

CALUSA BLUEWAY PADDLE TOURNAMENT

AMATUER TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **RULES.** All rules are subject to change up to time of tournament and will be clarified at Captain's Meeting. All decisions concerning interpretation of the rules are entirely up to the tournament director and are final and not subject for appeal.
2. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY.** All competitors must be 18 years of age or older or be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A guardian who is not registered in the event and accompanying a minor may not fish. Minors must also have the signature of his or her parent or legal guardian on the entry form.
3. **REGISTRATION.** Contestants must register by Oct 26th, 2007 to avoid the \$15 late fee. *All competitors must attend and check in at captains meeting at 4:30 pm on Nov 3rd, 2007 at Matlacha Community Park.* Each angler will be given one (1) official measuring stick upon checking in the morning of the tournament. Angler must provide his or her own digital camera. Measuring stick must be returned to tournament official before end of tournament for angler to be eligible for any prizes.
4. **SAFETY.** Each contestant must possess a Coast Guard Approved Type III personal flotation device and whistle and follow all U.S. Coast Guard regulations.
5. **SPORTSMANSHIP.** All competitors must behave in a safe, courteous, and environmentally conscious manner. Intoxication or possession of alcohol and/or drugs will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Competitors may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, or hold a spot for another competitor. Cell phones may be used, but one competitor may not hole sit for another and any angling assistance from anyone outside the tournament will be grounds for immediate disqualification.
6. **LAUNCHING.** Paddle Tournament starts at first light. Every angler must photograph his or her vessel with his or her tournament camera before launching. Competitors may launch anywhere that there is legal access and may fish any waters not deemed off-limits by local, state, and federal governments. Anglers may fish for any species in fresh, brackish or saltwater. Once a boat is launched, however, a competitor may not move it by any motorized conveyance until he or she is done fishing and is returning to check-in. Once angler begins fishing, he or she may not travel by any other conveyance than by foot or their own paddle craft until he or she is done fishing and returning to check-in. Wade fishing will be allowed but boat must be attached to angler at all times.
7. **LEGAL FISHING METHODS.** All fish *must* be caught on an artificial lure or fly. No live or frozen bait or chumming will be allowed. Artificial scented baits such as Exude, Berkley Gulp, and Fish Bites are legal in the tournament. Only standard conventional, spin, or fly tackle may be used. Foul hooked or snagged fish will not be eligible.
8. **SCORING.** This is an "inch by inch" style of tournament in which the single longest fish of any species (fresh or saltwater) is awarded points based on one point per one inch. Fish measurement will be rounded DOWN to the nearest inch and fish must be photographed against the official Calusa Blueway Paddle Tournament measuring stick with whole fish clearly visible on the competitor's boat. Any fish caught by one person cannot be photographed by another person's camera. In the event of a tie, the angler who arrives first to check in will be determined the winner.
9. **CHECK IN.** All anglers must check in his or her camera, measuring stick, and score card by 3:00 pm on Sunday, Nov 4th, 2007 at Matlacha Community Park. Images from digital cameras will be downloaded at that time. Anyone returning late will be disqualified.
10. **PRIZE CATEGORIES.** Grand Prize, Second and Third Places: **Most Points.** Additional prizes for: **Most Species Caught, Longest Single Fish Caught, Lady Angler, Junior Angler, and Mystery Fish.**

GOOD LUCK!!!