



Official 2012 Elite Pro Redfish Tour Rules

01. The entry fee for The Elite Pro Redfish Tour will be as follows: **\$600 + state sales tax (\$642) for each tournament leg** (Payment may be made online at Flatsmasters.com, by mail, or in person at Capt. Teds Tackle or Laisley Marine) The Elite Pro Redfish Tour will have a \$600 + tax (\$642) entry fee championship
A late fee of \$50 will be assessed to any payment received within 12 days of the tournament (2 Mondays Prior)
Any tournament may be rescheduled or modified due to extreme weather.
02. Elite teams consist of **2 anglers**, each angler must be a member of The Flatsmasters Angler's Club- dues are \$25 + tax (\$26.75) per angler per year payable online, each team member may have one substitute during the tournament year but all anglers must be members of the club. Points and Prizes are awarded to the Team
03. All contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, rules, and regulations (laws), any violations of such laws may result in disqualification from that particular event or expulsion from the tournament series. **This includes slow or idle zones and manatee areas.**
04. **All Elite Pro Redfish Tournaments allow anglers to wade fish, when any anglers are out of the boat wading, the boat may be moved only by trolling motor, push-pole, or manually. The combustion engine must never be running while a member of the team is out of the boat.**
05. Anglers may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as **off limits** or **no fishing** by local, state, federal, or Flatsmasters officials, or within 50 yards of a competitors boat "actively engaged in fishing". The definition of "actively engaged in fishing" is a boat with the trolling motor in operation with anglers fishing, a boat held in place by anchor, push pole, or Power Pole, or one or more anglers wading. There will be no fishing within 1,000 yards of the weigh in site.
06. No angler at anytime may alter any fish by length or weight with the intention of gaining advantage over another competing team. In addition, no angler may hand or force feed any tournament fish.
07. All boats used in tournament competition must contain recirculating or aerated live wells that are at least 2.4 cubic feet or 18 gallons in capacity. All competing boats must have all required US Coast Guard safety equipment. For the safety of all competitors, **All Flatsmasters teams are required to use kill or ignition cutoff switches and life vests during operation of the combustion engine.** Fuel may be carried only in factory installed fuel tanks. Additional fuel may be purchased from a retail facility.
08. No changing of boats without tournament official approval., emergency phone number is 941-628-0702
09. No tournament boats may come together for any reason or pass anything between boats during tournament hours. Exceptions are for emergency purposes or in the weigh in line.
10. **A VHF radio is required** for each tournament boat for communication of the numbered start. The use of cell phones, radios, or other electronic devices will be prohibited during tournament hours for the purpose of discussing fishing with anyone.
11. There will be a "pro style" numbered start. Teams will draw their number at the Captain's Meeting. Only teams that prepay will be allowed to draw. Teams paying at the Captain's meeting will be added at the back of the field. All boats must idle by the fishing pier or Boat dock past the official starter with life vests on and kill switches attached. The start will be broadcast on VHF #68.
Late check allowed until 8am. Boats late for the numbered start must remain at dock until checked.
12. No angler may fish in the confines of any commercial marina. A commercial marina is defined as any marina with a guide dock, boat ramp, bait dispensing facility, and/or fuel dock. In addition there will be no fishing within 100 yards of any public boat ramp, guide dock/ramp, bait dock, or fuel dock not in a commercial marina.
13. Teams may weigh in starting at 3:30pm. All teams must be checked-in or be in the check-in line by the 3:30pm deadline. Flights will begin at 3:30pm, in 15 boat increments, 15 minutes apart.
Flight #1- 3:30pm Boats #01 through #15
Flight #2- 3:45pm Boats #16 through #30
Flight #3- 4:00pm Boats #31 through #45
Flight #4- 4:15pm Boats #46 through #60



Official 2012 Elite Pro Redfish Tour Rules– Continued

14. This is a catch & release tournament. All fish must be released alive after weigh in. **You will however be allowed to weigh in two dead fish per year but not in the same event. The penalty is 1 pound per redfish**
An oxygen release tank will be available for teams inline for the weigh in. At the time your fish are measured they will be determined alive or dead. No iced or mutilated fish will be accepted.
15. In all Elite Pro Redfish Tournaments, the tie breaker for First Place will be a One Hour Shoot-Out between the 2 tied teams. The team with the heaviest legal tournament fish wins. All normal tournament rules apply.
In case of no fish the prizes will be combined and split. All other ties will be decided by the time each team completes their weigh-in.
16. **In the Elite Pro Redfish Tour , artificial lures only may be used. No chumming of feeding of fish allowed.**
17. **You are only allowed 2 redfish on board your boat during tournament hours. Except when in the process of culling fish at which the small fish must be immediately released. No culling of dead fish.**
18. Only one rod at a time may be used per angler. A cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. All fish must be caught alive in a sporting manner. Foul hooked fish can not be weighed in. A fouled hooked fish is defined as any fish that does not have at least one hook in the mouth region.
19. There is a dress code at all Elite Pro Redfish Tournaments, professional tournament wear is expected to be worn at all Elite Pro Redfish Tour events.
20. Sportsman Rule - All participants in The Elite Pro Redfish Series will conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner during all Flatsmasters activities. Unacceptable behavior will result in expulsion from all future Flatsmasters events. Disqualification or misconduct in any other fishing tournament within 36 months prior to the tournament date is grounds for an application not being accepted or returned.
The Flatsmasters may refuse any tournament application, or deny a previous application by returning the entry fee or balance of fees to the Captain.
21. **No team or member of any team may run or “burn” any shoreline within 7 days of any Elite Pro Redfish Event. Anglers pre-fishing must stay at idle within 100 yards of any shoreline. Exception– marked channels that fall within the 100yd rule that are not posted as a no wake zone.**
22. No Alcoholic Beverages or non prescription drugs may be onboard any boat during tournament hours.
23. Polygraph tests will be given at random. Each contestant agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, to the polygraph test to determine the results of the tournament and shall not contest the results. Failure to be available for the test is grounds for disqualification. If weigh master of polygrapher determines that an angler is unable to take a test, all prizes and points will be forfeited. Polygraph tests may be required up to one week after the event.
24. Protests are allowed up to 30 minutes after the last boat weighs in. All protests must be in writing and accompanied by \$300 fee. If protest is upheld the fee will be returned, If denied, tournament will retain the protest fee.
A polygraph test will be given to determine protest.
Weighmaster reserves the right to retain any fish for further inspection.
25. The Elite Pro Redfish Tour is a professional sporting event. All contestants agree to make their boat and team available to all media, Flatsmasters staff, TV & photographers during the entirety of any Flatsmasters Event. All teams are required to sign a media and liability release prior to participating in any Flatsmasters event.
26. The Flatsmasters retains the right to amend or add/delete to these published rules at any time during the tournament season in order to maintain the quality and competitiveness of The Flatsmasters Elite Series.
27. A team must pay for all four events to be eligible to qualify for the Championship Tournament.
The top twenty teams by points will be invited to compete in the Championship Tournament, teams point totals will be calculated using their best 3 finishes of the year. 100 Points for First Place, 99 Points for Second, and descending by 1 point in order of finish.