

# 30th Annual Bacardi® Rum Billfish Tournament

## March 15<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> 2009

### Rules of the Tournament

1. I.G.F.A. Angling rules will apply. All anglers and crewmembers are expected to be familiar with IGFA rules. The angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to gaff or point of release unaided by any other person. No one other than the angler may touch the rod.
  - Double Headers are allowed
  
2. **HMS Permit Required**
  - **Atlantic HMS Angling Permit** (Recreational) Description  
All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit.  
2009 Atlantic HMS permits cost \$16.00 and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2009. <http://www.nmfspermits.com/>
  
3. Tackle:
  - Rods: Up to six lines may be fished at one time.
  - Line. 130-pound (60 kg) maximum. Manufacturer's stated line.
  - Brand and type must be provided if requested by a tournament official.
  - Boats fishing line less than 130-pound test will not be penalized nor will they receive any bonus points.
  - Top-shots, Double line and Leader lengths per IGFA
  
4. Baits:
  - Baits may be Artificial Lures, natural bait or a combo of natural / artificial. Live bait is also permitted.
  - **Mandatory Hook Requirements:**  
The National Marine Fishery Service now requires Non-offset circle hooks to be used on all natural baits and all natural/artificial combination baits in tournaments that offer prizes for billfish including The Bacardi®.
  - Circle hooks are defined as any hook regarded as a circle hook designated by the manufacturer and originally designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape.
  - Traditional J-hooks may still be used on artificial lures.
  
5. Hook ups:
  - All billfish must be reported at once to the "Committee Boat".
  - The Captain or designate must notify the Committee the species and the name of the angler fighting the fish.
  - A fish must be reported as "boated" or "released" in order to count.
  - Boats must do everything within their power to communicate with the committee or other participants.

- Failure to communicate a hook up, or the boating or releasing of a fish will disqualify the catch.
  - No call is required for non-billfish hook-up or capture.
6. Points:
- The Blue Marlin minimum length is **110 inches**. LJFT. One point per pound.
  - All other Billfish must be released.
  - Any Blue Marlin brought to weigh under the 110" [LJFT] will incur a 400 point penalty.
  - Fish must be fought and either landed or released on the registered boat.  
There are no transfers allowed from one boat to another.  
No additional crew can board the fighting boat.
- 6a. Release points:
- Blue Marlin 400 points.
  - White Marlin 150 points. Spearfish 150 points.
  - Sailfish 75 points.
  - Hatchet Marlin will be ruled as a White.
  - Sailfish releases: Daily limit of three (3) sailfish releases per boat. Total tournament limit of 5 (five) sailfish releases per boat.
  - *No bonus points awarded for Circle hooks.*
7. Requirements for Releases:
- Catch Release Affidavit and a Digital Photograph.
  - The Release form must be accompanied by a digital image .The image verifies the species on the release form. **No** points will be awarded if the species and Affidavit do not match.
  - The time of the digital image is the official release time.
  - The cameras, either and/or video will be set at registration to the official tournament time.
  - *All cameras approved for use to document releases must be registered and synchronized.*
8. Anglers:
- All anglers must be registered on the entry form that every boat must fill out and sign on the day of registration.
  - Angler substitutions are allowed provided that the Committee Boat is notified prior to the start of the day's fishing. Changes can be made over the radio to the Committee prior to the start of the days' fishing.
9. Official Tournament Time:
- The official time will be GPS.
10. Fishing Hours:
- Monday Tuesday and Thursday Lines-in at 8am. Lines-out at 4pm.
  - Friday Lines-in at 7.30am. Lines out at 3.30pm
  - Dock Basin departure: See Schedule
  - If a fish has been reported hooked up prior to the 4:00 P.M. lines out of the water deadline, the angler will have unlimited time to fight the fish and report

to the weigh-in station. On the last day, the angler will have until 5:00 PM to return to the scales. Digital photo releases on the last day must be brought to the weigh master also by 5:00 P.M.

11. Weigh In:

- The weigh-in station(s) will open at 4:00 PM. The site of the weigh-in stations will be announced at the opening meeting.
- On the final day, the angler will have until 5:00 PM to return to the scales.
- The game fish division weigh-in station will close at 7:00 PM, except on the final day of fishing when all weigh-in stations will close at 5:00 PM.
- Fish to be weighed must be at the scale.
- No early weigh-in will be allowed.
- Digital photo releases on the last day must be brought for Verification by 5:00 P.M.

12. Weather:

- This is a Captain's choice tournament. Fishing at your own risk.

13. Tiebreaker:

- In the event of a tie, the winner shall be the first boat reaching the winning point accumulation.

14. Protests.

- The tournament is run on the honor system. In the unlikely event of a protest, they must be made in writing and handed to the Tournament Director in writing, on the day of the alleged violation, prior to the closing of the weigh-in station. Protests are not retroactive. The Protest Committee will be announced at the opening meeting and will rule verbally on their decision. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

15. Boundaries:

- There will be no boundaries.
- Boats cannot utilize the Grand Bahamas Inland Waterway.
- All boats must observe strictly the times of "lines-in" and "lines-out". GPS is the official time.
- Boats can return to the docks at a safe speed. The committee reserves the right to call a boat and inquire as to its whereabouts and estimated arrival back at the docks after "lines out".
- All boats are expected to be docked at their slips during the evening and to check out with the Committee after they are allowed to leave the docks basin.

16. Committee Boat:

- Tournament Committee will be "boat based" based on one of the participating boats.
- Cellular phones and satellite phones may be used to communicate with the Committee boat.
- Use of radio relay is encouraged in case of poor reception.

- The issue of communicating with the Committee Boat will be addressed in a separate “Things You Need To Know” pamphlet as well as discussed at the Captain’s/Opening meeting.