



Competition with Conservation

Flatsmasters Winter Series

Presented by Ingman Marine

2020-21 Format, Schedule, & Rules

The Premier Backcountry Multi-Species Catch, Photo, Release Tournaments

Schedule

December 12, 2020

January 16, 2021

February 20, 2021

1 trout & 1 redfish - Artificials only all events

Entry Fee per team per tournament if paid in full in advance for the season - \$963

Single Tournament Entry will be \$321 per tournament if space allowed

New Team Dues required- \$107 but can also be used for 2021 Flatsmasters Series starting in April

You are allowed 2 substitutions total for Winter Series for any member of your team

(Substitution fee is \$25)

All entry fees and dues include 7% sales tax

Full Season entries take priority over single tournament entries

Field is limited to a max of 30 teams



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2020-21 Flatsmasters Winter Series Official Rules

FORMAT

1. This is a catch-Photo-Release Tournament Series- No fish are to be held in either wading baskets or livewells at anytime
2. Winners and standings are determined by overall length of required fish for that event.
3. Each tournament will target trout and redfish with artificial lures only
4. The combined total length of your longest eligible fish will be your score for that event
5. Scoring will be by the inch down to ¼" increments- If your fish doesn't touch the line length will be rounded down to the next ¼".
6. Each team will receive points toward the Winter Series Champion Race- 100 points for First Place declining by 1 point until the last team to enter a fish- All teams with no fish entered will receive zero points for that event. The 3rd event of the Winter Series (February 20, 2021) will be counted as a Double Point Tournament with First Place receiving 200 Points declining by 1 point until the last team to enter a fish.
7. Winter Series Champion will be determined by the team with the most points after Event #3

TEXT-TO-ENTRY PROCEDURES

8. Teams will enter fish by our Text-To-Entry System- All Photos must be texted to 941-210-0111 This is not a voice number- do not try to call- **TEXT ENTRIES STARTING AT 10:00am**
9. For each fish entry you must enter 3 photos- 1. On measuring board, 2. Holding fish horizontal, 3. In water prior to release- SEE TEXT-TO-ENTRY FLIER. Send photos as a group along with your team number & name- type of fish & length in inches.
10. You will receive an automated confirmation from the system, then a text from the tournament headquarters confirming your entry. Make sure that you receive this confirmation or your entry may not count.
11. **Tournament ends at 2:30pm- No more Text-to Entry submissions accepted. Teams must be checked-in at the Laishley Crab House by 3:30pm to qualify for points and prizes. At least one member of your team must be available during your fish presentation**



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OPERATIONAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

01. All teams must check in with staff at Crab House to receive Team ID badge.
02. **Once checked in you may trailer to your launch location or launch at Laishley Boat Ramp**
03. Teams must check back in with tournament staff by 3:30pm inside Laishley Crab House.
At least one member of your team must be present to receive points and prizes
04. All anglers must wear USCG approved life vests anytime the outboard engine is running
05. The boat operator must be attached to the Kill Switch anytime the outboard is running
06. Teams must obey all boating and fishing regulations at all times
07. Teams must follow all no Wake, Slow Speed, and Manatee Zones
08. Any deliberate burning of any shorelines by any team member (searching for fish while on plane) within 15 days prior to or during the tournament is prohibited and will result in disqualification from the current and future Flatsmasters Events.
09. No changing of boats without tournament approval, emergency phone # is 941-628-0702
10. No tournament boats may come together for any reason or pass anything between boats during tournament hours. Exception for emergency purposes only.
11. 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
12. **NO WADING IS ALLOWED IN ANY FLATSMASTERS EVENT-** If you must exit the boat, you cannot possess a fishing rod and you may not maneuver the boat to gain fishing position unless you are attempting to unground the boat.
13. Sportsman Rule - All participants in The Flatsmasters Tournament Series will conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner during all Flatsmasters activities. This includes prior to and following all Flatsmasters events including Capt. Meetings Weigh-Ins, and all other Flatsmasters related events. Unacceptable behavior will result in expulsion from all future Flatsmasters events. Derogatory comments and or unacceptable use of social media is also grounds for expulsion from future 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.
14. Polygraph tests may be given at each event. Each Team 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. The Tournament Director will decide which angler on the team will take the test. If the Director or 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.



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OPERATIONAL RULES AND PROCEDURES- continued

15. You have until 2:45 to notify staff in regards to unconfirmed entries. If you think that your entry was not confirmed please contact staff to get a confirmation. Fish that were not confirmed WILL NOT BE COUNTED. Protests are allowed up to 15 minutes after the last team's weigh in presentation. 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.

16. The Flatsmasters Winter Series 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 anglers agree to the media and liability release by submission of their entry form and/or fee to participating in any Flatsmasters events

17. 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.

The Flatsmasters may refuse any tournament application, or deny a previous application by returning the entry fee or balance of fees to the team.

Tournament Business Office– 941-637-5953

There is no one at this number on tournament weekends

Please use the number below

Tournament Weekend Emergency Number

941-628-0702

Tournament Weigh-In Number

941-210-0111 (no voice calls)



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2020-21 Flatsmasters Winter Series Payout

All payouts based on 30 boats per tournament
to calculate actual prize money
(total # of boats divided by 30 x prize money)

Individual Tournaments

1 st Place	\$2,500.00
2 nd Place	\$1,500.00
3 rd Place	\$1,250.00
4 th Place	\$1,000.00
5 th Place	\$ 750.00
6 th Place	3 Reaper Custom Rods
7 th Place	3 Tsunami Reels
8 th Place	TBA
9 th Place	TBA
10 th Place	TBA