGH STATION.

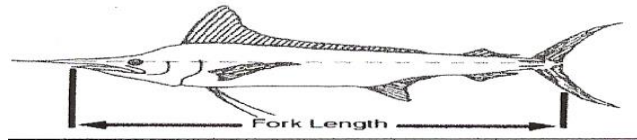
ON THE FINAL DAY OR WHEN FISH IS BEING WEIGHED. All photos must clearly show the object of the tournament and must be signed with the date and time of the catch and have signatures of the fishing party and the crew. All billfish hook ups and landings, whether boated or released, must be reported or relayed to a committee boat at the time of the event and the landing time must be verified with a verification number from a committee boat to qualify for the earned points. The time reported and verified by the committee boat will be the official time. In the event of a tie, the first angler to accumulate the highest release points by the earliest time will be declared the winner. In order for a fish to be scored as a Blue Marlin, the photo or video must clearly show it is a Blue Marlin; otherwise it will be scored as a White Marlin. Video images must contain the following: the angler fighting the fish showing the PMFT object of the tournament, clear identification of the species of billfish, mate with leader in hand and PMFT object of the tournament, wiring and releasing the fish with the fish swimming away, followed by an immediate and complete pan of the cockpit showing no other lines in the water. The camera MUST NOT stop recording during the wiring, release and complete pan of the cockpit. If the mate has the leader in hand and the hook pulls or the leader breaks, the fish still qualifies if all other rules are satisfied, but if the fish is only identifiable as a billfish, the fish will score the minimum 300 points.

ALL BILLFISH TO BE RELEASED MUST REMAIN IN THE WATER. PHOTOS SHOWING SAID FISH IN OR ON THE BOAT **WILL NOT** BE ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS.

The decision of the weighmaster and the tournament committee will be final. The Tournament will be conducted according to the International Game Fish Association unless otherwise stated. **Womens and Junior division contestants may receive assistance moving the rod from rod holder to fighting chair.** *Any mutilated fish will be disqualified.*

Minimum Length Requirement:

All billfish must be measured as shown below. To ensure uniform measurements, PMFT requires all billfish to be measured across the side from tip of lower jaw to fork of tail. Minimum lengths to be eligible for competition: Blue Marlin – 101”; White Marlin – 67”; Sailfish – 64” Swordfish – 49”



OPEN DIVISION BAY AWARDS LURES DIVISION BAY AWARDS

(BOAT- 1st & 2nd place only) (BOAT-1st & 2nd place only)

Grand Champion Bay Boat:

The grand champion bay winner will be the BOAT with the highest combined weight in their division for the two days of fishing on all eligible fish: redfish and flounder. The grand champion bay winner may also be the grand slam bay winner if weighing in all three fish both days.

Grand Slam Bay Boat:

The grand slam bay winner will be the BOAT from either division with the highest combined weight for the two days of fishing on all eligible fish: redfish and flounder and must weigh-in all three fish both days of the tournament.

Women’s Division Grand Champion:

The Women’s Division Grand Champion winner will be the contestant with the highest combined weight overall fishing on all eligible fish: redfish and flounder.

Juniors Division Grand Champion:

The Juniors Division Grand Champion winner will be the contestant with the highest combined weight overall fishing on all eligible fish: redfish and flounder.

KAYAK AWARDS

(1 & 2nd place only)

Grand Champion Kayak Division:

The grand champion Kayak winners will be the contestant with the highest combined weight for the two days of fishing on all eligible fish: redfish and flounder.

OFFSHORE AWARDS
(Adults & Juniors- 1st & 2nd place only)

NO SHARKS

Trophies awarded for the following fish:

Dolphin	Blue Marlin
Blackfin Tuna	White Marlin
Bonita	Sailfish
Wahoo	Yellowfin Tuna
Kingfish (King Mackerel)	
Ling	
Red Snapper	

Released Billfish:

The Contestant with the most released points wins. Points will be counted toward offshore grand champion.

Grand Champion Offshore:

The grand champion offshore winner will be the contestant with the highest number of points on all eligible species in the offshore division.

PERPETUAL AWARDS

- **Terry Neal Biggest Trout** (Lures Only) **CATCH, VIDEO & RELEASE-** *Any registered angler that wants to participate in the Terry Neal Perpetual Award must attend a mandatory captains meeting on Thursday, July 27th at 7 PM to have their Check-It Stick approved and receive their specified token. You must include your specified token in the photo/video of your biggest Speckled Trout on the Check-It Stick. The Speckled Trout must be videoed by safe release. The photo and or video must be clear and concise of the fish's length. See TPWD rules for proper measurement. Phone time stamp will be the tie breaker.*
- **Tackle Box Tom Junior Biggest Trout** (Lures Only) **CATCH, VIDEO & RELEASE-** *Any registered angler that wants to participate in the Tom Floyd Perpetual Award must attend a mandatory captains meeting on Thursday, July 27th at 7 PM to have their Check-It Stick approved and receive their specified token. You must include your specified token in the photo/video of your biggest Speckled Trout on the Check-It Stick. The Speckled Trout must be photographed and or videoed by safe release. The video must be clear and concise of the fish's length. See TPWD rules for proper measurement. Phone time stamp will be the tie breaker.*
- **James "Jim" Rowland Biggest Flounder** (Lures or Bait) *Any registered angler that wants to participate in the James Rowland Biggest Flounder Perpetual Award must attend a mandatory captains meeting on Thursday July 27th at 7 PM. This award will go to the angler who weighs in the heaviest single flounder during the duration of the tournament. The flounder may be weighed in dead or alive, however in the event the flounder is weighed and released alive the .25 pound bump will be carried over to the final weight.*
- **Grand Champion Offshore**
- **Grand Champion Bay**
- **Grand Champion Lures Only**

PLEASE OBSERVE THE "NO WAKE" ZONE IN THE HARBOR

Willacy County Navigation District
(956) 944-2325

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