

2024 JIG BATTLE TOURNAMENT

May 23-25th, 2024

OUR TOP PRIORITY IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS, THE PUBLIC AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY MUST ADHERE TO CURRENT COVID-19 GUIDELINES SET BY YOUR LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

GENERAL RULES

1. **Boat Registration: \$300 After 4/1/24: \$400** – Teams may pre-register for the tournament online at www.bigdogtournaments.com , by phone or mail. Payment may be made by cash, credit card & online payments are accepted. All payments are subject to a 7% sales tax. Also a 3% service charge will be added to ALL credit card transactions. *Registration fee is non-refundable!*
2. **Captain's Meeting:** registration may be paid until the night of the Captain's Meeting May 23th, 2024 from 6pm-9pm. Entry fees are not refundable for any reason. At least one member from each team MUST attend the Captain's Meeting to observe the rules and any changes or updates. Captain's Meeting will be hosted at Boathouse Marine Center at 599 S Federal Hwy, Pompano Beach, FL 33062
3. **Entry Forms:** All entry forms must be completely filled out by all participants. Tournament officials reserve the right to refuse application or entry into the tournament at their discretion with or without cause.
4. **Anglers:** Each boat will be required to register each angler and identify specifically any anglers that are Youth or Female. Each boat may have as many anglers as they choose. Any additional anglers over 4 will cost an extra \$50. ALL ANGLERS MUST HAVE A VALID FLORIDA FISHING LICENSE!
5. **Eligible Species (FWC eligibility takes precedence, if not in season, won't count in tournament):**

Pelagic: Kingfish, Mahi, Blackfin Tuna, Wahoo, Cobia, Atlantic Bonito, Spanish & Cero Mackerel
Grouper: Black, Red, Snowy, Gag, Scamp, Warsaw, Yellow Edge
Reef Donkeys: Amberjack, African Pompano, Yellow Jack, Almaco Jack, Banded Rudderfish
Deep Droppers: Golden Tile, Blueline Tile, Black Belly Rose Fish, Hake
Snappers: Red, Vermillion, Mangrove, Mutton, Cubera, Lane, Yellowtail, Porgy
6. **Fish Limit:** All fish must be legal size according to FWC rules & regulations and within bag limits. Fish that do not meet these requirements will not count. All boats must adhere to the State of Florida's recreational bag limits as they pertain to all eligible species. If not in season, not eligible.
7. **Tackle:** All fish must be caught on rod and reel hand crank. Treble hooks are permitted. No live bait, no dead bait, no tipping with dead bait, No use of artificially scented baits such as GULP Baits and no scenting of lures. ONLY Artificial lures are allowed and specifically lures classified as JIGS and top water casting baits. No chumming, No trolling, No teasers such as dredges. NO ELECTRIC REELS. The tournament is meant to be a hand crank, jig only tournament. Only exception is to casting lures such as poppers and stick baits.
8. **Hook & Catch:** Passing the rod after hookup (hook and hand) is NOT allowed. Once the line is tight with a fish hooked, the first angler to touch the rod or reel will be the only one allowed to handle the rod

and reel until the fish is boated. The rod may NOT be passed off to another angler under any circumstance. Other anglers on the boat may leader the fish or net the fish on behalf of the angler.

10. **Tournament Channel:** The tournament committee will operate on Channel 80. Channel 72 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 30 miles offshore. Boats may fish as far north or south as they wish. Lines out at 3:30pm and must be visible to the scales no later than 5:00pm.

12. **Check-Out:** There will be a gentlemen's lines in @ 7:00 AM from whichever inlet you decide to leave from. This is a tournament that benefits a charity so please be honest and do not start fishing until 7:00 AM! ALL WINNERS WILL BE SUBJECT TO POLYGRAPH. LINES IN EARLY WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION!

13. **Check-In:** Lines OUT is 3:30pm. All boats with fish to weigh must be visible from the weigh scales no later than 5pm & verbally checked in by displaying their boat # to the tournament committee, regardless of hook-ups. Boats that are not visible from the weigh in scales by 5:00 PM will not be eligible to weigh their fish.

14. **Landfall:** Following check-out, or once fishing hours have begun, no boats will be permitted to touch land or enter any inlet and return to fishing. Once coming back to land, dock or entering an inlet that boat's day of tournament fishing will be over. 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 an exception to this rule.

15. **Weigh-In:** located at The Sands Harbor Resort in Pompano Beach. The scale will open at 3:00 PM. All fish must be brought to the weigh station in the boat that they were caught. Eligible fish must be caught during tournament times of tournament day. Transferring of fish to another boat will result in disqualification. Mutilated fish will be disqualified. All decisions of the weighmaster are final. The weigh master reserves the right to inspect any fish by any means including but not limited to internal inspection.

17. **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 80. If Saturday is weathered out, the tournament will be moved to the **same hours on Sunday**. If Sunday's weather conditions are also deemed unsafe, the tournament will be scheduled to the following **Sunday June 2nd, 2024** and if that date is not acceptable the tournament will be rescheduled to **Sunday June 16th, 2024** If that day is not acceptable, the tournament will be rescheduled to another date. 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.

18. **Protests:** All protests must be made by 8pm of tournament day right after the conclusion of weigh-in along with \$500 cash to the tournament officials. Protests should be made based on first-hand eyewitness information. All decisions of the tournament officials regarding protests are final.

19. **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 or calcuttas. Polygraph test will be conducted the day after the tournament.

20. **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.

21. **Hold Harmless:** By participating in this tournament as an angler, captain and/or boat owner, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify Big Dog Tackle, Fishing For Humanity, the tournament director, officials, organizers, committee members, sponsors and all persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Tournament and shall be exempt from any loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered to any participant, guest, vessel or equipment which may occur during the tournament or events. All anglers, captains and owners understand the rules of the tournament and agree to abide by them and the Captains and Owners agree to take full responsibility for the safety and care of their crew.

22. **Tournament Discretion:** The tournament director reserves the right to implement his 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. **Prizes:** Award winners over \$600.00 MUST provide their social security number and will be REQUIRED to fill out a W-9 Form. ALL CASH & PRIZES will be awarded to the person or entity that paid the entry fee from the winning boat.

24. **In the Event of a Tie:** The first team/fish to be weighed in will win. First boat to the scales and weighed has the advantage.

25. **PRIZE STRUCTURE (based on 50 boats)**

Tournament Winner – Heaviest 14 Fish Aggregate

4 – Pelagics (Kingfish, Mahi, Blackfin Tuna, Wahoo, Cobia, Atlantic Bonito, Spanish & Cero Mackerel)
2 – Grouper (Black, Red, Snowy, Gag, Scamp, Warsaw, Yellow Edge)
4 – Snappers (Red, Vermillion, Mangrove, Mutton, Cubera, Lane, Yellowtail, Porgy)
1 – Reef Donkey (Amberjack, African Pompano, Yellow Jack, Almaco Jack, Banded Rudderfish)
3 – Deep Droppers (Golden Tile, Blueline Tile, Blackbelly Rose Fish, Hake)

1. \$4,000
2. \$1,500
3. \$1,000
4. \$600
5. \$400

Lady Angler - Heaviest Fish – 1st

Junior Angler - Heaviest Fish – 1st

Heaviest Fish – 1st

Heaviest Deep Dropper – 1st

Heaviest Pelagic – 1st

Heaviest Snapper – 1st

EPIC FISH OF THE TOURNAMENT – Prizes to be determined

To Be Determined by Judges MUST BE VIDEO RECORDED

Examples of Possible Candidates: Yellowfin Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Swordfish, Thresher Shark, etc.

CALCUTTAS & ENTRY FEES

(Payouts are 50/30/20 but may adjusted depending on # of boat entries)

\$100 - Heaviest Fish Overall

\$100 - Heaviest Pelagic

\$100 - Heaviest 4 Snapper Aggregate (Any eligible species in “snapper” category)

\$100 - Heaviest Reef Donkey

\$100 – Heaviest MIXED BAG – Eligible 1 Snapper, 1 Grouper, 1 Pelagic, 1 Deep Dropper

25. CHARITABLE TOURNAMENT: This is a tournament where 10% of Entry Fees & Calcuttas will be going towards taking kids fishing.