

## Official 2008 Black Drum World Championship Rules and Regulations

**PORT ASSIGNMENT:** Registered anglers may depart from any Virginia port and must fish within the Chesapeake Bay and/or any of its tributaries within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and or the Virginia coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean north to the VA/MD state line and south to the VA/NC state line. Anglers must present/register their catch in person with a tournament official at the Bay Creek Marina within the designated weigh-in times to be eligible for prizes.

**BOAT ANGLERS:** All anglers aboard a vessel registered in the tournament must be paid/registered tournament participants.

**INSPECTION OF BOATS:** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to inspect any and/or all boats entered in the tournament.

**LIABILITY:** All boats shall adhere to all U.S Coast Guard, Virginia Marine Resource Commission, and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries requirements and regulations. Neither the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Bay Creek Marina, the Town of Cape Charles nor any volunteer workers will be responsible for a vessel owner/captain failing to comply with tournament rules or for accident, injury, or damage that may occur during the tournament. All entrants will participate in the tournament and its related activities at their own risk and will accept full responsibility for their boats, crew, and gear.

**JUDGING TIES:** If, after the final weigh-in, a tie exists, the earliest fish registered shall be declared the winner.

**CONSERVATION:** Anglers are limited to registering no more than one fish per day per vessel and all tournament contestants are encouraged to release any fish that they do not intend to eat or enter in the tournament. It shall be at the discretion of the team/boat captain to determine which fish shall be entered in the tournament daily. Anglers are encouraged to land fish using a large dip net in lieu of a gaff to ensure successful releases. The Foodbank on the Eastern Shore has agreed to take possession and distribute any unwanted fish to Eastern Shore residents in need. Any fish may be thoroughly inspected, both internally and externally, at the discretion of the weigh master, tournament officials, and/or a marine biologist.

**METHOD OF CATCH:** All fish must be caught in a sporting manner, by rod and reel during the course of the tournament and must not be cut, speared, shot, or otherwise mutilated in any way except by hook or gaff marks. The tournament committee reserves the right to determine whether a fish warrants classification as being mutilated.

**FISHING HOURS/WEIGH-IN:** Fishing may begin at 6:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tournament anglers must be in line to weigh/register their fish between 4 and 7 p.m. Saturday. Tournament anglers must be in line to weigh/register their fish between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Tournament-eligible fish must be weighed on the same day that the fish was captured. Anglers arriving later than the eligible times will not be allowed to register their catches; no excuses will be accepted. Official tournament time will be kept at the Bay Creek Marina, and tournament anglers are responsible for synchronizing their time with official tournament time. No person shall be awarded more than one prize in the weight category.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** In the event of adverse weather conditions, the Tournament Committee may elect to postpone/remove either day of the tournament provided that the decision is made prior to 6:30 a.m. on that day. Tournament entrants and the owners, captains, and persons in charge of their boats will make their own decisions concerning the operation and safety of their vessels, and all matters related thereto, including the weather. Adverse weather developing after fishing has started will place the decision of whether or not to continue to fish in the hands of the vessel owner/captain. If any Tournament Committee-approved portion of the tournament is fished, then the tournament will be considered to have been officially held.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The Tournament Committee/Headquarters will monitor VHF channel 88. Periodic tournament updates will be broadcast each afternoon from this channel to help ensure that noncontending catches are not unnecessarily killed for the sake of tournament participation. A phone number also will be provided for tournament participants to call in to the weigh station for current standings.

**RULE VIOLATIONS:** Any and all protests must be filed before the tournament's final awards presentation and be personally delivered by hand by the person making the protest to a tournament official. Protest fee \$50. The Tournament Committee will review any and all protests in a fair and equitable manner, and their decision will be final. The Tournament Committee also reserves the right to investigate any questionable practices or activities involving the tournament without an official protest being filed and may request an affidavit at any time for any reason. Any contestant found guilty of cheating, attempting to cheat, or otherwise deviating from the rules and regulations of this tournament shall be disqualified and considered ineligible for future tournament participation. Questions not covered by these rules will be answered after being reviewed by the Tournament Committee.