

DEO 2024

**Rules & Regulations -**

**Dates: Dec. 4 - Dec. 8, 2024**

**South Captain's Meeting/Registration Venue**

December 4, 2024 - Time TBD (Wednesday)

**Crook & Crook**

2795 SW 27<sup>th</sup> Ave

Miami, FL 33133



**North Captain's Meeting/Registration Venue**

December 5, 2024 - 6:00PM

**\*HMY Outboard Center**

572 Northlake Blvd.

North Palm Beach, FL 33408



**FISHING - ONE FISHING DAY (SATURDAY, Dec 7, 2024)**

**Awards Brunch:**

**December 8 (Sunday), 2024 - 11:30AM-1:30PM**

**Location - T.B.D.**

**Prize Structure:** (Subject to change prior to captains meeting)

A percentage of entry fees will be retained by the tournament for event cost. Remaining entry funds will be split as follows after all expenses.

**Overall**

1st place boat- 40% & Fighting Belt Trophy  
2nd Place boat- 30% & Med Fighting Belt Trophy  
3rd Place boat- 20% & Mini Fighting Belt Trophy  
4th Place boat- 10% & Mini Fighting Belt Trophy

**\*Charter boat Division**

1st place boat- Trophy  
(\*Min of 3 boats required in order to award charter division)

**Professional Division**

1st place boat – Trophy  
2nd Place boat – Trophy  
3rd Place boat – Trophy

**Semi-Professional Division**

1st place boat – Trophy  
2nd Place boat – Trophy  
3rd Place boat – Trophy  
(\*Less than 3 paid team members to qualify for Semi-Pro)

**Junior Angler**

Award (8-16 years old)

**Pee-Wee Angler (NEW)**

Award (8 years old & under) (\*assist allowed from one adult)

**Lady Angler**

Mini Fighting Belt Trophy

**Top Angler**

Custom Fighting Belt

**Top Captain**

Custom Fighting Belt

### **Criteria for Charter Boat**

Licensed Charter vessel with paying customers.

(Minimum of 3 charter teams registered are required in order to payout and award the Charter Boat Division. If 3 are not registered, teams will be reimbursed the Charter Calcutta category amount paid in.)

### **Criteria for Professional Boat**

None. Any team can choose to compete as a professional team.

### **Criteria for Semi-Professional Boat**

**Less than 3 paid personnel** including captains, mates and anglers. Amateur teams also fall under the Semi-Pro division. (there is no separate amateur division)

(Note: Decision to enter divisions lays solely on the team within criteria. Note: a service fee via stripe app will be applied to all electronic transactions. Cash and checks will also be accepted at the Capt. Meeting. A 5% fee will be retained by the tournament for admin purposes.)

**Boundaries** – (Florida's East Atlantic Waters)

**Angler Substitutions** – Angler substitutions must be completed before lines in via the Dust'Em Off app.

**Check out** – This is not an inlet specific tournament. There will be no visual checkout however, **an image of the release card provided at the Captain's Meeting along with a timepiece (cell phone or GPS) showing any time between 7:30 and 8:00 am will be considered checkout.**

**Lines in** – Saturday, Dec 7, 2024 at 8:00AM

**Lines out** – Saturday, Dec 7, 2024 at 4:00PM

**Comms** – This will be a phone in tournament. Phone numbers for the committee office will be provided at the captain's meeting. **All tournament comms between tournament boats will be on channel 74.** (\*Subject to changes)

**Cameras and Procedure** – Cameras must start with an image of the release card provided at the Captain's Meeting along with a timepiece between the times of 7:30AM and 8:00AM (This will be considered checkout). Accepted timepieces are GPS, VHF or Cellular devices. **Billfish must be identified via video only.** The Fish must be leadered/released safely, then video of the angler holding up the catch card and stating the release number must be provided before next fish is submitted. In the case of a multiple hookup, releasing all fish before stating the release number is permitted. There must be no break from identifying to release of billfish. Camera footage must be uploaded via the tournament App (by Reel Time Apps) **no later than 8PM.**

Camera footage becomes property of the tournament. A cell phone may be used as long as video is consistent with all other rules requirements. Contact the committee office to notify if a change is being made.

**Hooking Fish** – Each eligible fish entered in this tournament must be hooked and caught by a single angler. No person may hook a fish, or assist in hooking a fish then pass a rod to another angler. If multiple strikes occur on separate lines, and if a single angler is capable of hooking and catching more than one of the fish without the assistance of any other person, then each fish may be eligible for entry by such angler subject to the other rules of this tournament. The use of a rod holder to hook a fish is permitted provided that no person other than the angler who ultimately enters the fish touches the rod or reel once the fish is hooked. If the main line or double line is touched by anyone other than the angler the fish is considered disqualified. Mate can “pop the ring out of the clip” and shake weeds off the main line.

**Release** – A “Release” is official once the mate touches the “Leader” material and cuts the leader. **Tipping is not considered a release.** In the event a fish is completely wrapped in the leader, the fish will count as a release if it is within touching range of the handle end of a gaff, tagging stick or extendable brush handle. **DO NOT GAFF THE FISH!!!**

**Final 15 mins** – **The final 15 minutes of the tournament ALL billfish hookups must be called/texted in.** In addition, all video in the final 15 mins must start with a time stamp at hookup to insure the fish was hooked before lines out.

**Catch Cards** – Cards must be filled out to match with the confirmation number and time provided by the Release Committee. Incomplete or improperly completed cards may be rejected by the tournament committee. A photo of the release cards must be uploaded to the Tournament App/Text with release videos no later than 8PM. **Any cards uploaded after 8PM will be disqualified.**

**Scoring** – All billfish count as 100 points. Time will determine the winner in the event of a tie.

### **General Information**

Time Frame – 8:00AM – 4:00PM

Lines – 8

Leaders – Max length 15’ (ft.)

Hooks – Circle hooks Only

Anglers – No Limit

Bait – Live or Dead accepted. Chumming prohibited.

**Weather** – Tournament officials may cancel the tournament day if in their best judgment unsafe conditions exist at sea for the average boat entered. No refunds of any sort will be made for any cause in the event of such cancellation. If the day (or any portion thereof) is “weathered out”, the tournament results will be final based on the results of the official fishing time that can be completed. Notice of cancellation and/or resumption of fishing will be provided via

Committee Phone. A determination permitting fishing by tournament officials should not be interpreted to mean that the tournament ensures the safety of any registered angler or occupant of any boat. Anglers must make their own judgments whether to fish under the prevailing weather conditions based on the size and seaworthiness of their boat, their seamanship skills, and any other relevant factors.

**Protests** – Any protests concerning the conduct of an angler or rules violations must be filed in writing with the tournament committee no later than the close of the fishing day on the day of the alleged violation. Along with a non refundable \$300. Protests will be handled by the rules committee. The decisions of the rules committee are final.

**Refunds** – No refunds will be given for the entry fee. For any reason including, but not limited to acts of nature, war, national security, Covid-19, vessel malfunctions or travel restrictions.

**Ties** – All ties will be broken based on time. The earlier billfish release or earlier fun fish weigh-in will win the tie.

**Hold Harmless** – All registered anglers and non-registered occupants of their boats enter and participate in this tournament voluntarily at their own risk. In consideration for the tournament's acceptance of his or her entry, each angler, for his or her heirs, executors, and administrators, agrees to release, hold harmless and indemnify the Tournament (Courtney Bowden, Contact Courtney Consulting, LLC), its officers, managers, directors, agents, sponsors, donors, the city and county where the event is held, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournament, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, fees or expenses which he or she may have against any above-described party, or which his or her captains, crew members, family members, companions or non-registered occupants of their boat may have, arising out of or in any way connected with his or her participation in this tournament, including any injury or death suffered by any registered angler, boat captains, crew members, family members, companions or other occupants of any boat, and including any damage to vessels and equipment, which occurs during or in conjunction with the event. Each Angler understands and agrees that this release specifically includes and waives any claims based on libel, slander, negligence, action or inaction of any above-named party.

**Signing of the Entry Sheet** – By signing the entry form, the Boat Owner/Team Representative agrees to follow the above tournament rules. All Boat Owners/Team Representatives are required to sign the entry form as certification that they have read and agreed to abide by all guidelines and the above liability release.

#### **Committee Office Phone Numbers**

TBA

#### **Tight Lines**

**Courtney Bowden – Tournament Director**

**North Palm Beach, FL 33408**

**PH: 561.909.7868**

**EMAIL: [hello@contactcourtney.com](mailto:hello@contactcourtney.com)**

**Ben Sharpe - Founder**  
**Miami, FL 33143**  
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