

2020 FLORIDA TECH FOOTBALL **OFFSHORE FISHING TOURNAMENT** **OFFICIAL RULES**

A. SAFETY AND CONDUCT

1. Participants are expected to follow all applicable laws and rules for safe boating, including those regarding USCG equipment requirements.
2. Participants are expected to follow all applicable laws pertaining to the taking of marine fish and the rules set forth by Florida Game & Fish, NOAA, or any other applicable jurisdiction.
3. Participants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship and courtesy. Any participant who exhibits threatening behavior or who otherwise engage in disorderly, illegal or improper conduct of any kind is subject to immediate disqualification from the Tournament.
4. Willful violations of marine laws or other violations of safe and proper conduct may lead to disqualification.
5. If you are having engine problems please call on the tournament channel (81) and let someone relay your concern to us.

B. REGISTRATION

1. No angler will be eligible to win any tournament prize or contribute to a team score unless properly registered, with payment of the applicable fee(s), before catching the entered fish.
2. Properly registered entrants will be on record upon the close of registration and verified when a fish is brought to weigh-in.
3. Registration may be completed in advance by internet at www.SeaBlitz.com, or in person at selected locations.
4. All entries must be received by Friday, April 24th, at 7:00 pm.
5. Entry fees in all categories are non-refundable.

C. ELIGIBILITY

1. Teams will be comprised of 2-6 anglers, including the Captain.
2. Registered teams may fish from only one vessel, multi-vessel teams are prohibited.
3. Anglers MUST possess a valid fishing license or be covered by a boat license on a professional charter.
4. Captains Meeting will be from 6pm-9pm on Friday, April 24th. Rules will be read at 6:30pm. IGFA Rules Apply <https://igfa.org/Fish/INTERNATIONAL-ANGLING-RULES.aspx>

D. FISH CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fish species eligible for scoring in the tournament, with minimum qualifying lengths (see 2. below) are:
 - a. DOLPHIN, 20" Fork; MACKEREL-KING, 24" Fork; and WAHOO, 22" Fork
2. Minimum qualifying lengths are measured as total length. Total length means the straight line distance from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed, to the middle of the fork of the tail.
3. Fish must have been caught personally by the registered entrant who is credited with the catch in tournament scoring, using legal methods as defined in Section H, during legal hours of tournament fishing as defined in Section I.
4. The Tournament reserves the right to amend the lengths and/or remove any fish from competition, without notice, at any time in order to comply with federal and/or state requirements.

E. SCORING:

1. Scoring by weight: All scoring in the tournament is based on the weight of single fish entered by registered anglers in any of the eligible species categories for their division meeting the minimum length requirements.
2. Single category: Individual anglers or teams may hold 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in a single category. However, each individual angler or team may only weigh 3 legal fish per category.
3. Official Weigh Stations: All fish to be considered for scoring must be weighed on an official scale at the official weigh station located at Captain Hiram's in Sebastian.
4. Grand Slam Champion Scoring: Teams or individuals must enter one of each legal specie (Kingfish, Dolphin, and Wahoo) for a total combined weight in the Grand Slam Category. More than one fish per specie will not be allowed. The heaviest total combined weight will win the category.

F. PRIZES:

1. Individual Categories (Kingfish, Dolphin, Wahoo)
 - First Place – \$1,000 and trophy
 - Second Place- \$400
 - Third Place- \$250
2. Women and Junior Angler (Kingfish, Dolphin, or Wahoo)
 - There will be one prize given to the Woman and the Junior angler that catches the largest targeted specie.
 - Woman Angler (\$750 and trophy)
 - Junior Angler (**under 13**) (\$250 gift card to strike zone and trophy.)
3. Grand Slam Champion: (1 per category- total weight)
 - First Place – \$2,500 and Championship Belt (plus possible roll over.)
 - **** This year an extra \$7,500 will be rolled over from 2017, 2018 and 2019 making the 2020 grand slam champion cash prize \$10,000. An extra \$2,500 or more will be added every year till a Grand Slam Champion is achieved. Refer to E4**

PUBLICITY: By accepting the prize, the winner consents to Florida Tech's use of his or her photograph, name, city and state for promotional and advertising purposes in any media without further payment or consideration.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: The Florida Tech Offshore Fishing Tournament and FIT, reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify or suspend the Tournament, in consideration of weather and safety of its participants. In such event the weather is deemed unsafe for the scheduled event days, the Florida Tech Offshore Fishing Tournament reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the event at its own discretion and will not issue refunds.

RELEASE: By registering for this tournament and attending any portion of the event, the participant agrees that the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), its board of trustees, sponsors, hosts, attorneys, advertising and promotion agencies, prize providers, printers or mail houses are not liable whatsoever for any injuries, losses or damages of any kind resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from participation in the contest.

CHECK OUT/CHECK IN:

You must TEXT OUT when you head out before you pass under the Sebastian Inlet Bridge any time after 4:00am. You must TEXT to check IN when you return from fishing in the no wake zone west of the Sebastian Inlet. Also, please hold up your boat number as you approach the weigh-in at Captain Hiram's.

*FAILURE to check OUT and IN will result in **disqualification** of the tournament. Even though you check in at the end of the tournament you still need to be in the channel and in site from the end of the boat dock at Captain Hiram's by 5:00pm. If there is a line to check in you will be allowed to check in. Please be Patient. We want everyone safe and accounted for and we need to notify coast guard of any missing boats. Your safety is first & foremost

Number to Text = Steve Englehart (321) 412-6032

Number to Text = Paul Osman (321) 720-2224

G. FISHING AREAS:

1. Departure points: Sebastian Inlet or Cape Canaveral

2. Boundaries on water: Providing stated limits on points of departure are observed, there are no boundary restrictions on the waters in which tournament entrants may fish.

H. TACKLE AND METHODS:

1. The angler credited with a catch in tournament scoring must have personally hooked and played the fish to boat side or shore, without assistance. Normal sport fishing practices for landing a fish (e.g. gaffing, wiring, or landing nets) may be assisted.

2. Fish must be hooked and landed on a single rod and reel. NO electric reels.

3. Expressly prohibited fishing methods for purposes of this tournament include: mounted winch devices ("one-armed bandits"), motor-driven longlines, spearing, gigging, netting, shooting (including use of bang sticks), or any method of catch in violations of State or Federal laws. Evidence of prohibited methods will disqualify the catch and all entrants fishing aboard the vessel on which such rule violations were committed.

4. Presence of prohibited gear on a contestant's boat will be considered evidence of use and shall be considered grounds for disqualifying the catch and all entrants fishing aboard the vessel.

I. OFFICIAL SCHEDULE:

1. Official Time: All times given represent Eastern Standard Daylight Time in Sebastian, Florida occurring from April 24th -25th, 2020.

2. Tournament fishing hours begin (First Lines in the Water) at 6:00 a.m., Saturday, April 25th, 2020. Registered Boats must call or text provided phone numbers to checkout.

3. All fishing in all divisions continues without interruption until 4:30 p.m., Saturday April 25th, 2020.

4. Official Weigh Station hours are 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday April 25th, 2020 at Capt. Hiram's Sebastian Marina 1606 Indian River Drive Sebastian, FL 32958. Registered Boats must be in the channel and checked in with the tournament committee boat by 5:00pm. If you choose not to weigh any fish please call or text numbers at the bottom of the rules.

5. Tournament Awards Ceremony will be held Saturday April 25th, 2020 at 7:00 PM at Capt. Hiram's 1606 Indian River Dr, Sebastian, FL 32958

J. WEIGH-IN:

1. Scoring: To be eligible for scoring, fish must be brought to the Official Weigh Station within the weigh-in hours specified above by a person or persons listed as registered angler(s).

2. Official Weigh Stations: Capt. Hiram's Marina. 1606 Indian River Dr, Sebastian, FL 32958

3. Weigh-In Zone: Fish, intended to be scored, shall be considered eligible only if at posted deadline times they are located within the in-line traffic at the Official Weigh Station. Any angler weighing a fish must check-in with the weigh station administrator prior to the 5:00 pm close time in the event there is a line of anglers weighing fish. Any angler who does not check in by 5:00 pm will be disqualified. No waivers of these rules will be granted because of hardship or other eventualities.

4. Open Times: Fish may be officially weighed any time the weigh station is open. Entrants are encouraged to bring their catch to weigh-in as soon as practical to ensure freshness and the least loss of weight.

5. Fish will not be officially weighed for any angler not registered in the Tournament Log.

6. Handling: Fish qualifying for places on any of the tournament competition leader boards may be tagged with the official weight, time, entrant's name, gut checked and held by tournament officials until close of the tournament or until no longer qualifying for any placement.

7. Freshness: Fish brought to weigh-in must be in a fresh, edible condition and must not have been frozen.

8. Tampering: Fish must be intact with no evidence of spearing, bang sticks, weight tampering, or other rules violations. It is the responsibility of the angler to ensure that all foreign objects are removed from the fish. Such objects shall include, but are not limited to: hooks, leaders, ice, and weights. Hooks or bait that have passed

through the mouth and into the gullet may be left in place. Any fish found to be in violation of this rule is subject to disqualification and/or gut check. Mutilated fish are ineligible.

9. Gut check: All fish weighed by the tournament may be subject to a gut check after weighing at the discretion of Tournament officials.

10. Removal: Entrants are responsible for removing their catch following the final award ceremony. Any catch remaining in cold storage after the close of the final awards ceremony shall become the property of the tournament.

K. RULINGS AND RULES COMPLIANCE:

1. Rules violations, the eligibility of entrants or entered fish, disqualifications, and any other matters not specifically covered by these rules will be decided by the Tournament Judge in consultation with the Tournament staff. The Tournament Judge may disqualify any person who commits any violation of tournament rules. The Tournament Judge may disqualify entrants from this tournament and from future tournaments and events.

2. Decisions of the Tournament Judge are final and binding on all entrants.

3. All participants are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph test will be disqualified.

L. LIABILITY:

1. All entrants participate in the tournament at their own risk.

2. Tournament officials, FIT, Official Weigh Station and all other persons directly or indirectly connected with the operation of the tournament are exempt from any liability for loss, damage, injury, negligence, or harm to any entrant, their companions or other participants, boat captains, crew members, vessels, or equipment which may occur during the tournament.

M. COMMUNICATIONS:

Ship-to-shore communication for safety and for periodic tournament announcements will be maintained throughout the tournament on marine VHF Channel 81.

All Emergency communications are on VHF Channel 16.

N. ENTRY FEES & CALCUTTAS:

Entry fees for the 2020 Florida Tech Sea Blitz Offshore Fishing Tournament are as follows:

Per Boat entry [Online Registration](#): \$200.00 (up to 6 anglers and crew)

Kingfish Jackpot: \$50.00 (per boat) Biggest Overall Kingfish
(First Place 50%, Second Place 25%, Third Place 15%)

Wahoo Jackpot: \$50.00 (per boat) Biggest Overall Wahoo
(First Place 50%, Second Place 25%, Third Place 15%)

Dolphin Jackpot: \$50.00 (per boat) Biggest Overall Dolphin
(First Place 50%, Second Place 25%, Third Place 15%)

Overall Dolphin Haul: \$50 (per boat) Heaviest combined weight of up to 3 dolphin.
(First Place 50%, Second Place 25%, Third Place 15%)

Biggest Overall Non-Targeted Species: \$50.00 (per boat)
(90% single payout) excluding all BILLFISH and GAME FISH.

O. WEATHER CONTINGENCY:

1. The tournament will not be canceled due to weather or sea conditions. Entry fees are non-refundable.
2. Weather Date = Sunday, April 26th 2019 or TBD at Captains Party. (Discretion of committee)

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Please text or call as you exit Sebastian Inlet before you pass under the bridge. Please text or call as you return from fishing so we can be assured that everyone returns safely. Text or call while you're at idle just west of the bridge.

Steve Englehart (321) 412-6032

Paul Osman (321) 720-2224

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