



# Billfish/Fun Fish Tournament Rules

Revised 5/7/2008

Rules are subject to change up until the captain's meeting, 8/6/08.

## #1 RULES ACCEPTANCE

- 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.
- At least one designated representative from each team must attend the captains meeting.
- The Home Builders Association of Sarasota/Sarasota Slam expect the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants.
- There will be a 40 boat maximum for the 2008 tournament.

## #2 ENTRY DEADLINE

- 3:00 pm, Wednesday, August 6, 2008

## #3 ENTRY FEES

- The entry fee shall be \$2500 per boat competing in the Billfish Tournament
- Entry into Fun Fish Divisions will be \$300 per species. Boats must be entered into the Billfish Division to enter Fun Fish Categories.
- Optional Bonus Entry fees are outlined in #21
- **Dockage at Marina Jack** - Entry in the Sarasota Slam Tournament does not include or guarantee a slip at Marina Jack. Slips are set aside for the tournament and are assigned on a first come first served basis. Special tournament rates are offered. To reserve a slip contact Sam Chavers Dock Master, at 941-955-9488 or email at dockmaster@marinajacks.com

## #4 CAPTAINS MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

- Registration will be from Noon until 3pm on Wednesday, August 6, 2008
- There will be a mandatory Captain's meeting is Wednesday August 6, 2008 at 3:00pm at the Marina Jack Banquet room.
- At least one member of the team **MUST** be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend.
- Boats can depart to fishing grounds immediately following dismissal from Captain's meeting.
- Fishing can commence at 12:00am Thursday August 7, 2008.
- Registered tournament boats are not required to depart from Marina Jack in Sarasota, but are invited and encouraged. *Those boats not leaving from Marina Jack must notify committee of the departure marina prior to departure.*

## **#5 HOURS OF COMPETITION**

- Tournament fishing starts Thursday August 7, 2008 at 12:00am and continues through 6:00am Saturday, August 9, 2008.
- Mandatory check in time is 12:00pm Saturday August 9, 2008 at Marina Jack, Sarasota, Florida.
- No lines or teasers may be in the water before the official start or after the official end of the tournament. This does not apply to bait fishing, but does apply to specifically targeting one of the tournament eligible species.

## **#6 EQUIPMENT AND ANGLING RULES**

- IGFA Saltwater equipment and Angling rules apply to the HBA of Sarasota County/Sarasota Slam, with the exception of any possible special instructions or changes that may be announced or given at the Captain's meeting.
- A copy of the IGFA rules are included in Captain's packets.
- The Federal Government requires the use of non-offset circle hooks in billfish tournaments when using natural baits (dead or live) or natural baits in combination with lures or skirts.

## **#7 PERMITS AND 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](http://www.FloridaConservation.org) or call 850-487-0554.
- For information regarding NMFS permits refer to [www.NMFSpermits.com](http://www.NMFSpermits.com) or call 888-872-8862.
- You MUST have a valid tuna/HMS permit to possess this species.

## **#8 BOUNDRIES**

- There are no boundaries.

## **#9 WEATHER**

- HBA of Sarasota/Sarasota Slam officials may cancel any tournament fishing day if, a determination is made that unsafe conditions exist at sea.
- Resumption of fishing will be announced by 6:00am the following morning on VHF channel 68.
- Resumption of fishing announcement does not ensure the safety of any registered participant or guest.
- The decision to fish or not is based solely on the decision of the captain taking into consideration the prevailing conditions, the seaworthiness of their vessel and the crews seamanship.
- Eight hours of offshore fishing by one third of the registered boats constitutes a complete tournament.
- If all days are weathered out, entry fees less tournament expenses will be refunded within 30 days.

## **#10 COMMUNICATIONS**

- HBA of Sarasota County/Sarasota Slam Officials will monitor VHF channel 68 during tournament hours.
- Cell phones:
  - #1 T.J. Nutter, Tournament Director 941-650-2321
  - #2 Sam Chavers, Dockmaster, 941-955-9488

## #11 ELIGIBLE SPECIES, POINTS AND LIMITS

Species	Release Points	Weight Points	Minimums	Bag Limit
Blue Marlin	500	1 per LB over 500	103" LJFL	1/angler/tournament
White Marlin	300	n/a	release only	n/a
Swordfish	200/max 2	1 per LB over 200	60" LJFL	1/angler/tournament
Sailfish	100	n/a	release only	n/a
Unidentified	75	n/a	release only	n/a
Dolphin	n/a	1 per pound	20 pounds	2/Team
Tuna	n/a	1 per pound	27" CFL	2/Team
Wahoo	n/a	1 per pound	20 pounds	2/Team

- **Prize payouts to be guaranteed with a minimum of 10 boats per category.**
- Undersized fish brought to the scales will not be weighed and release points for that fish will be forfeited.
- Each team is only eligible to weigh one Blue Marlin and One Swordfish per tournament. Swordfish maximum release points is 400 and each weighed Swordfish will be granted 1 point per pound over 200 pounds. One Swordfish weighed per team.

## #12 REPORTING HOOK UPS AND RELEASES

- All billfish catches and releases must be reported to the Tournament Director by phone and the following information must be given: Name of Boat, Name of Angler, Species and Time of Release.
- Please be clear and concise on your voice mail and repeat all information twice.
- Only call in hook-ups in the last 30 minutes- Between 5:30 and 6:00 AM on Saturday.
- Each voice mail will be saved and logged into affidavit log.
- Catch affidavits will need to be filled out for each release and passed in with video recording when returning to the Marina.
- The video must identify the billfish species and include the tournament's verification object.
- If the committee is unable to verify billfish species from the video recording, 75 points will be awarded.
- ***Teams are expected to provide their own video cameras and video cassettes/disks.***
- The largest total of billfish points wins First place in that division.
- Fun fish are based strictly on weight and are separate from the Billfish Division.
- Each boat may weigh 2 fish per fun fish species.
- In the unlikely event of a tie in any Fun Fish Category, the first paid registration will be declared the winner.
- In the event of a Billfish tie, the win will be awarded based on time of release or landing for billfish.
- The tournament committee's decision is final.

## #13 OFFICIAL BILLFISH RELEASE

- A billfish is considered officially released when the leader connection is wound to the tip of the rod, or the mate or other crew member touches the leader (NOT double line) and the fish is successfully video recorded.
- Tagging is not required for tournament points.

#### **#14 BILLFISH CATCH AFFIDAVITS**

- Billfish Catch Affidavits are the log of every billfish hooked-up and subsequently released, landed or lost. Teams wishing to weigh a Billfish must turn in a BCA in addition to properly tagging their fish.
- The BCA is compared to the Tournament Director's cell phone logs, and submitted videography to verify release times and ensure all billfish points are accurately rewarded.
- Any boat wishing to be awarded points for billfish must complete a BCA for every billfish they wish to get points. Forms will be in the Captain's packets.
- In addition to the BCA, each team must turn in their video footage between 10am-12:30pm Saturday, August 9, 2008 in order to get points credit for billfish.

#### **#15 WEIGH-IN**

- Boats wishing to weigh a fish or compete in points for billfish must be checked in by dock side committee at Marina Jack in Sarasota, Florida by 12:00pm noon on Saturday, August 9, 2008.
- Any fish to be weighed must be transported by the boat on which they were caught to Marina Jack.
- Boats can depart for fishing grounds from the port of their choice after notifying tournament director (at captain's meeting or by cell phone), but must return to Marina Jack in Sarasota, FL to be eligible to weigh fish or get points in billfish category.
- Weigh-in will start promptly at 2pm Saturday, August 9, 2008 and will continue until 5pm or until all fish have been weighed.
- All fish are weighed to the hundredth of the pound.
- Fish must be in edible condition, not marred or mauled in any way.
- No fish should leave the boat until they are in line to be weighed.
- Before leaving the scale area, the presenting angler must sign the Official Tournament Weigh-in form.
- The tournament committee encourages donation of all weighed fish, as they will be donated to a local charity for meals to feed the hungry.
- The Weigh Master and the Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse to weigh any fish that does not meet the tournament requirements.
- If you choose NOT to return to Marina Jack on Saturday, please notify the tournament director.
- Don't forget to leave time for the bridge!

#### **#16 BREAKING TIES**

- Ties between the weights of two or more fish are broken by the time of paid registration.
- Ties between release points and Billfish Weights are broken by the time of release as recorded on the Billfish Catch Affidavits along with time of recorded call.
- All times are recorded to the whole minute.

#### **#17 PROTESTS**

- Registered Participants may submit a formal protest against any fish entered.
- Protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director before the official close of the weigh station, and must be accompanied by \$1,500.00 cash and documented evidence surrounding the incident.
- Tournament participants must be able to produce fish in it's full form until conclusion of the weigh-in, in the event of a protest.

- The \$1,500.00 will be returned only if protest is upheld.

### **#18 POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION**

- All registered participants agree to submit to a polygraph examination if requested by the Tournament Committee.
- Failure of any angler to comply will result in disqualification of the entire team.
- Disqualification will result in penalties, including, but not limited to; complete forfeiture of any and all monies entry fees and prizes, refused entry to future tournaments and written notification to World Billfish Series.
- The decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.
- If there is a dispute involving your team, please make all anglers available.

### **#19 TOURNAMENT AWARDS**

***Prize payouts to be guaranteed with a minimum of 10 boats per category.***

- BILLFISH 1<sup>st</sup> \$50,000.00
- BILLFISH 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15,000.00
- TUNA 1st \$3,500.00
- WAHOO 1st \$3,500.00
- DOLPHIN 1st \$3,500.00

### **#21 OPTIONAL BONUS ENTRIES**

- Only participants may pay an Optional Entry Fee.
- Optional Entry Fees will be accepted and registered in the name of an Invited Participant. Optional Entry Fees are subject to state and local tax.
- Ninety percent (90%) of all Optional Entry Fees will be distributed in the form of Optional Awards. The balance of Optional Entry Fees after payment and expenses will be used to support not-for-profit Tournament Charities.
- Optional Entry Fees must be paid in United States Currency, cashiers check made payable to HBA of Sarasota, or credit card (Visa or Mastercard only).
- Participants may pay an Optional Entry Fee in one or more of the following categories:
 

Billfish	\$3000
Tuna	\$1000
Wahoo	\$1000
Dolphin	\$1000
Blue Marlin Weight	\$2500
Swordfish Weight	\$1500
- Optional Bonus Entries will pay out 3 places in all categories. (90% of total proceeds.) With a 10 entry minimum.
- First place Optional Awards for Catch and Release shall be determined according to Rules. First place Optional Awards for Tuna, Wahoo, and Dolphin shall be determined by weight according to Rules.
- In the event that no fish is weighed in by an Optional Participant in a Category eligible for and Optional Award, 90% of all Optional Entry Fees paid for that category shall be returned to the Participant who paid the optional Entry Fees for that Category. The HBA of Sarasota has 10 days to return those fees to you.

- Tournament accepts no responsibility for division of an Optional Award between participants.
- The winners of the Optional Awards shall be announced at the Tournament Awards Dinner on Saturday, August 9th. Payment of Optional Awards will be made by check issued by the HBA of Sarasota and distributed following the Tournament Awards Dinner on Saturday, August 9.
- Rulings made by the Tournament Committee shall be final in all disputes regarding Optional Rules.

## **#22 LIABILITY RELEASE**

- It is expressly understood that all registered participants and their companions, crew members and observers (the Participants) participate in the HBA of Sarasota County/Sarasota Slam at their own risk.
- The participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Tournament, Marina Jack, The Hyatt Hotel, The Home Builders Association of Sarasota County, and all Directors, Volunteers, agents, sponsors, partners, members, attorneys or any other person associated with this tournament from and against any and 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 HBA of Sarasota County/Sarasota Slam @ Marina Jack, 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 assigns. By entering the above stated tournament and paying entry fee, participants acknowledge that they have read and are bound by same.

Questions? Please contact T.J. Nutter at (941) 650-2321.

### *Sarasota Slam*

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