



## **Rules and Regulations**

## **#1 RULES ACCEPTANCE AND REGULATIONS RESPONSIBILITY**

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. SaraBay Marina along with the Sarasota Offshore Shootout expects the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants. All entrants and guests of the tournament are participating at their own risk. The participants hereby indemnify and agree to be held harmless the Tournament, SaraBay Marina, The Sarasota Offshore Shootout, 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 Sarasota Offshore Shootout at SaraBay 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 assigners. By entering the above stated tournament and paying entry fee, participants acknowledge that they have read and are bound by same.

## **#2 ELIGIBILITY**

All sports fishermen (male and female) are eligible to participate. Determination of eligibility is left to the complete discretion of the committee. Any person convicted of a fishing violation is ineligible to

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participate for five (5) years from the date of the fishing violation. All requests for pre-tournament determination of eligibility should be submitted, in writing, to the committee prior to the Captain's Meeting. All offshore vessels intending to target "highly migratory species" are required to obtain the federal stamp prior to commencement of fishing.

### **#3 CAPTAIN'S MEETING**

Registration will be available at SaraBay Marina or via email.

In person registration for both divisions will be Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

Captain's meeting will begin at 6:00pm on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. One representative per team must attend.

### **#4 HOURS OF COMPETITION**

Tournament participants in both divisions may begin fishing immediately after the shotgun release from the Longboat Key Bridge on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00am. A committee boat will stay at the Bridge until 10:00am for those who wish to leave later.

**All species will be weighed on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, from 1:00pm-5:00pm.** Official time will be kept by Weighmaster and will correspond with time displayed on Weighmaster's cellphone.

### **#5 BOATS/REGISTRATION**

\$650.00 per boat/team.

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.

**\*Rules Subject to Change until Captain's Meetings on 7/31/2024**

## **#6 TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS**

The tournament will be comprised of two separate divisions: OFFSHORE 34 feet and over and OFFSHORE 33 feet and under. These divisions will be competing within themselves, no team may enter both divisions.

The captain must register for the division in which his or her team will compete before the close of the Captains Meeting. No change of division will be allowed, under any circumstances, after the Captains Meeting.

This is a “Team Event”. Only the Captain and registered Anglers are eligible to fish. Team substitutes will be allowed provided they have received prior approval from the Tournament Director. Each Fishing Team is limited to a maximum of six (6) anglers (including the Captain).

## **#7 FISHING AREAS/RULES**

The team boat may not leave the water and be trailered.

Angling gear and methods should comply with the spirit of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), with the exception of bent butts. Bent Butts with manual hand crank reels are permitted for the entire duration of the fight with the fish. All fish must be caught on rod and reel. Deep Trolling devices are acceptable only if attached to a 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. Goliath Grouper, Shark and Tarpon are excluded from the Sarasota Offshore Shootout. Wading permitted. Vessel must remain moored at all times any angler is not in the boat. Live baiting is allowed.

Both divisions MAY BE ALLOWED to touch a dock on their way back in, but once you re-fuel you are not allowed to fish again. NO LINES allowed back in the water after taking on fuel.

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Teams can top off with fuel from Sarabay before heading out, but whatever fuel you leave with from SB is the amount you must “compete”.

### **#8 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. 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. A citation or written warning of any local, state or federal regulation during the tournament will result in disqualification.

### **#9 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 SaraBay in order as called by Weighmaster.

### **#10 SPECIES AND SCORING**

Eligible species are listed on the point schedule. A point system based upon the type and size of fish will be used to determine the winning boat. Each boat will be allowed to enter six (6) fish for judging during the two-day event. The six fish selected and entered by the captain of the boat may include no more than two (2) fish of any one species at the weigh-in, unless otherwise specified in point schedule. Please refer to the Point Schedule for list of species. The six (6) top scoring fish will be automatically selected as the team’s six (6) fish.

All billfish that are being “scored” and released must have a picture with the team’s number card that they will receive at captains meeting.

**\*Rules Subject to Change until Captain’s Meetings on 7/31/2024**

### **#11 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.

### **#12 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, 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.

### **#13 INSPECTION OF BOATS**

All boats will be subject to inspection prior to release from Sarabay, and upon weigh in. This includes gear, fishboxes and GPS locations.

### **#14 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.

### **#15 RAIN DATE**

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

### **#16 PAY OUTS**

100% of the entry fees paid out to fisherman. Pay out for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in both divisions as well as side pot buy-ins for specific species.

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### **#17 CONDITION OF FISH**

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

### **#18 RULES VIOLATION**

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

### **#19 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 THE MARINA!** Unwanted fish will be collected by charity at the top of the fuel dock.