

Flats Tournament Rules

Below are the rules and regulations for the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Scholarship Flats Fishing Tournament (NSU-OS-FFT)

Tournament Rules

Also see: [Tournament Points on scorecard attached.](#)

1. The leader coming into the top guide constitutes the release of a fish. Anglers may wade from the boat to fish. **Leaders shall be appropriate to the species but in no case longer than 10 feet or less than 18”.**
2. No line heavier than twenty (20) pound test may be used except for shock tippets.
3. In the fly division, no tipping of the flies is permitted.
4. There must be two (2) anglers minimum on every participating flats boat. **On boats where there are only two anglers then one angler will be designated as Captain. If an entrant does not have a second angler then in the absence of a teammate,** a substitute angler can be appointed by the tournament committee. The NSU Tournament is a team effort. In the spirit of good sportsmanship, the guides shall encourage equal bow time to fishing partners. If you are not paired with another angler on a flats boat, it is your responsibility to bring this to the attention of the tournament committee the day before.
5. The tournament is a maximum eight (8) hour event from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and all scorecards must be turned in by 4:00 p.m.
6. All decisions of the tournament awards committee are final.
7. Anglers are responsible to assure that the captains completely fill out and sign the tournament scorecards, copy attached, and original card in captain's packet.
8. A "Weight Fish" under the tarpon division is a fish of seventy pounds (70) pounds or larger. A "Release Fish" under the tarpon division is a fish of thirty six (36) inches to sixty-nine (69) pounds. The weight of each "weight fish" and "release fish" shall be estimated by the captain and such weight certified on the scorecard.
9. In the event of a tie in any category, the tie shall be broken according to which fish was caught earliest in time. This provision does not apply to the "Most Weight Fish" or "Most Release Fish" categories.
10. In the event of a tie in the "Most Weight Fish" or "Most Release Fish" tarpon division, the tie shall be broken by determining the total weight / size of all fish caught by each angler.
11. If the winner of the "Big Fish Award" in the tarpon division is tied with an angler in the "Most Weight Fish" division, the winner of the "The Big Fish Award" cannot win both awards.
12. The Grand Champion **of the Flats Tournament** will be the angler who has accumulated the most points during the Tournament. In the event of a tie, it will be decided by the angler with the most eligible species. Any further ties will be decided by the Tournament Award's Committee.
13. Anglers who catch 3 different eligible species in one day will earn two hundred (200) extra points.

14. Chumming is allowed.
15. Disposable cameras will be provided to all captains. All eligible species other than tarpon over 70 lbs. must be photographed in the boat with the disposable cameras. Tarpon over 70 lbs. must be photographed boat side. The weights for 70lbs. plus tarpon must be estimated by the captain and certified by the captain on the scorecards.
16. All eligible species, except tarpon, requiring a specified weight must be weighed on a hand scale in the boat, photographed and certified by the captain on the scorecard. All eligible species requiring a length measurement must be measured in the boat and such lengths certified by the captain on the scorecards.
17. All tarpon, bonefish, permit, redfish, snook, must be released. **Trout may be kept if they are within bag and size limits.**
18. Bonefish, tarpon, and permit measurements are by fork length. Snook, **trout** and redfish measurements are by overall length. A measuring device will be provided to all guides.
19. Any Individual angler may not win more than two awards.
20. An inshore grand slam (qualifying tarpon, bonefish and permit) worth an extra 200 points on spin and 400 points on fly.