

Grand Poobah

East Cooper Fishing Club Tournament Rules

Effective January 2010

ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY FEE

East Cooper Fishing Club tournaments are open to all anglers from boat or shore. The entry fee for the “*Grand Poobah*” tournaments will be \$20.00 per person. There will be a \$5.00 sub-tournament “*Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament*” which will be open to all ECFC anglers participating in each primary tournament.

REGISTRATION

Only dues paid members of the East Cooper Fishing Club can participate. All checks or money orders should be made payable to the ECFC. All *Grand Poobah* tournament fees need to be received by the start of the tournament or no later than the next Club Meeting. Entry fees are nonrefundable except in event of cancellation or reschedule of the event.

GUIDE BOATS

No professional guide or mate, while fishing a paid charter, may catch a fish and submit into a tournament.

FINAL REGISTRATION & CAPTAINS/ANGLERS MEETING

The final registrations are before the official start date of tournaments. *Grand Poobah* and sub-tournament *Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament* fees need to be received by the start of the tournament or no later than the next Club Meeting. Fish caught before fees are paid are not eligible. These rules governing the tournament will be explained and any questions answered before the tournament(s) begin.

FISHING RULES

All tournaments will be fished consistent with and enforced pursuant to the laws of this state. Any violation of South Carolina State Statute will result in disqualification for that angler and / or the vessel the angler is fishing from. It will be the responsibility of the angler to review South Carolina DNR Rules & Regulations. It is recommended that all vessels be equipped with the minimum Coast Guard safety requirements for that vessel.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants will exercise good sportsmanship whether at the dock, under way or fishing. Violators will be subject to disqualification without refund. An honor system will be used on running *Grand Poobah* tournaments where there is no official weigh-in. Photos are mandatory, next to a ruler or from the butt end of the rod to document size of the fish may will be used to document your catch.

FISHING HOURS

All tournaments will start at 12:01am on the starting day and will run until Midnight of “*Grand Poobah*” tournaments until the last day of the tournament. No anglers will be allowed to claim fish caught prior to the start time of tournaments. There will be no check-in time prior to the start of fishing tournaments.

The tournament awards presentation will be at the next monthly meeting.

BOUNDARIES

South Carolina and surrounding offshore waters. Fish caught out of state are not eligible.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

Artificial lures, live bait, dead bait or any combination is permitted in the tournaments. All fish must be caught on a hook and line. Snatching, gigging, netting or spearing is prohibited on tournament caught fish.

REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBLE FISH

Eligible fish must be caught fresh within South Carolina during day(s) of the tournament(s). Fish brought to weigh-in must be of legal state length to be considered in tournament. The weigh-master reserves the right to hold and examine internally and externally any fish weighed in as a tournament catch to determine if the fish is eligible for an award. Any fish that has an unnatural material in or on it will be disqualified.

Poobah fish can be any size fish, but fish not of legal size(s) must be released per state law and regulations.

GRAND POOBAH TOURNAMENTS:

All fish caught and to be submitted for consideration need to be measured and photographed and posted to the website under a ***Grand Poobah*** tournament thread. Post as many fish that you catch of the targeted species with your Name, Date of Catch, Kind of Catch and Length of Catch. If you fail to post a photo of your fish into the Poobah forum, it does not qualify.

If you are unable to post the fish yourself, please contact another member that can post the fish for you. Sandbagging is highly discouraged – don't wait until the last minute to spring a surprise on your friends – that would be considered unsportsmanlike.

The winner(s) of the ***Grand Poobah*** will be chosen only from the posted entries. To win the honor of Grand Poobah, the most fish submitted of all fish in all categories and has at least one winning category, will win the distinction of being The Grand Poobah.....the angler all fish fear.

OPTIONAL WILD CARD – MINI-TOURNAMENT

For an additional \$5.00 per person fishing a tournament, a Wild Card Fish will be chosen as an award fish. Each ***Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament*** entry will be per person and not per membership. If a family member is fishing a ***Grand Poobah*** tournament under an entry fee, they must pay \$5.00 each to be eligible for the ***Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament*** prize. An honor system fish for caught will apply but a photo must be posted to document the catch.

The cash prize will be determined by the amount of anglers registered for the ***Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament***. Winnings under these divisions are in addition to the primary tournament winnings. This is a separate sub-tournament division available only to anglers registered in the primary tournaments. All rules pertaining to the primary tournament shall apply to the optional ***Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament*** divisions.

BASIS OF AWARDS

Eligible-fish categories for tournaments will be decided prior to beginning of tournaments.

Fishing category winners will be for the heaviest or longest fish in each fish category, depending on the type of tournament. The winner is responsible for all applicable taxes. All cash awards will be made to tournament entrants.

TYPES OF AWARDS

Cash will be awarded to the top, first, second and third place angler in each eligible fish category.

Each entrant into a tournament will have one ticket placed into a drawing at the conclusion of any tournament. While a participant may not have a winning fish during the running of a tournament, they may win in the random ticket drawing. The value of this drawing will depend on the number of entrants into the tournaments.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The tournament committee has the right to cancel the days fishing at the call of the weather forecast. It will be the responsibility of the angler to communicate with the tournament committee about tournament cancellations. Tournament management reserves the right to terminate the day's fishing because of unsafe conditions at sea. If the unsafe conditions are the result of inclement weather, tournament management will notify all registered anglers of the rescheduled date on the website. However, the tournament shall be considered complete if more than half the allotted time to fish has elapsed.

If tournaments are rescheduled or cancelled, Entry Fees can be refunded.

COMMUNICATIONS

The official VHF tournament channel is 68. All boats should be equipped with a VHF radio, cell phone or both. The tournament cell phone number will be posted in advance on the tournament website and e-mailed to all entrants providing a valid e-mail address. If for any reason VHF channel 68 is off the air, communications will move to VHF channel 75 temporarily. If you do not check in at the weigh station, please check-in by VHF radio or cell phone to the Tournament Director or Designee(s). It is important for the tournament to know each boat safely returned to port with all participants present and accounted for and to know if you will be submitting an entry

TIES

Since the *Grand Poobah* is an "Honor Tournament," there will be no official weigh-in or length measurement and more than one fish may be caught of the same length. Ties will be broken by the next longest fish in that category by the ECFC member posted on a Poobah Forum thread under the "Members Only" section of the website. So if you catch more than one fish listed in the Grand Poobah, post the fish on the website – it may be a tie-breaker for you. The more fish that you post, the better chance you will have of getting a tie breaking record.

The Tournament Director or Designee(s), will review such ties and their decision is final.

DISQUALIFICATION

Any angler or boat may be disqualified at any time, at the discretion of Tournament Director or Designee(s), for any violation of applicable laws, tournament rules or safety.

PROTEST

Protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director or Designee(s) at the weigh-in station on the day of the alleged infraction, within one (1) hour after the closing of the weigh-in station. Tournament Director or Designee(s) will make all decisions, and those decisions shall be final.

AMENDMENTS

The statement and rules contained herein may be amended by additional verbal instruction, electronic message and/or printed material distributed by Tournament Director or Designee(s).

All tournament decisions are final.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

FISH CATEGORY AWARDS

There are different fish categories for the tournament(s).

During the *Grand Poobah* tournaments, the longest fish for the each of the target species (to be determined prior to the tournament) will be the winner.

The ECFC will put \$100 to be split among first place winners.

First Place Cash Prize for each species will be 20% of cash received from all entrants.

Second Place Cash Prize for each species will be 8.5% of cash received from all entrants

Third Place Cash Prize for each species will be the 3% of cash received from all entrants

Ticket random drawing will be \$1.00 of entry fees received from all entrants

Wild Card Fish: There will be one winner for the agreed upon species. If there are no winners, the prize money will awarded by random drawing of all ***Wild Card Fish Sub-Tournament*** entrants.

Payouts are 100% of all cash received during each tournament

Tournaments

There will be 3 ***Grand Poobah*** tournaments which will run for 3 consecutive months

1st Poobah – March 1 through May 31, 2010

2nd Poobah – June 1 through August 30, 2010

3rd Poobah – September 1 through November 30, 2010

Waiver and Hold Harmless

In consideration of this application being accepted, I/we the undersigned, intending to be legally bound for myself/ourselves, my/our heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I/we may have against East Cooper Fishing Club and it's members, sponsors, contributors, their officials, employees, representatives, successors or assigns or anyone acting on their behalf. Such claims for damages to include but not to be limited to liability for death, personal injury or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of or in the course of my/our participation in the East Cooper Fishing Club Tournament(s), including related events such as the banquet and other events associated with the tournament. Furthermore, I/we agree to reimburse the East Cooper Fishing Club Tournament(s) for any and all attorney's fees, court costs, and/or other expenses incurred by them as a result of any action, claims or suits arising out of or in connection with the East Cooper Fishing Club Tournament(s).

This release and waiver extends to all claims of any kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown.

In further consideration of this application being accepted, I/we recognize that unexpected dangers may arise during the course of the East Cooper Fishing Club Tournament(s) and that my/our activities are such that they will not be subject to close monitoring during the duration of the event. I/we certify that I/we am/are physically fit to participate in this tournament and that my/our vessel and gear are in safe operational condition. By signing this waiver and release, I/we certify that we and our vessel are covered by a valid insurance policy covering injury to ourselves, others and property damage caused by me/us during the course of this event and related activities.

(Full Signatures Please)

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2010.

<u>Entry Fee Paid</u>	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Wild Card Fish</u>
_____ Spring Grand Poobah	\$_____	\$_____
_____ Summer Grand Poobah	\$_____	\$_____
_____ Fall Grand Poobah	\$_____	\$_____
_____ May ECFC Seasonal Tournaments	\$_____	\$_____
_____ Sept. ECFC Seasonal Tournaments	\$_____	\$_____