

# Ladder of Angling Achievement Rules

(Revised 1/01/2022)

## Who

- Limited to members of the PGI Fishing Club (Club).

## General Rules

- When you join the Club you automatically earn “Angler” status. There are eight levels above “Angler”...
  1. Bronze Class Angler
  2. Silver Class Angler
  3. Gold Class Angler
  4. Lifetime Master Angler Level 1 (Snook)
  5. Lifetime Master Angler Level 2 (Redfish)
  6. Lifetime Master Angler Level 3 (Tarpon)
  7. Grand Master Angler (Shirt)
  8. Grand Master Angler (Star)
- All entries must be caught in local waters that are accessible to the general public and are within a 50 nautical mile radius of Charlotte Harbor.
- This is an ongoing program, changes made to these rules beginning in 2014 are not retroactive.
- The length of an eligible fish shall be measured to the closest ½ inch from the closed mouth to end of the pinched tail. Estimated lengths of partial fish are not accepted. The total length of the wingspan of a stingray; fork length estimated of barracuda, Shark, Tarpon maybe estimated using your fishing rod (leader, or other known length while the fish is in the water).
- The first table below identifies the 29 species of fish eligible for the Ladder of Angling Achievement Program. This table also identifies the "eligible size" each species must equal or exceed in order to qualify for levels above the "bronze" level, as described in the following section of these rules. The second table shown below identifies the minimum length specific eligible species must meet in order to earn points for these species.
- Generally, the "eligible size" listed for this Program equals State and/or Federal legal lengths of species contained in their respective fishing regulations for harvesting fish; however always refer to FWC for legal size when harvesting fish. All anglers must thoroughly familiarize themselves with current regulations so that illegal size fish (i.e., fish below minimum legal lengths or above the maximum legal length for species having slot limits), prohibited fish and/or fish out of season are not kept. Release such eligible fish immediately after determining their length and taking a picture as specified herein for credit towards your Ladder of Angling Achievement. State and Federal regulations are governed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, respectively.

- Fish caught using paid Charter Captains or paid Guides **are** eligible for your Ladder of Angling Achievement **only**, as are fish fought by a single member claiming the species and/or points but where minimal assistance is provided by another individual with whom you are fishing. For example, if a fishing partner hooks a fish and hands you the rod without fighting it, or removes a rod from the rod holder that has hooked a fish and hands you the rod to fight the fish and it is brought to the boat on your own, it is eligible for your Ladder of Angling Achievement only. Under such circumstances, the fish would not be eligible for a Club record, the Fish of the Month contest, the Master Angler Tournament or the Isles Trophy Race.
- The Club encourages CPR (catch, photograph, and release).
- At the discretion of the Board Officers, an honorary GMA may be awarded to a member for significant and lifelong contributions to the PGI Fishing Club.

### How to Earn Levels

- First fish caught – members submitting their first fish caught from the list of eligible species will receive a Club hat. There are no size limits applied to the first fish.
- Bronze Class Angler – Five (5) different species on the list of eligible species. There are no size limits.
- Silver Class Angler – Five (5) different species of fish meeting their respective eligible size shown on the list, and earn a minimum of 300 points.
- Gold Class Angler – Seven (7) different species of fish meeting their respective eligible size shown on the list, and earn a minimum of 700 points.
- Lifetime Master Angler Level 1 (Snook) – Nine (9) different species of fish meeting their respective eligible size shown on the list, and earn a minimum of 1000 points.
- Lifetime Master Angler Level 2 (Redfish) – Thirteen (13) different species of fish meeting their respective eligible size shown on the list, and earn a minimum of 1400 points.
- Lifetime Master Angler Level 3 (Tarpon) – Eighteen (18) different species of fish meeting their respective eligible size shown on the list, and earn a total of 1700 points.
- Grand Master Angler Shirt – Twenty-three (23) different species of fish meeting their respective eligible size shown on the list, and earn a total of 2000 points.
- Grand Master Angler Star - A total of 2000 new points for any year after achieving Grand Master Angler status. Grand Master Anglers can only receive one star per calendar year.

### Recording/Reporting Fish

- **Paid Charter Captains and paid Guides may only be used for the Ladder of Angling Achievement, fish caught with paid Captains/Guides must be identified as such when submitting an entry. Also, if you received assistance in catching the fish as described above from any fishing partner, please indicate that as well so that such fish can be excluded for consideration for Club records or entry into our other contests.**
- All entries are cumulative. Once you enter an eligible size fish, it and any points earned will count toward the next award level.

- A digital photograph in jpeg format of you with the fish, identified with your last and first name, length of fish, fish species, and date caught, attached to your email, will be your entry form (honor system must prevail).
- Shark, Stingray, Tarpon, and Barracuda should be photographed while they are in the water and not brought on board unless they are being kept in accordance with all applicable State and/or Federal regulations and requirements. Additionally, photographs submitted for Shark, Stingray, Tarpon and Barracuda do not require that both the angler and the fish be in the photo; submitting a photo of the fish alongside the boat with or without the angler is acceptable. Shark, Stingray, Tarpon, and Barracuda fought and brought alongside the boat such that the leader could be touched shall count as a “landed” fish.
- Your submittal is now your entry form for all club fishing events (Master Angler Tournament, Ladder of Angling Achievement Program, Fish of the Month Contest, and Isles Trophy Race).
- Eligibility for this program will be determined by The Club appointed Fishing Events Record Keeper and Director. Their decision is final.
- All submittals must be emailed to the Club at [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org)

## Ladder of Angling Achievement Tables

### Eligible Angler Achievement Species

Name	Eligible Size	Name	Eligible Size	Name	Eligible Size
Amberjack	34" (fork length)	Grunt	All	Sheepshead	12"
Barracuda	All (fork length)	Jack Crevalle	All (fork length)	Snapper - Yellowtail	12"
Black Drum	14"	King Mackerel	24" (fork length)	Snapper – all other*	8" – 16"
Bluefish	12" (fork length)	Ladyfish	All	Snook	28"
Blue Runner	All	Permit	11" (fork length)	Spanish Mackerel	12" (fork length)
Bonita	All	Pinfish	All	Stingray	All
Catfish (all)	All	Pompano	11" (fork length)	Tarpon	All (fork length)
Cobia	33" (fork length)	Redfish	18"	Tripletail	18"
Flounder	14"	Seatrout	15"	Whiting	All
Grouper:		Shark	All (fork length)		
▪ Red	20"				
▪ Gag or Black	24"				

\*Snapper all other: Lane = 8"; Mangrove (Gray), Schoolmaster, and Vermilion = 10"; Cubera, Blackfin, Dog, Queen, Silk = 12'; Red = 16"; Mutton = 18"

**Notes:**

1. There are 29 eligible species of this in this program. Any of the subspecies listed qualify for that particular species on your Ladder of Achievement.
2. Eligible size is the minimum total length in inches unless identified as fork length. Total length is a straight-line measurement from the tip of the closed mouth to the end of its pinched tail. The fork length is a straight-line measurement from the tip of the closed mouth to the fork
3. The angler is responsible for knowing the fishing regulations applicable to the area(s) where the fish are caught and having necessary State/Federal license, permits, or tags.

## Ladder of Angling Achievement Tables – Continued

Points Earned Based on Length			
Points Earned	100	200	300
Species	Size in inches		
Amberjack (fork length)	34"	40"	46"
Black Drum	32"	42"	46"
Cobia (fork length)	34"	37"	40"
Grouper	25"	29"	33"
King Mackerel (fork length)	32"	36"	40"
Redfish	25"	30"	35"
Seatrout	18"	21"	24"
Shark (fork length)	40"	50"	60"
Sheepshead	16"	19"	22"
Snook	29"	36"	42"
Spanish Mackerel (fork length)	21"	23"	25"
Tarpon (fork length)	36"	48"	60"

**Notes:**

1. The listed minimum length is the total length (unless specified as fork length) of the species. Determine the total or fork length of the species as noted above and described in the rules.
2. Handle the fish with care to mitigate injury to released fish and protect yourself.