

CALUSA BLUEWAY KAYAK TOURNAMENT

PRO TEAM 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. *A team representative must attend and check in at captains meeting at 6:00 pm on Nov 2nd, 2007 at The Sun and Moon Inn, 3962 NW Pine Island Rd., Matlacha, FL 33993.* All team members are encouraged to attend. Each Team consisting of four (4) anglers will be given two (2) official tournament measuring sticks upon checking in the morning of the tournament. Both measuring sticks must be returned to tournament official before end of tournament for team to be eligible for 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 and any angling assistance from anyone outside the tournament will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Teams may split up after the shotgun start, but keep in mind that each team will be given only two rulers. Cell phones and radios may be used and open communication between teammates is encouraged, however, a competitor of one team will not be allowed to contact a competitor from another team via phone or radio – this will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Because this is a team event the sportsmanship of each individual team member will be reflective of the entire team – if one angler gets disqualified, the whole team will get disqualified. Blocking, disturbing fishable water, or interfering with a competitor's right to fish will be grounds for disqualification. The use of the digital cameras to record possible violations is encouraged, but final decisions regarding sportsmanship of competitors is left solely up to Tournament Officials.
6. **LAUNCHING.** This is a "shotgun start" type of event with all competitors launching simultaneously from Matlacha Community Park at 9:00 am, November 3, 2007 and returning no later than 3:00 pm that day. The entire team of any competitor who arrives later than 3:00 pm will be disqualified. Once the shotgun start has taken place, kayaks may not leave the water or be moved by any motorized conveyance until the competitor has returned to check-in. Any and all teammates may check in before 3:00 pm without penalty. Wade fishing will be allowed but kayak 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. All competitors must fish out of a craft that is recognizable as a kayak and is identified by the manufacturer as such. All kayaks must carry a double bladed paddle and use this as a primary form of conveyance. Push poles and stake off poles are legal means of conveyance, but kayak must have double bladed paddle on board. No motors, electric or otherwise, will be allowed.
8. **SCORING.** Each team's objective is to photograph the longest "slam" consisting of one (1) redfish, one (1) snook, and one (1) sea trout per team. 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 kayak. Because For the Any fish caught by one teammate cannot be photographed by another teammate's camera, although one teammate can lend assistance to another teammate as he or she photographs a fish. In the event of a tie, the team whose four members arrive first to check in (have the lowest accumulated time on water) 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 Saturday, November 3rd, 2007 at The Sun & Moon Inn. Images will be downloaded from cards while angler waits. Anyone returning late will be disqualified.
10. **CASH PRIZES.** Anglers may also enter as a team, which will consist of no more than four anglers. The team name must be entered on the entry form and each team will be eligible for a special team prize. Team scoring is determined by adding the overall inches of fish caught by each individual team member. All tournament rules apply to individual team members and winners of team competitions are eligible for individual prizes as well.

GOOD LUCK!!!