# DEO 2026

**Official Rules & Regulations**

**Dates: Dec. 2-6, 2026**

**Schedule of Events:**

**South Captain's Meeting Venue**
**December 2, 2026 – Time: 4-7PM Pick-up (Wednesday)**
**Crook & Crook Tackle**
2795 SW 27th Ave,
Miami, FL 33133

**North Captain's Meeting Venue**
**December 3, 2026 – Time: 6-9PM (Thursday)**
**HMY Outboard Center**
572 Northlake Blvd.
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**FISHING - ONE FISHING DAY (SATURDAY, DEC 5, 2025)**

**Fishing time: 8AM-4:30PM**

**Awards Brunch:**
**December 7, 2026 (Sunday) 11:00AM-2:00PM**
***Charlotte Burrie Center:**

2669 N. Federal Hwy
Pompano Beach, FL. 33064
Lunch · Drinks · Awards · Family Friendly

# Awards:

**Prize Structure:** (Subject to change prior to captains meeting)
A percentage of entry fees will be retained by the tournament for event cost. Remaining entry funds will be split as follows after all expenses.

**Overall**
1st place boat- 40% & Fighting Belt Trophy
2nd Place boat- 30% & Fighting Belt Trophy
3rd Place boat- 10% & Mini Fighting Belt Trophy

***Charter Division**
1st place boat- Big Check (*Min of 3 boats required to award charter division)

**Professional Division**
Top-Pro- Mini Heavy Weight Belt Trophy

**Semi-Professional* Division**
Top-SemiPro- Mini Heavy Weight Belt Trophy (*Less than 3 paid team members to qualify for Semi-Pro)

**Pee-wee (NEW) Angler**
Award (9 years old & under) (*assist allowed from one adult)

**Junior Angler**
Award (10 – 16 years old) – Heavy Weight Belt Trophy

**Lady Angler**
Fighting Belt Trophy

**Top Angler**
Custom Fighting Belt

**Top Captain**
Custom Fighting Belt

**Criteria for Charter Boat**

Licensed Charter vessel with paying customers.
(Minimum of 3 charter teams registered are required to payout & award the Charter Boat Division. If 3 are not registered, teams will be reimbursed the Charter Calcutta category amount paid in.)

**Criteria for Professional Boat**
None. Any team can choose to compete as a professional team.

**Criteria for Semi-Professional Boat**
Less than 3 paid personnel including captains, mates, and anglers. Amateur teams also fall under the Semi-Pro division. (there is no separate amateur division)

(Note: Decision to enter divisions lays solely on the team within criteria. Note: a service fee via stripe app will be applied to all electronic transactions. Cash and checks will also be accepted at the Capt. Meeting. A 5% fee will be retained by the tournament for admin purposes.)

**RULES:**

**Boundaries –** Florida's East Atlantic Waters Only. Bahamian waters are off limits.

**Angler Substitutions** – Angler substitutions must be completed before lines in via the Dust 'Em Off app.

**Check out –** This is not an inlet specific tournament. There will be no visual checkout however, **an image of the folder with boat number provided at the Captain's Meeting, along with a timepiece** (cell phone or GPS) **showing any time between 7:30 and 8:00 am will be considered checkout. And verification you are fishing. Please Text that image to one of the committee numbers on your folder.**

**Lines in –** Saturday, Dec 5, 2026 at 8:00AM

**Lines out –** Saturday, Dec 5, 2026 at 4:30PM

**Comms** – This will be a phone in tournament. Phone numbers for the committee office will be provided at the captain's meeting. And listed below and on your packet. **All tournament comms between tournament boats will be on channel 74.** (*Subject to changes prior to meetings).

**Phone-in:** Please do not text both numbers! Choose one or the other to use for communication and releases to avoid double release entries.

**Cameras and Procedure** –**Billfish must be identified via video only.** Camera or cell phone video is acceptable. **Video requirements**: species confirmation of the fish, The fish must be leadered/released safely, then video of the angler **stating** the boat name, angler name and team COLOR (team color is the color of the registration folder your team received.) **Teams do NOT need to show the folder with each release, just SAY the color on camera**. Each fish must be text/called in immediately after release for a committee issued fish number. In the case of a multiple hookup, angler must say fish number in video. Teams are permitted to release all fish before stating the release color/ number on video. There must be no break from identifying to release of billfish. Camera footage must be uploaded via the tournament App (by Reel Time Apps) **no later than 8:30PM**. Camera footage becomes property of the tournament. A cell phone may be used as long as video is consistent with all other rules requirements. Video can also be text or electronically sent to Courtney. Contact the committee if there are any issues sending video.

Recap: Video Requirements:

- Species ID · Fish Leadered / Safe release / Angler Stating Boat Name, Angler Name, COLOR
  (Note: You DO NOT have to show a color just SAY your team color on video)
  (Example: Angler says on camera; "Boat #or Name, Angler: Courtney, Color: RED)

**Hooking Fish** – Hooking Fish- Hook and hand is allowed in this tournament. Hand off must occur immediately after hookup. If multiple strikes occur on separate lines, and a single angler is capable of hooking and catching more than one of the fish without the assistance of any other person, then each fish may be eligible for entry by such angler subject to the other rules of this tournament. The use of a rod holder to hook a fish is permitted provided that no person other than the angler who ultimately enters the fish touches the rod or reel once the fish is hooked since it's not an immediate hand off. If the main line or double line is touched by anyone other than the angler the fish is considered disqualified. Mate can "pop the ring out of the clip" and shake weeds off the main line. Only fish caught by an individual angler are eligible for angler awards. Fish that are "handed off" are considered Team Fish.

**Release** – A "Release" is official once the mate touches the "Leader" material and cuts the leader. **Tipping is not considered a release.** In the event a fish is completely wrapped in the leader, the fish will count as a release if it is within touching range of the handle end of a gaff, tagging stick or extendable brush handle. **DO NOT GAFF THE FISH!!!**

**Final 15 mins – The final 15 minutes of the tournament ALL billfish hookups must be called/Text in.** In addition, all video in the final 15 mins must start with a time stamp at hookup to insure the fish was hooked before lines out.

**Catch Release Forms** – Form must be filled out to match with the confirmation number and time provided by the Release Committee. Incomplete or improperly completed forms may be rejected by the tournament committee. A

photo of the release form must be Text to the comm phones by 8:30pm. **Any form sent after 8:30PM will be disqualified.**

**Scoring** – Scoring- All billfish releases are worth 100 points (regardless of bait type). There is no point difference in a Team or individual release. Only individual releases are eligible for Angler awards. Time will determine the winner in the event of a tie.

**General Information**
Fishing Time: 8:00AM – 4:30PM
Lines: 8
Leaders: Max 15'(ft.)
Hooks: Circle **Only**
Anglers: No Limit
Bait: Live or Dead accepted. Chumming prohibited.

**Weather** – Tournament officials may cancel the tournament day if in their best judgment unsafe conditions exist at sea for the average boat entered. No refunds of any sort will be made for any cause in the event of such cancellation. If the day (or any portion thereof) is "weathered out", the tournament results will be final based on the results of the official fishing time that can be completed. Notice of cancellation and/or resumption of fishing will be provided via Committee Phone. A determination permitting fishing by tournament officials should not be interpreted to mean that the tournament ensures the safety of any registered angler or occupant of any boat. Anglers must make their own judgments whether to fish under the prevailing weather conditions based on the size and seaworthiness of their boat, their seamanship skills, and any other relevant factors.

**Protests** – Any protests concerning the conduct of an angler or rules violations must be filed in writing with the tournament committee no later than the close of the fishing day on the day of the alleged violation. Along with a non-refundable $500. Protests will be handled by the rules committee. The decisions of the rules committee are final.

**Refunds** – No refunds will be given for the entry fee. For any reason including, but not limited to acts of nature, war, national security, Covid-19/ other illness, vessel malfunctions or travel restrictions/confliction.

**Ties** – All ties will be broken based on time. The earlier billfish release will win the tie.

**Hold Harmless** – All registered anglers and non-registered occupants of their boats enter and participate in this tournament voluntarily at their own risk. In consideration for the tournament's acceptance of his or her entry, each angler, for his or her heirs, executors, and administrators, agrees to release, hold harmless and indemnify the Tournament (Courtney Bowden Poza, Contact Courtney Consulting, LLC), its officers, managers, directors, agents, sponsors, donors, the city and county where the event is held, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournament, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, fees or expenses which he or she may have against any above-described party, or which his or her captains, crew members, family members, companions or non-registered occupants of their boat may have, arising out of or in any way connected with his or her participation in this tournament, including any injury or death suffered by any registered angler, boat captains, crew members, family members, companions or other occupants of any boat, and including any damage to vessels and equipment, which occurs during or in conjunction with the event. Each Angler understands and agrees that this release specifically includes and waives any claims based on libel, slander, negligence, action, or inaction of any above-named party.

**Signing of the Entry Sheet** – By signing the entry form, the Boat Owner/Team Representative agrees to follow the above tournament rules. All Boat Owners/Team Representatives are required to sign the entry form as certification that they have read and agreed to abide by all guidelines and the above liability release.

**Committee:**
**Committee Phone numbers are listed on your team folder and catch/ release form.**

***Tight Lines & Good Luck,***

**Courtney Bowden Poza– Tournament Director**
**North Palm Beach, FL.**
**PH: 561.909.7868**
**EMAIL: hello@contactcourtney.com**

**Ben Sharpe – Founder**
**Miami, FL.**
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