

## **ENTERING YOUR CATCH**

Virtually every day of the year the WPBFC has a fishing contest underway. That means that each time you go fishing you can potentially catch a contest winning fish. But as the old saying goes, "You can't win if you don't enter". For fish to be eligible for great trophies and tackle prizes, club members simply have to submit their entry on an official WPBFC catch affidavit, which must be fully completed and submitted electronically or returned to the Fishing Club (or postmarked) within 14 days of the catch. Incomplete affidavits will not be processed. Anglers do not have to kill their catch for entry in fishing club contests. Caught, weighed and released fish are eligible, providing they are weighed on an official club certified hand scale, or if you don't have a certified hand scale, you can weigh your catch at any weigh station that has a certified scale. Entering fish is that simple. Your catch does not have to be a 'trophy' fish to win an award.

### **JUNIOR ANGLERS (AGES 10-18)**

WPBFC Junior Anglers are members ages 10-18 years old. Junior anglers are eligible for all award categories in the WPBFC annual Fishing Contest (Nov. 1 - Oct. 31), annual angling trophies and All-Time Club Records. All qualifying junior angler catches should be entered and will be considered when determining the Junior Angler of the Year Award (see specific Junior Angler of the Year criteria on the Annual Fishing Contest chart). All juniors must catch their fish totally unassisted.

### **PEE WEE ANGLERS (KIDS THRU AGE 9)**

Family participation is the foundation of the WPBFC. In fact, many adult members have made their kids members of the club as of their date of birth. Pee Wee members are kids less than 10 years of age. The club encourages these kids to become active anglers and provides incentives to keep them excited about their fishing accomplishments. Pee Wee anglers should enter any fish they catch regardless of size or species. Entries must be submitted on an official catch affidavit. Each Pee Wee will receive an award (presented annually at the November Awards, BBQ & Auction) for their catch. Each Pee Wee will receive only one award regardless of number of fish entered during the angling year.

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## **GENERAL ANGLING COMPETITION RULES**

1. Each entry must be in accord with sporting customs and ethics. Entries must also be in accord with the club Tackle Specifications and Definitions (see below). The WPBFC Angling Committee has the authority to accept or reject any entry.
2. All WPBFC members in good standing are eligible.
3. Only fish caught by WPBFC members in good standing in the inland and coastal waters of the State of Florida (any location within 25 nautical miles from the shoreline of the State of Florida with Key West being the southern most shoreline will be eligible for contest or club record entry). The Bahamas and Dry Tortugas are excluded.
4. Angler unaided, regardless of age (except for Pee Wee anglers), must set the hook and fight and bring the fish to leader or gaff. No other person may touch the rod, reel or line during the fight.
5. Fish injured between hook up and landing is ineligible.

6. Shooting/harpooning/lancing/hand lining the fish is not allowed.
7. Broken rod disqualifies the entry.
8. Gaff must not exceed 8-foot overall length. Line on flying gaff is limited to 30 feet. Gaffs on drift boats, bridges, piers and other similar structures are not limited.
9. Power driven, ratchet handle, or two-hand reels are prohibited.
10. Intentional foul hooking or fish hooked on more than one line is ineligible for entry.
11. Entire double line and leader must leave the rod tip during the fight to qualify the entry.
12. Rod must not rest upon any object and be intentionally used for leverage during the playing of a fish, except rod butt may be ethically placed in a fighting chair or waist belt gimbal.
13. All catches must be entered on an Official WPBFC Catch Affidavit. It is preferred that all catches be witnessed. If no witness is available, a photograph or video of the fish, with the club certified scale in the image, is required. If a witness is used, his/her name or signature must appear on the affidavit. When using a land based weigh station, the weighmaster should conduct the weighing and sign the affidavit. For release awards, the release is considered official when the swivel or leader material reaches the rod tip or the leader is in hand. A photo or video of the release is required if no witness is available.
14. Any affidavit not completely filled out will not be considered for entry. Concerns or questions about specific entries should be directed to the club angling committee in writing.
15. The maximum number of awards a club member can win in the WPBFC annual Fishing Contest (Nov. 1 – Oct. 31) is two (2), not including special awards (i.e. release, grand champion). In case of ties in the WPBFC annual Fishing Contest categories, date of catch will be used to determine the winner. Each fish may be entered in only the category specified on the affidavit.
16. Pee Wee anglers will receive one award annually for any fish entered regardless of tackle or location of catch. One award per Pee Wee only, regardless of the number of entries.
17. Kids who turn 10 years old during the course of the WPBFC annual Fishing Contest have the option of entering as a Pee Wee or Junior angler. The date and age listed on the first entry received by the club will determine the individual's classification.
18. Junior and Adult anglers compete for the same awards categories in the WPBFC Annual Fishing Contest.
19. During the final two (2) weeks of the WPBFC annual Fishing Contest (ends Oct. 31) & the annual angling trophy competitions (Beinecke, Nora, Schneider, etc.) (end Dec. 31), entries must be received within 48 hours of the catch.
20. All local, state and federal rules and regulations apply (i.e. tuna permits, snook stamp).

## TACKLE SPECIFICATIONS & DEFINITIONS

All fishing line must be non-metallic. Line strength shall be based upon manufacturer's stated test (breaking strength) except for record applications, where line shall be electronically tested in accordance with the club policy (see criteria for making all-time club record entries). Per IGFA rules, the catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 5 meters (16.5 ft.) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogeneous piece of line. Any strength line (including braid) may be used as backing.

In the annual WPBFC Fishing Contest and the All-Time Club Records, there are four (4) different tackle categories offered to provide both variety and challenge. The four main categories are Fly, Spin, Plug and General. Within each category are separate divisions for varying line tests. The Fly, Spin, & Plug categories are considered casting divisions and only artificial lures can be used. Lures must be cast and retrieved (not trolled) in an ethical manner (no dead-sticking lures allowed). Use of after-market fish scents or other attractants is prohibited on any artificial lure or fly. Casting division definitions are:

**FLY** (12 lb. & 20 lb. Tippet only) - Rod, reel, line and fly must be designed specifically for fly casting. Non-metallic leader must be attached to terminal end of fly line. Non-metallic class tippet, 15 inch minimum, 20 lb. test maximum, must connect leader to shock tippet and/or fly. Any test/material shock tippet (can be wire), 12 inch maximum including knots, may be used between class tippet and fly. Flies must remain "pure" & cannot be sweetened with oils, scents or natural baits.

**SPIN** (4 lb. & 8 lb. Test only) - Rod, with a fixed spool reel, must be specifically designed for spin fishing. Double line and leader (which may be of any material or combination of materials) shall not exceed the length of the rod. Artificial lures only.

**PLUG** (10 lb. & 16 lb. Test only) - Rod, with a level wind revolving spool reel, must be specifically designed for plug cast fishing. Double line and leader (which may be of any material or combination of materials) shall not exceed the length of the rod. Artificial lures only.

The final tackle division is the General category, which covers fishing with live or dead bait, trolling artificials (not cast and retrieved), and lures tipped with natural bait. The General division is defined as:

**GENERAL** (4 lb., 8 lb., 12 lb., 20 lb., 30 lb., 50 lb. and Unlimited up to 130 lb test - *not all line classes are represented in each angling program*). Manual revolving spool or standard spin reel, rod, non-metallic line, double line/leader, lure, hook and bait shall conform to International Game Fish Association specifications. Remember, the type of tackle you are fishing (spin outfit, plug outfit, etc.) and the style of fishing, determines the category in which the fish is eligible. Some examples are:

1. If you caught a bass while trolling a crank bait using a spinning rod with 10 lb. test line you would enter that fish in the 12 lb. General division. The fish is not eligible in Spin division because the lure was not cast and retrieved, and because the line test is too high. The Spin category is only for 4 lb. and 8 lb. test.
2. If you're fishing with an 8 lb. class spinning rod outfit and tip a jig with a piece of shrimp, you have automatically changed from Spin to General because you are no longer using a purely artificial lure. Pre-packaged scented baits like D.O.A. and Berkley Gulp! are currently considered artificial lures and are legal in both the Spin and Plug divisions as long as the lures are cast and retrieved in an ethical manner (no

trolling or dead sticking).

- If you are throwing a plug type lure on an 8 lb. class spinning rod, you are fishing the Spin division. Likewise, if you are fishing a jig on a 16 lb. plug outfit, you are fishing the Plug division. The tackle, not the lure, determines the category in all casting divisions (Spin, Plug, Fly).

**WPBFC ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST**

- All regulations and specifications contained in the WPBFC general angling competition rules apply with the following exceptions:
- For the inshore and offshore awards, the heaviest eligible fish caught on the specified tackle will be judged the winner. At contest end, Individuals may only win two awards in the inshore and/or offshore divisions combined, regardless of the number of winning fish posted (this does not include special award categories, i.e. release, grand champion, etc.). For the release awards, the winner will be that person scoring the highest number of release points regardless of tackle used.
- The designation of a fish as either inshore or offshore is not meant to be restrictive. An eligible fish may be entered regardless of catch location within the contest boundaries.

**OFFSHORE AWARDS**

SPECIES	FLY 20	SPIN 8	PLUG 16	12 GEN	20 GEN	UNL GEN
African Pompano	•	•	•	•	•	•
Amberjack	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barracuda	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cobia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dolphin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grouper	•	•	•	•	•	•
King Mackerel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tuna, Blackfin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tuna, Yellowfin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tunny, Little	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wahoo	•	•	•	•	•	•

*\* All offshore entries must be a minimum of 10 lbs. to be eligible.*

**INSHORE AWARDS**

SPECIES	FLY 20	SPIN 8	PLUG 16	12 GEN	20 GEN	UNL GEN
Largemouth Bass	•	•	•	•	•	•
Peacock Bass	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bluefish	•	•	•	•	•	n/a
Drum, Black	•	•	•	•	•	•
Drum, Red	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jack Crevalle	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ladyfish	•	•	•	•	•	n/a
Mackerel, Spanish	•	•	•	•	•	•
Permit	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pompano, Florida	•	•	•	•	•	•

Snapper	•	•	•	•	•	•
Snook	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spotted Sea Trout	•	•	•	•	•	n/a
Tripletail	•	•	•	•	•	•

*(n/a means tackle category is not open for contest entries)*

**\* All inshore entries must be a minimum of 3 lbs. to be eligible.**

**RELEASE AWARDS**

Awarded to the angler scoring the most release points regardless of tackle in the following divisions:

- *Most Blue Marlin Releases - commemorative award*
- *Most White Marlin Releases - commemorative award*
- *Most Bonefish Releases - commemorative award*
- *Most Tarpon Releases - commemorative award (minimum size for tarpon release entries is 36 inches)*

NOTE: Winners will be those who score the most catch and release points based upon the following point scales ~ Blue & White Marlin: 100 pts. live bait, 300 pts. dead bait, 500 pts. artificial lure, 1000 pts. on fly. Bonefish & Tarpon: 100 pts. live or dead bait, 300 pts. artificial lure, 500 pts. on fly. Remember, only fish caught in Florida can be entered. If necessary, ties will be broken by each angler’s total number of release points divided by the total number of fish caught and released.

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

1. The **Annual Grand Champion Adult Angler Award** criteria is as follows: Only adult members (age 19 & older) are eligible for this award. To be eligible for this award the angler must submit catch affidavits for ten (10) different species of fish that are ‘qualifying’ entries. (qualifying meaning fish meets the minimum weight required for entry). Of those entries, the angler must have a minimum of two (2) winning fish in the Offshore Division and two (2) winning fish in Inshore Nearshore Division. This must include at least one (1) winning fish in each division in one of the casting categories (Fly, Spin, or Plug). In the event of a tie, the angler who submits the most winning fish within the casting categories will be deemed the winner. If this does not break the tie, then the angler’s heaviest fish within the casting categories will determine the winner.
2. The **Junior Angler of the Year Award** criteria is as follows: Only junior members (age 10-18 yrs.) are eligible for this award. Anglers must have a minimum of five (5) ‘qualifying’ entries, with at least two (2) winning fish in any division, one of which must be in a casting category. In the event of a tie, the angler who submits the most winning fish within the casting categories will be deemed the winner. If this does not break the tie, then the angler’s heaviest fish within the casting categories will determine the winner.
3. **Pee Wee Angler Awards:** All Club Pee Wee anglers (ages 9 & under) are eligible for one award, regardless of the tackle used, species caught, or location of catch. Pee Wee anglers will receive one award at the conclusion of the contest, regardless of the number of fish entered. There is no Pee Wee angler of the year award.



## CRITERIA FOR MAKING AN ALL - TIME CLUB RECORD

1. Catch must be witnessed by at least one other person and their name or signature must appear on club catch affidavit.
2. Fish may be weighed on a land based scale or portable hand scale which has been previously certified by the club or an approved agency (I.G.F.A., etc.). Certified hand scales can be used for club record entries providing the weighing is conducted on land (wading on flats & grounding of boats permitted), the catch and weighing is witnessed, and the scale used is re-certified by the WPBFC within 14 days of the catch. The weigh-in must be witnessed and weighmaster's name or signature must appear on affidavit.
3. A 15 foot (or greater) sample of line including all double line and leader must be submitted completely intact for entry in Spin, Plug and General divisions. Fly fishing division entries must include entire leader, class tippet, shock tippet and fly completely intact. When wet testing line, a 10% overage of the manufacturers stated line test will be allowed.
4. If submitted line over-tests beyond the allowed 10% overage, the entry can be considered for the next highest tackle category only.
5. The angler entering fish is solely responsible for properly and completely filling out official club catch affidavit with required names or signatures. Record entries must be submitted on an official WPBFC affidavit within 14 days of the catch.
6. Only fish caught by WPBFC members in good standing in the inland and coastal waters of the State of Florida (any location within 25 nautical miles from the shoreline of the State of Florida with Key West being the southern most shoreline will be eligible for club records). The Bahamas and Dry Tortugas are excluded.
7. Any fish submitted to the I.G.F.A. which is subsequently certified as a new world record will be considered for a club record by the WPBFC upon receipt of official notification.
8. To set a new all-time club record, the angler's catch must surpass, not tie, the existing record weight.
9. Fish submitted for a pending club record must be a minimum of two (2) pounds to be eligible for entry.
10. Final acceptance of any club record is the sole discretion of the WPBFC Angling Committee and Board of Directors.