

DIG DEEP

TOURNAMENT RULES

- ENTRY FEES & PAYOUTS

Inshore Entry Fee - \$300 per boat

TOURNAMENT Main Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected. (70% for first place and 30% for second place).

In Shore Division prizes will be awarded for:

1st & 2nd Place - min 18" Longest Slot Redfish - (Submit 2 best fish)

1st & 2nd Place - Longest Slot Snook - (Submit 2 best fish)

Optional Inshore entry fees

\$250 Inshore Combined Length Grand Slam Redfish, Snook, Trout - Slot SIZE fish only will qualify for points

\$150 Inshore most combined inches for Slot Redfish - (Submit up to 3 fish)

\$150 Inshore most combined inches for Slot Snook - min 24" (Submit up to 3 fish)

\$100 Inshore - most combined inches for Trout (submit up to 3 fish)

\$100 Inshore - Longest Trout

Offshore Limited - (90 miles from shore) Launch out of any port in the Gulf

Limited Offshore Entry Fee - \$400

Optional Offshore entry payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected. (optional categories only pay first place).

Offshore Limited Division prizes will be awarded for:

1st & 2nd Place - Highest total score (refer to points scoring card)

**Fish will be used for total rodeo points - Fish can be entered into multiple categories -*

Optional Offshore entry fees

\$350 Heaviest 4 Grouper aggregate (eligible species: Gag & Scamp,)

\$250 Heaviest Gag Grouper

\$250 Wild Card

\$200 Heaviest 3 Snapper Aggregate

\$200 Heaviest Mangrove Snapper

Offshore Unlimited Deep Water Entry Fee -\$750

Deep Water Offshore (no boundaries)

*Leave out of any port in the Gulf

TOURNAMENT - Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected.

Optional entries will be 100% payout to 1st place

Offshore Unlimited Division prizes will be awarded for:

Highest total score(refer to points scoring card)

Optional Entry Fees

*Electric Reels are permitted

\$1,500 Dig Deeper Doubledown

\$500 Heaviest Warsaw

\$500 Heaviest 2 Swordfish aggregate

\$350 Wild Card - Heaviest legal fish, excluding Sharks, Rays, Tarpon, Cudas, or Warsaw Grouper, Swordfish-No Grouper or Snapper

\$500 4 Grouper Aggregate (Gag, Scamp, & Black Grouper)

\$350 Heaviest Gag Grouper

\$300 Heaviest Deep Drop Combo - 3 Fish - excludes Gags & Black GrouperWarsaws, Swordfish and Cuberas

\$250 Heaviest 3 Snapper Aggregate - eligible species include Cubera, Mangrove, Mutton, and Yellowtail Snapper

***Must pay entry for Offshore
Unlimited Deep Water
to enter optional entries**

*WILD CARD FISH
Must be legal to keep
No sharks, cudas, rays, Grouper, Warsaw,
Snapper or Tarpon can qualify
as a wildcard fish..

BillFish Division Entry Fee -\$1,500

BillFish Division prizes will be awarded for:

- 1st place and 2nd place Highest total score(refer to points scoring card)

Optional entry fees paid out 80 % of entry fees collected (100% to 1st place)

Optional Entry Fees *must pay entry for Billfish Division to enter

	- Level 1	- level 2
Most Marlin releases	\$1k	- \$2k
Most Sailfish releases	\$1K	- \$2K
Heaviest Swordfish	\$1K	- \$2K

* for billfish division optional entries,
each level and category will pay out
80% of entry fees collected. (100% for first place)

Optional Entry Fees

Heaviest Tuna	-\$500
Heaviest Dolphin	-\$500
Heaviest Wahoo	-\$500
Heaviest Kingfish	-\$500
Heaviest Cobia	-\$500

*each level and species will pay out 80% of entry fees collected. (100% for first place)

If a level or category doesn't have a winning fish that money will be donated to charity.

#1 RULES ACCEPTANCE It is the sole responsibility of the Captain, crew and anglers to read, understand and abide by the Tournament rules; including any and all special instructions and/or modifications announced during Captain's meeting. At least one designated representative from each team must attend the captain's meeting. Just remember this tournament is for charity and we are relying on everyone to abide by the rules and treat all volunteers, tournament personnel and fellow anglers in a courteous and respectful manner.

#2 ENTRY DEADLINE Offshore-9:00pm Tuesday, September 3rd 2024

#3 CAPTAIN'S MEETING & TOURNAMENT START Onsite registration will be available at Marina Jack. There will be mandatory Captain's meeting for all divisions Tuesday, September 3rd 2024 at Hooters Sarasota at **600pm for all offshore divisions and Inshore** Division at **5pm**, . At least one member of each team **MUST** be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend the captain's meeting.

#4 ENTRY NUMBERS Entry numbers will be assigned in order of registrations received and paid in full. There will be no deviation from the numbering system. Each tournament vessel will receive their entry number at registration and shall be required to display that number in a manner easily visible to tournament officials at Weigh-in.

#5 HOURS OF COMPETITION Tournament participants may begin fishing immediately after captain's meeting, and fish must be weighed in by the Weighmaster at the weigh station by 4:00pm Saturday, September 7th 2024. You must be at the dock or inside No-Wake buoys of Marina Jack AND acknowledged by Weighmaster by 3:00pm, scales will stay open till the last boat in line weighs in. All species will be weighed on Saturday, September 9th 2023 starting 11:00am (subject to change) Official time will be kept by Weighmaster and will correspond with time displayed on Weighmaster's Cell Phone.

#6 FISHING RULES Angling gear and methods should comply with the spirit of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). During competition hours, there shall be no more than 6 anglers on any one entered boat. All fish must be caught on rod and reel. No electric reel use allowed during the tournament. If you are fishing for Warsaw, you can only catch one species. No floaters allowed, due to Warsaw not being able to be vented. Sting Rays Goliath Grouper, Shark, Barracuda and Tarpon are excluded from Dig Deep. Wading permitted. Vessel must remain moored at all times any angler is not in the boat. Chumming is allowed in the inshore division only. Live baiting is allowed IGFA Saltwater Angling rules apply to tournament, unless specifically noted with change prior to start. Non-offset hooks are required by Fed Government in billfish tournaments when using natural (live or dead) bait or natural baits in combo with lures or skirts. No transfer of fish from boat to boat.

#7 PERMITS & LICENSES Registered boats and anglers must comply with all Federal and Florida State Laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits and any other applicable regulations. All Off Shore boats fishing for Pelagic species (if tournament applicable) must present HMS permits and all anglers must have current licenses. For information regarding Florida Saltwater Fishing Licenses refer to www.FloridaConservation.org or call 850-487-0554. For information regarding NMFS permits refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov or call 888-872-8862. Warriors On The Water highly recommends that you utilize the Fish Rules App <https://fishrulesapp.com/> to verify species and eligibility. A citation or written warning of any local, state or federal regulation during the tournament will result in disqualification.

#8 OFF-LOADING CATCH All fish must be weighed-in off the boat from which they were caught. No trucking, trailering, or over land transportation of fish. Fish must be off-loaded only at the designated dock at Marina Jack in order as called by Weighmaster.

#10 RULER TOURNAMENT SCORING FOR INSHORE DIVISION Each boat will be allowed to enter 1 fish for the judging. Fish shall be measured using "pinched tail". Photos without item given out at Capt meeting will not qualify. tag your catches with to our instagram @digdeepfishingtournament , please time stamp your photo and bring to Weigh-In. *Length will be rounded to the nearest whole inch. Measurements 1/2 inch will be rounded up. If applicable to this tournament. . All Billfish entries will require video footage of fish and "leader grab". This is a "no-kill" Billfish tournament (excluding Swordfish).

#11 WEIGHING FISH IN Weigh-in begins at 11:00am (time subject to change) on September 7th 2024 and closes precisely at 4:00pm (time subject to change). Once a fish is entered, it may not be substituted for a larger fish that day. (Entrants will be allowed one trip to the scales, you may not resume fishing after weigh-in.) The deadline to be in the weigh-in line and to check in with tournament official is 3:00pm for both divisions at Marina Jack (time subject to change). The weigh-in line will form in the mouth of the marina. Failure to be recognized and checked in by appropriate Weighmaster will disqualify fish. All fish are weighed to the hundredth of a pound. Fish must be in edible condition, and not marred or mauled in any way. No fish should leave the boat until they are in line to be weighed. Boats may weigh two fish in each species per division, (excluding the snook division). All fish to be weighed must be listed on the Weigh-In Form. Before leaving the scale area, the presenting angler must sign the Official Tournament Weigh-in form. The Weighmaster and the Tournament Official reserve the right to refuse to weigh any fish that does not meet the tournament requirements.

#12 PRIZE PAYMENTS TOURNAMENT Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected. .All prize payments will be made directly to the captain of the boat on the Wednesday following the tournament. All checks will be issued to the Captain of the team and will require a W-9. You can pick up your check at the Marina Jack office or we can mail it to you. The tournament will only submit the W-9's of the winners of any prize money that exceeds the amount of the entry fee of that category by \$600. If less than a \$600 difference, no W-9 is needed. Captains may then distribute winnings to the anglers on their boats as appropriate. Each boat/team per division is eligible for a maximum of one prize in each division per species. BIG CHECKS will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony immediately following the tournament. Stay around for your photo op.

#13 BOAT SUBSTITUTION & PROCEDURES Boat substitutions are permitted for mechanical failure only. Any substitutions must be reported to tournament officials PRIOR to the start of fishing. Boats are not permitted to have any physical contact with other boats during the fishing hours of the tournament with the exception of emergency or safety reasons and must be reported to a tournament official as soon as possible. All protests concerning the determination of the tournament winners shall be made in writing

#14 PROTEST to the tournament rules committee, and shall be accompanied by \$1000 cash. All protests shall be made prior to closing of the scales Saturday, September 7th 2024. In the event, that a protest is made and upheld by the rules committee, the \$1000 cash deposit shall be returned. Otherwise, the \$1000 cash deposit becomes the property of the tournament. Any protest resolutions are based on committee decisions, which are final. **POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.** All registered participants agree to submit to a polygraph examination if requested by the Tournament Committee. Failure of any angler to comply will result in disqualification of the entire team. Disqualification will result in penalties, including, but not limited to; complete forfeiture of any and all monies entry fees and prizes, refused entry to future tournaments and written notification to World Billfish Series.

#15 INSPECTION OF BOATS The rules committee reserves the right to inspect any and all boats entered in the competition.

#16 PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF TIES If two or more entries in any category are the exact weight or weights, the winner shall be determined by earliest check in time for Inshore or Offshore divisions.

#17 RAIN DATE To be determined only under Small Craft Advisory. There shall be no refunds.

#18 CONDITION OF FISH Fish shall not be mutilated in any way other than hook/gaff marks and must be in edible condition.

#19 RULES VIOLATION The penalty for any violation of any of the rules is disqualification, with tournament fees not refundable.

#20 DISCARDING FISH The captain will be responsible for properly disposing of fish. **NO DEAD FISH OR FISH PARTS WILL BE TOSSED INTO THE WATER AT MARINA JACK!** Unwanted fish will be collected by charity at the top of the fuel dock.

#21 RULES CHANGE Rules are subject to change. Please check website www.warriorfish.org for updates. All final rules will be announced at Captain's Meeting

#22 BOUNDARIES for Limited Offshore Division Gulf of Mexico (90miles from shore)
Inshore will range from Crystal River to Naples

#23 LIABILITY RELEASE It is expressly understood that all registered participants and their companions, crew members and observers (the Participants) participate in the Dig Deep Tournament at their own risk. The participants hereby indemnify and agree to be held harmless the Tournament, Marina Jack and all Directors, Volunteers, agents, partners, members, sponsors, attorneys or any other person associated with this tournament from and against any and all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties. All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Dig Deep/ Warriors On The Water, Marina Jack, whether individual or corporation, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury and death. Participants specifically consent to the use of any photography in which they appear, or audio recording by the tournament for any reason whatsoever including, but not limited to: resale, advertising and promotional material without compensation or restriction of any kind. This Liability Release shall be binding upon the participants and their heirs, representatives, successors and assigns. By entering the above stated tournament and paying entry fee, participants acknowledge that they have read and are bound by same. Questions? Call Evan Fernandez (941) 225-3256 Or email evan@warriorfish.org

OFFSHORE BOTTOM POINT VALUES

SPECIES	Points per fish	Points per pound	Fish weighed per species
Gag Grouper	40	1	2
African Pompano	30	1	2
Scamp Grouper	45	1	2
Black Grouper	65	2	2
Warsaw	100	.50	1
Yellow Edge Grouper	50	1	2
Snowy Grouper	45	1	2
Yellow Mouth Grouper	50	2	2
Pomfret	55	1	2
Golden Tile	60	1	2
Blue Tile	30	1	2
Escolar or Oil Fish	40	1	2
Queen Snapper	40	1	2
Barrel fish	35	1	2
Kitty Mitchel	50	1	1
Cubera Snapper	50	1	2
Mutton Snapper	25	2	2
Mangrove Snapper	20	4	2
Yellowtail Snapper	20	5	2
Silk Snapper	35	2	2

BILLFISH POINT VALUES

SPECIES	Points per fish	Points per pound	Minimums	Team limit
Blue Marlin	501	Release points only		
White Marlin	200	Release points only		
Spearfish	150	Release points only		
Sailfish	100	Release points only		
Swordfish	50	1	47" LFL	3 fish

*The Billfish Division with the exception of Swordfish is a VIDEO catch and release

ADDITIONAL BILLFISH INFORMATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

#1 ENTRY DEADLINE

> 9:00 PM on Tuesday, September 3rd 2024. Date subject to change.

#2 ENTRY FEES

> The entry fee shall be \$10,000 per boat competing in the Billfish Tournament (Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Swordfish and Spearfish)

> Optional Calcutta entries are available; however, boats must be entered into the Offshore Unlimited Division Tournament to participate in Calcuttas

> Dockage at Marina Jack - Entry in the Dig Deep Tournament does not include or guarantee a slip at Marina Jack. Slips are set aside for the tournament and are assigned on a first come first served basis. Special tournament rates are offered. To reserve a slip contact the Dock Master, at 941.955.9488 or email at dockmaster@marinajacks.com

#3 CAPTAIN'S MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

> Registration will be available until Captain's meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd 2024

> There will be a mandatory Captain's meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd 2024 at 5:00pm at Hooters Sarasota

> At least one member of the team MUST be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend

If unable to attend, a Virtual Meeting can be arranged.

> Boats can depart to fishing grounds after Captain's Meeting and are free to begin fishing.

> Registered tournament boats are not required to depart from Marina Jack in Sarasota but are invited and encouraged to do so. Those boats not leaving from Marina Jack in Sarasota must notify the tournament committee of the departure marina before leaving the Captains Meeting.

#4 HOURS OF COMPETITION

> - Billfish Division lines in at 7am on Wednesday 9/04/24- Unlimited lines in at 7 am Thursday 9/05/24- Limited Division lines in 7am on Friday 9/06/24

> Tournament participants may begin fishing immediately after captain's meeting, and must be checked in by the Weighmaster at the check in station by 4:00pm Saturday, September 7th 2024. You must be at the dock or inside No-Wake buoys of Marina Jack AND acknowledged by Weighmaster by 3:00pm, scales will stay open till the last boat in line weighs in. All species will be weighed on Saturday, September 7th 2024 starting 11:00am (subject to change) Official time will be kept by Weighmaster and will correspond with time displayed on Weighmaster's Cell Phone.

#5 EQUIPMENT AND ANGLING RULES

>IGFA Saltwater equipment and Angling rules apply to this tournament, except for any possible special instructions or changes that may be announced or given at the captain's meeting. A copy of the IGFA rules are included in Captain's packets.

>Handheld rods and reels only.

>The Federal Government requires the use of non-offset circle hooks in billfish tournaments when using natural baits (dead or live) or natural baits in combination with lures or skirts.

> No transfer of catch from one boat to another.

#6 PERMITS AND LICENSES

>Registered boats and anglers must comply with all Federal and Florida State Laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits and any other applicable regulations.

>For information regarding Florida Saltwater Fishing Licenses refer to www.FloridaConservation.org or call 850-487-0554.

> For information regarding NMFS permits refer to www.NMFSpermits.com or call 888-872-8862.

> You MUST have a valid swordfish and tuna/HMS permit to possess this species.

> It is not the responsibility of the tournament officials or directors to verify that all required permits, licenses and/or registrations are acquired by anglers participating in the tournament.

#6 BOUNDARIES

Boundaries for limited division are 90 miles. Inshore from Naples to Crystal River, - Unlimited leave out of any port in the Gulf This may be adjusted and will be finalized by Captain's Meeting.

ALL FISH MUST BE WEIGHED IN AT MARINA JACKS.

#7 WEATHER

- Dig Deep reserves the right to cancel any tournament fishing day if a determination is made that conditions are unsafe

> Resumption of fishing announcement does not ensure the safety of any registered participant or guest.

> The decision to fish or not is based solely on the decision of the captain taking into consideration the Prevailing conditions, the seaworthiness of their vessel and the crews' seamanship.

> Eight hours of offshore fishing by one-third of the registered boats constitutes a complete tournament.

> If all days are weathered out, entry fees less tournament expenses will be refunded within 30 days.

#8 COMMUNICATIONS

☑ Cell phone numbers will be given out at the captains meeting, each captain must text the tournament Director (s) from their satellite phone.

> Marina Jack, Dockmasters Office 941-955-9488

#9 REPORTING HOOK UPS AND RELEASES

> All billfish catches and releases must be reported by video and catch affidavits at the time of release.

> Please take a continuous video of fish, tournament indicator and then turn to time on your GPS.

> Photos or Videos must have conclusive evidence as to which species the fish is, The Tournament Committee's decision is final. The tournament committee will not provide any special equipment with which to photograph / video or view catch with.

> Boat/Teams are responsible for providing their own digital photo equipment. (ONLY Digital Photos or Videos allowed) Each Boat/Team will have to present their digital camera card/chip and/or the download cable so pictures can be retrieved.

> In the video (Or with stills, multiple frames consecutively) Make sure the indicator is in the footage and then turn to your GPS to time stamp the clip.

> Boat/Teams submitting photos must also submit a "Catch Affidavit" form (form supplied at Weigh In) that requires name of boat/team, name of angler which caught the fish, species and time fish was landed. The time of catch must be recorded and turned in with your photos/video.

> A Boat Number will be given to each boat/team at Captains meeting. The Boat Number must be clearly present in all photos.

> Video scoring will be done by a tournament official only.

> Scoring and Ties – please see Main Tournament Regulations and Rules

> The tournament committee's decision is final.

#10 OFFICIAL BILLFISH RELEASE

A billfish is considered officially released when the leader connection is wound to the tip of the rod, or the mate or other crew member touches the leader (NOT double line) and the fish is successfully video recorded.

Tagging is not required for tournament points.

#11 BILLFISH CATCH AFFIDAVITS

Billfish Catch Affidavits (BCA) are the log of every billfish hooked-up and subsequently released or landed. Teams wishing to weigh a Billfish must turn in a BCA.

The BCA is compared to the Tournament Director's cell phone logs and submitted videography to verify release times and ensure all billfish points are accurately awarded.

Any boat wishing to be awarded points for billfish must complete a BCA for every billfish they wish to get points. Forms will be in the Captain's packets.

In addition to the BCA, each team must turn in their video footage by 12:00pm Saturday, November 4th, 2023 to get points credit for billfish.

#12 WEIGH-IN

> Boats wishing to weigh a fish or compete in points for billfish must be checked in by the Weighmaster at the check in station by 3:00pm Saturday, September 7th 2024. All fish must be weighed in by 4pm

All species will be weighed on Saturday

September 7th 2024 starting 11:00am (subject to change) Official time will be kept by Weighmaster and will correspond with time displayed on Weighmaster's Cell Phone.

> Any fish to be weighed must be transported by the boat on which they were caught to Marina Jack.

> Boats can depart for fishing grounds from the port of their choice after notifying the Tournament Director at the Captains Meeting but must return to Marina Jack in Sarasota, FL to be eligible to weigh fish or get points in billfish category.

> Swordfish will be weighed-in immediately following the inshore/offshore weigh-in on

Saturday, September 7th 2024

> All fish are weighed to the hundredth of the pound.

> Any fish weighed-in found to contain lead or any foreign matter will be subject to disqualification as decided by the tournament committee.

> Fish must be in edible condition, not marred or mauled in any way.

> No fish should leave the boat until they are in line to be weighed.

> Before leaving the scale area, the presenting angler must sign the Official Tournament Weigh-in form.

> The tournament committee encourages donation of all weighed fish, as they will be donated to a local charity for meals to feed the hungry.

> The Weigh Master and the Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse to weigh any fish that does not meet the tournament requirements.

> The Tournament Committee reserves the right to retain weighed fish as applicable.

> If you choose NOT to return to Marina Jack on Saturday, please notify the Tournament Director.

> First place fish will be retained by Weigh Master until the conclusion of the weigh-in or it drops out of contention by weight.

#13 BREAKING TIES

☒ Ties between the weights of two or more fish are broken by the time of paid registration.

☒ Ties between release points and Billfish Weights are broken by the time of release as recorded on the Billfish Catch Affidavits along with time of recorded call.

☒ All times are recorded to the whole minute.