

Rules & Regulations

THE INVITATIONAL

YTAC Powered by ThriveWell Cancer Foundation

1. General. The "Tournament," as referred to herein, shall be THE INVITATIONAL – YTAC Powered by ThriveWell Cancer Foundation. "YTAC," as referred to herein, shall mean the Young Texans Against Cancer San Antonio Chapter, Powered by ThriveWell Cancer Foundation. All decisions made by the Tournament directors will be final in all matters. The Tournament directors may modify these rules and regulations (these "Rules") when the safety of a contestant is in question or for any other reason by a unanimous decision by the Tournament directors. The Tournament directors shall use reasonable efforts to ensure prompt notice of any change to the Rules is given to the contestants. Any contestant found to be in violation of any Tournament Rules will be subject to disqualification from this Tournament. Tournament directors have the right to refuse any entry. ***Read the following rules prior to signing of entry form.***

2. Applicable Laws. Federal, State and Local laws are to be obeyed by contestants at all times. Violation of any federal, state and/or local laws will result in the disqualification of the individual and the team the individual belongs to from the Tournament. All anglers must carry a valid Texas fishing license with a saltwater stamp.

3. Team and Entry Fees. *The Tournament shall feature two divisions: (a) an Artificial Lure Only Division; and (b) a Bait Division.* Each team, regardless of division, may consist of 1 to 4 members, at your discretion. Only one team per boat. Only one boat per team (no kayaks). Each person in the boat is considered a team member. Non-contestants are not allowed in paid contestants' boats anytime during official Tournament hours. All team members must leave and return to the dock in the same boat. No sharing or pooling of fish with other teams is allowed. The entry fee for the Tournament is \$400.00 per team. Teams must have the entire Tournament entry fee paid in full on, or prior to Friday, May 24, 2024. Teams registering after this date are considered late and must pay a \$50 Late Registration Fee. Teams may also register at the Check-in/Mixer/Dinner, Friday, June 7, 2024, but will be subject to the \$50 Late Registration Fee. All entry fees and deposits are non-refundable.

4. Tournament Eligibility. The Tournament is open to men and women. In order to participate in the Tournament, contestants under 18 years old must fish with at least one legal guardian as a teammate. No professionals are allowed to compete in this Tournament. If a person has acted as a professional in the last 12 months, that person is not eligible. The Tournament reserves the right to refuse membership and participation in any event to an individual and/or team at the discretion of the Tournament directors. All teams must provide a valid email address when registering for the Tournament. Communication to the registered email address shall constitute notice delivered regarding Tournament matters.

5. Sportsmanship. Tournament participants are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and ethics. Un-sportsmanlike and unethical conduct will result in disqualification (at the discretion of the Tournament directors).

6. Tackle and Equipment. For teams entering in the Bait Fishing division, live bait, dead bait, cut bait or artificial lures may be used. For teams entering in the Artificial Lure Only division, ONLY artificial

lures may be used. Only one rod and reel may be used at any one time per angler. All fish must be caught on rod and reel.

7. Permitted Tournament Fishing Waters. Contestants may launch their boats from anywhere they choose and may fish inshore public water accessible by boat or by wading but limited to those waters consisting of all Texas coastal waters north of the Port Mansfield Cut, to the north boundary of Matagorda Bay. Boats must stay inshore and are not permitted in offshore waters. For clarification, boats must stay inside 500 feet of the start of any jetties.

(a) Participants are not allowed to fish within 150 feet (50 yards) of another anchored boat.

(b) If a fishing area is in question, the boat anchored first has the right to the area.

(c) An anchored boat has the first right to the area within 150 feet of the anchored boat. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to an anchor, a weight, push pole, power pole, etc. with the trolling motor in the up position, if applicable.

8. Wade Fishing is Permitted. Wade fishing is permitted in the Tournament. Participants may not leave the boat to net a fish hooked while in the boat. Teams may have participants fishing out of the boat while another teammate is wade fishing (fishing is defined in this instance as casting and retrieving).

9. Check-In. Check-in times will be between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. central/standard time on the evening of Friday, June 7, 2024, at the Port Aransas Community Center, located at 408 North Alister, Port Aransas, Texas 78373. Contestants who do not check in at the official check-in area within the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of one-half inch per minute which will be deducted from the total stringer measurement including any inches to be counted toward any big fish award. Any contestant more than twenty (20) minutes late will be disqualified. Teams which are not able to check in due to equipment failure or other unforeseen circumstances are responsible for contacting a Tournament director before the official check-in time is over. *Only one team member needs to check in for the entire team, although all team members are encouraged to check in to retrieve Tournament gift bag and other information.*

10. Calcutta and Fish Pots. A fish pot for redfish, flounder and black drum will be held during registration and until 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024 at the Port Aransas Community Center. Both the bait fishing and artificial lure fishing divisions will compete in the same fish pot/s competition. The fish pot entry fees to participate are \$100 per person for each entry. A total of 75% of the proceeds from each pot will be released as prize money to the respective winners (with 25% of the pot reserved for YTAC-ThriveWell). The prize money will be paid out as follows: 75% to the 1st place fish and 25% to the 2nd place fish of each pot.

A Calcutta auction will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024 at the Port Aransas Community Center, with entry bids starting at \$100. There will be two separate divisions, one for Artificial Lure fishing only and one for Bait fishing. Each team will have selected the division they wish to compete in during registration. If a team wins the bidding on another team's boat, the team associated with the purchased boat will have the option of buying half of their boat back from the bidder. Winning bidders on the boat which wins best stringer and second place stringer will receive 55% and 20% of the total Calcutta pot respectively (with 25% being reserved for YTAC-ThriveWell).

11. Fishing Hours. Only fish landed after 6:00am on the day of the Tournament will be eligible for Tournament measurement.

12. Fish Entry. The tournament this year is (CPR) catch, photo and release ONLY to help preserve the fishery for the future. You will NOT bring live or dead fish to a “weigh in” this year. All fish are encouraged to be released after the catch and photo documentation. Each team must measure and photo their fish on a “Check-It Stik”. Teams must provide their own “Check-It Stik”. This official check stick must be used to measure all to be entered fish and must be in the picture used for entry. Boat cooler rulers, measuring tapes or any other methods of measuring fish are not allowed to document a to be entered fish’s length. Only fish documented using the official tournament check stick are eligible for entry. Pictures of your to be entered fish on the tournament check stick must **clearly** show the tip of the snout of the fish touching the vertical end of the check stick and the final measurement at the extreme end of the tail fin when pinched (as described by TPWD). Both ends of the fish must be visible in the same picture. Only 1 picture per fish shall be entered. Any single fish believed to be entered twice in two different entry pictures will result in disqualification. Any fish that is believed to have been caught prior to tournament day will result in disqualification. It is each team’s responsibility to take their own pictures with their own phones/equipment and to make sure there is no question as to the length of the fish as it is measured on the check stick and the legitimacy and clarity of the photos. Tournament officials shall decide the final measurement of each entered fish by their determination of what they see in the pictures provided. Tournament officials will “zoom” into pictures in order to help confirm their opinion of the legitimacy and measurement of the entered fish. The official clock will be posted at the measuring station and monitored by the tournament officials. It will be each team’s responsibility to keep up with the official time. Fish measurement shall begin Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. and shall terminate at 4:30 p.m. that day. The measurement station shall be at the Island Moorings Yacht Club and Marina. To enter their catch, a team member must be in the measurement entry line by 4:30 p.m. that day—not in a boat or on the boat ramp, in the parking lot, etc. No exceptions will be granted. All fish measurement photos must be ready to be presented to tournament officials when you approach fish entry station/table. It is your team's responsibility to cull your catch photos. EACH TEAM WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN IN A SINGLE STRINGER CONSISTING OF PHOTOS OF (4) REDFISH. REDFISH FOR STRINGER ENTRY MUST BE IN THE SLOT (20-28”). NO OVERSIZED REDFISH CAN BE ENTERED FOR THE STRINGER BUT MAY BE ENTERED FOR THE FISH POT.

13. Scoring. Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined as follows. In the event of tie in length, a card draw, with high card winning, will determine the winner.

(a) **Big Redfish Award.** By the greatest length of one redfish over 20”. Oversized redfish may be entered for Big Redfish fish pot only.

(b) **Big Black Drum Award.** By the greatest length of one black drum between 14”-30” or over 52”.

(c) **Big Flounder Award.** By the greatest length of one flounder over 15”.

(d) **Best Stringer Award.** BY THE GREATEST TOTAL COMBINED LENGTH OF A MAXIMUM OF (4) SLOT REDFISH.

14. Protest Procedure. All protests must be submitted in writing to a Tournament director no later than 15 minutes following the entry of the last fish. All decisions will be made by the Tournament directors and are final. *No warranties are made with regard to the limitation of ridicule or other verbal abuse protestors may be subject to in the event of the filing of an unwarranted protest.*

15. Communication Before and During Tournament Hours. No communication will be allowed between anglers or from outside sources during Tournament hours. Purchasing of information and/or hiring of services from local experts or guides will not be permitted within five (5) days prior to the Tournament.

No communication is allowed via word of mouth, cell phone, radio, pager or any other electrical device during competition hours. If a team has an emergency, a mechanical problem, or needs immediate assistance, teams may contact local authorities, emergency services, the Coast Guard, a Tournament director or another team. Teams must notify a Tournament director immediately if these circumstances exist.

16. Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs. Heavy consumption of any alcoholic beverages during the Tournament is prohibited. Any use of or consumption of illegal drugs during Tournament is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.

17. Boat, Motor and Horsepower Regulations. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fuel used during the Tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

18. Safety. Safe boating will be observed at all times. Although this is a "rain or shine" tournament, the Tournament may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. The decision to shorten or to cancel will be left totally to the discretion of the Tournament directors. A four (4) hour period shall constitute a day of fishing. It is the competitor's responsibility to communicate with a Tournament director if cancellation of the event is suspected. Cancellations will be communicated via email in the event of cancellation prior to the date of the Tournament. If conditions are not safe on the Tournament day, the Tournament directors reserve the right to hold the Tournament the following day (Sunday). If conditions are not favorable the following day (Sunday), an alternate date could be considered and the date be circulated to the contestants via email.

19. Polygraphs. By signature on the official Tournament entry form, each contestant agrees to submit to a polygraph test and abide by its conclusion. Polygraph tests will be issued at the discretion of the Tournament directors if any rules or regulations are in question. The results of the polygraph are final and cannot be reviewed by a court of law.

20. Waiver and Release. It is anticipated that each team will be required to execute a release and waiver agreement, releasing the YTAC, ThriveWell and its officers, directors, sponsors and committee members from any responsibility for damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the Tournament or its related activities before a team may be checked in and compete in the Tournament.

21. Permission to be Filmed and/or Photographed. By participation in the Tournament, each contestant agrees to be filmed, photographed, taped, quoted or otherwise mentioned (without compensation) by YTAC/ThriveWell on the ThriveWell website, social media or in other ThriveWell literature, for the purpose of promoting YTAC, ThriveWell or the Tournament in the future. This includes but is not limited to official photographers, writers, hosts, or sponsors of this event under the conditions authorized by YTAC/ThriveWell. Each contestant, by participating, gives YTAC/ThriveWell the right to use (without compensation) their name, picture, likeness, quotes, and biographical information, whether audio or visual, before, during and after the period of individual or team participation in the Tournament.

The Tournament directors, Brodie Lowrey, Brad Johnson, Brian Nash Brian Vita and YTAC/ThriveWell thank you for your support and encourage you to participate in this great event.