

# 2018 Port Mansfield Fishing Tournament

## Rules & Regulations

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### ➤ **2018 Tournament:**

Registration for the tournament begins at 3 PM on Thursday, July 26th and ends at 10 PM that evening. No late registrations will be accepted. There will be two days of fishing; Friday, July 27th and Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. The awards ceremony will be held Sunday morning July 29th at 10 AM. If you pre-registered, please stop by registration to confirm you are still participating and pick up your goodie bag, program and rules, identification and meal ticket. If you are participating as a sponsor or sponsor guest, you are still required to register during open registration.

### ➤ **Bad Weather:**

One day of fishing constitutes a Tournament.

### ➤ **Weigh-In-Station:**

Tournament Headquarters is located in Port Mansfield, Texas at the Chamber of Commerce Pavilion.

Anglers submit fish for weigh-in, measurement, and recording by the official weighmaster or deputy weighmaster at Tournament Headquarters. Anglers must submit fish for weigh-in in person at the designated time slots. All fish submitted for entry and weigh-in must be in edible condition. Anglers are restricted to weighing in once a day. Each angler may submit no more than one fish to be weighed in for each eligible species in the angler's division. An official fisheries biologist will be at the weigh-in station for inspection, determination of the species, and freshness of the catch. Any fish that does not meet any applicable State or Federal regulation limits at weigh station will be disqualified and no substitution for that species may be made by that angler. Advice of the weighmaster or biologist will be given to the Tournament Board. ***The decisions of the Tournament Board on any and all PMFT issues or disputes are final.*** Photographs of fish in question may be used to make decision. All fish in both bay divisions must be weighed in on the day they are caught. Angler must select the heaviest fish to be weighed. Trophies are awarded on the basis of total accumulated eligible points for two days of fishing. Angler must accompany his or her fish to the weigh station and initial weigh card to ensure accuracy. All anglers are restricted to weighing in once per day. No one may fish from any tournament boat who is not a PMFT registered angler. All captains or boat operators must be registered in PMFT for the angler's fish to be eligible for PMFT awards. All fish are subject to further inspection if deemed necessary by the weighmaster. The weigh station hours are from 2-8 PM on the first day of fishing and 2-7 PM on the final day. All anglers must adhere to all State and Federal regulations unless otherwise amended in PMFT rules and regulations.

All bay division boats that catch are to weigh in their catch each day. (Exception: If a boat is assisting a disabled vessel which prevents the boat rendering assistance from making the weigh in on the first day only.)

➤ **Legal Fish:**

ALL ANGLERS MUST HAVE A VALID 2018 TEXAS FISHING LICENSE AND A SALTWATER STAMP.

All fish of any species must meet length limitations according to current Texas Saltwater Regulations. *Mutilated fish will be disqualified.*

**NEW RULE beginning 2013: The maximum speckled trout length will be 25 inches. No trout over 25 inches in length may be weighed in.**

➤ **Night Fishing:**

Night fishing **IS NOT** allowed **in the bay division.**

➤ **Bait:**

In accordance with Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations, the Tournament will allow the use of all live and artificial baits.

➤ **Tackle:**

The Tournament will be conducted according to the rules of the International Game Fish Association, unless otherwise stated.

➤ **Juniors:**

Entrants in the Junior Divisions, both bay and offshore, must be 16 years of age or younger as of the tournament registration date.

Birth date before 7/27/2001 will be ineligible for PMFT 2018.

➤ **Polygraph Tests:**

**Polygraph tests may be administered to any contestant.** Statements may also be taken from members of a contestant's fishing party. Any contestant who is a contender for any award **MUST BE ACCESSIBLE BY PHONE** and should refrain from alcohol abuse and or using any drugs. Entry in this tournament constitutes an agreement to submit to and pass polygraph testing. Failure to pass will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament and exclusion from any trophies, titles, awards or prizes. Such test shall be taken at the time and place requested by the PMFT Tournament Board. The test may take up to three hours.

**Any protest must be filed in writing and hand delivered to a member of the Tournament Board or the Tournament Director on the day of the alleged infraction.**

**NOTICE: Any participant who refuses to take the polygraph or does not pass the polygraph, or is disqualified by the Tournament Committee for any other reason will be BARRED from future Port Mansfield Tournaments from July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 forward.**

**NEW LAW effective 9/1/2011. Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Section 66.023 Fraud in Fishing Tournaments:**

**Any offense under this section is a Class A Misdemeanor and any offense in the amount of \$10,000 or more is a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Felony.**

➤ **Conservation:**

To preserve game fish, anglers are encouraged to release those fish that are smaller than those already caught. All fish caught are property of the angler. The tournament will not be responsible for disposal, storage or refrigeration of any catch.

➤ **Responsibility:**

Angler agrees to act responsibly during the Tournament and agrees to all of these Rules and Regulations. Angler agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Tournament, The Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, and its board and members from any claims by anyone against any of them based in any way on any act or omission of the angler during or in relation to the Tournament. **ONLY FISH IN THE SPECIFIED DIVISIONS OF THE PMFT WILL BE WEIGHED IN BY THE WEIGHMASTER STATION.**

## BAY DIVISION

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There will be two separate divisions in the Bay. Open – meaning you can throw bait and/or artificial: and a Lures Only!

Each contestant must specify when registering which division they are fishing. All members of the same boat must be registered in the same division. Each bay division will have awards for men, ladies and juniors (16 and under) for 1<sup>st</sup> place along with the Grand Champions. A Grand Slam Bay will be awarded to the angler who weighs in a legal trout, redbfish and flounder each day and has the most combined weight for the two days of fishing. The awards are for Speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder.

- All bay anglers including juniors are restricted to one fishing line in the water per angler at any given time.
- Any fish hooked and handed to another angler to reel in is disqualified

### ➤ **Junior, Ladies' and Men's Bay Fishing Hours:**

Anglers may start fishing at 6 AM both days; bay anglers must be in between Poco Loco Bait & Tackle and the Weigh Station no later than 5 PM to qualify. *Final dock time for both days of fishing is 5 PM.*

### ➤ **Bay Scoring:**

Anglers can weigh in the heaviest fish caught in each of the following species per day: Redfish, Speckled Trout, and Flounder. The winner of each species is the angler entering the heaviest combined weight of each species for both days. In case of a tie in the weight, the longer of the length of the fish or fishes in question will determine the winner. Oversize redbfish are not allowed. *No trout over 25 inches allowed.*

- All bay anglers including juniors are restricted to one fishing line in the water per angler at any given time.
- Any fish hooked and handed to another angler to reel in is disqualified

### ➤ **Bay Junior Division:**

The same rules will apply to both junior and adult anglers. Juniors may qualify as Grand Champion Bay or Grand Slam Bay. All Junior Bay Division entrants must hook and play their own fish. **A fish hooked and handed to a junior to reel in is not a legal catch.**

### ➤ **Piggy Perch Division:**

Rules are in the Tournament Program and will be given to the parents at the time of registration.

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE RELEASE ALL PIGGY PERCH THAT WILL NOT BE WEIGHED IN FOR CONSERVATION OF THE SPECIES\*\*\*\***

- **Changing Divisions:** After registration, any angler wishing to change divisions (for instance, offshore division to bay division due to weather) should report to the weighmaster. Fish entered in one division will not count in any other division.

## OFFSHORE DIVISION

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### ➤ **Fishing Hours:**

- **Offshore weigh-in is Friday from 2-8pm at Port Mansfield Chamber ONLY.**
- **Saturday weigh-in from 2-7pm at Port Mansfield Chamber**  
**OR 5-7p.m. at South Point Marina Port Isabel, TX.**

### ➤ **OFFSHORE RULES FOR 2018, AS OF PMFT 2015:**

Fishing time starts at 6:00 am Friday July 27<sup>th</sup> and ends at 4:00 pm Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup>. You must stop fishing to allow yourself enough time to make weigh-in Saturday at the Port Mansfield Pavilion. **YOU MAY NOT LEAVE YOUR DOCK UNTIL 12:01 am** Friday July 27<sup>th</sup> and you must be registered in the PMFT. Offshore boats must be in between Poco Loco Bait and Tackle and the Weigh Station by the final dock times to qualify.

### ➤ **JUNGLE RULES:**

This refers to the fact that there are no angling rules other than that the fish must be caught on an IGFA conventional rod and reel and boated by hand or gaff. Anyone may handle the fishing rod. A boat may fish as many lines as desired. All fish must be caught in accordance to State and Federal Laws.

No shooting, explosives, entangling devices, nets, long lines, electric reels or other non-sporting devices may be used.

Fish must be weighed in edible condition. This rule will be strictly enforced. Remember to take plenty of ice and/or insulated bags.

No mutilated or frozen fish will be accepted.

Highest score determines the winner(s). In the case of a tie on weighed fish, length prevails. On released billfish, the boat with the earliest release time wins. If there is a tie between boats with weighed fish and released fish, the boat with the most weighed points wins.

Each angler may weigh in one only fish per species per day even if you choose to weigh-in Saturday only. **PMFT Offshore is no longer a two day combined weight. Single heaviest fish will win!**

### ➤ **Angler:**

Anglers must be registered in the offshore division and specify the boat on which fishing will be done. The fish must be weighed in from the boat on which it was caught or if from a boat fishing other ports, the angler may transport fish by land. Fish and/or anglers may not switch boats. Anglers from other ports must be in the weigh-in line by the final dock times to qualify.

### ➤ **Offshore Boats:**

Offshore boats may fish from other ports and weigh in their fish at the Port Mansfield dock, or angler may transport catch by land. The angler and the boat being fished must register before the start of the Tournament.

➤ **Offshore Division**

- A) Blue Marlin will be scored as follows: weight of the fish multiplied by three (3). Minimum length for Blue Marlin is 101”.
- B) White Marlin and Sailfish will be scored as follows: the weight of the fish multiplied by five (5) plus 100. Minimum length to qualify is 67” for White Marlin, 64” for Sailfish.
- C) Other offshore fish—Blackfin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Bonito, Ling, Wahoo, Dolphin and King Mackerel. All will be scored one (1) point per pound. **JACK CREVALLE, BARRACUDA AND AMBERJACK ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS OR FOR THE TOURNAMENT.** Catch is limited to the single heaviest fish per eligible species per day of fishing.
- D) Catch and release Class: Any offshore fisherman may elect to Catch and Release his billfish. Points for Catch and Release trophies will be awarded to the following only:
- BLUE MARLIN .....800 POINTS
  - WHITE MARLIN.....500 POINTS
  - SAILFISH..... .300 POINTS

TO QUALIFY FOR CATCH AND RELEASE POINTS, A PHOTO OR VIDEO FROM A DIGITAL CAMERA IDENTIFYING THE FISH BEING RELEASED MUST BE SHOWN. PHOTOS AND VIDEOS MUST SHOW THE OBJECT OF THE DAY. ANY CONNECTIONS FROM A VIDEO CARD TO A COMPUTER MUST BE PROVIDED TO DOWNLOAD PICTURES. ALL PICTURES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE WEIGH STATION.

**OFFSHORE AWARDS**

**(Adults & Juniors- 1<sup>st</sup> place only)**

**NO SHARKS**

<b><u>Trophies</u></b>	<b><u>Certificates for Trophies*</u></b>
Dolphin	Blue Marlin
Blackfin Tuna	White Marlin
Bonita	Sailfish
Wahoo	
Kingfish (King Mackerel)	Yellowfin Tuna
Ling	
Red Snapper	

*\*Winners will be given a certificate for their award for the species that are seldom caught, and the award will be ordered and shipped directly to the winner.*

**Released Billfish:**

Contestant with the most released points wins. Points will be counted toward offshore grand champion.

**Grand Champion Offshore:**

The grand champion offshore winner will be the contestant with the highest number of points on all eligible species in the offshore division.

**OPEN DIVISION BAY AWARDS**      **LURES DIVISION BAY AWARDS**

**(Ladies, Men & Juniors- 1<sup>st</sup> place only)**      **(Ladies, Men & Juniors- 1<sup>st</sup> place only)**

Redfish – <u>(no oversize)</u>	Redfish – <u>(no oversize)</u>
Speckled Trout – <u>(25” max. length)</u>	Speckled Trout – <u>(25” max. length)</u>
Flounder	Flounder

### **Grand Champion Bay Open and Lures Only Divisions**

The grand champion bay winners, adult or junior, will be the contestants with the highest combined weight in their division for the two days of fishing on all eligible species: redfish, speckled trout and flounder. The grand champion bay winner may also be the grand slam bay winner if weighing in all three species both days.

### **Grand Slam Bay:**

The grand slam bay winner, adult or junior, will be the contestant from either division with the highest combined weight for the two days of fishing on all eligible species: redfish, speckled trout and flounder and must weigh in all three species both days of the tournament.

### **Perpetual Awards:**

Terry Neal Biggest Trout (Lures Only) Grand Champion Offshore Grand Champion Bay Grand Champion Lures Only

ON THE FINAL DAY OR WHEN FISH IS BEING WEIGHED. All photos must clearly show the object of the tournament and must be signed with the date and time of the catch and have signatures of the fishing party and the crew. All billfish hook ups and landings, whether boated or released, must be reported or relayed to a committee boat at the time of the event and the landing time must be verified with a verification number from a committee boat to qualify for the earned points. The time reported and verified by the committee boat will be the official time. In the event of a tie, the first angler to accumulate the highest release points by the earliest time will be declared the winner. In order for a fish to be scored as a Blue Marlin, the photo or video must clearly show it is a Blue Marlin; otherwise it will be scored as a White Marlin. Video images must contain the following: the angler fighting the fish showing the PMFT object of the tournament, clear identification of the species of billfish, mate with leader in hand and PMFT object of the tournament, wiring and releasing the fish with the fish swimming away, followed by an immediate and complete pan of the cockpit showing no other lines in the water. The camera MUST NOT stop recording during the wiring, release and complete pan of the cockpit. If the mate has the leader in hand and the hook pulls or the leader breaks, the fish still qualifies if all other rules are satisfied, but if the fish is only identifiable as a billfish, the fish will score the minimum 300 points.

ALL BILLFISH TO BE RELEASED MUST REMAIN IN THE WATER. PHOTOS SHOWING SAID FISH IN OR ON THE BOAT **WILL NOT** BE ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS.

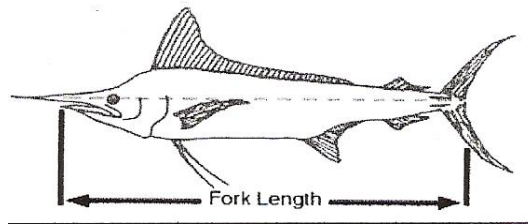


The decision of the weighmaster and the tournament committee will be final. The Tournament will be conducted according to the International Game Fish Association unless otherwise stated. **Ladies and Junior division contestants may receive assistance moving the rod from rod holder to fighting chair.** *Any mutilated fish will be disqualified.*

**Minimum Length Requirement**

*All billfish must be measured as shown below. To ensure uniform measurements, PMFT requires all billfish to be*

*measured across the side from tip of lower jaw to fork of tail. Minimum lengths to be eligible for competition: Blue Marlin – 101”; White Marlin – 67”; Sailfish – 64”  
Swordfish – 49”*



**PLEASE OBSERVE THE “NO WAKE” ZONE IN THE HARBOR**

<p>Willacy County Navigation District 818 Mansfield Rd. Unit 76 Port Mansfield, Texas 78598 (956) 944-2325</p>	<p>Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce 818 Mansfield Rd., Unit 75 Port Mansfield, Texas 78598 (956) 944-2354 <a href="http://www.portmansfieldchamberofcommerce.com">www.portmansfieldchamberofcommerce.com</a> FAX (956) 944-2515 E-Mail <a href="mailto:portmansfieldchamber@pmchamber.com">portmansfieldchamber@pmchamber.com</a></p>
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