

## 2021 STAR TOURNAMENT RULES, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

**PARTICIPATION: 1.** Only members in good standing of the Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA TX), the Coastal Conservation Association, or its youth organization, New Tide, and who are at least six (6) years old or older, during the entrant's participation in the Tournament and, who register for the Tournament are eligible and licensed to participate. A Youth member must be at least 6 years old in 2021 in order to be eligible to enter the STAR tournament. The Youth member must sign-up for the current year STAR tournament. Entry fee is "FREE" but will not be automatically included with a Youth membership.

CCA TX assumes no responsibility for registration availability at any retail outlet, nor is any retail outlet authorized to back-time or backdate any STAR registration, or weigh-in form. No top prize winners or member of their immediate family (father, mother, spouse, children under 18, or relative living in the same household at the time of catch.) are eligible for entry into the tournament for three years after winning a top prize, or six years if participant has won once before. **2.** Participants and fish must comply with State of Texas and Federal Rules and Regulations and agree to be bound by the terms of these STAR Tournament Rules, Release and Indemnity Agreement. **3.** With the exception of the Guides Division, persons who presently or during the three (3) years prior to the beginning of the Tournament have acted as saltwater fishing guides, commercial fisherman, commercial finfisherman, bay shrimpers, bait shrimpers, gulf shrimpers, bait shrimp dealers as those terms are defined by Chapters 47 and 77 of the Parks and Wildlife code, or who have held licenses issued pursuant to those chapters or pursuant to any federal law are not eligible. The nominal sharing of expenses by participants is not considered operating a boat for compensation. **4.** No salaried employee of the Coastal Conservation Association Texas or Coastal Conservation Association shall be eligible to enter the competition for a prize. Any person who has failed to pass the required polygraph examination, or any person who has at any time been charged with or committed an offense as defined in TPWD Rules & Regulations or Chapter 66, Section 66.023, Parks and Wildlife Code entitled, "Fraud in Fishing Tournaments" is BANNED from participating in the remainder of the tournament and any future CCA STAR State tournaments.

**DATES/TIME: 5.** The Tournament will begin at 6:00 a.m. CST on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and end at 6:00 p.m. CST on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Only fish caught during this period will be eligible.

**FISHING METHOD: 6.** All fish entered into competition for prizes must have been hooked and caught by the contestant on rod, hook, and line- defined as a catch. Casting the bait and netting/gaffing the fish by another person is permitted.

**TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES: 7.** Boundaries are the territorial waters of the State of Texas including the common boundary waters of Texas and Louisiana as defined by TPWD, and the extension of Texas borders seaward 200 miles. No fish taken outside tournament boundaries, from private impoundments or other waters not legally accessible to the general public will be eligible for entry.

**CATCH AND RELEASE: 8.** In order for a tagged redfish to be eligible in either the Red Tag, Green Tag, Blue Tag, or STAR Youth Scholarship Division, the angler is **NOT ALLOWED** to **RETAIN** the tagged fish. After the catch, the angler, or an assisting person, must clip, cut, break, or otherwise remove the visible portion of the tag above the fish's scales. **TAG NUMBER** must be **VISIBLE** on the removed portion of the tag. Once the visible portion of the tag has been removed, anglers are to release the fish as quickly, and as ethically possible, regardless of condition. If able, we ask the angler to film and/or photograph the release.

**ENTERING TAGGED REDFISH DIVISIONS: 9.** To be eligible, each Blue, Green or Red-tagged redfish, shall have the visible portion of the tag removed in such a manner that the tag number remains visible. The fish **MAY NOT** be **RETAINED**, regardless of condition. The angler must present the removed portion of the tag at an Official CCA STAR TX Weigh-In Station, with the date and time of entry clearly marked on the official weigh-in form (tag will be retained by weigh station personnel). Tags presented after 24 hours from the time of catch will **NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Tags entered into competition must have been caught by the Participant and must be presented at a designated Official CCA TX STAR Weigh-in Station. No entries will be accepted without

entrant signing the official weigh-in registration form. Each person shall be eligible to win only one top prize for any tagged redfish across all divisions.

**ENTERING OFFSHORE DIVISION FISH: 10.** Fish eligible to be entered into the Offshore Division are King Mackerel (Kingfish), Dolphin (Dorado) Ling (Cobia) and Red Snapper. Minimum entry weights: 30 pounds for King Mackerel (Kingfish), 20 pounds for Dolphin (Dorado), 50 pounds for Ling (Cobia) and 20 pounds for Red Snapper. All winning offshore fish shall be determined by weight. In the event of a tie, the fish that was weighed in first shall be declared the winner. If weigh-in times are identical, the person who registered for the Tournament first shall be declared the winner. **11.** Fish entered into competition must have been caught by the Participant and must be weighed at a designated Official CCA TX Weigh-in Station. No fish will be accepted without entrant signing the official weigh-in registration form. **12.** No transfer of fish among Tournament participants shall be allowed. **13.** Fish must be weighed in within **36 hours** of being caught. No fish may be weighed in after 6:00 p.m. on September 6, 2021 **14.** No frozen, spoiled, gutted, altered, or mutilated fish will be eligible for entry.

**TEXAS FORD DEALERS RED TAG DIVISION: 15.** Sixty (60) RED-tagged redfish will be released into the coastal waters. The tags placed on the redfish will read “CCA TX/STAR (Tag Nos. RE1251 – RE1350)”. Only the first ten redfish TAGS entered, having the tag described above, will receive a top prize. If a participant under 16 years of age, on the day of the Awards Presentation, is a first through fifth winner in the Red Tag Division, a college scholarship and boat prize package will be awarded in lieu of the truck/boat prize package. (See Entering Tagged Redfish Divisions, rule 9)

**BLUE TAG DIVISION: 16.** A **minimum** of thirty Blue-tagged redfish will be released into Texas coastal waters. The tags placed on the redfish will read “CCA TX/STAR (Tag Nos. BL1251 – BL1350)”. Only the first THREE BLUE-Tagged Redfish entered, having the tag described above, will receive a top prize. The following six Blue Tagged Redfish Winners, will receive a runner-up prize. (See Entering Tagged Redfish Divisions, rule 9)

**GREEN TAG DIVISION: 17.** A **minimum** of thirty Green-tagged redfish will be released into Texas coastal waters. The tags placed on the redfish will read “CCA TX/STAR (Tag Nos. GR1251 – GR1350)”. Only the first THREE GREEN-Tagged Redfish entered, having the tag described above, will receive a top prize. The following six Green-Tagged Redfish Winners, will receive a runner-up prize. (See Entering Tagged Redfish Divisions rule 9)

**OFFSHORE DIVISION 18.** The Offshore Division consists of King Mackerel (Kingfish), Dorado (Dolphin), Ling (Cobia) and Red Snapper. (See Rule 10 for minimum weights) These species are the only fish to be weighed for the tournament. All other fish in the 2021 STAR are tagged redfish (Red Drum) and those are to be released after the tag is taken. Please present your fish at an official weigh station where a weigh-in form must be filled out and signed by the angler. There will be one top prize Winner in each category with four additional Runners-up. (See Entering Offshore Division Fish, Rules 10-14)

**GUIDES DIVISION 19.** All eligible guides who were present when a member of their party catches a division-placing fish, and all qualified tagged redfish catches, on a paid, or unpaid trip, will be entered into a drawing to win the division, pending polygraphs. All Red, Green, and Blue tag winners will be worth 5 points. 1<sup>st</sup> place Offshore Division fish is worth 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 4 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place 3 points, 4<sup>th</sup> place 2 points, 5<sup>th</sup> place 1 point. The guide must be listed on the angler’s Official STAR weigh-in form to receive entries. See [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) for more details and eligibility requirements)

**YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION (AGES 6 – 17): 20.** All RULES, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY agreements of the STAR Tournament apply to this division. Fish eligible in the Youth Scholarship Division are only Blue or Green Tagged Redfish **21.** To be eligible to fish in this division, YOUTH must be at least **SIX (6) YEARS OLD ANYTIME DURING 2021** and must be **NO MORE THAN SEVENTEEN (17)** when they enter. **22.** To be eligible, each Blue, Green or Red-tagged redfish, shall have the visible portion of the tag removed

in a manner so that the tag number remains visible. The fish **MAY NOT** be **RETAINED**, regardless of condition. (See Entering Tagged Redfish Divisions, Rule 9) This tag offers the winning youth a \$30,000 scholarship at an accredited college, trade school program or university. **23.** The winning participant's parent and/or guardian must agree to sign a scholarship contract that includes default provisions based on performance. The intent of this award is to provide an education at an accredited college, trade school program or university based on minimum requirements for full-time students as supplied by the chosen school. **24.** Each youth who submits a tag for entry must have a parent/guardian and/or adult sponsor who can verify the specific catch. At weigh-in, the parent/guardian and/or adult sponsor must sign and agree to abide by all STAR Tournament Rules, including polygraph testing. The winning participant's parent and/or guardian must agree to sign a scholarship contract that includes default provisions based on performance.

**UNCLAIMED PRIZES: 25.** All unclaimed Green Tag, Blue Tag, and Youth Scholarship Division prizes will be awarded via drawing in accordance with the eligible anglers in the tournament for each division.

**OTHER RULES: 26.** If a participant under 18 years of age wins a prize, their legal guardian over 18 years of age will receive the prize in their behalf. **27.** Any person, including minors and their parent/sponsor, entering a prize-winning offshore fish OR tag, must agree to the taking of a polygraph test, if required, and each person entering the Tournament agrees to submit to a polygraph. Polygraph tests are to be taken at the time requested by the STAR Tournament Committee. Failure to take and/or to pass the polygraph SHALL result in disqualification. All travel expenses are to be paid by entrant. **28.** Any protest must be submitted, in writing, to the CCA TX/STAR Tournament Director at 6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024 by 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 2021 **29.** The decision of the CCA TX, the Tournament Director, and the CCA Tournament Rules Committee, in their sole discretion, shall be final on any matter. **30.** Top prize-winners are responsible for payment of any applicable taxes.

**PRIZES: 31.** Participants shall be eligible to win only one prize or scholarship in the Tournament. Any youth can win only one scholarship in the Tournament during their lifetime. If a person catches and enters the heaviest fish for more than one species in the Offshore Division, they must elect the division for which they wish to claim top prize. If a Youth has previously won a scholarship in the STAR Tournament, they are eligible to win prizes in the Red, Green or Blue Tag Divisions, after their required wait period. If a person catches and enters any redfish tag (See Entering Tagged Redfish Divisions, Rule 9), the Participant is not eligible to win any other prize in the Tournament. Only top prize-winners will be required to attend the STAR Awards Presentation, at the time requested to take receipt of their prize. Runner-up prizes will be shipped to winner or picked up at the CCA TX STAR office.

**DISCLAIMER: 32.** The entire responsibility for valid member status and correctness of any official entry form rests solely on the entrant.

**RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY: 33.** IN CONSIDERATION OF BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER THE STAR TOURNAMENT, EACH PERSON AGREES AND CONTRACTS TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS, ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND ALL COMMITTEE PERSONS, THE TOURNAMENT SPONSORS AND WEIGH-IN STATION OWNERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS OR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER CONNECTED WITH THE TOURNAMENT INCLUDING ITS PLANNING, OPERATION OR CONDUCT AND INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH, SURVIVAL DAMAGES, ECONOMIC LOSS, PROPERTY DAMAGES OR CLAIMS RELATING IN ANY WAY TO THE AWARDING OF PRIZES IN THE TOURNAMENT. IT IS THE EXPRESS INTENTION OF THIS AGREEMENT THAT EACH ENTRANT IS INDEMNIFYING EACH OF THE FOREGOING RELEASED AND INDEMNIFIED PARTIES FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN NEGLIGENT CONDUCT, WHETHER SOLE NEGLIGENCE OR CONTRIBUTING NEGLIGENCE, GROSS NEGLIGENCE, OUTRAGEOUS MISCONDUCT, STRICT LIABILITY, COMMISSION OF TORT,

BREACH OF CONTRACT, AND BREACH OF WARRANTY. THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF ANY MINOR ENTERING IN, REGISTERING FOR OR FISHING IN THE TOURNAMENT DOES FURTHER CONTRACT AND AGREE THAT THIS RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT SHALL BE BINDING UPON ANY MINOR ENTERING THE TOURNAMENT. WINNER WILL BE REQUIRED TO EXECUTE AN ADDITIONAL RELEASE, INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS UPON RECEIPT OF PRIZE. 34. ANY CONTROVERSY OR CLAIM ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THE TOURNAMENT SHALL BE SETTLED BY BINDING ARBITRATION CONDUCTED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TX, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION AND JUDGMENT UPON THE AWARD RENDERED MAY BE ENTERED IN ANY COURT HAVING JURISDICTION THEREOF. 35. SHOULD LITIGATION OR ARBITRATION RESULT BETWEEN A PARTICIPANT AND CCA TX, IT IS AGREED THAT THE PREVAILING PARTY IN SUCH LITIGATION OR ARBITRATION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECOVER REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS.