



2026 FALL MADNESS ONLINE TOURNAMENT
Fri. Oct. 9th 12:01am – Sun. Nov. 15th 11:59pm

Entry Fee: \$45.00

Tournament Director: Sharon Stewart

GCLAmadness@gmail.com

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

Phone # _____ **Email address** _____

Prizes: Cash prizes and the number of places paid out will be based on the number of entrants (90% payout).

****You can win only one category - awarded in the order below.** There are five ways to win:**

- **1st & 2nd Place Longest Stringer: 1 Speckled Trout (20" max), 1 Redfish (28" max), 1 Black Drum (25" max) and 1 Golden/Atlantic Croaker (Cash Prize)**
(You do not need all 4 fish for the stringer)
- **Redfish with the Most Spots (Cash Prize)**
- **Longest Flounder (Cash Prize) Must be caught and photo submitted before November 1st**
- **FRESHWATER SPECIES - Longest Catfish (Channel, Blue or Flathead) (30" max) (Cash Prize)**

See the attached for a complete list of rules.

Participant Agreement, Release, and Acknowledgement of Risk:

Upon signing this application, I hereby waive and release all other participants, hosts, sponsors, and tournament officials from any and all liability claims, demands, actions or rights of actions, which are related to, arise out of, or in any way connected with my participation in this tournament, for any and all claims of death, personal injury, accidents, theft and damage to myself, to others, and all equipment involved in this tournament.

I voluntarily assume full and all responsibility for my health and safe being arising from my participation in this tournament. I assume full responsibility for all equipment on and off the water during this tournament. I have sufficient health, accident and liability insurance to cover any bodily injury or property damage incurred by myself or others as a result of my participation in this tournament. If I have no such insurance, I represent that I am capable of paying for any and all such expenses or liability. I have read and understand the rules of this tournament and I will obey all rules and understand that any violation may result in immediate disqualification without refund of my entry fee. I also understand that tournament officials may reject my application for any reason, and in that event will refund my entry fee. Gulf Coast Lady Anglers and their assigns, have my permission to use my name, photographs, and film footage of me if it chooses to do so. My signature below reflects that I have read the entire document, understand it completely, understand it affects my legal rights and agree to be bound by its terms. References to "I," "Me," "Myself," and other first person references shall include any child or ward to whom I sign.

TOURNAMENT ANGLER SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE** _____

Mail this form with payment to: Gulf Coast Lady Anglers, P.O. Box 1081, Kemah, Texas 77565
or go to www.gulfcoastladyanglers.com and complete the online entry form and pay via Paypal or Credit Card.

Tournament Rules

Please read the rules completely, including the directions for measuring and submitting fish.

All participants must be paid members of Gulf Coast Lady Anglers (GCLA), a non-profit organization formed to foster recreational and educational opportunities for lady anglers.

All entrants will compete against each other for the length of the tournament. Submissions will be made by digital photographs by emailing to GCLAmadness@gmail.com.

This is the only acceptable email for submissions.

Upgrades are permitted and encouraged throughout the tournament period. For example, if you catch a 14 inch Speckled Trout at the beginning of the tournament, then submit it. If you catch an 18 ½ inch Speckled Trout a few days later, submit it and you just got an upgrade. If you catch a 20 inch Speckled Trout on the last day of the tournament, submit it. Your final score for trout will be 20 inches. Watching the leaderboard and upgrading score is a fun part of this tournament.

1. Federal, State and Local Laws; Eligibility; and Sportsmanship.

All contestants are required to follow all applicable Federal, State and Local recreational fishing and boating regulations and laws. Any violation of such rules or the rules of the tournament may result in disqualification from the tournament and/or future events.

Contestants must have a valid Texas fishing license with a salt water stamp and/or the appropriate fishing license from the state you are fishing (ie. Louisiana). If you are fishing in Louisiana only, then only a Louisiana fishing license is required and you must adhere to the Louisiana fishing regulations, however you are allowed to catch, photo & release. A 28" redfish in this case is allowed from Louisiana.

Catch, Photo and release is encouraged. It is mandatory for all undersized fish.

2. Permitted Fishing Locations and Methods

Contestants may fish anywhere along the Gulf Coast, on any waters, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, federal officials. Private launch sites are permitted. Contestants may fish by any means: boat, kayak, wade, pier, bank or surf. Live bait, dead bait or artificial bait/lures may be used.

All fish must be caught by rod and reel. No gigging is allowed. You may have assistance in baiting your hook, casting your rod and netting your fish however you must set hook and reel in your own fish.

3. Tournament Entry Fees & Registration Dates

The entry fee to the tournament is \$45. It is non-refundable and is non-transferable.

Registration will remain open until Wednesday Oct. 8th. Your entry fee and registration form must be received by Oct. 7th either through the mail or online. No late entries will be accepted. Gulf Coast Lady Anglers has the right to accept or deny any entry into the event.

The tournament will run from Friday, Oct. 9th 12:01 am through Sunday, Nov. 15th 11:59 pm.

4. Accepted fish

- **1st & 2nd Place Longest Stringer: 1 Speckled Trout (20" max), 1 Redfish (28" max), 1 Black Drum (25" max) and 1 Golden/Atlantic Croaker (Cash Prize)**
(You do not need all 4 fish for the stringer)
- **Redfish with the Most Spots (Cash Prize)**
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Fish may be undersized with the assumption that since this is a digital photograph tournament, non-legal fish are then released; however, all fish must be big enough to measure on the Check-It Stik (no estimating). **Upper limits imposed by the State of Texas are the upper limits for this tournament. Except Catfish maximum is 30" and Black Drum maximum is 25". Redfish with the Most Spots can be any size since it does not require being on a Check It Stik. See Section #8.**

5. Scoring

Contestants will submit digital photographs meeting tournament requirements. Undersized fish are acceptable assuming the fish is released after being photographed.

Measurements will be in 1/8th inch increments. If any part of the fish is over the 1/8" mark it will be rounded up to the next 1/8th inch.

Updates to the leaderboard will be posted weekly (usually Tuesday evening).

Point (inches) accumulation example:

Angler #1 - 22 inch Red Drum (redfish) + 20 inch Trout + 15 inch Black Drum + 9 inch Croaker = 66 Inch Stringer

Angler #2 - 27 inch Red Drum (redfish) + 19 inch Trout + 13 inch Croaker = 59 Inch Stringer

Angler #1 would win 1st Place Stringer

Angler #2 would win 2nd Place Stringer

6. Photograph submissions

You do not need all categories of fish to submit. Submissions must be made within 96 hours (4 days) of catching except on the final day of the tournament when all photos must be submitted by 11:59pm.

All fish must be submitted on a SILVER Check-It Stik.

No other measuring device will be accepted. A Check-It Stik can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Academy, and most tackle shops for less than \$20. If your photo is not readable, we cannot accept it.

We will zoom in on the photo best we can and make all efforts to read your submission. We will not make guesses. An experienced impartial second opinion may be obtained if necessary.

Make sure the photo is clear. You should take several pictures to make sure you have an acceptable photo. Make sure at least 2-3 numbers are visible past the tail. Include the designated item (see #7).

If possible, submit one fish photo per email to GCLAmadness@gmail.com . Include (YOUR NAME) and "redfish", "trout", "croaker" in the subject line of your email.

Subject line example: "Sharon Stewart redfish" or "Sharon Stewart croaker"

This is the only acceptable email address to send the pictures. Send full size photos only. DO NOT RESIZE PHOTOS DOWN. *Tip: check your "send box" to ensure that the email and photo attachment was sent.*

The Tournament Director will resize the photos and post on the Gulf Coast Lady Angler Facebook page once the size measurement has been officially documented. The participant must retain all original photographs (not resized) for review upon request by the Tournament Committee. *If you do not see your fish photo posted to the Facebook album within 3 days please contact the Tournament Director.*

All full size photos must be submitted by email to GCLAmadness@gmail.com by 11:59 pm on Nov. 15th, 2026.

7. Designated item

The evening before the beginning of the tournament, the tournament director will post a designated item to be included in the photograph which will function to ensure that the catch was made during the time period of the tournament. Any verbiage written on the item must be identical to the sample posted the night before.

This item must be included in ALL photographs. **This is a SAMPLE photo from a past tournament.**



The designated item was a card with specific wording.

8. Photographing your fish

The photograph **MUST** be taken with your fish lying flat on the Check-it Stik with its nose pressed against the upright "0" inch stop and its mouth closed as noted below. I need to see that the nose is pressed up against the ruler stop so please do not cover the nose/mouth of the fish with your hand/foot in your photo. Same goes for pinching tails – I need to see the end of the tail. **If the nose is not pressed against the upright "0" inch stop on the Check-it Stik the fish will be disqualified.** It is advised that you take several pictures of each fish, adjusting the angle to make sure you get an acceptable photo. Take photo standing directly over the fish as much as possible and avoid extreme angles.

OPEN MOUTH: Redfish, Croaker, Black Drum and Catfish which have an under bite may have the mouth open when measured but all others **MUST** be completely closed (**be sure your Speckled Trout and Flounder have the mouth completely closed**). A 1" penalty will be subtracted from the length of fish submitted with mouth open even if the mouth appears to be open a tiny amount (Speckled Trout and Flounder for this tournament). **If the Speckled Trout measures over 19" and the mouth is open it will be disqualified as there is no way to verify it is a legal fish not over 20".**



TAILS PINCHED: It is acceptable and encouraged to pinch the tail or swing the tail down to achieve the longest length possible but the mouth (trout & flounder) must remain closed and pressed against the “0” inch stop. **A Redfish over 27” must have the tail pinched in order to verify that it is not over 28” . A Speckled Trout over 19” must have the tail pinched in order to verify that it is not over 20” . If these fish tails are not pinched they will be disqualified. You can**

use a Check-it-Stick “Perfect Pincher”-Redfish or “Perfect Pincher”-Trout if you have one. Do your best to ensure that the measuring device is easily readable in the photographs, free of debris and glare.

MEASUREMENT PENALTY RECAP (SINCE IT CAN GET A LITTLE CONFUSING WITH ALL THE NEW LIMITS)

- ❖ **Trout under 19”** – Mouth must be closed otherwise 1” penalty
- ❖ **Trout over 19”** – Mouth closed and tail pinched otherwise disqualified
- ❖ **Redfish over 27”** – Tail pinched otherwise disqualified
- ❖ Fish nose/mouth **not** pressed against upright “0” inch stop – Disqualified

REDFISH WITH MOST SPOTS: To submit a Redfish in the Most Spots category, send a photo of each side of the whole fish with the designated item in each photo. This Redfish is not required to be on a Check-It-Stick. Redfish with the Most Spots can be an “oversized” fish assuming Texas Parks & Wildlife rules are followed and the fish is either tagged or released. All whole, distinct spots will be counted. If two or more spots overlap, it will be counted as one spot.

9. Tie Breakers

Tie Breakers will be determined by earliest date/time of the final submission for stringer or submission of the individual fish.

10. Protests

All protests must be submitted via email to GCLAmadness@gmail.com . There is no fee to protest.

The protest must be issued within 24 hours that the fish in question is posted. The decision of the tournament committee shall be final.

Any tournament participant can file a protest on behalf of any other tournament participant including themselves.

11. Spirit of Sportsmanship Rulings - Not all rules and loop-holes can possibly be addressed.

The spirit of these rules is intended to promote good sportsmanship.

The tournament committee has the right to invoke the “Spirit of Sportsmanship Rule” and make rulings to foster the spirit of good and fair sportsmanship.

Please feel free to post questions on Facebook or send a private message or email GCLAmadness@gmail.com