

Master Angler Tournament Rules

(Revised 6/11/2026)

Who

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

General Rules

Eligible species are:

Amberjack

Black Drum

Cobia

Grouper

King Mackerel

Redfish

Sheepshead

Snook

Spanish Mackerel

Spotted Seatrout

Fish caught out of season or illegal length fish are eligible for prizes but must be returned to the water after a picture is taken. Goliath grouper are not eligible entries and should be released immediately.

To be eligible, fish must be hooked and fought by the same member, without assistance from others. Assistance can only be provided by others in landing or boating a fish, including netting, gaffing and/or touching the leader, as appropriate, given the species, season and all applicable Federal and State regulations. For example, a fish hooked by an individual and passed on to another person to fight is not eligible for this contest, nor is a fish that is fought by more than one individual. A fish that is hooked while the rod is in a rod holder can only be claimed as eligible under this contest by the person removing the rod from the rod holder if that person also brings the fish to the boat, pier or shore for landing or boating it. If the rod is removed from the rod holder by one person and passed on to another person, that fish is not considered eligible for this contest regardless of the time each person possesses the rod.

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.

Winning entries will be based on total length, measured in a flat straight line from the closed mouth to the end of the pinched tail, except for Amberjack, Cobia, King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel, which are to be measured in a flat straight line from the closed mouth to the fork of the tail (fork length). Anglers should state that the fish was measured at the "fork-length" if such a species is reported.

The length of an eligible fish shall be measured to the closest ½ inch. Estimated lengths of partial fish are not acceptable.

Your Club encourages CPR (catch, photograph, and release).

Fish caught when using any paid Charter Captains or paid Guides may not be used for this contest or Club records.

When

- The Master Angler Tournament will run from January 1st through December 31st of a calendar year.

Prizes

- Prizes will be awarded to the members catching the 3 longest fish in each fish species category:

1. First place for the longest fish.
2. Second place for the second longest fish.
3. Third place for the third longest fish.

- Club members can only win one award per species.
- Winners' prize certificates will be presented at the first Club meeting of the following calendar year. Updates will be given at the monthly Club meetings and current standings will be listed in the Club's Newsletter throughout the year.

Recording/Reporting Fish

- 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). The identifiable face of the angler needs to be in the same photo as the entire fish. Fish measured or estimated to fork length, must include such in the declaration.
- All entries must be turned in within three weeks of the date the fish is caught. Any entry received after three weeks from the date of catch will not be eligible. Furthermore, any fish caught within the last 3 weeks of a calendar year must be received by the Club no later than January 1 of the following calendar year.
- Your submittal is now your entry form for all club fishing events (Master Angler Tournament, Ladder of Angling Achievement (LOA) Program, Fish of the Month Contest, and Isles Trophy Race).
- Since paid Charter Captains or paid Guides may only be used for the Ladder of Angling Achievement Program, fish caught with paid Captains/Guides must be identified as such when submitting an entry. Also, if your entry was not caught in accordance with the General Rules for determining eligibility under this contest, please state that in your submittal as well. Under such circumstances, your submittal will only be considered for your Ladder of Angling Achievement.
- Eligibility for each program will be determined by the Club's appointed Fishing Events Record Keeper and Director. Their decision is final.
- All submittals must be emailed to the Club at fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org