

# 2023 Blue Water Open Tournament Rules

1. **Your Boat Name Is Your Tournament Number**
2. **All State & Federal Fishing Rules & Regulations Apply.** This is a rod & reel event.
3. **All tournament fish categories subject to State and Federal restrictions. All fish must be legally caught.**
4. **No Formal Check-Out.** Captains may leave from any Inlet. (See #8 for Check-In rules)
5. **NO LINES IN BEFORE 6:00AM.**
6. **FISHING:** After entering the ocean & until your fish are weighed you may not make landfall or transfer fish with another boat. In case of a tie in fish weight, the lowest plate number (#) is given the place.
7. **Boat Breakdowns:** A boat may be towed to the weigh-in. The 5:00PM final check-in still applies.
8. **Check-In 2:00PM - 5:00PM:** (No late check-ins accepted.) After fishing, boats must proceed directly by water without any land stops to the check-in boat located near ICW Marker 66 in Sebastian. You are NOT checked-in until you receive a numbered plate from the check-in boat.
9. **TACKLE REMOVAL:** Prior to leaving your boat you must remove all tackle from the fish you submit for weigh-in. If you fail to do so, your fish will **NOT** be weighed.
10. **FISH SIZE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZE MONEY:** Dolphin, Kingfish, Tilefish & Grouper (No Warsaw or Black Allowed) minimum weight 10lbs, AJ minimum weight 30lbs, Wahoo minimum weight 15lbs, Swordfish minimum weight 75lbs. Please support conservation and release under weight fish.
11. **All fish may be subject to a freshness test by any and all appropriate means.** Captains are responsible for keeping their catch properly iced & fresh. Fish failing the exam may be disqualified at the discretion of the Rules Committee. Mutilated fish may also be disqualified at the discretion of the Rules Committee.
12. **WEATHER:** If a late cancellation becomes necessary, it will be announced on CH 72 immediately following the NOAA Saturday 4:30 AM update & on website [www.bluewateropen.com](http://www.bluewateropen.com). Saturday, June 10th is the weather date. No refunds if Tournament is canceled.
13. **Protests:** Must be in writing; include a \$200.00 cash deposit and notice given within 10 minutes of the last fish weighed. The deposit will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
14. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Any attempts to artificially increase the weight of fish (e.g., manually stuffing with ice, weights, etc.) will result in immediate disqualification and a permanent ban from all future BWO competitions.
15. **Lady Angler & Junior Angler:** Catch must be the sole effort of the Lady or Junior Angler until a mate can handle the leader. Junior Angler is 12 years of age and younger. Fish entered under Lady or Junior Angler must be declared before being weighed, and may compete for other cash prizes.
16. **Communication: Tournament Channel is VHF CH72**
17. **Decisions of BWO Rules Committee regarding ALL tournament matters are final.**
18. **Calcuttas are prohibited.**

**DO NOT PROCEED TO WEIGH-IN UNTIL YOUR NUMBER IS CALLED!**

**NO RAFTING PERMITTED! Everyone must stay in their boat!**

**\*Blue Water Open Tournament Rules subject to change**