

BILLFISH EXTRAVAGANZA • May 1-4, 2025

Tournament Rules & Regulations

TOURNAMENT ENTRY

- Entry fee is \$1,500 per boat, plus 7% required Florida State tax.
- All tournament entries are non-transferable and non-refundable. Payment of entry fee constitutes a representation by all entrants that they have read and fully understands the rules and will abide by such rules and the decisions of the Tournament Director.
- The Billfish Extravaganza is a sportfishing tournament where participants agree to fish in a fair and ethical manner. While the tournament does not strictly enforce the use of IGFA rules, it certainly expects that only minor technical differences will be employed by anglers. One noted exception is the allowance of “hook & hand”, that the rod may be handed off one time within the first minute of the fight.

REGISTRATION & CAPTAIN’S MEETING

- Registration and the Captain’s Meeting will be held on May 1st at 6:00pm at Boshamps in Destin, FL. The captain, owner, or designated team member must be present.
- Rules are subject to change. Any changes to the rules and final instructions will be given at the meeting.

TOURNAMENT START

- In the interest of true sportsmanship, boats may depart at 11:00am from the Destin Jetties for a shotgun start.
- All boats must check-out by calling or texting Crystal at 337.802.5525 or VHF ch. 78.

FISHING HOURS

- Boats may begin fishing after the 11:00am departure on Friday, May 1st and continue fishing until Sunday. You may catch bait before 11:00am at the jetties before the shotgun start.
- All boats must return to the scales by water. You must be checked-in and present at the scales no later than 5:00pm on Sunday, May 4th to weigh-in.

WEIGH STATION HOURS & PROCEDURES

- Scales will be open at Boshamps: 4:00-6:00pm on Saturday, May 3rd and open at 3:00pm on Sunday, May 4th. All teams must be checked in at the scales by 5:00pm and scales will close immediately after the last fish is weighed.
- All billfish catch & release forms must be turned in before the close of scales.
- A tail tag with the boat and angler’s name must be attached to each fish before unloading at the scales.
- Anglers must remain with their fish until the completion of the weigh-in. The angler must sign the weigh-in stat sheet to verify the weight, at which time will make the weight official.
- All fish must be returned to the boat after the scores are official.

QUALIFYING FISH

- The following species are eligible for competition when caught by registered anglers:
 - **Catch & Release** – Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, spearfish

- Heaviest Weighed-in – **Dolphin** 15 lb. minimum, **Tuna** 20 lb. minimum, **Wahoo** 20 lb. minimum, **Swordfish** 47” lower jaw/fork minimum
- For each day the scales are open (Sat. & Sun.), each boat will be allowed to bring to the scales a maximum of three (3) of each of the following: tuna, dolphin, and wahoo, and one (1) swordfish.
- Harpoons are allowed. NO electric reels.
- The tournament committee reserves the right to reject any fish entry due to its condition or one that does not meet the eligibility requirements. The condition of the fish will be left to the scrutiny of the Tournament Director, and their decision is final.

REPORTING BILLFISH

- Each boat is required to record all billfish that are released in the order in which the fish are caught on the Billfish Scorecard. Be prepared to give the following information: Team name, Angler name, Species, Tiem released.
- Do not report tuna, dolphin, wahoo, or swordfish on the catch & release form.
- We encourage you to call or text in the releases in real time to Crystal at 337.802.5525.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

- The awards listed are based on 30 boats. Payouts are subject to change depending on the number of entries. Catch & Release awards will be presented to the boats with the most accumulated points utilizing video verification. Awards for heaviest fish will be presented to the angler according to category placement.
 - Catch & Release: 1st - \$7,000 • 2nd - \$5,000 • 3rd - \$3,500
 - Tuna, Dolphin, Wahoo: 1st - \$3,500 • 2nd - \$2,500 • 3rd - \$1,500
 - Swordfish: 1st - \$750 • 2nd - \$500 • 3rd - \$250
- If no meat fish are weighed in for any category above, the cash award will be added to other categories in a proportional manner determined by the Tournament Director.
- Lady Angler and Junior Angler Awards will be presented to one lady and one junior angler with the most accumulated points based on the following:
 - One point per pound for tuna, dolphin, wahoo, and swordfish weighed in at the dock
 - 200 points per verified catch & release
- Catch & Release placements are determined by points, which include 200 points per release.
- Cash awards will be paid to the primary contact of the tournament boat. Payments will be made by a single check for the combined total awarded. The tournament accepts no responsibility for the division of any cash awards between team members.
- Polygraphs may be administered at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

OPTIONAL JACKPOTS

- This is a separate entry and not required to complete for tournament awards.
- All optional jackpot payouts will be the total amount of monies received, minus 10% deducted for tournament service fees with the remaining 90% to be awarded. All divisions will pay 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with a 50%, 30%, 20% split. In the event of limited participation, payouts are modified: one team entered will be a full refund and two teams will be 66%, 34% split.
- In the event that no qualifying fish are weighed in any category, 90% of the entries will be refunded to the participants in that category.

BILLFISH VERIFICATION

- Catch & Release definition – A billfish is considered caught when the leader connection is shown wound up to the tip of the rod, or a team member is shown touching the leader. The billfish is considered released when, after being caught by above definition, the rod and angler are shown with the fish no longer connected to the line.
- Tournament designator will be assigned at the Captain's meeting and must appear in video submissions.
- Billfish Scorecard – All released billfish must be logged on the scorecard in the sequence in which they were caught.
- Cell phone videos are acceptable or use a fresh SD card. It is critical the person videoing understands the importance of including all technical elements for verification.
- Videos submitted must include the following technical elements:
 - Angler fighting the fish, cockpit panoramic view, tournament designator, the catch as stated in definition listed above, the fish in water, the release, secondary cockpit panoramic view after the release, and a clear view of the GPS date and time to be used for the official release time.

TIE BREAKERS

- For catch & release – team placement is determined by the first team to reach the highest total of points verified by GPS time.
- For weighed fish – placement is determined by the order of weigh-in at the scales.
- For Lady or Junior angler, placement is determined by time of verification or weigh-in at scales.

PROTEST

- Any protests relating to the tournament must be submitted in writing along with a \$750 non-refundable deposit by the team representative no later than 15 minutes after the last fish is weighed on the final day of the tournament. Disputes are decided by the Tournament Director and their decision is final.
- Poor sportsmanship will be grounds for disqualification. Any violation of these rules will result in disqualification, forfeiture of entry fees and prize money.

WAIVER / DISCLAIMER

- All participants of the Billfish Extravaganza enter at their own risk. Director, committee, sponsors, tournament venue, and all persons connected directly or indirectly shall be exempt from any and all liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury, or death suffered by any participant, entrant, angler and/or companions, captains, mates, crews, vessels, or equipment may occur during or in conjunction with the tournament. By tournament entry, teams release the Emerald Coast Big Game Fishing Club Billfish Extravaganza, officers, directors, and all persons from injury, loss or damage which may result.
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to refuse entry of any anglers. Their decision is final.

Good luck! See y'all at the scales. ** Tag us in your photos! @ECBGFC