



Tournament Overview & Official Rules

Date & Location:

The tournament will be held at Old Bahama Bay Resort and Marina, West End, Grand Bahama. The tournament will take place Thursday, April 24th - 27th 2025. A satellite weigh station will be located at Bones Bar, Pelican Bay Hotel in Port Lucaya inlet.

Eligible Species:

The tournament will include **two** divisions. A **Billfish Release Division**, targeting Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish & Spearfish and a **Meat Fish Division** Dolphin, Wahoo, and Tuna (yellowfin, blackfin, and bigeye).

Schedule of Events:

Thursday April 24th - Welcome Event

- 4pm - Team Check-In & Registration
- 5pm - Captain's Meeting begins
- 6pm - Team Junkanoo Contest & Cocktail hour

Friday April 25th - Fishing Day One

- 6am - Bimini shotgun Start (**OBB**)
- 7am - Lines In
- 4pm - Lines Out
- 3pm to 6pm - Scales Open & SD Card drop off

Saturday April 26th - Fishing Day Two & Awards Dinner

- Open Departure
- 6am - Lines In
- 5pm - Lines Out
- 3pm to 6pm - Scales Open & SD Card drop off
- 7pm - Awards Dinner (**OBB Only**)

Sunday April 27th - Beach Breakfast & Mimosa Bar

- 8am - 10am Promptly

**Registration:**

Eligibility: All participants must be registered before the close of The Captain's Meeting Thursday, April 24th. Each boat must have a valid Bahamas Fishing Permit shown to a member of the tournament committee.

Fees: Registration fee of \$2,000 must be paid in full before the end of Captains Meeting - April 24th 2025.

Fishing Hours:

Tournament will begin with "lines in" at 7am on day 1 and 6am on day 2 and will continue until "lines out" at 4pm on day 1 and 5pm on day 2 GPS time.

All boats must submit their video evidence before to the committee by 6:00pm.

An angler may fight a fish until it is lost, released or boated so long as it was hooked before 'Lines Out' & the hook up time is shown on the video evidence

Meatfish must be in-line at the scales prior to closing at 6:00pm, unless called/ texted/ emailed in prior with a late hook up.

Fishing Boundaries

Permitted Areas: Fishing is only allowed within Bahamian territorial waters. Vessels must not enter international waters during the tournament hours.

GPS Monitoring: Boats may be required to use a GPS tracking system to ensure compliance with the fishing boundaries.

Angeling & Equipment

- All anglers must be registered prior to the end of the Captain's meeting. **4 anglers are included in the registration.** \$100 per additional angler. There is no limit to the number of anglers per team per day.
- Teams are permitted to hook and hand, BUT ONLY ONCE, upon initial hook up. Passing the rod more than the initial hook and hand off will lead to disqualification.
- Jr. Anglers must be 16 years old or younger on the day of the Captain's Meeting.
- Maximum line 130 pound test.
- A maximum of six lines (with hooks) are permitted at any one time.
- An unlimited amount of hookless baits or teasers are allowed.
- International Billfish Tournament Regulations apply.
- Natural baits must be deployed with non-Offset circle hooks.
- "J" hooks may be used on lures ONLY.
- No live bait allowed

Billfish Release Division

Eligible Species: Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, and Spearfish.

Release Rules: All Billfish must be released alive and in good condition to qualify - this must be recorded in your video. A successful release is defined as a) the leader being touched by the crew, b) followed by cutting the leader as close to the fish as possible, c) the swivel between the mainline or double line and the leader hits the rod tip / the wind-on leader comes through the rod tip.

We are all about conservation and kindly ask that you release the fish in good condition by either removing the hook-set or cutting the leader as close to the hook set as possible. Please refrain from "poppin" the leader. It is not a good method of a healthy release. *Thanks*

Catch & Release Verification:

All recordings submitted must be easily viewed by the Committee. It's the team's responsibility to have their own recording equipment and videos turned over must be continuous and unedited. We highly recommend you have at least two recordings on different cameras and of course underwater shots are the most accurate way to confirm species.

- **Identification Markers** - each team will be given a marker prior to the day's fishing. These Markers must be displayed in the order listed on each boat's catch sheet.
- **Billfish Release Affidavit** - Each billfish release is required to be noted on the day's affidavit along with your team's video submissions each day. Failure to turn in your affidavit with your video to the Committee will disqualify the day's catch only. You will find Friday & Saturday Affidavits in your teams registration package. If you need a replacement, please see the Committee.
- **Release Verification Recordings** - Each release must be documented via video footage including all of the following: a) the registered angler fighting their fish, b) the correct marker, c) sufficient footage for the committee to be able to properly identify the species of fish, d) proper release of the billfish. The footage must include the time and date stamp in accordance with "official time".
- **Most importantly** - due to the free range Bahamian water boundaries, calling into the committee boat will not be possible. Teams must follow their given marker pattern showing the colors in order of their catch sheet. Failure to show the marker in your video proof will disqualify your catch, even if it's time-stamped.
- **Submission of Recordings** - Proof must be submitted to the committee by 6:00pm on Fishing Days 1 & 2. Please note all recordings and images may become property of the Tournament and may be used at any time.
- **Protests / Disputes** - Any protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Committee within prior to close of Scale. Along with a \$250 non-refundable cash fee. All disputes will be settled by the Committee's decision. All decisions are final.



Billfish Release Scoring:

Points awarded per species for Male Anglers

Blue Marlin: **400** points per release
White Marlin: **200** points per release
Sailfish: **100** points per release
Spearfish: **200** points per release
Unidentifiable Billfish: 100 points

Points awarded per species for: Female Anglers

Blue Marlin: **500** points per release
White Marlin: **275** points per release
Sailfish: **150** points per release
Spearfish: **300** points per release
Unidentifiable Billfish: 100 points

All Ties will be broken based on time.

A "Rounded Scaled Spearfish" & "Hatchet Marlin" will be categorized as White Marlin.



Meat Fish Scoring:

Points awarded per species for Male Anglers:

Mahi-Mahi: **1** point per pound
Tuna: **1** point per pound
Wahoo: **1** point per pound

Points awarded per species for Female Anglers:

Mahi-Mahi: **2** points per pound
Tuna: **2** points per pound
Wahoo: **2** points per pound

Limit: A maximum of **2 fish per species** can be weighed in **per boat, per day**.

Meat Fish Division

Eligible Species: Mahi-mahi, wahoo, and tuna (yellowfin, blackfin, & bigeye only).
Eligible Size: 15lb. Minimum requirement.

Fishing Methods

- Gear: Only traditional rod and reel equipment is permitted. No electric or hydraulic reels allowed to bring fish to the boat. Electric or hydraulic reels can be used for teasers and dredges only.
- Bait: No live bait allowed. Dead, natural bait and artificial baits are allowed. The use of non-circular hooks is mandatory for natural baits to prevent deep hooking.

Conservation Measures

- Catch & Release: Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release for all non-eligible species.
- Disqualification: Any violations of the [Bahamas Fisheries regulations](#) will result in immediate disqualification and possible legal action.

Inspection and Compliance

- Marine Officers: Officers from the Bahamas Ministry of Fisheries may be present during the tournament to inspect vessels and ensure compliance with local fishing regulations.
- Documentation: All vessels must maintain proper documentation, including the Bahamas Fishing Permit, and present it upon request by officials.

Tournament Conduct

- Sportsmanship: All participants must adhere to the highest standards of sportsmanship, and any unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification.
- Protests: Any protests must be submitted in writing / email to the Tournament Committee before close of weigh - in scale **the day of** the alleged infraction. There is a \$500 protesting fee.

Prizes and Awards

- Divisions include: Prizes will be awarded for the top-performing teams in both the Billfish Release and Meat Fish divisions.
- Tie-Breaker: In the event of a tie, the earliest catch/release time will determine the winner in the billfish release division. Weighing in time to the scales will determine the winner in the meatfish division.

Liability

- Waiver: All participants must sign a liability waiver acknowledging the inherent risks of fishing in. The tournament Director, organizers, vendors are not responsible for any accidents, injuries, or damages incurred during the event.

These rules are designed to promote sustainable fishing practices while ensuring a fair and competitive environment for all participants.

We look forward to an exciting and successful event with you!