

## 2008 Top 5 Shootout

At last year's Top-5 Kids Cup weigh-in only three anglers brought a fish to the scale and in the end it was Booker Cothorn who took home the Kids Cup trophy which was presented on the ESPN-2 TV stage.

Brandon Varney 5.24 pounds



Dylan Daughtry 3.05 pounds



Booker Cothorn 5.49 pounds



Cody Bollinger 0.0



Austen Henson 0.0



## 2009 Kids Cup Tournament Rules – ADAPTED FROM THE REDFISH CUP

**Rules:** All rules stated below will apply for Junior Anglers fishing in both the Kids Cup and the Kids Cup Shootout which is part of the 2009 Redfish Cup tournament trail. All decisions made by the Kids Cup tournament director and/or tournament officials will be final in all matters. The tournament director and/or the tournament officials can make a change when the safety of a contestant is in question.

**Read the following rules prior to signing the entry form.**

- 1. Federal, State and Local Laws** All contestants are required to follow all applicable Federal, State and Local regulations and laws. Any violation of such rules may result in your disqualification from the tournament. Anglers 16 and over must possess a valid Florida salt-water fishing license.
- 2. Eligibility** There is no membership fee required to fish Kids Cup events. Junior Anglers must be at least 10 years old, but not yet 17 years old on tournament day to be eligible. This is an open tournament. Angler must fish as an individual, but must at all times be accompanied by a tournament guardian who is a parent or other adult over age 18 with written parental consent.
- 3. Guardians and Anglers** Every Junior Angler is an individual contestant and must be individually entered. No more than two (2) Junior Anglers may be accompanied by any one (1) adult guardian. Junior Anglers and their designated guardian must occupy the same boat. If two junior anglers are on the same boat one additional adult guardian will be permitted to serve as a mate on that boat. No one other than paid contestants, a guardian, a mate or a tournament official is allowed in a competitor's boat during tournament hours. The Junior Angler is the only person allowed to cast or catch fish in the competition. The guardian or mate may help land a fish once the leader is within reach from within the boat. Guardians and mates will be allowed to tie knots and bait hooks for Junior Anglers.
- 4. Alternates** One alternate angler will be allowed for anglers entered in the Kids Cup, but the alternate must be designated at the time of registration and may only be used in the event of dire circumstances created by sickness or death. The tournament director and tournament officials will review every alternate situation before the use of an alternate will be authorized. Alternates can not be used for the Kids Cup Shootout.
- 5. Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs** Any competitor or adult guardian consuming or carrying alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription) on board a contestant's boat during official practice or tournament hours will be disqualified.
- 6. Sportsmanship** All contestants are required to practice courtesy, safety and follow local and

state game laws. Anyone displaying poor sportsmanship or violating game laws will be disqualified. Fishing at or within 100 yards of marinas, boat ramps, fuel docks, boat basins, bait docks or other like locations is prohibited.

**7. Permitted Fishing Locations** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, federal officials or Kids Cup or Redfish Cup official personnel. Unless "invited in" no competitor's boat may be within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was anchored first (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight, push pole, power pole, etc. with the trolling motor in the up position). If the boat does not have a trolling motor the definition of "anchored" still applies. Fishing is not allowed within 200 yards of the tournament site. Fishing within 100 yards of a boat that is chumming with live or dead bait, other than shrimp, is NOT allowed.

**8. Contestants Must Remain in Boat** All angling must be conducted from the boat. No wading is allowed. AT NO TIME MAY A CONTESTANT OR GUARDIAN LEAVE THE BOAT TO LAND A FISH OR TO MAKE THE BOAT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO FISHING WATER. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water (a commercial licensed tow company may be utilized, or another team may tow a fellow competitor,) (2) by one or both anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant (fishing by all competitors involved in the rescue must cease at this time). Anglers are responsible for colored tie wrap or suitable material for marking and distinguishing their catch. Under these two conditions the contestant's catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition only under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director or official to request a restart. Failure to render assistance when requested in an emergency situation is cause for immediate disqualification. Teams receiving assistance must communicate to the tournament official, the boat number(s) of the assisting boat and the assisted boat at time commencing aid.

**9. Official Checkpoints and Official Clock** There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official checkpoint for check-in in the afternoon. All tournament boats must be inspected by a tournament official before take-off. Any team arriving after take-off has started will have their boat inspected and then go to the back of the line. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Teams that experience equipment failures may have them repaired and check out late for an event. However, it is the team's responsibility to find and notify the tournament director or tournament official in order to check out. Boats must be inside the channel at Harpoon Harrys by 2:30 p.m. for the Kids Cup weigh in on April 25 and at the Redfish Cup Shootout dock by 1 p.m. for the Kids Cup Shootout weigh in on May 3. The official clock will be displayed at the weigh in scale beginning at 6 a.m. on Kids Cup tournament day.

**10. Insurance** Current liability insurance is required for each boat in Kids Cup events. Proof of insurance (copy) should be aboard.

**11. Mandatory Registration and Competitor's Meeting** All contestants must attend the registration and Captain's Meeting that will be held at Punta Gorda on Friday, April 24. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. The Captain's meeting begins at 6:15 p.m. Contestants who do not attend the registration will be disqualified unless other arrangements have been made with the tournament director.

**12. Tournament Practice** Tournament anglers may share information with each other up to and during the competition. However, no communication pertaining to fishing is allowed via cell phone, VHF radio, pager or any electronic device during competition.

**13. Tournament Entry Fee** Entry fee for The Kids Cup qualifying event is \$100 per angler. Full field is limited to 125 paid anglers. The entry fee must be paid in full. Once accepted into the tournament, all entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

**14. Boats, Motors and Horsepower Regulations** All boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment on board. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of redfish by contestants. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "PROPER AND ADEQUATE." For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating

and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

**15. Safety** Safe boating will be observed at all times. Each contestant and adult guardian is required to wear a fastened, vest-type or suspender-style U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is on.

**16. Team Numbers** Team numbers will be assigned by the rules committee based on the day and time of entry and will be posted at the time of registration. Number is to be displayed on the forward face of the motor cowling at the top.

**17. Bait and Tackle** Only artificial lures, live or dead shrimp may be used. No whitebait, pinfish, crabs, cut bait or other baits are allowed. No trolling with the main engine. Only one rod at a time may be used per contestant. A cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. Fly-fishing and conventional tackle are allowed. All redfish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Foul hooked fish shall not be weighed during competition. A foul hooked fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released. On the morning of the Kids Cup Shootout, each of the five finalists will be provided with 100 live or frozen shrimp as available.

**18. Live Release** Every effort must be made to keep redfish alive. A one pound penalty will be deducted from the contestants' total weight for each dead redfish presented for weigh-in. No mutilated or iced fish shall be accepted. No angler may manipulate the weight or length of any redfish.

**19. Late Penalty** Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized at one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big fish award. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will not receive credit for the day's weight.

**20. Weigh In** The weigh in scale will be open beginning at 9 a.m. Tournament standings shall be determined by the weight measured in pounds and 100ths of a pound of each angler's catch during the tournament. The legal length for redfish shall be not less than 18-inches and not more than 27-inches, in accordance with local and state regulations. Tails will be pinched for measuring. The official measuring board will be on display at the Competitor's Meeting.

Redfish must not be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament.

**21. Only One Fish Per angler** Only redfish/red drum will be weighed, the limit shall be one (1) fish per angler. Contestants will at no time have in their live well more than the tournament limit of fish. At no time during the tournament are adult guardians allowed to possess fish.

**22. Tournament Cut** After the Kids Cup competition, the field will be cut to a total of five anglers remaining based on the five heaviest fish weighed in. In the event of a tie, the earliest weigh in time will be the determining factor in making the cut for the final day.

**23. Protests** All protests must be submitted in writing, along with a potentially refundable \$100. The decision of the tournament director and tournament officials will be final. If the protest is upheld, the \$100 deposit will be refunded.

**24. On the Water Communication** A VHF radio or cell phone is required for all tournament vessels. The VHF may be mounted or portable. The use of cell phones, radios or any other electronic communication will be prohibited to tournament anglers during the hours of competition for the purpose of discussing fishing to anyone. Anglers who make the final five may not receive information from any angler once the fishing has begun.

**25. Television & Still Photography Coverage** Contestants entered in the Kids Cup, the Kids Cup Shootout and the Redfish Cup must make their boat and fishing areas available to cameramen and camera boats during the tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS. There is no guarantee any team or contestant will appear on television.

**26. Tagging:** Tournament officials, Mote Marine staff and Sea Grant staff will be allowed to handle, tag and contain any fish for tagging. Any fish deemed suitable for tagging will be considered to be a live fish.

**Final Day 'Shootout' Additional Rules.**

- 1. Top five contestants** after the April 25 Kids Cup will fish the final day on May 3 with any adult guide already registered for the 2009 Kids Cup or any 2009 Redfish Cup angler entered.
- 2. Contestants may fish out** of any boat already registered for either event.
- 3. Sponsorship logos** may be displayed by the Junior Angler.
- 4. A brief mandatory competitor meeting** for the top five Kids Cup Junior Anglers will be held on Saturday April 25 immediately following the Kids Cup awards presentation.
- 5. Contestants may be given** new tournament shirts and/or hats to wear for the Shootout weigh in on the ESPN2 TV stage.

END OF 2009 RULES