



BE PART OF THE TRADITION.

2024 National Championship Rules

Biloxi, MS

DECEMBER 4-8, 2024

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY FOR ALL TEAMS AND ANGLERS FOR THE 2024 SKA TOURNAMENT TRAIL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

All members of a National Championship crew must be current SKA competition members. SKA Corporate Partners and members of the press are the only exceptions and must be approved by the SKA management prior to fishing. ALL participants must agree to understand and abide by tournament rules listed below.

Open and Small Boat Class boats are competing for their own set of prizes in the Nationals and are unable to win any prizes in any other Class.

By registering for a tournament, the captain, owner or person responsible for the team's registration acknowledges that all anglers and crewmembers on board the boat will abide by tournament rules.

It is expressly understood that all registered participants and non-registered occupants of their boats enter into the events in the Southern Kingfish Association LLC voluntarily and at their own risk. Further, each registered and non-registered participant on behalf of other family members and/or executors agrees to release and hold harmless Southern Kingfish Association LLC, its officers, directors, owners, members, representatives, agents, employees, independent contractors, volunteers, promoters, advertisers, sponsors, partners, joint ventures, affiliates, assigns, polygraph examiner, the city and county where the events

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

are held and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of any event in the Southern Kingfish Association LLC (collectively, "Released and Indemnified Parties") from any and all claims, losses, damages, demands, causes of action, suits and liabilities of every kind arising out of, related to, or resulting from the tournament, activity or event, including but not limited to all events in the Southern Kingfish Association LLC, including without limitation, any claim for loss, damage or destruction of property, or injury (including death), regardless of whether such loss arises in whole or in part from the negligence of any Released and Indemnified Party. This release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as possible under applicable law, and if any portion of this release is held invalid or unenforceable, the balance shall continue in full force and legal effect. Jurisdiction over the tournament trial shall be exclusively that of each tournament director or committee. All parties agree to be bound by the tournament director's decisions without exception.

Winners, or any anglers, may be requested to submit to and pass a polygraph test and/or sign an affidavit prior to being presented any prize. This must be done in a timely manner. Failure to submit to a polygraph test automatically revokes all claims to any prizes won. All members of any SKA team or tournament participants entering and participating in National Championship event agree that all polygraph results are final and agree that the subject of the polygraph will not be challenged beyond the posting of the results.

Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee.

The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse an entry into the tournament.

A Mississippi saltwater fishing license is required for each team member for anyone excluded by MS law. Go to <https://www.mdwfp.com/enforcement-education/general-fishing-rules-regulations> obtain current Mississippi fishing regulations.

FISHING DAYS

Day 1 – ~~December 6, 2024~~ December 5, 2024

Day 2 – December 7, 2024

CHECK OUT

On tournament day, competition hours are

Day 1 – 7:30 AM until 5:00 PM

Day 2 – 7:30 AM until 4:00 PM

There will be NO checkout. NO CHECK-OUT! Honor system - lines in the water at 7:30 AM (official GPS time). **ALL BOATS MUST LEAVE FROM A BILOXI MARINA/BOAT RAMP.** No fishing with rod and reel before 7:30 AM, ~~this includes bait jigging~~. **Due to the inshore water temperature conditions teams, WILL be allowed to jig for bait before the official 7:30 lines in; however, NO king mackerel can be hooked, caught or landed before the official tournament fishing hours of 7:30AM.** Fish must be hooked and caught during tournament hours. No purchasing of bait, passing of bait between boats or obtaining bait from bait pen after 7:30 AM on each fishing day.

BOUNDARIES

There are no boundaries for this event.

BAIT LIMITS:

SKA Teams are required to adhere to local, state and federal RECREATIONAL bait limits regardless of licensing.

NATIONALS CREW:

Captains can fish with their original team or may pick their crew as long as crew members meet all criteria listed. ALL ANGLERS on a National Championship crew MUST BE CURRENT SKA competition members PRIOR TO the National Championship FISHING DAY 1. **The addition of a hired “local captain” to your team is strictly prohibited.**

NATIONALS TEAMS:

Crew members may ONLY FISH WITH ONE TEAM during Nationals. Team members are declared at registration and no later than the end of the Nationals Captain's Meeting.

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

CATEGORY AWARDS:

If a crew member does not fish one day for any reason, the team's points from that day will not be included in that crew member's Category Awards rankings. Category Awards points can only be earned if that crew member actively fishes. A crew member can still rank for Category Awards with a single day's points. Category Awards include Junior, NextGen, Lady, Senior and Veteran Anglers.

CLASSES

The Open Class is open to ALL teams. **Small Boat Class is ONLY available to boats 26' 6" LOA and under.** Class is declared during registration. Regular season class declarations and/or rankings do not apply to Nationals. Any changes to class must be reported to SKA Tournament administrators PRIOR to Fishing Day 1. Should SKA Administrators learn that a boat competing in the Small Boat Class exceeds the length requirement, that team's points will move to Open Class rankings, and that team will not qualify for any Small Boat Kingfish Calcutta earnings.

If a team is removed from the Small Boat Class due to exceeding the length requirement, any Small Boat Kingfish Calcutta entry fees will NOT be refunded. Any questions about Small Boat Class qualification should be addressed with SKA Administrators PRIOR to Fishing Day 1.

As noted on page 1, paragraph 2, Open Class and Small Boat Class boats are competing for their own set of prizes and are unable to win any prizes in any other Class, including class-specific Kingfish Calcuttas.

ADDITIONAL FUEL

For the 2024 Nationals in Biloxi, teams may carry additional fuel in a safe and secure manner at the Captain's discretion, adhering to all laws and regulations as applicable.

COMMUNICATIONS

Official National Championship communications will be sent to Team Captains via text message, phone, emails and/or on <https://skanationals.com/>

Tournament officials will monitor and communicate with boats on VHF Channel 68 during check-in.

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

KINGFISH CALCUTTAS

SKA Nationals competitors may enter optional Kingfish Calcuttas. Details and definitions of each Kingfish Calcutta can be found pages 9-10 of these rules under the heading **Kingfish Calcutta (TWT) Definitions and Payouts**. To qualify for a Kingfish Calcutta, a team must enter the Kingfish Calcutta and any respective fees must be paid in full prior to Fishing Day 1.

CAPTAINS' MEETING

The Captains' Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum at approximately 7:00 PM; it will coincide with Divisional Awards and Captains' Party. Each boat should be represented at the Captain's Meeting, although attendance is not mandatory. Each Captain is responsible for knowing any changes that may be announced at the Captain's Meeting. Each Captain is responsible for picking up their assigned boat number card before Fishing Day 1.

TOURNAMENT

Captains and crew members are responsible for following and adhering to all local, state, and federal fishing and boating laws. This includes having the proper fishing license.

A registration fee is required to participate in the SKA National Championships. The registration fee must be paid in full prior to Fishing Day 1. Once officially registered, **all entry fees are non-refundable**.

IMPORTANT: Final rankings will be determined by the aggregate weight of two kingfish. A team may only weigh one kingfish per Fishing Day. If a team only weighs one kingfish, the single fish's weight will be used to determine final rankings. For this year's tournament, this will ALSO apply to all Aggregate Kingfish Calcutta's – specifically, if a team only weighs one kingfish during the event, that single fish will be used to determine aggregate rankings.

All fish must be caught on rod and reel.

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

As noted on page 1, paragraph 1, all anglers MUST be active 2024 SKA members in good standing. That means all anglers must renew their SKA memberships or register to be SKA members prior to Fishing Day 1.

All boats must adhere to state of Mississippi recreational bag limits as they pertain to all eligible species. Boats possessing commercial licenses may not utilize them during tournament competition.

Every angler is expected to conduct herself/himself in a manner that reflects the wholesomeness and image of the organization both on and off the water. While the tournaments are highly competitive in nature, good sportsmanship is paramount at all times. Any team who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or any local, state or federal law, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport is subject to disqualification at the tournament director's discretion.

If a participant receives a ticket for violating any local, state or federal law that team is subject to disqualification at the tournament director's discretion.

After 7:30AM on each fishing day the boat may not touch land for any reason, or they will be automatically disqualified from that specific tournament day.

No passing of anything between boats during the tournament. Doing so would result in automatic disqualification from that specific tournament day.

All hooks, wire, rigs and/or any other foreign objects must be removed from kingfish eligible for competition.

There will be no feeding and/or stuffing of any kingfish with any baitfish, fish and/or any foreign objects (i.e. ice, weights, etc.). This will result in immediate disqualification.

It is the official policy of the SKA to polygraph tournament winners as well as random tournament participants in SKA produced/sanctioned events and National Championship when deemed necessary or possibly as the result of any and all protests. Any participant in any SKA event, sanctioned or produced, who refuses to take the test will automatically lose his or her SKA membership and be disqualified from the event. All members agree that the results of the test will be final and accepted by the participant(s)

WEATHER

In the event that weather conditions arise that are deemed unsafe for the average registered boat by the tournament officials, the tournament may be called off for that day. No refunds will be made in the event of cancellation. It is expressly understood that the permitting of fishing by tournament officials does not ensure the safety of registered anglers or any other occupants of their vessels. Captains, anglers and all other members of registered boats must determine in their own judgment whether to fish under the given conditions based on factors including but not limited to the seaworthiness of their boat and their own seamanship.

Thursday, December 5, and Sunday, December 8, 2024, have been designated as alternate fishing days should unsafe conditions prevent fishing on one or more of the regularly scheduled fishing dates. Teams should be prepared for a Captain's Choice or single day fishing should weather conditions prevent the regularly scheduled Fishing Days.

WEIGH IN / SCALES

Scales Open at **3:00 PM Fishing Day 1** and **2:00 PM Fishing Day 2** at Cadet Point Marina in Biloxi.

Boats MUST be checked in with a tournament official by **VHF Radio Channel 68** no later than **5:00** pm on **Day 1** and **4:00** pm on **Day 2**.

All boats with fish to weigh must be visually checked in by displaying their boat number at the location designated by the tournament committee no later than **5:00** pm on **Day 1** and **4:00** pm on **Day 2**. **Teams must declare if they have a fish to weigh at boat check in.**

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

Specific check-in instructions will be updated and/or announced at Captain's Meeting.

Teams that do **NOT** have a fish to weigh in **MUST** check in with a tournament official to announce they have made it back in safely. Anglers can call or text **252-622-4789** and please reference your **team number** and **team name**. The Coast Guard will be notified of ALL unreported vessels so a search can commence.

All fish must be brought to the tournament headquarters by boats catching same under its own power. Fish must be unloaded at designated docks only. Fish cannot be transported over land.

The tournament committee reserves the right to inspect any boat entered in competition, including an on-board inspection.

Teams cannot touch land until their fish has been off loaded at weigh in.

All king mackerel submitted for weigh-in must be at a minimum of 10lbs to count for points, in fresh, edible condition and caught on tournament day during competition hours.

No mutilated fish will be accepted for weigh-in. Mutilation is defined as any damage which may significantly impair the fish's fighting ability. This official and final decision will be made by the weigh master.

Teams will be weighed in the order they are checked in.

Fish being weighed in the tournament will be inspected by a tournament official for all signs of cheating.

In the event that two or more king mackerel are the same weight, the winner shall be determined by the earliest weigh-in time.

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

All decisions made by the weigh master and tournament director are final. Results are unofficial until determined official by tournament director.

The winning fish and all fish entered and/or donated become the exclusive property of the tournament.

PAYOUTS

Published payouts are based on 100 Open Class boats and 25 Small Boat Class boats. Payouts will decrease in percentage equivalent to the difference between 100 boats for Open Class/25 boats for Small Boat Class and actual entries. For instance, 75 Open Class entries will decrease payouts by 25%. Conversely, 125 Open Class entries will increase payouts by 25%. 100% of all entry fees (minus credit card processing fees) go toward Open Class and Small Boat Class payouts.

KINGFISH CALCUTTA (TWT) DEFINITIONS AND PAYOUTS

50/30/20 Split TWTs:

Open Class Big Fish Day 1 TWT - \$100

Open Class Big Fish Day 2 TWT - \$100

Small Boat Big Fish Day 1 TWT - \$100

Small Boat Big Fish Day 2 TWT - \$100

Big Fish TWT - \$250

High Roller TWT - \$1,000

Big 40 TWT - \$100 (Closest to 40lbs)

2-Fish Aggregate TWT - \$250

Winner Take All (WTA) TWTs:

2-Fish Aggregate WTA TWT - \$500

Big Money 2-Fish Aggregate WTA TWT - \$2,000

50/30/20 Split TWTs pay 50% of pot to first place, 30% of pot to second place and 20% of pot to third place for TWTs with 10 or more entrants. For TWTs with 9 or fewer entrants, 100% of pot will be paid to first place. SKA retains a percentage of all TWT pots. Should only two teams rank in any 50/30/20 Split TWT, 60% of pot will be paid to first place, 40% of pot will be paid to second place. Should only one team rank, 100% of pot will be paid to first place. A team can not hold more than one ranking in any single TWT category; in that rare circumstance, the next ranking team(s) will move up.

Winner Take All (WTA) TWTs pay 100% of pot to first place. SKA retains a percentage of all TWT pots.

Should only one team enter any single TWT category, that team's TWT entry fee will be refunded at 100% within 10 business days after Fishing Day 2.

Open Class Big Fish Day 1 TWT – Heaviest single fish weighed by an Open Class team on Fishing Day 1.

Open Class Big Fish Day 2 TWT – Heaviest single fish weighed by an Open Class team on Fishing Day 2.

Small Boat Big Fish Day 1 TWT – Heaviest single fish weighed by a Small Boat Class team on Fishing Day 1.

Small Boat Big Fish Day 2 TWT – Heaviest single fish weighed by an Small Boat Class team on Fishing Day 2.

Big Fish TWT – Heaviest single fish weighed by an ANY team on ANY Fishing Day.

High Roller TWT – Heaviest single fish weighed by an ANY team on ANY Fishing Day.

Big 40 TWT – Single fish weighing closest to 40lbs (over or under) by an ANY team on ANY Fishing Day.

2-Fish Aggregate TWT – Heaviest two-fish aggregate weight of ANY team. Single fish count toward ranking.

2-Fish Aggregate WTA TWT – Heaviest two-fish aggregate weight of ANY team. Single fish count toward ranking.

Big Money 2-Fish Aggregate WTA TWT – Heaviest two-fish aggregate weight of ANY team. Single fish count toward ranking.

PROTESTS

All protests concerning the determination of tournament prize winners shall be made to the tournament official in person and shall be accompanied by \$500 cash. **Emails sent without required in-person protest and fee will not be considered.**

ANY AND ALL PROTESTS WILL BE ADDRESSED THROUGH THE TEAM CAPTAIN OR CO-CAPTAIN ONLY

All protests shall be made no later than **fifteen minutes** after the last fish has been weighed. In the event that a protest is upheld by the tournament, the \$500 cash deposit will be returned.

Any disqualifications will result in forfeit of winnings and may result in expulsion from the Southern Kingfish Association. All decisions made by the tournament director will be final.

RELEASE

By registering for the tournament, all captains, anglers and occupants of their boat hereby consent that tournament officials may use without payment or restriction, any photographs, video or interviews in which he or she may appear for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising and promotional material.

ADMINISTRATIVE

All winnings over \$600 will receive an IRS 1099 Form, and the winnings will be made out to the individual or company listed on the W9 Form.

All other Official SKA Rules and Regulations apply.

5046 BUSINESS DR., SUITE B • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28577 • (252) 622-4789

ADDENDUM 1: Weather Update

Fishing days will now be THURSDAY, December 5 and SATURDAY, December 7. No fishing FRIDAY.

Nationals will now be a CAPTAIN'S CHOICE event.

You can EITHER fish BOTH DAYS, weighing ONE fish PER DAY

-OR-

Fish ONE DAY only, weighing TWO fish on that day

No team can weigh more than two fish total across both fishing days. If a team weighs two fish on Day 1, they are not eligible to weigh any fish on Day 2. If a team does not weigh a fish on Day 1, they are eligible to weigh two fish on Day 2.

Ranking will still be determined by the aggregate of two fish. If only one fish weighed, single fish still count toward overall and aggregate Kingfish Calcutta ranking.

For Daily Kingfish Calcuttas, if a team ONLY FISHES ONE DAY, the heaviest fish will be counted for Fishing Day 1 and the second fish will be counted for Fishing Day 2 regardless of the day weighed. If only ONE fish weighed, it will count for Fishing Day 1 - NOT both days.

ADDENDUM 2: Bait Jigging

Due to the inshore water temperature conditions teams, WILL be allowed to jig for bait before the official 7:30 lines in; however, NO king mackerel can be hooked, caught or landed before the official tournament fishing hours of 7:30AM.

Last revised December 4, 2024 6:40 PM