2026 Boca Grande Bottom Blast Rules and Regulations

#1 RULES ACCEPTANCE AND REGULATIONS RESPONSIBILITY

It is the sole responsibility of the Captain, crew and anglers to read, understand and abide by the Tournament rules; including any and all special instructions and/or modifications announced during Captain's meeting. The Boca Grande Bottom Blast expects the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants. All entrants and guests of the tournament are participating at their own risk. The participants hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Tournament, Venice Touchdown Club, The Boca Grande Bottom Blast and all Directors, Volunteers, agents, partners, members, sponsors, attorneys, or any other person associated with this tournament from and against all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties.

All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Boca Grande Bottom Blast at Eagle Grille and Miller's Dockside, whether individual or corporation, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury, and death. Participants specifically consent to the use of any photography in which they appear, or audio recording by the tournament for any reason whatsoever including, but not limited to resale, advertising and promotional material without compensation or restriction of any kind. This Liability Release shall be binding upon the participants and their heirs, representatives, successors, and assigners. By entering the above stated tournament and paying entry fee, participants acknowledge that they have read and are bound by same.

The committee would like to remind all captains, anglers, and anyone under their direct co ntrol that unsportsmanlike and overly- aggressive behavior, personal attacks, threats of viol ence or demeaning statements about other participants on any social media platform or in person will be considered as evidence by the committee if considering disqualification of t eams due to unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct based on abuse of other participants on social media or in person
as described in this paragraph is enough, in and of itself, for disqualification as determined at the sole discretion of the committee. If there is a rule or suspicion of a rule violation, part icipants are encouraged to notify the committee, preferably in writing, to seek a determinati on or resolution of the issue as early as possible.

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#2 ELIGIBILITY/Right to Refuse or Revoke Entry

All sports fishermen (male and female) are eligible to participate. The Tournament Committee reserves the sole and absolute discretion to accept, refuse, revoke, or cancel the registration or participation of any angler, team, vessel, captain, or crew member at any time, before or during the Tournament, if the Committee determines, in good faith, that such participation is or may be detrimental to the safety, reputation, integrity, orderly operation, sportsmanship, or spirit of the Tournament, or is otherwise not in the best interests of the Tournament, its participants, sponsors, volunteers, or affiliated organizations.

The Tournament Committee shall not be required to disclose the basis for its decision. All determinations made by the Tournament Committee under this provision are final and are not subject to protest, appeal, arbitration, or review.

By submitting an entry, each participant acknowledges and agrees to abide by the Tournament Rules and expressly accepts the Tournament Committee's authority under this provision. Participants further agree that the Tournament Committee, its officers, directors, volunteers, sponsors, and affiliated organizations shall not be liable for any claim, loss, damage, or expense arising out of or relating to any decision made in accordance with this rule, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

Any person that has been previously banned from other fishing tournament(s), can be denied entry into the Boca Grande Bottom Blast at the sole discretion of the tournament committee.

#3 CAPTAIN'S MEETING

Registration will be available via email leading up to the Captain's Meeting.

In person registration will be available between 5-6pm, on August 4th, 2026.

Captain's meeting will begin at 6:00pm on August 4th at Sand Bar Restaurant. One representative per team must attend, this person must also be a registered angler and

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fishing on the boat. The team representative will need to sign-in and out of the meeting. By signing in and out, this confirms that you have read, heard, understood and agreed to all of the rules as outlined in the captain's meeting. Rules can be subject to change up until the conclusion of the captain's meeting. Any rule change that arises during the captain's meeting will be written down and signed by each Capt/team rep that attended the meeting.

If there is no representative for your team at the meeting, you are automatically disqualified to fish.

At the meeting we will give an official time off the check-in person's clock.

#4 HOURS OF COMPETITION/TOURNAMENT START

Tournament participants may begin fishing on Thursday, August 6th at 5am. You will be given a CODE WORD an hour before the start of the tournament. A video of your GPS coordinates, showing the dock you are tied to, including all angler names and faces in roll call format, as well as the time and a date stamp and the code word being stated, as well as a video of your entire vessel must be sent to the tournament director(s) before departure to guarantee there is no cheating.

You must leave from US land, excluding the Dry Tortugas.

***Tournament dates can be moved due to weather but may not be updated online/in the rules depending on time frame.

#5 HOURS OF COMPETITION/WEIGH-IN

Scales will be open on Saturday, August 8th, 2026, starting at 1pm. All vessels must be checked in by 4pm.

Any vessel that shows up after 4pm on Saturday, August 8th, 2026 will be automatically disqualified.

Official time will be kept by Weighmaster and will correspond with time displayed on Weighmaster's cellphone.

#5 BOATS/REGISTRATION

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$1000.00 per boat/team.

Entry numbers will be assigned in order of registrations received and paid in full. There will be no deviation from the numbering system. Each tournament vessel will receive their entry number at registration and shall be required to display that number in a manner easily visible to tournament officials at Weigh-in.

#6 TEAMS

This is a "Team Event". Only the Captain and registered Anglers are eligible to fish. Team substitutes will be allowed provided they have received prior approval from the Tournament Director. Each Fishing Team is limited to a maximum of six (6) anglers (including the Captain). The team you start with is the team you return to the Weigh In with, no substitution of team members allowed.

No additional passengers (family, friends, etc), are to be on the vessel when you check-in for weigh-in.

#7 FISHING AREAS/RULES

The team boat may not leave the water and be trailered.

You may not make contact with any other vessel for any reason during the tournament, unless it is a safety issue. At which time, tournament officials must be notified.

There will be a boundary of 3 nautical miles from any coastline, excluding the Dry Tortugas, once you cross that boundary you are done fishing for the tournament. You may not be allowed to go back out and fish. Once you cross that boundary, the tournament directors must be notified immediately.

You cannot receive fuel from another vessel. Whatever fuel you leave with in/on your vessel is the fuel you have to fish with.

If you run out of fuel, and someone brings you fuel the tournament directors must be notified immediately and you are disqualified.

Angling gear and methods should comply with the spirit of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), with the exception of bent butts. Bent Butts with manual hand crank reels are permitted for the entire duration of the fight with the fish. All fish must be caught on rod and reel. Deep Trolling devices are acceptable only if attached to a rod and reel. No

electric reel use allowed during the tournament for any reason, including dissent tools, DO NOT HAVE ANY ONBOARD EVEN IF THEY HAVE A HAND CRANK OPTION. Electric Rod and Reel use will result in disqualification.

If you are fishing for Warsaw, you can only catch one species. No floaters allowed. Goliath Grouper, Shark and Tarpon are excluded from the Boca Grande Bottom Blast. Wading is not permitted. Live baiting is allowed.

#8 PERMITS & LICENSES

Registered boats and anglers must comply with all Federal and Florida State Laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits and any other applicable regulations. For information regarding Florida Saltwater Fishing Licenses refer to www.FloridaConservation.org or call 850-487-0554. For information regarding NMFS permits refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov or call 888-872-8862. A citation or written warning of any local, state or federal regulation during the tournament will result in disqualification.

#9 OFF-LOADING CATCH

All fish must be weighed-in off the boat from which they were caught. No trucking, trailering, or over land transportation of fish. Fish must be off-loaded only at the designated dock at the marina in order as called by Weighmaster.

No offloading of fish in a private/personal weigh bag. Only the apparatus that will be provided by the tournament.

#10 SPECIES AND SCORING

There are two main divisions competing for cash prizes. Grouper and Snapper. In the Grouper division it will be the combined largest weights of any (2) Grouper (other than Warsaw). In the Snapper division it will be the combined largest weights of any (2) Snapper (other than Cubera). Anglers may weigh up to 2 fish in each division.

There will also be a Calcutta Division, $500 buy in for each division winner takes all. Wahoo, Dolphin, Tuna, Wildcard (any species not listed excluding Marlin and Sharks), Warsaw.

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Only one fish may be weighed per Calcutta.

#11 BOAT SUBSTITUTION & PROCEDURES

Boat substitutions are permitted for mechanical failure only. Any substitutions must be reported to tournament officials PRIOR to the start of the fishing tournament.

#12 PROTEST

All protests concerning the determination of the tournament winners shall be made to the tournament directors and shall be accompanied by $1000 cash for a polygraph. Protests can be made up to 30 minutes after the closing of the scales. If official protest is presented, all tournament cash prizes will be withheld until the dispute is resolved. Participants must make themselves available for a polygraph test within 24 hours following notice from the tournament committee. A participant's refusal to take a polygraph test or fail to answer the test questions in a manner satisfactory to the tournament committee, in their sole discretion, may result in disqualification. By entering the tournament, participants consent to the admissibility of polygraph results in any dispute or proceeding arising out of the tournament.

In the event, that a protest is made and upheld by the rules committee, the $1000 cash deposit shall be returned. Otherwise, the $1000 cash deposit becomes the property of the tournament. Any protest resolutions are based on committee decisions, which are final.

#13 INSPECTION OF BOATS AND FISH

All boats will be subject to inspection prior to release from the Marina and upon weigh in. This includes gear, fish boxes and GPS locations and waypoints, routes, trails, tracks, etc.. Every fish weighed-in will be gutted immediately after the official weight is recorded and the team picture is taken. Refusal of this will result in automatic disqualification. Any questionable item found inside a gutted fish will be reviewed by the committee director, and if found to be placed inside the fish to alter the weight will be immediately DQ'd. Examples include excess water, weights, ice, sand, etc.

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#14 PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF TIES

If two or more entries in any category are the exact weight or weights, the winner shall be determined by earliest check in time.

#15 RAIN DATE

To be determined only under Small Craft Advisory. There shall be no refunds.

#16 PAY OUTS

90% of the entry fees paid out to fisherman. Pay out for 1st and 2nd place in both main divisions

#17 CONDITION OF FISH

Fish shall not be mutilated in any way other than hook/gaff marks and must be in edible condition. This is at the discretion of the committee of directors. All decisions are final

#18 RULES VIOLATION

The penalty for any violation of any of the rules is disqualification, with tournament fees not refundable. Any boat violating any of these rules, or any participant on the boat violating these rules will result in the disqualification of the entire team. All decisions made by the committee are final and are not subject to further challenges by participants.

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