

2026 SWORDFISH BATTLE TOURNAMENT

October 15th-18th, 2026

**OUR TOP PRIORITY IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS,
THE PUBLIC AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. BOATER
SAFETY IS TOP PRIORITY.**

GENERAL RULES

**Captain's Meeting at 26 Degree Brewing – Oct 15th @ 6pm-9pm
Weigh-In at LHP Marina Fuel Dock/NautiDawg – Oct 17th 4-6pm
Awards held at 26 Degree Brewing - Oct 18th @ 1pm**

1. **Super Early Registration: \$600** – Teams may pre-register for the tournament online at www.fishingchaos.com or at Big Dog Tackle. 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. Payments can be made at Big Dog Tackle – 1440 N Federal Hwy, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 or online at www.fishingchaos.com or www.bigdogtournaments.com . On 7/16/26 registration fee goes to is **\$750**, then on 9/1/26 the registration fee goes to **\$900**, *Registration fee is non-refundable!*

2. **Late Registration:** Late registration may be paid until the night of the Captain's Meeting October 2nd, 2026 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 Galuppi's Restaurant at 1103 N. 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 may have as many anglers as they choose. ALL ANGLERS MUST HAVE A VALID FLORIDA FISHING LICENSE AS REQUIRED BY FWC.

5. **Eligible Species:** Swordfish & Dolphin

6. **Fish Limit:** Each fish must weigh a minimum of 10 lbs. 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. All Teams must have the required HMS Permits in order to be eligible to participate in the tournament. Should a team not have the legal documentation required to catch fish that have been weighed in, they will be disqualified.

7. **Tackle:** All fish must be caught on rod and reel. Wire lines are permitted. Electric reels are permitted. Treble hooks are permitted.

8. **Hook & Catch:** Each boat may fish up to 4 lines. All lines must be connected to a rod in the boat. "Buoy fishing" where lines are not connected to the buoys from the boat is not allowed.

9. **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.

10. **Boundaries:** There are no limits on the boundaries. Boats may fish as far north or as far south as they wish. Lines out at 4:00pm and must be visible to the scales no later than 6:00pm. Check-Out: There will be a gentlemen's lines in @ 7:00 AM from whichever inlet you decide to leave from. Each boat will be required to provide their preferred location to weigh in and a # will be provided for the weigh-in position. 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!

11. **Check-In:** Lines OUT is 4:00pm. All boats with fish to weigh must be visible from the weigh scales no later than 6pm & 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 6:00 PM will not be eligible to weigh their fish.

12. **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.

13. **Weigh-In:** There is 1 weigh station located at LHP Marina Fuel Dock in Lighthouse Point. 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 unless the fish is in tact from bill to tail. If a shark bites a chunk out of the fish or the fish is run over by the boat, the fish will still qualify as long as the tail is still naturally attached to the body and the head. All decisions of the weigh-master are final. The weigh master reserves the right to inspect any fish by any means including but not limited to internal inspection. Cores will not be eligible, fish must have head, body and tail in tact.

14. **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. All Teams should see the rescheduling dates below to confirm that they are available to fish those dates in the event of inclement weather. If Saturday is weathered out, the tournament will be moved to the same hours on the next day, Sunday. If Sunday's weather conditions are also deemed unsafe, the tournament will be scheduled to Saturday October 24th, 2026 and if that date is not acceptable the tournament will be rescheduled to Sunday October 25th, 2026. If that day is not acceptable, the tournament will be held on Saturday October 31st, 2026 and then November 1st, 2026 if that day is not acceptable. 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.

15. **Protests:** All protests must be made by 7pm 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.

15. **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.

16. **Release:** By participating in this tournament, 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.

17. **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.

18. **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 UNLESS that said person signs a release designating another individual to receive on their behalf. Ten Percent (10%) of all entry fees and calcuttas will be taken as a donation that will be go to charity. The remainder will be paid out to tournament team participants. "Proceeds" are considered money raised by the tournament through sponsors, donations, raffles and 10% of tournament entries/calcuttas. In the event, that a calcutta is not won with eligible fish, those proceeds will divided equally into the remaining calcuttas. If no calcutta's are won with eligible fish, the money will roll up to the Main Tournament Category. In the rare event that a qualifying fish is not weighed-in, all remaining proceeds will go to charity.

19. **In the Event of a Tie:** The cash prize will be split down the middle between winners, but any non-cash prizes will go to the first to weigh in (Ex- Trophies, etc.)

20. **VIDEO:** Each fish is required to be captured on a date & time stamped continuous video from the time the leader is touched until the fish is boated, ideally showing the fish being alive in the water, on the hook, with mention of the boat name and angler. If the fish comes up dead, presuming it was alive when hooked, it will be acceptable as long as it was caught within the rules set forth in this tournament. There will be a Lie Detector Test at the tournament committee's discretion.

PRIZE STRUCTURE (based on 35 boats)

Tournament Winner – Heaviest Swordfish

1. \$10,000
2. \$2,500
3. \$1,500

Heaviest 2 Swordfish Aggregate (Must Weigh 2 Fish)

Heaviest Dolphin

Most Tags & Releases proven by video and tags

Extraordinary Fish Category (Ex: Bluefin Tuna, Pomphret, Mako Shark, Great White, Marlin, Opah, etc) - Must be video taped or weighed in

Boats/Teams are only eligible for ONE (1) PRIZE in the "Tournament Winner" SECTION of the Main Tournament. Boats/Teams can win multiple Categories in the Main and multiple Calcutta's including multiple places in the same Calcutta

CALCUTTAS & ENTRY FEES

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

\$300 - Heaviest Fish Overall

\$300 - Heaviest 2 Fish Aggregate (2 Fish Must Be Weighed)

\$200 - Heaviest Dolphin

\$500 – High Roller Biggest Fish Overall

ACROSS THE BOARD - \$1,900 Super Early Entry

ALL Categories, Payouts, # of Payouts, etc Can & Will be Adjusted based on # of boats based on the Tournament Committee deems appropriate at their discretion