

Understanding the John Ellett Contest

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The John Ellett contest is a club contest that runs one year long and pits club members against each other in a friendly fishing contest encompassing three categories: male, female, and youth (under 16). A simplified formula awards points on a relative basis based on the heaviest fish of each species. Each species category has a maximum of 25 points and points are totaled to give an overall Ellett standing. For example, if the heaviest trout entered was a 6 lb trout, this trout would receive the maximum 25 points, while a trout weighing half of that weight (3 lb) would receive half of the 25 points (12.5 pts). A 1.5 lb trout would receive 6.25 pts. Current Ellett standings are printed regularly in the Club's newsletter, magazine, and on the [GOFC website](#).

It's easy to participate in the contest. All that's required is that you submit a weigh slip of any or all of the [ten species](#) the club fishes for: spotted seatrout, redfish, flounder, sheepshead, cobia, kingfish, Spanish mackerel, greater amberjack, bluefish, and grouper. Weigh slips are available at every GOFC meeting, or can be submitted online using the [GOFC electronic entry form](#).

Any scale can be used to estimate the fish weight, however, when a fish exceeds the maximum weight for a particular species (see below on weigh slip under *Special Catches*), that fish **must** be weighed on a State certified scale like those found in commercial establishments that use a scale to determine the value of an item sold to the public. Grocery stores like Publix, Winn Dixie, etc or a fish house like Northwest Seafood in Gainesville will usually weigh fish, if asked nicely. The weight should be noted on a receipt or store weigh slip, signed by the individual weighing the fish, and attached to the GOFC weigh slip to be turned into the club. The club Weighmaster keeps a certified club scale at home for members to use (contact the [GOFC Weighmaster/Record Keeper](#)).

To win the contest you don't have to catch the largest fish, just catch as many of the 10 species as you can (hopefully a couple will be heavy fish). Participation in club events also helps as points are awarded for participation in club Tournaments (3 pts) and Funaments (1 pts). Awards are given to three places with the top male & female angler receiving a coveted inscribed pewter plate from the Ellett family, who happen to have sponsored this contest since its inception. The Ellett contest dates run from January 1st to December 31st with awards given out during the March Awards Banquet.

In addition to the Ellett awards, the club also gives awards and recognition for the heaviest three fish of each species. The club also maintains a list of [GOFC Record Catches](#) that include 109 species, so keep any species that is either not noted or exceeds the record. You can also submit a weigh slip for one of the "Other Two" species (dolphin and tripletail) to be computed for a separate award following the same guidelines for *Special Catches*.

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