

Grouper Ground & Pound

TOURNAMENT RULES

Nearshore Division - Main entry fee - \$350

Offshore Division - Main entry fee - \$650

- Winner will be determined by heaviest 2 Grouper aggregate. (if there is a tie in weight the 1st to have checked in will win)
- Tournament Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected.

Nearshore Payout structure based on 30 boat entries – 1st place \$6,000 – 2nd place \$1,500 – 3rd place \$900

Offshore Payout structure based on 30 boat entries – 1st place \$12,000 – 2nd place \$2,500 – 3rd place \$1,100

- You must pay main entry fee to fish optional categories
- Optional categories payout to 1st place only

Optional Nearshore Categories

- Big Rusty \$500 (30 boat payout) \$12,000
- Heaviest 3 Grouper aggregate \$200 (30 boat payout) \$4,800
- Heaviest 4 Grouper aggregate \$150 (30 boat payout) \$3,600
- Top Charter Boat \$200 (15 boat payout) \$2,400
- Heaviest Snapper \$200 (30 boat payout) \$4,800
- Heaviest 3 Snapper aggregate \$150 (30 boat payout) \$4,800
- Ladies Division \$150 (15 boat payout) \$2,400
- Wildcard \$250 excludes sharks, Rays, Cudas, Tarpon, Grouper (30 boat payout) \$6,000

Optional Offshore Categories

- Heavy Weight Division \$1,000 (30 boat payout) \$24,000
- Heaviest 3 Grouper aggregate \$250 (30 boat payout) \$6,000
- Heaviest 4 Grouper aggregate \$200 (30 boat payout) \$4,800
- Top Charter Boat \$250 (15 boat payout) \$3,000
- Heaviest Snapper \$250 (30 boat payout) \$6,000
- Heaviest 3 Snapper aggregate \$200 (30 boat payout) \$4,800
- Ladies Division \$200 (15 boat payout) \$2,400
- Wildcard \$350 excludes sharks, Rays, Cudas, Tarpon, Grouper (20 boat payout) \$8,400
- *If an additional category has only one entry, being the only entry in that category by the start of the tournament, that team will be refunded their additional entry fee.
- *If an additional category has more than one entry and doesn't have a team that wins the category, that money will not be refunded and will be donated to charity to benefit the Veteran Community.
- *If there are more than 30 entry fees the payouts will be higher, if there are less than 30 boat entries the payouts will be less, payouts are based upon total boat entries.

#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 captains meeting.
- Warriors on the Water expects the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants.

#2 ENTRY FEES & BOUNDARIES

- The entry fee shall be \$350 per boat competing in the Nearshore Division for Heaviest 2 Grouper aggregate. All fish must be caught in State waters. Northern & Southern boundaries from Naples to Ceder Key.

- The entry fee shall be \$650 per boat competing in the Offshore Division for Heaviest 2 Grouper aggregate. Western Boundary – 834500 line. Northern & Southern boundaries from Naples to Ceder Key.

#3 CAPTAINS MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

- Onsite registration will be available at the captains meeting.
- There will be mandatory captain's meeting
- At least one member of each team MUST be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend the captain's meeting.
- LINES IN AT 6 am lines out – Weigh Station open from 3-6pm
- Official time will be kept by Weigh Master and will correspond with time displayed on Weigh-Master's Cell Phone.
- Fish caught from 6am-6pm will qualify to be submitted for the weigh-in, any fish outside this time frame will not qualify for weigh-in.
- Send a text to 941-225-3256 with your boat number - notifying that you are 10 min out from arrival to Doc Ford's Rum Bar – Jungle Terrace.

#4 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.

#5 WEIGHING IN FISH

- Weigh-in begins at 3:00 pm on Saturday and closes precisely at 6:00pm at Doc Ford's Rum Bar – Jungle Terrace.
- A fish can be submitted into multiple categories even if it wins a category.
- Fish caught between 6am – 6pm will qualify to be weighed in.
- Failure to be recognized and checked in by appropriate Weigh-Master will disqualify fish.
- 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.

#6 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.

#7 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.

#8 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 on Saturday
- 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.

#9 INSPECTION OF BOATS

- The rules committee reserves the right to inspect all boats entered in the competition.

#10 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.

#11 RAIN DATE

- To be determined only under Small Craft Advisory.
- There shall be no refunds.

#12 CONDITION OF FISH

- Fish shall not be mutilated in any way other than hook/gaff marks and must be in edible condition.

#13 RULES VIOLATION

- The penalty for any violation of any of the rules is disqualification, with tournament fees not refundable.

#14 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!***

#15 LIABILITY RELEASE

- It is expressly understood that all registered participants and their companions, crew members and observers (the Participants) participate in the Grouper Ground & Pound at their own risk.
- The participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Tournament, (Venue), 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 Doc Ford's , 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