

OFFICIAL RULES  
17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
MOTHER'S DAY DOLPHIN TOURNAMENT  
MAY 13th, 2023

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Online Registration Open Until 7pm on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

May 13 – Fish for A Cause

LINES IN ~ 7:30 A.M.

LINES OUT ~ 3:30 P.M.

OFFICIAL WEIGH IN ~ 3:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

OFFICIAL WEIGH IN STATION ~ Curly's Dock

11601 Overseas Highway, Marathon, ocean side (south side) of the Overseas Highway, cross street is 116<sup>th</sup>

Ocean –Mile Marker 53 [www.curlysdock.com](http://www.curlysdock.com)

SINGLE WEIGHT DOLPHIN COMPETITION

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY OF THE MIDDLE KEYS!!

**“It Takes An Island”**

## 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.
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. Fishing must be performed in accordance with principles of good sportsmanship, and in compliance with these and IGFA rules as published in the *IGFA World Record Game Fish* book under "International Angling Rules." Rules will be strictly adhered to, and all decisions of the Tournament Director will be final. Any angler(s), captain(s), or mate(s) found to be in any violation of any tournament rule may be disqualified from this tournament.

## B. REGISTRATION

1. No angler will be eligible to win any tournament prize unless properly registered, with payment of the applicable fee(s), before catching the entered fish.
2. Tournament Director may verify proper registration at any time by requesting presentation of identification.
3. Registration **MUST BE DONE ONLINE @ [www.MothersDayDolphinTournament.com](http://www.MothersDayDolphinTournament.com)**
4. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 12, 2023 at 7pm.
5. Registration fees are non-refundable but are transferrable. Change of Angler(s) must be done before 11pm on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 to Tournament Director Christine Todd Young. Cell #305-797-5779 [execdirector@habitatmiddlekeys.org](mailto:execdirector@habitatmiddlekeys.org) There are NO exceptions to this rule.
6. Number of anglers, crew and captain per boat shall not exceed your vessels "recommended weight limits" per the USCG.

## C. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. **At least one angler from each boat is required to pick up the Tournament Rules (along with buckets, shirts, etc) after registering. This will be an ongoing pick-up @ 8055 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050 (our office). Registrants will be contacted upon registration to schedule a day and time to do the pick-up. Once Tournament Rules and goodies are picked up and an angler has donated in full for their entry fee, they are officially on the angler roster.**
2. Fish must have been caught personally by the registered angler entrant who is credited with the catch in the tournament, using legal methods as defined in IGFA rules. The catch must be made during legal hours of tournament fishing = May 13, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and within U.S. Waters.
3. The Tournament Director and Tournament Official Judge 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.

## D. PRIZE WINNERS (4 categories: Pro, Weekend Warrior, Ladies and Jr. )

**Angler Categories:** This is an angler tournament. Category of entry is based on the angler, not the boat.

**\*Pro** = Any angler who "derives his/her livelihood from fishing / chartering boats / similar activity"

**WW** = Weekend Warriors are non-professional anglers who fish just for fun

**Ladies** = Women Anglers

**Jr.** = Anglers 16 years and under

Non-Professional anglers 17 years old and over can enter any category of their choice excluding Jr. Anglers 16 years and younger can enter any category they choose unless they are a considered a Pro. Professional anglers can only enter the Pro category. Anglers may only enter one category.

**\*NOTE: Due to instances in years past we are adding in more detail who must enter Pro division: Any angler, regardless of gender and/or age, who is paid OR volunteers OR helps on a fishing/charter/commercial boat that charges for services MUST enter Pro Category.**

1. Winners are determined by weight – based on the weight of a single dolphin entered by a registered angler. Heaviest dolphin in each category wins 1<sup>st</sup>, next heaviest 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> heaviest 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Jr. Division has only 1 winning spot. 1<sup>st</sup> place for heaviest dolphin for anglers 16 years and younger. Proof of DOB may be requested at any time by the Tournament Director and Tournament Official Judge.
3. Individual anglers may hold only one place at a time. However, multiple anglers on the same boat may occupy multiple places.
4. **RULE BECAUSE OF 2020 YEAR FIASCO. YOU MUST WEIGH ALL THE FISH FROM YOUR BOAT AT THE SAME TIME – I.E. ALL THE ANGLERS ON YOUR BOAT WHO WANT TO WEIGH A FISH (OR MULTIPLE FISH) MUST DO SO AS A GROUP at the same time.**
5. Official Weigh Station: All fish to be considered for winning places must be weighed on the official scale at Curly's Dock. Official Weigh In is 3:30pm – 6:00pm. Deadline for weigh in is 6:00 p.m. on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If angler is IN LINE and CHECKED IN with Weigh In Director at 6pm entry is legal. The fish from the entire boat can only be brought to the weigh in by at least one registered angler from the boat upon which they fished. Captains cannot weigh in the fish for the anglers.

## **E. PRIZES**

1. Redemption of Prizes: All prizes must be claimed by the winner in person, at the time and place the prize is scheduled to be awarded. Awards Banquet on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is at TBD starting at 7:00 pm. In cases of special hardship only, the Tournament Director may permit prizes to be claimed by a representative of the winner. Prizes not claimed in accordance with these rules remain property of the tournament.

## **F. TACKLE AND METHODS: IGFA RULES APPLY**

1. The entrant credited with a catch in tournament prize standings must have hooked and played the fish to boat-side or shore personally, 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, pole, or hand-line.
3. Electrically driven reels on a free-standing rod (e.g. "Electramates") are not acceptable.
4. Expressly prohibited fishing methods for purposes of this tournament include: mounted winch devices ("one-armed bandits"), motor-driven long-lines, spearing, gigging, netting, shooting (including use of bang-sticks), or any method of catch in violation 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.
5. 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
6. This is an OPEN EVENT: Professional guides, captains, and mates are eligible to participate as anglers within the PRO Division ONLY.
7. No one except the angler may touch the rod, reel or line after the fish has been engaged. "Engaged" is defined as the time at which drag is engaged (engage the drag lever or close the bail). No one except the angler may touch the rod, reel or line while the fish is being fought. The angler, captain, or crew may only touch the leader during the landing of the fish. They must touch the leader and not the double line.
8. Crew members are permitted to cast baits and transfer un-engaged rod to a neutral position (i.e. rod holder). Once an angler has engaged a fish, the angler must fight it to conclusion (loss, release or landing) before fighting another fish. If there is a multiple hookup, the angler may proceed to the next fish once the first fish has been fought to conclusion. No one else may touch the rod other than the angler who engages the fish.
9. A mutilated fish is not eligible.

## **G. OFFICIAL SCHEDULE**

1. All times given represent Eastern Daylight Time in Marathon, Florida occurring May 13, 2023.
2. Tournament fishing hours begin (First Lines in the Water) at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, May 13, 2023, and end (Lines out of the water) at 3:30p.m. Saturday, May 13, 2023. Fish must be from US Waters Only.
3. Official Weigh Station Hours are: 3:30p.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 13, 2023.
4. Leader Prizes will be determined after the close of weigh-in on Saturday, May 13th at the Curly's Dock. Leader Prizes will be awarded at the Tournament Awards Banquet.

5. Angler roster will become final at 11 PM on Friday, May 12, 2023.

6. Tournament Awards Ceremony will be held 7:00 P.M. Saturday May 13, 2023 @ TBD.

## **H. WEIGH-IN**

1. To be eligible for winning places, fish must be brought to the Official Weigh Station within the weigh-in hours specified.

2. Official Weigh Station: All fish must be weighed at Curly's Dock during the specified weigh in period.

3. Weigh-In Cutoff: Fish shall be considered eligible only if they are located within the in-line traffic and signed in with Weigh In Director no later than 6:00pm. 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. Weigh in open time: 3:30pm to 6:00pm

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

6. 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 object 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.

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

8. Removal: Entrants are responsible for removing their catch following weigh in.

9. Anglers are responsible for the removal of any lines, hooks, or such BEFORE the fish is weighed.

## **I. 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 & Tournament Director in consultation with the Tournament Board. 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.

4. Polygraph: All winning anglers are subject to and must pass polygraph testing. Refusal to take the test will result in disqualification. Any person aboard the boat also may be subject to and must pass the polygraph test. Refusal to take the test will result in disqualification. Polygraph tests will include but will not be limited to questions on angling and landing procedures and tampering of fish weight by illegal means. Polygraph tests are final and winners are not official until test results are obtained. Individuals who are judged by the polygraph examiner to be impaired by drugs or alcohol will be disqualified.

5. All protests must be in writing and submitted to the Tournament Director on the day of the alleged violation by 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2023 with a deposit of \$500.00. If the alleged violation is found to have occurred, the deposit of \$500.00 will be refunded. If the Rules Committee finds no violation, the deposit will not be refunded. The decision of the Rules Committee will be final.

6. In the event of an exact tie in weight, winners will be determined by the time of sign-in at weigh in. (1<sup>st</sup> angler signed in wins prize placement of tie).

## **J. LIABILITY**

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

2. Habitat for Humanity Mother's Day Dolphin Tournament, Tournament Volunteers, Staff, Curly's Dock & Curly's Coffee, Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys, Tournament Sponsors, 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.

## **K. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ship-to-shore communication for safety and for periodic tournament announcements will be maintained throughout the tournament on marine VHF channel 72.

## **L. ENTRY FEES:**

Entry fees for the 2023 Habitat for Humanity Mothers Day Dolphin Tournament are as follows:

Pro Angler - \$175.00

Weekend Warrior Angler - \$175.00

Ladies Angler - \$100.00

Jr. Angler - \$75.00

Entry fee includes the Anglers Awards Banquet Meal, Official Tournament Shirt, and angler “goody” bucket.

## **M. WEATHER CONTINGENCY**

1. The tournament will not be canceled or postponed due to weather or sea conditions. Entry fees are non-refundable.

2023 Tournament Director: Chris Todd Young 305-743-9828 / BEST # 305-797-5779

2023 Official Tournament Judge: Captain Richard Bradley

2023 Tournament Board: Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys’ 2023 Board of Directors

Ben Roche, Christina Gonzalez, Mike Puto, Erin Arnett, Ryan Elwell, Dianne Weitz, Andres Herrera and Cindy McKnight

2023 Rules Committee: The Tournament Director, Official Judge, and Tournament Board named above.

2023 Weigh In Director: Chris Todd Young 305-743-9828 / BEST #305-797-5779