

# 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

\$250 Heaviest 4 Grouper aggregate (eligible species: Gag & Scamp,)

\$350 Heaviest Gag Grouper

\$250 Wild Card

\$200 Heaviest 3 Snapper Aggregate

\$200 Heaviest Mangrove Snapper

\$200 Heaviest Red 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 pay out to 1st place only

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 Swordfish

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

\$500 Heaviest Gag Grouper

\$350 Heaviest 4 Grouper Aggregate (Gag, Scamp, & Black Grouper)

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

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

\$250 Heaviest Red 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..

**#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-10:00pm Wednesday

**#3 CAPTAIN'S MEETING & TOURNAMENT START** Onsite registration will be available at Marina Jack. There will be mandatory Captain's meeting for all divisions on Wednesday at Hooters Sarasota at **700pm for all offshore divisions and Inshore Division at 6pm**, . 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 leave immediately after captain's meeting, and fish must be weighed in by the Weighmaster at the weigh station by 4:00pm Saturday, . You must be at the dock or inside No-Wake buoys of Marina Jack AND acknowledged by Weighmaster by 4:00pm, scales will stay open till the last boat in line weighs in. All species will be weighed on Saturday, 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. Electric reel is 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](http://www.FloridaConservation.org) or call 850-487-0554. For information regarding NMFS permits refer to [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://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. take photo with angler, boat number , and fish, 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. .

**#11 WEIGHING FISH IN** Weigh-in begins at 11:00am (time subject to change) on Saturday 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. \*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.. 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 will be mail a live check upon completing W-9. 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, 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.

**#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.warriorsfish.org](http://www.warriorsfish.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@warriorsfish.org](mailto:evan@warriorsfish.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	1
Scamp Grouper	45	1	1
Black Grouper	65	1	1
Warsaw	100	.25	1
Yellow Edge Grouper	50	1	1
Snowy Grouper	45	1	1
Yellow Mouth Grouper	50	1	1
Pomfret	55	1	1
Golden Tile	60	1	1
Blue Tile	30	1	1
Escolar or Oil Fish	40	1	1
Queen Snapper	40	1	1
Barrel fish	35	1	1
Kitty Mitchel	50	1	1
Cubera Snapper	50	1	1
Mutton Snapper	25	2	2
Mangrove Snapper	20	4	2
Yellowtail Snapper	20	5	2

Porgy	20	2	2
Red Hind/Strawberry Grouper	20	3	2
Silk Snapper	35	2	1
Swordfish	75	.25	47" LJFL   1 fish