

Tournament Rules

GENERAL RULES

1. Early Registration: Method 1- Teams may pre-register for the tournament online, by fax or mail. Registrations sent by mail should be forwarded to Bluewater Movements, Inc. PO Box 50114, Lighthouse Point, FL 33074. Payment may be made by check or credit card (MC & Visa Accepted). A \$10 transaction fee applies to all registrations by credit card. Make check payable to Bluewater Movements. Early entry fees sent by mail must be postmarked by April 28th. Payment by check will not be accepted after April 28th. **Method 2-** Anglers can also pre-register for the tournament on April 28th from 6-8 pm during the Bonefish Bash at Bonefish Mac's located at 2002 East Sample Road, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064.

2. Late Registration: Thursday, May 6th, 6pm-10pm - Kickoff party registration will be held at the Pompano Beach Civic Center located at 1801 NE 6th Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. Registrations at the kickoff must be paid by cash or credit. Entry fees are not refundable for any reason.

3. Entry Forms: All entry forms must be completely filled out by all participants in the Saltwater Shootout. Officials in the Saltwater Shootout reserve the right to refuse application or entry into the tournament at their discretion with or without cause.

4. Anglers: Each boat may register as many anglers as they choose. All anglers should be listed on the form. Please notify the committee of any angler changes prior to the start of fishing.

5. Eligible Species: Dolphin, Kingfish, Wahoo, Blackfin tuna, and Cobia

6. Fish Limit: A maximum of 10 fish may be weighed in per boat. Each boat may weigh in a total of 4 fish per species. Each fish must weigh a minimum of 10 pounds. Fish that do not meet these requirements will not count. All boats must adhere to state of Florida recreational bag limits as they pertain to all eligible species. Boats possessing commercial licenses may not utilize them during tournament competition.

7. Tackle: All fish must be caught on rod and reel. Wire lines are permitted. No electric reels (except kite rods & downriggers). Treble hooks are permitted. Harpoons may not be used for any purpose in the tournament.

8. Bait & Bait Fishing: Fishing with live bait is permitted in the tournament; however, live chumming is not permitted. Live baits may not be removed from a livewell or a hook, then cut in half and thrown into the water. Any bait removed from a livewell or hook must be completely dead before it is placed in the water, if not attached to a hook. Frozen chum is acceptable. Registered boats may catch their own live bait at any time during the tournament.

9. Hook & Catch: All male, female, and junior anglers must hook, fight, and catch their own fish. Once a fish is hooked, that angler must fight the fish until it is properly released, boated, or lost. Anglers may not pass rods to fellow anglers once a fish has been hooked. A fish is considered to be hooked once a strike occurs and the drag is engaged. The use of a rod holder to hook a fish is allowable provided the individual that engages the drag is the same person that fights the fish until release, catch, or loss.

10. Tournament Channel: The tournament committee will operate on channel 74. Channel 68 will be used as an alternate. All discussions among competitors should be conducted on alternate channels.

11. Boundaries: Participating boats are limited to the waters off the east coast of Florida no more than 40 miles offshore. Boats may fish as far north or south as they wish, so long as they return to the inlet by the time specified in rule #16.

12. Check-Out: All boats must pass the tournament check point Saturday morning and clearly display their boat # for verification with the check-out committee. The committee will be located on the finger docks at Hillsboro Inlet Park. Checkout will be from 6:30am to 7:30am. Any boats checking out after 7:30am must do so with the dockmaster at Lighthouse Point Marina. Any boats that do not visually checkout will be automatically disqualified from the tournament. Make sure to get a confirmation from the checkout crew. You may only checkout of Hillsboro Inlet. No boats may be trailered to or from the desired fishing location following checkout.

13. Inspection: Tournament officials reserve the right to inspect any boat participating in the tournament prior to the start of fishing on Saturday morning. Any boat that refuses inspection will be automatically disqualified from the tournament.

14. BIMINI START: 7am - A shotgun start will take place on Saturday morning. Upon checking out, boats should station themselves between the north and south stake markers prior to the bimini start. The Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse will mark the north boundary and the Pompano Pier will mark the south boundary for the holding area. Boats may maintain a depth out to 100 feet while waiting for the bimini start.

15. Landfall: Following checkout, or once fishing hours have begun, no boats will be permitted to touch land until reaching the docks at Hillsboro Inlet Park for weigh-in. Special consideration will be given for medical conditions and special circumstances that may arise during the day of fishing. The committee must be notified in advance of any situation that may warrant exception to this rule.

16. Check-In: No lines out of the water. All boats with fish to weigh must be visually checked

in by displaying their boat number to the tournament committee inside Hillsboro Inlet no later than 4:30 pm, regardless of hook-ups. Boats that do not check in by 4:30 pm will not be eligible to weigh their fish.

17. Weigh-In: The main weigh station is located at the Hillsboro Inlet Park. A secondary weigh station will be available for express weigh-in's at Lighthouse Point Marina. Boats that wish to weigh their fish at the Lighthouse Point Marina must be notified by the tournament committee before bringing their fish to that location. The scales at both locations will open at 4:00pm. All fish must be brought to the weigh station in the boat that they were caught. Transferring of fish to another boat will result in disqualification. Boats will be called into the weigh station by boat number. All decisions of the weigh master are final.

18. Weather: In the event that weather conditions arise deemed unsafe for the average registered boat, by the tournament officials, the tournament may be called off for that day. No refunds will be made in the event of cancellation. Any notice of cancellation will be broadcast on channel 74. If Saturday is weathered out, the tournament will be moved to the same hours on Sunday. It is expressly understood that the permitting of fishing by tournament officials does not ensure the safety of registered anglers or any other occupants of their vessels. Captains, anglers, and all other members of registered boats must determine in their own judgment whether to fish under the given conditions based on factors including but not limited to the seaworthiness of their boat and their own seamanship.

19. Protests: All protests must be submitted in writing along with \$500 cash or check to the tournament officials within five hours of the conclusion of fishing. All decisions of the tournament officials regarding protests are final.

20. Polygraph: By entering the tournament all captains, anglers, and occupants of their boats voluntarily consent to submit to a polygraph examination as deemed necessary by tournament officials. All decisions of the polygraph examiner will be final. Any captain, angler, or occupant of a registered boat who refuses to take a polygraph or provides untruthful answers as determined by the examiner will be disqualified from the tournament without further notice. Such a disqualification will eliminate payment or provision of any prize money, awards, and/or refund of entrance fees.

21. Release: By signing the entry form, all captains, anglers and occupants of their boat hereby consent that tournament officials may use without payment or restriction, any photographs, video, or interviews in which he or she may appear for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising and promotional material.

22. Tournament Discretion: The tournament director reserves the right to implement his or her discretion at any time during the tournament as it may apply to the rules or any other circumstance that should arise during the course of the event.

23. Hold Harmless: It is expressly understood that all registered participants and non-registered occupants of their boats enter into the Mercury/SeaVee Pompano Beach Saltwater Shootout voluntarily and at their own risk. Further, each registered and non-registered participant on behalf of other family members and/or executors agrees to release and hold harmless Bluewater Movements, tournament officials, sponsors, the city of Pompano Beach and Broward County, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with operation of said tournament from any liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury, or death suffered by any participant, entrant, sportfishermen, their companions, boat captains, mates, crew members, vessels and equipment which may occur during the tournament.

COMPETITION RULES

24. Scoring: Each fish meeting weight requirements will be given a score of one point per pound. Mutilated fish will be disqualified. The decision of the weighmaster is final. In the event of a weight tie, the money will be evenly distributed among the two places. Ties are not broken by time.

25. Average Joe Division: Criteria 1: If any team member, mate or guest on a competing team's boat has earned all or part of their living as a full-time or part-time captain, guide or mate in South Florida within the past 10 years, then that team shall not be eligible for the Average Joe prize money categories. **Criteria 2:** If any team member, mate or guest on a competing team's boat has ever placed in the top 8 or higher in any PBSC event within the past 5 years of their competition, then that team shall not be eligible for the Average Joe prize money categories. Top teams that have not participated in a PBSC tournament in recent years who reenter the series, will be evaluated backwards from the previous date that they fished a PBSC event. SKA Pro teams are not eligible for this category. The tournament committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in determining any team's eligibility for this category. Average Joe teams are eligible for all other prize money in the tournament.

26. Big Mack Division: To be eligible for this category, at least 3 members on board the competing team's boat must be active members of the Southern Kingfish Association, unless there are fewer than 3 people fishing on the boat. SKA officials will be on site at the event to sign up teams who wish to join the SKA.

Tournament Rules

27. Let it Ride: This category runs through all three legs of the PBSC trail. The Let it Ride division rewards the single heaviest fish weighed in the PBSC trail. Each team can submit only one fish that they want to count for this division and the choice must be made before the fish is weighed on the scale. Once a team has chosen a fish to score for this category they will not be able to substitute it with another fish, even if they catch a larger fish in a later tournament.

28. Team Division: Top teams will be determined based on the total points scored by the registered anglers of each boat.

29. Junior Angler Division: Eligible to kids up to the age of 15. The junior angler points may also contribute to the total number of boat points. However, the junior angler is not eligible for any other top angler prizes.

30. Pee-Wee Angler: Eligible to kids 9 and younger. No restrictions on species size or type except Billfish & Sharks for pee-wee anglers. However, the pee-wee angler points will not contribute to the total boat points. Pee-Wee anglers are allowed assistance in fighting the fish. A maximum of 5 fish may be weighed in by a pee-wee. Kids within this age bracket may elect to compete exclusively as a junior angler if they choose, however, they must do so according to the rules set forth for junior anglers.

31. Family Division: In order to qualify for the Family Division there must be two or more immediate family members on the boat during the day of fishing. Ex: Husband, Wife, Parents, Children, Grandparents, Siblings (No In-Laws). Scoring for this category will be based solely on the amount of fish weighed by the immediate family members on board the boat. Points scored by non family members aboard the boat will not be factored into the scoring for this category.

32. Small Boat Division: This division will only be available to single powered boats of 25 feet or less. Boat lengths must be reported on the entry form as stated by the boat manufacturer. The tournament committee reserves the right to review documentation of any boat to establish qualification for this category. Boats in this division are still eligible for all other prize categories in the tournament.

OPTIONAL ENTRY CATEGORIES

33. Bluewater Challenge: Prize money in this division is awarded to the angler that catches

the heaviest fish of the tournament. You must be entered in the division to qualify for the prize money. Entry fee: \$150 per boat.

34. Bluewater Bonanza: Prize money in this division is divided among the top three boats with the heaviest combined weight. The money is divided at 50% to 1st place, 30% to 2nd place, and 20% to 3rd place. You must be entered into the division to qualify for the prize money. Entry fee: \$150 per boat.

35. Average Joe Bonanza: You must qualify for 'Average Joe' status in order to enter this optional entry division. Prize money is divided among the top three boats with the heaviest combined weight. 50% to 1st place, 30% to 2nd place and 20% to 3rd place. You must be entered into the division in order to qualify for the prize money. Entry fee: \$150 per boat. Average Joe teams may also enter the Bluewater Bonanza.

36. Ante Up: Prize money in this division is divided among the top two boats with the heaviest combined weight. The money is divided at 60% to 1st place and 40% to second. You must be entered in the division to qualify for the prize money. Entry fee: \$250 per boat.

37. The Big Three: Prize money in this division is distributed for the 3 heaviest fish caught in the tournament. The money is divided as follows: 50% for heaviest fish, 30% for 2nd heaviest fish and 20% for the 3rd heaviest fish. You must be entered in the division in order to qualify for the prize money. Entry fee: \$250 per boat.

38. Holy Mackerel: At least 3 members of your team must be SKA members in order to compete in this category, unless there are fewer than 3 people fishing on the boat. Prize money in this division is distributed for the heaviest 3 Kingfish caught in the tournament. 50% of the money goes to the heaviest fish, 30% to the second heaviest fish and 20% to the third heaviest fish. You must be entered in this division in order to qualify for the prize money. Entry fee: \$150 per boat.

39. Kay Dee Dubya Jackpot: Prize money in this division is awarded to the team that weighs in the heaviest trio of Dolphin, Wahoo and Kingfish. If the money is not awarded in this tournament then it will roll into each following leg of the PBSC trail and the purse will continue to grow until someone hits the Jackpot. You must be registered in this category in order to be eligible for the prize money. Entry fee: \$150 per boat.

40. Winnings: By law, all winners must fill out a W9 form prior to receiving any payments. Prize money will be withheld until a W9 form is received from the winner. W9 forms will be available at the awards ceremony for the tournament.



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