

REEL LEGENDS

How It's Played

The complete guide to fishing tournaments, catches, badges, and everything in between.

reellegends.app

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1. Welcome to Reel Legends

Reel Legends is a mobile-friendly fishing tournament platform that brings anglers, guides, and tournament directors together in one place. Whether you're fishing a backyard tournament with friends or running a professional multi-day weigh-in event, Reel Legends has the tools to make it happen.

Players can join tournaments, submit catches from their phones, earn badges, build a trophy room of verified catches, and compete against anglers near and far. Pro/Guides can showcase their business, post client trip cards, and get discovered by anglers in their area. Tournament Managers can run full physical tournaments with judge verification, player registration, scoresheets, and real-time weigh-in scoring.

What You'll Find in This Guide

This guide walks you through everything you need to know — from signing up and choosing a subscription plan, to submitting catches, creating tournaments, and understanding the rules of play. Use the Table of Contents to jump to any section.

2. Subscription Plans

Reel Legends offers four subscription tiers. Start for free and upgrade anytime from your Account Settings page.

Free — Angler

No cost, no credit card required. Perfect for casual anglers who want to join tournaments and track their catches.

- Join public and private tournaments
- Submit catches from your mobile device
- View the tournament map
- Basic player card with badges
- Trophy room for your catches

Angler Pro — \$20/year

For serious anglers who want more from the platform.

- Everything in Free
- No tournament entry fees
- Solo catch cards outside of tournaments
- No ads

Pro / Guide — \$50/year

For professional fishing guides who want to grow their business on Reel Legends.

- Everything in Angler Pro
- Client trip cards visible to all users
- Your guide card shown in local 50-mile map view
- Business address pin on the map
- Visit Website button on your card
- Solo catch cards

Tournament Manager — \$250/year

For tournament directors running physical fishing events. Plus \$1.00 per registered player per tournament, billed after the tournament closes.

- Create physical tournaments with judge verification
- Manager View with real-time weigh-in scoring
- Judge access with unique judge code
- Player registration forms
- Registration fees handled outside the website
- Player verification
- Printable scoresheets
- Verified catch cards permanently in players' trophy rooms
- Send judge info by email
- Player contact info (email/phone) visible in Manager View
- Winner selection with multiple places

3. Signing Up

Signing up for Reel Legends is quick and free. Visit reellegends.app and click Sign Up to get started.

Step 1 — Basic Info

- Enter your first name, last name, phone number, email, and password.
- Check "I'm a PRO/Guide" if you are a fishing guide (\$50/yr, payment after signup).
- Check "I'm a Tournament Manager" if you plan to run physical tournaments (\$250/yr, payment via PayPal during signup).

Step 2 — Username & Profile Photo

- Choose a unique username — this is how other anglers will see you.
- Upload a profile photo (optional but recommended).
- Profile photos can be cropped and adjusted before saving.

Step 3 — Email Verification

After signing up you will receive a verification email. Click the link in the email to activate your account before logging in. *Note: Tournament Manager accounts are auto-activated after payment.*

Tournament Manager Signup

Tournament Managers have a dedicated signup page at reellegends.app/tournament-manager/signup. Complete the form with your personal and business details, upload a profile photo, and click Register. You will be redirected to PayPal to complete the \$250/yr subscription payment. Once payment is confirmed your account is created and activated automatically.

4. Your Player Card & Badges

Every player on Reel Legends has a Player Card — a virtual card that shows your profile photo, username, location, badges, and stats. Your card is visible to other players in tournaments and on the map.

Badges

Badges are earned automatically based on your activity on Reel Legends. They appear on your player card and tell other anglers about your experience and reputation.

Badge	How to Earn
River (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on tournaments played locally
Fish (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on tournaments played in state
Raft (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on tournaments played nationwide
Lure (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on amount of money won (\$1-\$1K, \$1K-\$10K, \$10K-\$100K)
Rod (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on tournament wins (1-25, 25-100, 100-250)
Man with Fish (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on different species caught (1-5, 5-15, 15-50)
Bait (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on amount of fish caught (1-50, 50-250, 250-500)
Tackle Box (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on tournaments created (1-25, 25-100, 100-250)
Boat (Bronze/Silver/Gold)	Based on different locations fished (1-5, 5-15, 15-50)
Rubber Duck 1	First tournament withdrawal
Rubber Duck 2	Second tournament withdrawal
Rubber Duck 3 (Red)	Third withdrawal — banned from some tournaments
Boat/Captain	Player is a fishing captain (set during profile creation)
Professional	Player is a Pro/Guide subscriber

Note: The Rubber Duck badge is earned by withdrawing from tournaments. Three rubber ducks will get you banned from tournaments that restrict rubber duck players. Avoid collecting them!

5. Joining a Tournament

Once you are logged in you can browse and join tournaments from the home feed or the map view. Tournaments show their name, dates, location, number of players, and entry type.

Public Tournaments

Any logged-in user can join a public tournament. Simply click the tournament card and tap "Join This Tournament". If there is an entry fee you will be directed to PayPal to complete payment before being added to the tournament.

Private Tournaments

Private tournaments require a join code. The tournament creator shares this code with invited players. Enter the code on the tournament page to join. Private tournaments do not appear in public search results.

Physical Tournaments (Tournament Manager)

Some tournaments are run by Tournament Managers and require formal registration. These tournaments show a "Register to Join" button instead of the standard join button. You will be asked to fill out a registration form with information required by the tournament director. Registration fees are collected outside the website directly with the tournament director.

Before You Join

- Click the "Rules" button on any tournament card to view the tournament rules before joining.
- Check the tournament dates, location, fish type, and scoring method.
- Make sure you meet any eligibility requirements (state, skill level, etc.).
- Leaving a tournament after joining earns you a Rubber Duck badge.

6. Submitting a Catch

Catches must be submitted from your mobile device. This ensures the photo is taken at the time of catch and that your GPS coordinates are captured as proof of location.

How to Submit a Catch

- Open Reel Legends on your mobile device.
- Navigate to the tournament you are participating in.
- Tap "Upload Your Catch" on the tournament page.
- Take a photo of your fish using your phone camera.
- Enter the fish type, weight, and length.
- Add any notes if required by the tournament rules.
- Submit — your catch card will appear in the tournament immediately.

Photo Requirements

- Photo must be taken in water at time of catch.
- Fish must be placed on a measuring board, facing left, dorsal fins up, mouth closed.
- Photo must be unaltered — no filters, crops, or edits.
- GPS coordinates must be present in the photo EXIF data.
- Minimum 5 megapixel resolution recommended.

Physical Tournament Catches

In a Tournament Manager physical event, catches are entered by the judge or verified by the judge after a player submits from their phone. Once verified, the catch card is permanently added to your Trophy Room with a Verified badge.

Solo Catches

Angler Pro and Pro/Guide subscribers can submit Solo Catch cards outside of any tournament. These appear on your player card and in your Trophy Room.

7. Creating a Tournament

Any registered user can create a tournament using the + menu in the app. Free-tier users are limited to one active free tournament at a time. Angler Pro and Pro/Guide subscribers can create unlimited tournaments.

Tournament Types

Public — Visible to all users. Anyone can join based on your eligibility rules.

Private — Hidden from public search. Players must have a join code to enter. You choose the winner when the tournament closes.

Tournament Settings

- Tournament name and location
- Start and end dates
- Fish type (species, scoring method)
- Entry fee (optional) — collected via PayPal
- Number of winners
- Buy-in amount and pot
- Join code for private tournaments
- Team play option
- Front and back card images
- Extra details / rules text
- Facebook page link (optional)
- Restrict rubber duck players, managers, or pros

After Creating

Once created, share your tournament link or join code with players. You can edit tournament settings, view players, and select winners from your tournament page. When the tournament closes you select the winner(s) from the player list.

8. Tournament Manager

Tournament Manager is a premium subscription designed for directors running physical fishing tournaments — from local club events to multi-day professional competitions. It provides a complete suite of tools to manage players, judges, weigh-ins, and results.

Creating a Tournament

Tournament Managers create tournaments from their Manager Dashboard. In addition to standard settings, physical tournaments include weigh-in location, judge code, total fish limit per player, and player registration form fields.

Player Registration

Players register for physical tournaments using a registration form. The manager can create custom form fields to collect any information needed (boat number, license number, emergency contact, etc.). Registration fees are handled outside the website directly between the player and the tournament director.

Judge Access

Judges access the tournament through a separate Judge View at reellegends.app/judge/{tournament_id}. They log in using their name and the tournament judge code set by the manager. Judges can add catches, verify player catches, and edit catch details in real time. The judge view refreshes automatically every 10 seconds.

Manager View & Weigh-In

The Manager View gives the director a live view of all players and their catches. For each player the manager can see their registration info, contact details, and all submitted catches. Each catch can be verified, edited, or deleted.

- Verify a player's phone-submitted catch — moves it to the official verified record
- Add a catch directly on behalf of a player (judge entry)
- Edit catch details (fish type, weight, length)
- View player registration form responses
- Remove a player from the tournament

Scoresheets

Print scoresheets directly from the Manager View. Choose how many players per page (1-4) and whether to include blank entry sheets for manual recording at weigh-in. Scoresheets show each player's ranked catches with weight, length, fish type, and verified status.

Selecting Winners & Closing

When the tournament ends, the manager selects winners from the Manager View using the winner dropdowns. The number of winner places is set when creating the tournament. Saving winners closes the tournament and triggers the billing summary.

Verified Catch Cards

Once a catch is verified by a judge it is permanently saved to the player's Trophy Room with a Verified badge. These cards represent officially verified tournament catches and cannot be deleted by the player.

9. Trophy Room

Your Trophy Room is a permanent collection of your best catches on Reel Legends. It is visible on your player profile for other anglers to see.

What Goes in Your Trophy Room

- Verified catches from Tournament Manager physical events
- Solo catch cards (Angler Pro and Pro/Guide subscribers)
- Tournament catches submitted via the app

Verified Badges

Catches that have been officially verified by a tournament judge display a **VERIFIED** badge on the front of the catch card. These are the highest-credibility catches on the platform — the fish was weighed and measured in person by an official judge.

Catch Cards

Each catch card shows the fish photo, fish type, weight, length, tournament name, date, and location. Cards can be flipped to see additional details on the back. Catch cards are designed to look great when shared on social media.

10. Rules of Play

Required Equipment

- A smartphone with location settings turned on, or a GPS-capable digital camera to log GPS coordinates in submitted photos.
- All state and federally required safety equipment including a PFD, whistle or air horn, and a white 360-degree visible light if fishing after sundown.

Scoring

- Fish are scored from evidence visible in digital photographs.
- Photographs must be taken in water at the time of catch.
- Fish must be placed on a pre-approved measuring board, facing left, dorsal fins up, in a natural lay, with mouth closed and tail unpinched.
- Unaltered photograph EXIF data must include date, time, and GPS coordinates.
- Photographs must not be altered from their original capture.

Reasons for Rejection or Disqualification

- Any obvious attempts to stretch fish unnaturally.
- Poor quality photos — blurred, out of focus, measurements unreadable.
- Altered EXIF data.
- Fish caught outside the designated tournament boundary.
- Submitting multiple photographs of the same fish.
- Submitting photographs of dead fish.

Tournament Withdrawal (Rubber Duck Rule)

Leaving a tournament after joining earns you a Rubber Duck badge. After three Rubber Duck badges your account will be banned from tournaments that restrict rubber duck players. There may also be a fee if you withdraw from a paid tournament.

Additional Recommendations

- Use 5 megapixel or higher resolution photos.
- Take a selfie at the launch with an identifiable landmark on the day you fish.
- Keep safety in mind at all times.
- Respect the environment — leave no trace.

- Always be considerate of other anglers.
- Fish with friends.
- Have fun, and fish hard!