

# 2026 King of the Inlet Official Tournament Rules

**DATE: April 11, 2026 Dolphin Tournament (Entry Fee \$600 per boat)**

## Schedule of Events

- **Captain's Party & Meeting:** Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m. (Location: Off the Hook at Inlet Harbor, Ponce)
- **Online Registration:** Kingoftheinlet.com
- **Fishing:** Saturday, April 11 (Leave any inlet between St. Augustine and Canaveral; must return via Ponce Inlet)
- **Weigh-In:** 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. (at Off the Hook, Ponce Inlet)

**No Committee Boat:** All boats must check in by reporting to the KOTI Committee at the Off the Hook pier. Boat must be visual.

## Final Registration & Captain's Meeting

- Each boat must send a representative to pick up the boat # and should attend the captain's meeting.
- Rules and procedures will be reviewed; questions may be asked at that time.

## Tackle & Equipment

- No electric reels allowed. All fish must be caught using hook and line with rod and reel (no handlines).
- Cast nets may be used prior to 6 a.m. only.
- You may leave the inlet any time after 12:01 a.m. (Tournament fishing hours 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.) If a Small Craft Advisory or greater is issued at 5 a.m. forecast, fishing is automatically postponed to an alternate date.
- No teasers, lures, or bait rigs in the water before 6 a.m.

## Eligible Species

- Dolphin (Mahi-Mahi) minimum 10 lbs. Each boat can weigh 1 Bull and 1 Cow.
- Cash and prizes will be awarded to the three heaviest Dolphin.
- In case of identical weights, ties will be broken by first fish weighed, this includes Calcutta's.
- All fish must be caught during tournament hours. Fish with mutilation, tampering, or half eaten condition will be disqualified.

## Fish Handling

- Remove all hooks, lures, and lines before taking fish off your boat.
- **Mandatory:** A picture of your fish must be captured on the water with your weigh # clearly visible in the photo.
- **Text photo to 386.822.3427** before weigh-in.

## Communications

- Official control & weigh-in channel: VHF 72 (All boats must have a functioning VHF radio).
- If Channel 72 is out of service, communications will move to Channel 68 temporarily.

## Weigh-in Procedures/ Weigh Station:

- Upon returning from fishing, all boats must report to the KOTI Committee at end of pier by scale at Off the Hook, Ponce.
- Check-In your boat on Channel 72. Boat must be visual in sight (Committee will confirm and give you a weigh # and instruct you when to approach the dock).
- Weigh-in opens at 4 p.m. and closes at 6 p.m. sharp. Boats not checked in by 6 p.m. will be disqualified- No exceptions.
- If you have no fish to weigh, please check in for safety confirmation.

## Sportsmanship & Rules

- All anglers (or charters) must be properly licensed. Tournament will be enforced under Florida State Statutes and FWC Rules & Regulations.
- All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements.
- Sportsmanlike conduct is expected at all times. Zero tolerance for harassment, unsafe boating, or misconduct.
- Management reserves the right to deny entry or disqualify any participant.

## Disqualification

- Boats may not pass items between vessels, tie up together, stop at a dock, or trailer after the official start of the tournament until after all tournament fish have been weighed. Violations will result in immediate disqualification ( exceptions only for emergencies approved by tournament management).
- All boats must remain under their own power and fuel supply for the entire fishing day (exceptions granted only for boat lending aid to a distressed vessel).

## Protests

- Must be submitted in writing to the tournament director at weigh-in on the day of the incident. A \$500 cash deposit is required (refundable if protest is upheld). All management decisions are final.

## Polygraph

- Winning participants are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to complete or pass the test will result in disqualification.

**A copy of tournament rules and your boat number must remain on board at all times. Have fun and catch'em up!**