

Sword Wars

TOURNAMENT RULES

Entry Fee will be **\$500**.

- Winner will be determined by the heaviest Swordfish
- Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected.
- Payout structure is based upon 25 boats – 1st place **\$8,000** – 2nd place **\$2,000**
- You must pay main entry fee to fish optional entries
- Optional Entries payouts to 1st place only
- Optional entries level 1-3 – if a level 3 wins category they will claim prize for level 1 -3 for the category. If a level 2 wins category, they will claim level 1-2 for the category. If level 1 wins for the category, they will claim all prize money for those that have entered for level 1. A winning fish can be used in multiple categories.

OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

- Big Sword Reward - **\$1,500** entry fee (payout with 25 boat entries) **\$30,000**
- Heaviest Hand Cranked Sword - **\$250 - \$1,000** entry fee (payout with 6 boat entries per level) lvl 1- **\$1,200** - lvl 2 **\$2,400** – lvl **\$4,800**
- Heaviest 2 Swordfish Aggregate - **\$250 - \$1,000** entry fee (payout with 6 boat entries per level) lvl 1- **\$1,200** - lvl 2 **\$2,400** – lvl **\$4,800**
- Heaviest 3 Swordfish Aggregate - **\$250 - \$1,000** entry fee (payout with 6 boat entries per level) lvl 1- **\$1,200** - lvl 2 **\$2,400** – lvl **\$4,800**
- Swordfish weighing the closest to 200 lbs - **\$200** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$4,000**
- Heaviest Tuna - **\$250** entry fee (payout with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Heaviest Mahi - **\$250** entry fee (payout with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Heaviest Wahoo **\$250** entry fee (payout with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**

*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 DEADLINE

- 9:00 PM, Thursday

#3 ENTRY FEES

- The entry fee shall be \$500 per boat competing in Sword Wars– Winner determined by the heaviest Swordfish

#4 CAPTAINS MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

- Onsite registration will be available at 6:00pm Thursday
- There will be mandatory captain's meeting Thursday 6:00pm at **Boat House Oyster Bar** At least one member of each team **MUST** be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend the captain's meeting.
- Weigh in at **Boathouse Oyster Bar on Saturday**
- LINES IN AT 7 am on Friday– weigh in closes at 6pm Saturday

#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.

#7 HOURS OF COMPETITION

- Lines in 7am Friday
- Scales will close and the competition will end at 6:00pm on Saturday
- 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).
- During competition hours, there shall be no more than 6 anglers per vessel.
- Electric reels are permitted during the tournament.
- Live baiting is allowed.
- No boundaries, leave out of any inlet in the Gulf

#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 or call 850-487-0554. For information regarding NMFS permits refer to 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. After checking in with Weigh-Master, anglers will be permitted to use personal vehicle to transport catch to the weigh in
- Fish must be off-loaded only at the designated dock

#11 WEIGHING IN FISH

- Weigh-in begins at 3:00 pm on Saturday and closes precisely at 6:00pm Saturday. 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.) WEIGH IN STATION at **Boat House Oyster Bar**
- 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.
- 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 Sword Wars at their own risk.
- The participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Sword Wars Tournament, 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 Gulf Harbor Marina or Pops Sunset Grill, 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