

# 2008 “Charlotte Harbor Challenge” Official Rules

01. The entry fee for the 2008 Charlotte Harbor Challenge will be-\$300 per 3 angler team (Teams may consist of up to 3 anglers including guides or captains)  
A late fee of \$50 will be assessed to any payment received within five days of the event.  
The tournament may be rescheduled due to extreme weather.
02. All contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, rules, and regulations (laws), any violations of such laws may result in disqualification from this particular event or expulsion from all future tournaments.
03. The Charlotte Harbor Challenge allows anglers to wade fish. When an angler is out of the boat wading, the boat may only be moved at idle speed (1000 RPM's or less).
04. Anglers may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as *off limits* or *no fishing* by local, state, federal, or tournament officials, or within 50 yards of a competitors boat “actively engaged in fishing”.  
The definition of “actively engaged in fishing” is a boat with the trolling motor in operation with anglers fishing, a boat held in place by anchor, push pole, or Power-Pole™, or one or more anglers wading. There will be no fishing within 200 yards of the weigh in site.
05. No angler at anytime may alter any fish by length or weight with the intention of gaining advantage over another competing team. In addition, no angler may hand or force feed any tournament fish.
06. All competing boats must have all required US Coast Guard safety equipment. For the safety of all competitors, we highly recommend the use of life vests and kill or ignition cutout switches during operation of the combustion engine. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed fuel tanks. Additional fuel may be purchased from a retail facility.
07. No changing of boats without tournament official inspection of disabled boat, replacement boat must be checked in at tournament dock prior to restart.
08. There will be a “pro style” numbered start. Teams will be released in order of their boat number at 5 second intervals. All boats must idle by the official committee boat when their number is called. The start will be broadcast on VHF #68 and called by PA System. Late check allowed until 8am.  
Boats late for the numbered start must remain at dock until checked.
09. No angler may fish in the confines of any commercial marina. A commercial marina is defined as any marina with a guide or fuel dock, boat ramp, or bait dispensing facility. In addition there will be no fishing within 100 yards of any public boat ramp, guide dock/ramp, bait dock, or fuel dock not in a commercial marina.
10. Weigh-In is from Noon to 3:00pm. All teams must be checked in or in the check-in line by the 3:00pm deadline. There will be a 1 lb penalty per minute for teams checking in after 3:00pm.
11. This is a catch & release tournament. All fish must be released alive after weigh in. You will be allowed to weigh dead fish with a penalty. The Penalty is 1lb. for trout, redfish and snapper. An oxygen release tank will be available for those teams with stressed fish. Fish may be put in the tank after they are weighed in. Time limit in the tank is 20 minutes after which the fish will be determined to be alive or dead. No iced or mutilated fish will be accepted. Fish cannot be altered in any way.
12. All ties will be decided by the time each team completes their weigh-in.
13. Sportsman Rule - All participants in The Charlotte Harbor Challenge will conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner during all tournament activities. Unacceptable behavior will result in expulsion from all future Tournaments and events. Disqualification or misconduct in any other fishing tournament within 36 months prior to the tournament date is grounds for an application not being accepted or returned. We may refuse any tournament application, or deny a previous application by returning the entry fee or balance of fees to the Captain.
14. Polygraph tests will be given at random. Each contestant agrees to submit, by his or her signature on the official entry form, to the polygraph test to determine the results of the Tournament and shall not contest the results. Failure to be available for the test is grounds for disqualification. If weigh master or polygrapher determines that an angler is unable to take a test, all prizes and points will be forfeited. Polygraph tests may be required up to one week after the event.
15. Protests are allowed up to 30 minutes after the last boat weighs in. All protests must be in writing and accompanied by \$300 fee. If protest is upheld, the fee will be returned, If denied, Tournament will retain the protest fee. A polygraph test will be given to determine protest. Weigh master reserves the right to retain any fish for further inspection.
16. The Tournament retains the right to amend or add/delete to these published rules at any time up to the start of the Captains' Meeting in order to maintain the quality and competitiveness of the event.