

CASTING FOR THE KIDS COASTAL CLASSIC

OFFICIAL RULES & PROCEDURES

September 24–27, 2026

“Fishing for Something Bigger Than Ourselves”

1. TOURNAMENT PURPOSE

The Casting For The Kids Coastal Classic is conducted to promote ethical angling, conservation, sportsmanship, and fellowship while raising critical funds for local families battling childhood cancer.

Every participant is expected to compete with honesty, integrity, and respect while representing the mission of Casting For The Kids.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- All teams must complete an official tournament registration and pay all applicable entry fees before the registration deadline.
- Each vessel must designate one Captain who is responsible for the team.
- Each vessel may carry as many anglers as it is legally rated and safely equipped to accommodate.
- Every angler must possess all required fishing licenses and permits.
- By entering the tournament, all participants agree to abide by these Official Rules & Procedures.
- No refunds will be issued to a team that is disqualified for violation of tournament rules.

3. TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS & ELIGIBLE SPECIES

OFFSHORE DIVISION

The following species are eligible for Offshore Championship scoring:

- Red Snapper
- Cubera Snapper
- Warsaw Grouper
- Blackfin Tuna
- Yellowfin Tuna
- Grouper, including Red, Gag, Black, Scamp, Yellowfin, and other legally eligible grouper species
- Swordfish
- Cobia
- Hogfish
- African Pompano
- Amberjack
- Permit
- Wahoo

INSHORE DIVISION — COASTAL CLASSIC INSHORE SLAM

The following species are eligible:

- Redfish
- Snook
- Spotted Seatrout

All fish entered in either division must comply with all applicable state and federal fishing regulations. Fish must meet all current size, season, bag, harvest, and possession requirements.

Any species closed to legal harvest during the tournament is automatically ineligible for weigh-in.

4. MANDATORY CAPTAIN'S MEETINGS

At least one (1) representative from every registered team MUST attend the Captain's Meeting for the division in which that team is competing.

OFFSHORE CAPTAIN'S MEETING

**Thursday, September 24, 2026
5:30 PM**

The Old Salty Dog — City Island
1601B Ken Thompson Pkwy
Sarasota, FL 34236

INSHORE CAPTAIN'S MEETING

**Saturday, September 26, 2026
3:00 PM**

Casting For The Kids Coastal Classic Festival — VIP Tent
Phillippi Park
5500 S Tamiami Trl
Sarasota, FL 34231

IMPORTANT: One representative from each registered Offshore and Inshore team is required to be present at the applicable Captain's Meeting.

Additional Calcuttas and Trash Can Slams will be available for purchase at BOTH Captain's Meetings. Teams wishing to participate in these additional tournament opportunities will be able to purchase their entries at their respective Captain's Meeting.

The following information may be reviewed during each Captain's Meeting:

- Tournament schedule and official fishing hours

- Tournament procedures
- Boat numbers
- Radio communications
- Weigh-in procedures
- Boat staging and docking procedures
- Safety information
- Weather conditions
- Rule clarifications
- Additional Calcuttas and Trash Can Slams
- Any last-minute tournament announcements

Any official rule clarification, procedural change, or announcement made by tournament officials during the applicable Captain's Meeting becomes part of these Official Rules & Procedures.

Failure to have at least one team representative attend the applicable mandatory Captain's Meeting may result in disqualification.

No refund will be issued to a team disqualified for failure to attend the mandatory Captain's Meeting.

5. SAFETY

Safety is always the responsibility of the Captain.

Every participating vessel must:

- Comply with all U.S. Coast Guard requirements.
- Comply with all applicable Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulations.
- Carry all legally required safety equipment.
- Be operated in a safe and responsible manner.

Each Captain is ultimately responsible for determining whether weather and water conditions are safe for his or her vessel and crew.

Tournament officials reserve the right to delay, shorten, postpone, modify, or cancel tournament fishing because of severe weather, unsafe conditions, or other emergencies.

No fish is worth risking a life.

6. GENERAL FISHING RULES

- Rod and reel fishing only.
- All fish must be legally caught during official tournament fishing hours.
- Fishing is permitted only in legally open waters.
- All local, state, and federal fishing laws and regulations must be followed.
- Fish entered for scoring must have been caught by members of the registered tournament team.
- Any fish caught outside official tournament fishing hours is ineligible.
- Any fish illegally harvested or possessed is ineligible.

- Violation of applicable fishing laws or tournament rules may result in fish disqualification, weight or point penalties, team disqualification, and/or forfeiture of winnings.

7. OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT TIME

The Tournament Director's official time shall be the only time recognized for tournament purposes.

All teams are responsible for knowing and keeping track of the official start and stop times announced for their division.

No lines may remain in the water after the official end of fishing.

Any fish hooked or caught after the official end of fishing will not be eligible for weigh-in.

Official fishing times and any additional procedures will be reviewed during the applicable Captain's Meeting.

8. FISH CONDITION

Fish do not have to be alive at weigh-in.

Fish may be transported in:

- Kill bags
- Ice chests
- Live wells

All fish presented for weigh-in must be fresh, in weighable condition, and suitable for human consumption.

Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any fish showing evidence of:

- Freezing
- Spoilage
- Stuffing
- Artificial weight enhancement
- Tampering
- Mutilation beyond normal hook or gaff marks
- Any other attempt to artificially alter the fish or its weight

Tournament officials may inspect any fish before or after it is presented to the scales.

9. OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

LOCATION

MarineMax Sarasota

OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN HOURS

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

To provide a safe, organized, and efficient weigh-in, boats will not all enter the weigh-in area at the same time.

Each registered team will be assigned an official tournament boat number.

Beginning at 2:00 PM, tournament officials will call boats to the weigh-in according to their assigned boat number using VHF radio and/or telephone.

All teams are responsible for monitoring their radio and phone throughout the weigh-in period.

BOAT CALL REQUIREMENT

Teams may not enter the designated weigh-in dock area until instructed to do so by tournament officials, except in an emergency or when otherwise directed by tournament personnel.

Detailed information regarding:

- Boat call order
- Radio channels
- Staging areas
- Docking procedures
- Fish unloading
- Boat traffic
- Weigh-in logistics

will be provided during the mandatory Captain's Meetings.

Teams must respond and proceed as directed when their boat number is called.

Registered tournament boat numbers must be clearly displayed and visible upon arrival for identification.

WEIGH-IN DEADLINE

All fish must be presented for weigh-in no later than **5:00 PM**.

Teams arriving after the official close of weigh-in will not be eligible to weigh fish unless otherwise authorized by the Tournament Director due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the team's control.

Once a fish has been officially weighed and recorded, that weight is final.

Tournament officials reserve the right to inspect any vessel, cooler, kill bag, live well, tackle, equipment, or fish before or after weigh-in.

10. COASTAL CLASSIC OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIP

SCORING

The Offshore Championship will be determined using a points-based aggregate scoring system.

Each eligible fish receives:

Species Points + (Fish Weight × Points Per Pound)

OFFSHORE SCORING

Species	Species Points	Points Per Pound	Tournament Limit
Red Snapper	30	2	Max 2
Cubera Snapper	40	2	Counts toward Snapper limit
Grouper — Red, Gag, Black, Scamp, Yellowfin, etc.	30	2	Max 2
Warsaw Grouper	40	1	Max 1; does not count toward Grouper limit
Blackfin Tuna	35	2	No tournament limit
Yellowfin Tuna	40	2	No tournament limit
Swordfish	40	1	Max 1
Cobia	30	2	No tournament limit
Hogfish	30	4	No tournament limit
African Pompano	30	2	No tournament limit
Amberjack	20	1	No tournament limit
Permit	30	2	No tournament limit
Wahoo	40	2	Max 2

All species remain subject to applicable legal harvest and possession limits regardless of the tournament limits shown above.

11. OFFSHORE AGGREGATE RULES

Each Offshore team may weigh a maximum of:

Six (6) eligible fish

PLUS:

- One (1) Warsaw Grouper, if legally harvested
- One (1) Swordfish, if legally harvested

Teams may choose any combination of eligible species for their six-fish aggregate while observing all individual species limits.

Warsaw Grouper and Swordfish may be added to the six-fish aggregate under the rules above.

OFFSHORE SPECIES LIMITS

- Maximum two (2) Red Snapper.
- Cubera Snapper counts toward the two-Snapper limit.
- Maximum two (2) regular Grouper.
- Maximum one (1) Warsaw Grouper.
- Warsaw Grouper does not count toward the regular Grouper limit.
- Maximum one (1) Swordfish.
- Maximum two (2) Wahoo.
- All fish remain subject to applicable state and federal possession limits.

12. OFFSHORE SCORING EXAMPLES

Example 1 — Red Snapper

A 30-pound Red Snapper earns:

30 Species Points + (30 lbs × 2 points)

Total: 90 Points

Example 2 — Yellowfin Tuna

A 42-pound Yellowfin Tuna earns:

40 Species Points + (42 lbs × 2 points)

Total: 124 Points

The team's Offshore Championship score is determined by the total points earned by its eligible fish entered into the tournament aggregate.

The eligible team accumulating the highest total number of points will be declared the **Coastal Classic Offshore Champion**.

13. COASTAL CLASSIC INSHORE SLAM SCORING

The Coastal Classic Inshore Slam is a three-species aggregate tournament designed to showcase the skill and versatility of Gulf Coast anglers.

Each team may weigh:

- One (1) Redfish
- One (1) Snook
- One (1) Spotted Seatrout

Only one fish of each eligible species may be entered.

INSHORE SCORING

Each team's final score will be determined by the combined weight of its eligible fish.

A complete three-fish Slam consists of:

1 Redfish + 1 Snook + 1 Spotted Seatrout

The team with the heaviest eligible aggregate weight will be declared the:

COASTAL CLASSIC INSHORE SLAM CHAMPION

All fish must meet the legal slot-size, season, harvest, and possession requirements in effect on tournament day.

Once a fish has been officially presented to tournament officials as the team's entry for that species, it may not be replaced.

Any fish determined to be undersized, oversized, out of season, illegally harvested, or otherwise ineligible will be disqualified.

14. TIE BREAKERS

To maintain one clear and consistent tie-breaking procedure throughout the tournament:

In the event of a tie in either division, the team that completed and paid its official tournament registration first will be declared the winner.

Registration records maintained by Casting For The Kids will be used to determine registration order.

15. MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN & BACKUP VESSELS

In the event of a mechanical breakdown:

- A tournament vessel may receive assistance.
- Fish may be transferred to another vessel when necessary because of a mechanical issue, but the transfer must be coordinated with and approved by tournament officials.
- A team may continue fishing from an approved backup vessel if its original tournament vessel becomes disabled.
- The team's official boat number must transfer to the approved backup vessel.
- Any vessel change, fish transfer, or continuation of fishing from a backup vessel must be communicated to and approved by tournament officials.
- The original tournament vessel is not required to return to weigh-in when a legitimate mechanical issue prevents it from doing so.
- Failure to notify tournament officials of a vessel change or fish transfer may result in disqualification.

16. SPORTSMANSHIP

Professional conduct and good sportsmanship are expected from all participants.

Competitors shall treat:

- Fellow anglers
- Tournament officials
- Volunteers
- Sponsors
- Host facilities
- Spectators

with respect.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, harassment, abusive language, threatening behavior, cheating, or intentionally interfering with another team may result in immediate disqualification.

17. RULE VIOLATIONS

Depending upon the nature and severity of a violation, tournament officials may impose:

- Fish disqualification
- Weight or point penalties
- Team disqualification
- Forfeiture of prizes or winnings
- Removal from future Casting For The Kids tournaments

No refund will be issued as the result of a disqualification.

The Tournament Director's decision is final.

18. PROTEST PROCEDURE

Any formal protest must:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Be filed within 30 minutes of the official close of weigh-in.
- Include a \$500 cash protest fee.

If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned.

If the protest is denied, the fee will be forfeited.

19. POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION

By entering the Casting For The Kids Coastal Classic, every participant agrees to submit to a polygraph examination if requested by the Tournament Director.

Refusal to submit, failure to appear, or failure of the examination will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all prizes and winnings.

20. PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA RELEASE

Participation in the Casting For The Kids Coastal Classic grants Casting For The Kids permission to photograph, film, record, and use participants' names, images, and likenesses for promotional, advertising, marketing, and charitable purposes without compensation.

21. LIABILITY

All participants compete entirely at their own risk.

Casting For The Kids, its Board of Directors, officers, employees, volunteers, sponsors, tournament officials, MarineMax Sarasota, Captain's Meeting venues, host facilities, property owners, and affiliated organizations shall not be held responsible for any injury, illness, death, theft, equipment loss, vessel damage, property damage, accident, or other loss occurring before, during, or after the tournament.

Participation constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of the inherent risks associated with boating and competitive fishing.

22. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AUTHORITY

The Tournament Director reserves the right to:

- Interpret these Official Rules & Procedures.
- Determine the eligibility of any fish.
- Rule on circumstances not specifically addressed in these rules.
- Approve or deny vessel changes and fish transfers caused by mechanical breakdown.
- Modify tournament procedures when necessary to ensure safety, fairness, and tournament integrity.

- Delay, shorten, postpone, modify, or cancel tournament fishing because of weather, safety concerns, emergencies, or unforeseen circumstances.

All decisions of the Tournament Director are final.

23. OUR MISSION

The Casting For The Kids Coastal Classic is about far more than trophies and prize money.

Every cast, every sponsor, every volunteer, every boat, and every fish weighed helps Casting For The Kids provide hope and financial assistance to local families battling childhood cancer.

This tournament exists because families fighting childhood cancer should be able to focus on what matters most — **their child**.

Thank you for fishing for something bigger than yourself.