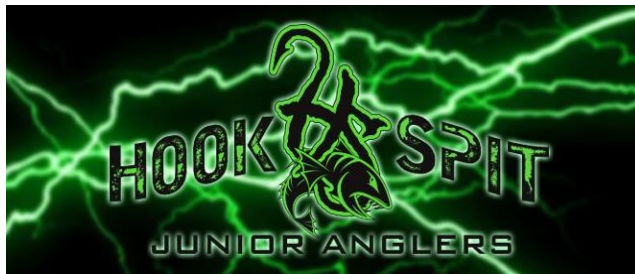


Tournament Rules

All teams should read the rules before a tournament and have a copy in the boat during the tournament



2015-2016 Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations

The HSJAA advisors expect strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. In the event of an emergency, please call 911 first and then notify the tournament director.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT • These rules will remain unchanged during 2015/16 school year. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant and parent or coach agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, disqualification from the entire tournament or, in an extreme circumstance, ineligibility to participate in future HSJAA tournaments. Protests are to be made in writing within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.
2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY • Participation is open to 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade school students providing that the 12th grade student does not turn 19 before September 1st of their senior year. The entry fee for each tournament is \$25 a student. This is an individual tournament but 4 anglers are allowed to fish on the same boat with one captain **YOU MAY NOT HIRE A GUIDE OR USE A GUIDE AS A CAPTAIN.** All students must be a TBF Student Angler Federation (SAF) member through a club or individual membership. Contestants must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the liability form which will be in the possession of your club advisor, parent or captain and a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Any violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification from the tournament. There is no limit to the number of students accepted from each school or club. Any special circumstances must be approved by the tournament director. Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any application to fish for any reason whatsoever. Eligible angler is a student passing ALL classes under UIL guidelines and in good standing with their respective school district Students are required to participate with the school that they attend. If your school does not have a fishing club you may fish without school representation you may fish as an individual.

3. **PURCHASING OF INFORMATION** • The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS way points (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services not permitted by contestants or coaches within 15 days of any tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.
4. **OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION** • There is no practice period or off-limits period. You may be on tournament waters anytime until the start of the pretournament meeting. Contestants and coaches may not enter tournament waters to locate fish or potential fishing waters or sight see after the start of the pretournament meeting except during tournament hours. Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pretournament meeting is permitted only with prior approval from the tournament director. Once competition is under way, contestants and coaches may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except contestants and coaches confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources). On competition day, teams may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.
5. **REGISTRATION AND PRETOURNAMENT MEETING** • Registration deadline will be the Sunday 11:59 PM, 6 days prior to the tournament, at which time the entry fee will be \$25 per contestant. After that time, a \$20 late registration fee will be assessed up until Friday at 9 PM, when all registration will terminate. At that time, no more registrations will be accepted. Late registrations will not affect the number of places paid out for the tournament.
6. **SAFETY** • Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant and captain is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved and state approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location when the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation is not permitted. Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants and captains. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.
7. **SPORTSMANSHIP** • All contestants and captains are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to FLW, TBF and SAF, our sponsors, the school the team is representing, the sport of fishing and FLW, TBF and

SAF's efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of or failure to comply with any of the rules for the 2015-2016 High School Fishing season.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pretournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 8.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete or to disqualify a contestant.

8. BOAT OPERATION •To qualify as a boat captain, the person accompanying a team must be at least 21 years old, have not guided on the tournament waters in past 90 days, or fished a tournament with an entry fee of more than \$500 or more within the last calendar year. Anyone wishing to be considered boat captain that has paid more than this amount to enter a tournament within the past calendar year must be approved by the tournament director. The contestants may operate the trolling motor. Captains may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, and are permitted to fish, but all fish caught must be released and will in no way contribute to the team's total weight. The use of mobile communication devices may only be used by the boat captains but not for the purposes of sharing fishing information during the tournament. Students may assist in unloading and loading boats.

9. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION • All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch. Maximum horsepower for all outboards is 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard or the 250-horsepower maximum set by these rules. By signing the entry form, contestants and coaches agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the

tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future HSJAA Fishing tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS • Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the lure in the water. All Fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of biodegradable soft baits. Only ONE fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. Students must initiate and complete every cast in order for a catch to be considered legal. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. All fish caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately measured for verification.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES •

NORTH DIVISION BOUNDRIES: The entire Galveston Bay Complex which includes the following: Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay, Bastrop Bay, West Bay, East Bay. Upper and Lower Galveston Bay. Dickinson Bay. Clear Lake, Trinity Bay, Tabbs Bay, San Jacinto Bay, Crystal Bay, Black Duck Bay, Burnett Bay, including San Jacinto River and Trinity River and all adjoining lakes and waterways and the contiguous beachfront from San Luis Pass to Rollover Pass.

SOUTH DIVISION BOUNDRIES: The entire Galveston Bay Complex which includes the following: Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay, Bastrop Bay, West Bay, East Bay. Upper and Lower Galveston Bay. Dickinson Bay. Clear Lake, Trinity Bay, Tabbs Bay, San Jacinto Bay, Crystal Bay, Black Duck Bay, Burnett Bay, including San Jacinto River and Trinity River and all adjoining lakes and waterways and the contiguous beachfront from San Luis Pass to Rollover Pass.

SOUTH DIVISION BOUNDRIES: The south end of land cut before Port Mansfield to the north end of Copano Bay to include Baffin Bay , Upper Laguna Madre, Nuecus Bay, Aransas Bay, Redfish Bay all side bays to Copano Bay and all adjoining lakes and waterways.

12. BOATING AND WADING RULES • Anglers may fish with a captain and up to 4 anglers per boat max. If wading you may not break up or drop off to other areas more than one half (1/2) mile of their boat.

No other tournament boat may impede the wade or drift of another tournament boat or wade fisherman within 100 yards without the consent or permission of that particular contestant. The tournament committee will rule on such cases of misconduct and could result in permanent disqualification from the tournament series.

13. LATE PENALTY • Teams that are not at the designated weigh station at the appointed time will be disqualified for that tournament.

14. LIVE FISH • Every effort must be made to keep fish alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. Four ounces (1/4 lb) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in.

15. SCORING • Scoring is determined by the final weight of each contestants catch during each tournament. The tournament limit is 2 Redfish 20" to 28" for the redfish tournament. 2 flounder over 14" in the flounder tournament, and 3 Speckled Trout over 15" (your trout stringer may only have one trout over 25"). Possessing more than the tournament limit will have their catch to that point in the day disqualified and, time permitting, are eligible for a restart from the takeoff location. Any team possessing more than the allotted fish at weigh in will be disqualified immediately.

Each contestants catch must be presented in a weigh-in bag. The winning team is determined by the day's heaviest catch.

16. TIES • Will be broken by time of weigh in. In a tie remains, if a tie remains, it will be broken by a flip of the coin.

17. LOGO DISPLAY AND TELEVISION COVERAGE • Contestants and captains may wear their own shirts or jerseys during Tournaments. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant or captain's shirt or jersey found to be offensive. All decisions are in HSJAA advisors sole discretion.

18. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO • During all days of competition, any and all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Contestants may not smoke or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including weigh-in at any event. Students caught in violation of these rules will be disqualified immediately.

19. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST • Each contestant and captain agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

20. INSURANCE • Liability insurance with coverage of \$300,000 or more is required on all boats used in all tournaments. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.

21. CUMULATIVE SEASON POINTS * Points will be awarded to teams based on position of finish and participation

weight for that tournament. Examples- 1st place – 100 pts overall ..2nd place- 80 pts overall. Participating teams not weighing a fish will receive 10 points based on the finishing position of the last place team which weighed a fish. All points are subject to change based on the number of teams participating in the tournament. Above examples are based on a 100 contestants.

22. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA * 1). Win one of the 4 qualifying tournaments 2). Register and Pay for all 4 qualifying tournaments. 3). Top 50 in points who have not yet qualified in the previously mentioned qualifiers.

23. RIGHT OF REFUSAL * The HSJAA Hook Spit Junior Angler Assn. reserves the right to refuse entry into our tournaments to anyone. The tournament director has final say in all matters concerning rules interpretation or any extenuating or unforeseen circumstances which may arise during any tournament hosted by the HSJAA.