



# Billfish/Fun Fish Tournament Rules

Rules are subject to change up until the captain's meeting on August 3, 2021.

**\*NOTE: This is a VIDEO catch and release tournament.**

## #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 the Captain's meeting.
- At least one designated representative from each team must attend the captains meeting.
- The Manatee-Sarasota Building Industry Association/Sarasota Slam and the tournament committee expect the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants.

## #2 ENTRY DEADLINE

- 6:00 pm on August 3, 2021.

## #3 ENTRY FEES

- The entry fee shall be \$3000 per boat competing in the Billfish Tournament (Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish)
- Entry into Fun Fish Divisions will be \$1200 per species. (Swordfish, Dolphin, Wahoo and Tuna) Boats must be entered into the Billfish Division to enter Fun Fish Categories.
- Optional Bonus Entry fees are outlined in #20
- Entries for the Florida West Coast Bluewater Series are separate from the Sarasota Slam and will be a separate entry paid directly to FWCBS.
- **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 the Dock Master, at 941.955.9488 or email at dockmaster@marinajacks.com

## #4 CAPTAIN'S MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

- Registration will be from 4:00pm until 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.
- There will be a mandatory Captain's meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:00pm on the Marina Jack outside patio.
- At least one member of the team **MUST** be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend.
- Boats can depart to fishing grounds at 6:00am on Wednesday, August 4, 2021.
- Fishing can commence at 6:00pm Wednesday, August 4, 2021.
- Registered tournament boats are not required to depart from Marina Jack in Sarasota but are invited and encouraged to do so. Those boats not leaving from Marina Jack in Sarasota must notify the tournament committee of the departure marina before leaving the Captains Meeting.

## #5 HOURS OF COMPETITION

- Tournament fishing starts Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 6:00pm.
- Mandatory check in time is 12:00 noon Saturday, August 7, 2021 at Marina Jack, Sarasota, Florida. **If you choose NOT to return to Marina Jack on Saturday it is REQUIRED that the Tournament Director be notified.**

- 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 Sarasota Slam, except for 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.
- Handheld rods and reels only.
- 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.
- No transfer of catch from one boat to another.

## #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 swordfish and tuna/HMS permit to possess this species.
- It is not the responsibility of the tournament officials or directors to verify that all required permits, licenses and/or registrations are acquired by anglers participating in the tournament.

## #8 BOUNDARIES

- Boats must fish north of 25.00.000, south of 28.00.000 and can go as far west as they would like to go.

## #9 WEATHER

- Sarasota Slam officials may cancel any tournament fishing day if a determination is made that unsafe conditions exist at sea.
- 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

- Cell phone numbers will be given out at the captains meeting.
- Marina Jack, Dockmasters Office 941-955-9488
- Email: [Rebecca@ms-bia.org](mailto:Rebecca@ms-bia.org).

## #11 ELIGIBLE SPECIES, POINTS AND LIMITS

Species	Release Points	Weight Points	Minimums	Bag Limit
Blue Marlin	501	n/a	release only	n/a
White Marlin	250	n/a	release only	n/a
Sailfish	100	n/a	release only	n/a
Spearfish	100	n/a	release only	n/a
Swordfish	n/a	1 per pound	47" LJFL	2/Team
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

- Undersized fish brought to the scales will not be weighed and release points for that fish will be forfeited.
- **Extra Billfish Points – Presented by the Billfish Foundation. 20 points per tag Blue Marlin, 10 points per White Marlin, 5 points per Sailfish / Spearfish Each eligible species will be awarded upon video or photo submission. Photos or videos must have conclusive evidence as to which species the fish is, and if the fish has been tagged or not. The committee's decision is final.**

## **#12 REPORTING HOOK UPS AND RELEASES**

- All billfish catches and releases must be reported by video and catch affidavits at the time of release.
- Please take a continuous video of fish, tournament indicator and then turn to time on your GPS.
- Photos or Videos must have conclusive evidence as to which species the fish is, The Tournament Committee's decision is final. The tournament committee will not provide any special equipment with which to photograph / video or view catch with.
- Boat/Teams are responsible for providing their own digital photo equipment. (ONLY Digital Photos or Videos allowed) Each Boat/Team will have to present their digital camera card/chip and/or the download cable so pictures can be retrieved.
- In the video (Or with stills, multiple frames consecutively) Make sure the indicator is in the footage and then turn to your GPS to time stamp the clip.
- Boat/Teams submitting photos must also submit a "Catch Affidavit" form (form supplied at Weigh In) that requires name of boat/team, name of angler which caught the fish, species and time fish was landed. The time of catch must be recorded and turned in with your photos/video.
- A Tournament Indicator will be given to each boat/team at Captains meeting. The Tournament Indicator must be clearly present in all photos.
- All teams / boats must have digital equipment delivered between **10am-12pm (subject to change. In committee review)** per event schedules.
- ***Video scoring will be done by a tournament official only, and anglers are NOT permitted in booth during scoring.***
- The largest total of billfish points wins First place in that division.
- In the event of a Billfish tie... (See Rule #16)
- 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... (See Rule #16)
- 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 (BCA) are the log of every billfish hooked-up and subsequently released or landed. Teams wishing to weigh a Billfish must turn in a BCA.
- 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 awarded.
- 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-12pm (subject to change in committee review)** Saturday, August 7, 2021 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 (subject to change in committee review)** on Saturday, August 7, 2021.
- 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 the Tournament Director at the Captains Meeting but must return to Marina Jack in Sarasota, FL to be eligible to weigh fish or get points in billfish category.
- Swordfish and Fun Fish will be weighed-in immediately following the inshore/offshore weigh-in on Saturday, August 7, 2021 and will continue until all fish have been weighed.
- All fish are weighed to the hundredth of the pound.
- Any fish weighed-in found to contain lead or any foreign matter will be subject to disqualification as decided by the tournament committee.
- 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.
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to retain weighed fish as applicable.
- **If you choose NOT to return to Marina Jack on Saturday, please notify the Tournament Director.**
- First place fish will be retained by Weigh Master until the conclusion of the weigh-in or it drops out of contention by weight.

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

- Ties between the weights of two or more fun 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 Official before the official close of the weigh station, and must be accompanied by \$2,000.00 cash and documented evidence surrounding the incident.
- The \$2,000.00 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 will be 90% of entry fees collected. (70% for first place and 30% for second place) for each of the following categories.**

- BILLFISH
- SWORDFISH
- TUNA
- WAHOO
- DOLPHIN

## #20 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 federal, state and local tax.
- Optional entry payouts will be 90% of entry fees collected. \*(70% - 30% split is from the 90% of fees collected minus any credit card processing fees).
- Optional Entry Fees must be paid in United States Currency or credit card (credit cards will be charged a 3.5% processing fee)
- Participants may pay an Optional Entry Fee in one or more of the following categories:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Billfish	\$500	\$1000	\$2500
Swordfish	\$250	\$500	\$1000
Tuna	\$250	\$500	\$1000
Wahoo	\$250	\$500	\$1000
Dolphin	\$250	\$500	\$1000

- First place Optional Awards for Swordfish, 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 an Optional Award, 100% of all Optional Entry Fees paid (minus any credit card fees) for that category shall be returned to the Participant who paid the optional Entry Fees for that Category. The Sarasota Slam 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 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Rulings made by the Tournament Committee shall be final in all disputes regarding Optional Rules.

## #21 DISCARDING FISH

- The captain will be responsible for properly disposing of fish.
- **NO DEAD FISH OR FISH PARTS WILL BE TOSSED INTO THE WATER AT MARINA JACK!**
- Unwanted fish will be collected by charity at the top of the fuel dock.

## #22 PAYMENTS

- Payment of Tournament Awards and Optional Awards will be made by check issued by the Manatee-Sarasota BIA and distributed on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Winner must fill out and hand in a W-9 in order to receive their winnings.
- The tournament will only submit the W-9's of the winners of any prize money that exceeds the amount of the entry fee of that category by \$600. If less than a \$600 difference, no W-9 is needed.

## #23 LIABILITY RELEASE

- It is expressly understood that all registered participants and their companions, crew members and observers (the Participants) participate in the Manatee-Sarasota BIA/Sarasota Slam at their own risk.
- The participants hereby indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Tournament, Marina Jack, the Manatee-Sarasota Building Industry Association, and all Directors, Staff, 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 Manatee-Sarasota BIA / 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? Contact Rebecca Queen (941) 907-4133 x 307 or email [Rebecca@ms-bia.org](mailto:Rebecca@ms-bia.org)

*Sarasota Slam*

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