

2023 Queen of the Inlet Official Tournament Rules

DATE: May 2022-Dolphin Tournament (Entry Fee \$500)

Registration Opens- Thursday Night @ 6:00 p.m. /Captain's Meeting- Thursday Night @ 8:00 p.m.

Fishing- Saturday (Must leave and return Ponce Inlet) No Check Out.

Weigh-In times between 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday

Awards Banquet- Monday, May 29th at 3 P.M.

HEADQUARTERS & WEIGH STATION: Inlet Harbor Marina & Off the Hook Restaurant in Ponce Inlet, Florida

Final Registration & Captain's Meeting: The final registration and Captain's meeting will be held Thursday before fishing day at Off the Hook @ Inlet Harbor Restaurant. A representative from each boat entered in the tournament should attend the captain's meeting and get your boat number. At that time, rules governing the tournament will be explained and any questions answered.

Tackle & Equipment: *Electric reels are not allowed.* All tournament fish must be caught on rod and reel (no hand lines).

The use of a cast net is allowed before 6:00 a.m. **No fishing lines in the water before 6:00 a.m., including teasers and bait rigs.**

Fish Species & Requirements for eligible fish to be weighed in: Dolphin (minimum weigh 10 pounds). Each boat can weigh 1 cow and 1 bull Dolphin fish. Cash & prizes will be awarded for the three heaviest Dolphin. In case of a tie, first to be weighed in is the winner. All catches must be legal according to current State and Federal rules. The weighmaster reserves the right to hold and examine internally and externally any fish weighed in as a tournament catch to determine if the fish is eligible for an award. Any fish that has an unnatural material in or on it will be disqualified. No mutilated/half eaten fish will be allowed for weigh-in. The tournament committee will determine if a fish is mutilated.

****PLEASE REMOVE ALL HOOKS, LURES AND LINES BEFORE TAKING YOUR FISH OFF THE BOAT!****

Communications: VHF Radio/Cell phone- **The official tournament control and weigh-in Channel is 72.** All boats must be equipped with a VHF radio. If for any reason VHF Channel 72 is off the air, communications will move to VHF Channel 68 temporarily.

Tournament Rules: All boats must leave and return via Ponce Inlet. The tournament fishing day is Saturday for Dolphin only. There will be NO check out time prior to the start of fishing you **may leave Ponce Inlet any time after 4 a.m.** Eligible fish must be caught during tournament hours. If the U.S. Weather Service issues a Small Craft Advisory or greater at the 5:00 a.m. forecast, fishing is automatically postponed to an alternate date. **Gentlemen you may strike the fish and hand the rod to the ladies (YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO REEL).** After the fish is on no male may touch the rod or reel. Ladies you may assist your fellow lady teammate if she needs help. Gentleman can gaff the fish. **IF YOU ARE POLYGRAPHED THIS WILL BE A QUESTION THAT DOES GET ASKED. A picture of your fish must be captured on the water with your weigh # visual in the photo. When you come in from fishing, check in with the Queen of the Inlet committee then send the picture to 386.822.3427.**

Weigh-In: Upon returning from fishing, all boats must **CHECK IN** directly in front of Off the Hook. Committee will be on the dock looking for your boat and boat number. **Must be visual by 6:00 p.m. in front of Off the Hook Restaurant. Channel 72 is the committee channel. You will receive radio confirmation that you have checked in with a weigh in # then proceed to Channel 68 for weigh in instructions from dock master. Please plan accordingly 6:01 p.m. you will be disqualified.**

All fish considered for awards must be weighed in at the official weigh-in station. All fish must be caught during tournament hours. Fish must remain on and be removed directly from the entered boat by registered entrants or team member.

The weigh station opens at 4:00 p.m. boats must be checked in with the Queen of the Inlet committee by 6:00 p.m.

Check-in MUST be acknowledged. If you don't have fish to weigh, please check in anyway- it is important for the tournament to know that each boat is back to port with all participants present and accounted for. Send us a text with boat name & boat# and let us know you made it in safe 386.822.3427 **we will call your emergency contact if not heard from!**

Sportsmanship: This is a boat tournament not an angler tournament! All anglers (or boat if chartered) must be properly licensed. The tournament will be fished consistent with an enforced to the laws of the State of Florida. Any violation of Florida State Statutes will result in disqualification for that angler and/or the vessel the angler is fishing from. It will be the responsibility of the angler to review FL. State Statutes and FWC Rules & Regulations. All vessels shall be equipped with the minimum Coast Guard safety requirements for that vessel. **All participants will exercise good sportsmanship whether at the docks, underway or fishing.** Violators will be subject to disqualification without refund. Violations will be at the sole discretion of Queen of the Inlet management.

Disqualification: **If any boats come together or anything is passed between boats or docked or stops at a dock and/or trailered for any reason after the official start of the tournament and before each boat has weighed in you will be disqualified.** However, as safety is of prime importance to the operation of the tournament, exceptions may be granted by tournament management for Emergencies. All boats must remain under their own power and fuel supply for the entire fishing day. Special exception could be granted to a tournament boat lending aid to a distressed boat.

Protest: All protest must be presented in writing to the tournament director at the weigh-in station on the day of the alleged infraction, prior to the closing of the weigh-in station on the day it occurs. A \$500.00 cash deposit, refundable if the protest is upheld, must accompany protest. Tournament management will make all decisions, and their decision is final. If the protest is not upheld, then such deposit will be forfeited to the tournament.

Polygraph: Participants in the tournament are subject to a polygraph at the request of tournament management. Failure to take or successfully pass such an examination may result in a second team member; second failure results in automatic disqualification of the team. This is at the sole discretion of tournament management.

A copy of tournament rules and your boat number must be on-board with you at all times. Have fun and catch'em up!