

# Battle of the Bills

## TOURNAMENT RULES

Catch & Release Division entry Fee will be **\$2,500**

Meatfish Division entry Fee will be **\$1000**

- Winner of Catch & Release Division will be determined by the highest total score accumulated over 2 days of fishing.
- Winner of Meatfish Division will be determined by the heaviest 3 fish aggregate (Eligible Species: Mahi, Wahoo, Tuna)
- Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected.
- Catch & Release Division - Payout structure is based upon 25 boats – 1<sup>st</sup> place **\$30,000** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place **\$10,000** – 3<sup>rd</sup> place **\$5,000** – 4<sup>th</sup> place **\$5,000**
- Meatfish Division - Payout structure is based upon 25 boats – 1st place **\$15,000** – 2nd place **\$5,000**
- You must pay the main entry fee to fish optional entries for each division.
- Optional Entries payouts to 1<sup>st</sup> place only

### CATCH & RELEASE DIVISION OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

- Most Billfish Day 1 - **\$500- \$2,500** entry fee (payout with 15 boat entries at Level 3) **\$30,000**
- Most Billfish Day 2 - **\$500- \$2,500** entry fee (payout with 15 boat entries at Level 3) **\$30,000**
- Most Blue Marlin Points - **\$500- \$2,500** entry fee (payout with 15 boat entries at Level 3) **\$30,000**
- Most White Marlin Points - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1<sup>st</sup> place with 20 boat entries) **\$8,000**
- First Blue Marlin Released Day 1 - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1<sup>st</sup> place with 20 boat entries) **\$8,000**
- First Blue Marlin Released Day 2 - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1<sup>st</sup> place with 20 boat entries) **\$8,000**

### MEATFISH DIVISION OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

- Heaviest Tuna - **\$250-\$1,000** entry fee (payout to 1<sup>st</sup> place with 10 boat entries) **\$8,000**
- Heaviest Mahi - **\$250-\$1,000** entry fee (payout to 1<sup>st</sup> place with 10 boat entries) **\$8,000**
- Heaviest Wahoo - **\$250-\$1,000** entry fee (payout to 1<sup>st</sup> place with 10 boat entries) **\$8,000**

### #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.
- Warriors on the Water expects the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants. Participants may be required to submit to polygraph testing at tournament directors discretion.

## #2 ENTRY DEADLINE

- 9:00 PM, Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## #3 ENTRY FEES & Qualifying Species

- **Catch & Release Division entry Fee will be \$2,500**-Winner will be determined by the highest total score, over the course of 2 days of fishing.
- **Catch & Release Scoring**

Blue Marlin – 501 points

White Marlin – 250 points

Spearfish – 250 points

Sailfish – 250 points

## Meatfish Division entry Fee will be \$1000

- Winner will be determined by the heaviest 3 fish aggregate weight.  
(Eligible Species: Mahi, wahoo, tuna)

## #4 CAPTAINS MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

- Onsite registration will be available at 6:00pm Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- There will be mandatory captain's meeting Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- At least one member of each team MUST be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend the captain's meeting.
- Weigh in from 3pm-6pm at
- Boats may leave at conclusion of captain's meeting, however lines in doesn't begin until 6 a.m. Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## #6 BOAT NUMBERS

- Boat 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 Boat number at registration and shall be required to display that number in a manner easily visible to tournament officials at check-in. The boat number shall be the Catch and Release designator.

## #7 HOURS OF COMPETITION AND Boundaries

- Lines in 6 a.m. Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Boats may depart from any location in the Gulf of Mexico, but all boats must arrive to weigh station prior to 6pm on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Scales will close and the competition will end at 6:00pm Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Scales open daily 3-6pm.
- Official time will be kept by Weigh Master and will correspond with time displayed on Weigh-Master's Cell Phone.

## #8 FISHING RULES & BOUNDRIES

- Angling gear and methods should comply with the spirit of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).
- Electric reels are allowed for teasers only during the tournament.
- All fish must be caught rod & reel. Once a fish is hooked, the rod may be passed one time within the first minute.
- Leader may not exceed 30 feet, double line and leader combined maximum 40 feet.
- The video must show the billfish species, the billfish being caught (leader connection touches the tip of the rod or a team member touches the leader) and must show the billfish being released (no longer connected to the line). If the species of the fish can't be identified, but is for certain a billfish, the team will receive 250 points.
- The Tournament Designator handed out at registration must be included in the video. The same designator is used for both days of fishing. This ensures the fish was caught during the Battle of the Bills tournament.
- Once you start recording the end of the fight and billfish release, the recording **must continue uninterrupted** until you have recorded the GPS date and time. This ensures we are looking at a single event. The GPS date and time are used for breaking ties.
- If the GPS is not recorded, the video is not continuous, or both the date and time aren't shown in the video, the last day of tournament fishing is used as the release date and the time you arrive to the scales is used as the release time.
- All billfish releases must be logged in to the boats billfish scorecard which will be distributed at captains meeting.
- The following will result in disqualification of the billfish release-Billfish is removed from the water for any reason. Tournament designator is missing from the video. Evidence of the billfish being caught and subsequently released is missing from the video. Video shows a tournament rule infraction.
- Mutilated fish, defined as any damage to the fish that would impede its ability to fight, shall be disqualified. Fish must arrive to scales in edible condition.

## #9 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](http://www.FloridaConservation.org) or call 850-487-0554. For information regarding NMFS permits refer to [www.NMFSpermits.com](http://www.NMFSpermits.com) or call 888-872-8862.
- A citation or written warning of any local, state or federal regulation during the tournament will result in disqualification.

## #10 OFF-LOADING CATCH

- All fish must be weighed-in off the boat from which they were caught. Fish may not be brought to scales in any other manor.

- Fish must be off-loaded only at the designated weigh station

### **#11 WEIGHING IN FISH**

- Weigh-in begins at 3pm August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and closes precisely at 6:00pm. 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 daily, you may not resume fishing after weigh-in.) WEIGH IN STATION at.
- A fish can be submitted into multiple categories even if it wins a category.
- Failure to be recognized and checked in by appropriate Weigh-Master 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.
- 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 Weigh Master and the Tournament Official reserve the right to refuse to weigh any fish that does not meet the tournament requirements.

### **#12 PRIZE PAYMENTS**

- All prize payments will be mailed directly to the captain of the boat. All checks will be issued to the Captain of the team and will require a W-9.
- The tournament will only submit the 1099'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.
- **First Place 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 except for emergency or safety reasons and must be reported to a tournament official as soon as possible.

### **#14 PROTEST**

- All protests concerning the determination of the tournament winners shall be made in writing to the tournament rules committee and shall be accompanied by \$1000 cash.
- All protests shall be made prior to closing of the scales August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

### **#15 INSPECTION OF BOATS**

- The rules committee reserves the right to inspect 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.

#### **#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 VENUE!***

#### **#21 LIABILITY RELEASE**

- It is expressly understood that all registered participants and their companions, crew members and observers (the Participants) participate in the Battle of the Bills Tournament at their own risk.
- The participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Battle of the Bills, Warriors on the Water, and all Directors, Volunteers, agents, partners, members, sponsors, attorneys or any other person associated with this tournament from and against 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 Warriors on the Water tournament and Sunrise Marina, 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.
- Any Tournament related questions ? Call Evan Fernandez (941) 225-3256 Or email [evan@warriorsfish.org](mailto:evan@warriorsfish.org)