

Official Rules & Information



These are the Official Rules. Please look over this information and keep it handy. If you have any questions, please contact Tournament Headquarters before departure - Thanks. 361-815-1612

Tournament Information

The 2025 Entry Fee is \$2500 per boat, plus \$1,000 to the Mandatory Boat Pool, regardless when you register.

You may register by mail at:
Texas Legends Billfish Tournament
P.O. Box 3078, Port Aransas, TX 78373
361-815-1612

Final Registration will take place from 2:00pm to 6:00pm, August 6th, 2025, at Fisherman's Wharf in Port Aransas. Tournament bags will be distributed at the same time and place. This is your best opportunity to pick up your tournament bag.

Attendance at the final registration is not mandatory. However, you must arrange to pick up your tournament bag before departure, so you will have the required object of the day for video release.

No cancellations accepted after 7:00pm **August 6th, 2025.**

NO EXCEPTIONS - Please verify your vessel's condition before the cancelation deadline.

Boats may leave from any Texas Port - Please notify Tournament Headquarters if you are leaving from a port other than Port Aransas, Texas. Make sure you understand all rules and pick up your tournament bag before departure. **Tournament Bags will be available after August 9th. Boats must make their own arrangements for dockage in their respective ports - including Port Aransas.**

Our Early Departure Time, anytime after 5pm on **August 10th**, allows for an unhurried trip offshore during daylight hours for safety and practicality.

Weigh Station - Fisherman's Wharf, Port Aransas, Texas. **All boats submitting videotapes or weighing fish must return to Port Aransas by 5:00pm on August 10, 2025. Boats must be inside the Port Aransas Municipal Harbor Breakwater.**

Boats waiting in line to weigh fish inside the harbor at 5pm will be considered on time and able to weigh fish. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Please call the weigh station on VHF channel 68 when you are inside the municipal harbor breakwater and you will be checked in and put in line to weigh in. The weigh station will call you when it is your turn to weigh in.

In you only have a video to present for review you must still check in. Tell the weigh station you only have a video to show and you can go to your slip and bring the video over to Fisherman's Wharf. Videos must be brought to Fisherman's Wharf for review immediately after docking.

All registered boats will receive 6 Entry ID's along with T-Shirts, hats, a tournament bag and other gifts and information. Other prizes will be awarded. Make sure you pick up your bag before departure. Special OBJECT OF THE DAY is included and required for each day of fishing.

Additional Entry ID's and tournament gear can be purchased at registration.

Tournament Rules

- By entering this tournament, participants agree to abide by all rules and decisions. All committee decisions are final.
- Contestants are boats. **There may not be any pooling of catch or transfer of catch from one boat to another. In the event of a mechanical failure that disables a participant's boat, a substitute boat may be used at the discretion of the tournament director. Any substitution must take place at the dock, not offshore.**
- All boats must be registered and all fees paid before leaving their respective ports. Boats should coordinate their departure in each port with a committee boat or other tournament boat. **Boats may depart anytime after the Blessing of the Fleet and the Release at 5pm on Thursday, August 6th, but no sooner.**

- All boats are required to return to Port Aransas, Texas to weigh any fish or submit any videos, regardless of departure port.
- Fishing time starts at 12:01am on August 6th, 2025 and ends at 5pm August 10th, 2025 at the close of the weigh station. Stop fishing in time to make the 5pm deadline if you boat or release a fish. Boats must be inside the Port Aransas Municipal Harbor Breakwater (not Port Aransas Jetties) at 5pm. Boats waiting in line to weigh fish inside the Port Aransas Harbor at 5pm will be considered on time and able to weigh fish.

NO EXCEPTIONS. All times are GPS times (CDT= Coordinated Universal Time - 5)

USE YOUR GPS FOR THE CORRECT TIME

- Call Tournament Headquarters at 361-815-1612 or a Committee Boat immediately after boating or releasing an eligible billfish. Contacting Tournament Headquarters helps us keep our website/app/social media up to date with the latest fishing results! It is not necessary to call in hook-ups, only catch or release information. It is also not necessary to call in tuna, wahoo, or dolphin. For released billfish the committee boat or Tournament Headquarters will also record the time of release. Be sure your information has been received. A list of committee boats and contact information will be included your tournament bag. If no contact can be made, have another tournament boat relay information. Be sure to get that boat's name and make sure they record the time.
- All boats are required to have a video device (iPad) to verify release of billfish. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- iPads work great!

JUNGLE RULES! There are no angling rules other than the fish must be caught on an IGFA conventional rod and reel and boated by hand or gaff. Anyone may handle the rod. No harpoons, shooting, explosives, poison, electric reels (OK for dredge use only), electric shock, entangling devices, nets, longlines or other non-sporting devices may be used.

- Fish must be weighed in good condition. No frozen fish will be accepted. Remember to take plenty of ice and insulated fish bags.

- Boats weighing fish will be responsible for those fish after weigh-in. This includes Blue Marlin.
- A boat may fish as many lines as desired.
- Participants are encouraged to follow all State and Federal Laws.
- **REMINDER!!!** FEDERAL LAW requires the use of non-offset circle hooks in billfish tournaments when using natural baits (dead or alive) or natural baits in combination with lures or skirts.
- **FISHING IN MEXICAN WATERS NOT PERMITTED.** The tournament has been informed by the United States Coast Guard in Port Isabel, TX, that it is against Federal Law to leave a Texas port, fish in Mexican waters and return to a Texas port. Therefore, fishing in Mexican waters which extend south from 26 degrees N Latitude is not permitted in this tournament.
- **WEATHER:** In case of very bad weather, the Tournament Committee may decide to reschedule the Tournament. Sunday, August 13th may be used as a weather day. One day fishing constitutes the tournament. If the tournament is completely cancelled, all boat pools will be refunded and entry fees will be refunded less tournament expenses. Regardless of weather, the captain and owner of each vessel are responsible for decisions made regarding the safety of their vessel.
- **CONDUCT:** The committee will consider unsportsmanlike conduct as grounds for disqualification. Contestants are responsible for their crew's actions. Committee decisions are final.
- **PROTESTS:** The only situation where a protest will be considered is in regards to a violation of the tournament rules. All protests must be substantial in nature, include documented evidence and must be submitted to the tournament director, in writing, before 7pm August 10th, 2025. A \$500 cash deposit must be included with a protest. Deposit returned only if protest is upheld. The Tournament Committee will resolve all disputes and their decision is final.
- **POLYGRAPH:** All participants (including captain, crew, or guests) agree to submit to polygraph test if requested by the Tournament Committee. Failure to submit to such an exam will result in the disqualification of the boat, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Any participant disqualified by the Tournament Committee for cheating, attempting to cheat or any other dishonest conduct may not be allowed to participate in future tournaments. Intentionally filling a fish with water or any other substance is considered cheating.

Scoring

Our Tournament promotes the release of Billfish!

Our point system is designed to promote releasing all Blue Marlin under 500lbs. All White Marlin and Sailfish must be released. Blue marlin are the only billfish eligible to weigh, in the Billfish and Blue Marlin Pools and must be at least 106" in short length - the Lower tip of the jaw to the fork of the tail. Blue Marlin, White Marlin, and Sailfish are the only billfish scored. The Blue Marlin Pools are for blue marlin only.

Point System

Blue Marlin Weighed-in.....1 point per pound
Blue Marlin Released.....500 points
White Marlin Released.....150 points
Sailfish Released.....100 points

Bonus Points

Blue Marlin 1,000lbs. and over = 1 point per pound +1,000 points.

Highest score determines the winner(s). The boat with the most points accrued by the earliest time of their last fish released (or blue marlin boated) wins. You have the choice to release or boat a blue marlin with a short length of 106" or more. Since you are rewarded with 500 points for releasing a blue marlin, it doesn't make sense to boat one you think will not weigh 500lbs. If you decide to boat a blue marlin, the capture and boating should be recorded on video and the time the blue marlin is hauled on board should be recorded and reported to Tournament Headquarters or a Committee Boat. If you catch a Blue Marlin that weighs over 600lbs, the tournament rewards your accomplishment with a 900 point bonus in addition to the 1 point per pound scoring. This bonus reflects the skill and difficulty involved in boating a fish that large vs. releasing any size blue marlin. If for some reason the points and release times between boats are identical, the boat with the most blue marlin wins. On all weighed fish, in the case of a tie, length prevails.



Texas Legends Billfish Tournament
JUNGLE RULES

Entry Fee and Boat Pools

Entry Fee and Mandatory \$1,000 Billfish Pool must be received at Tournament Headquarters by the final entry deadline at 6pm on August 8th, 2025, at Fisherman's Wharf in Port Aransas, Texas.

Mandatory Billfish Pool..... \$1,000
Optional Billfish Pools..... \$2,000/\$4,000/\$6,000
Optional Blue Marlin Pools... \$2,000/\$4,000/\$6,000

A Special Word about Blue Marlin Only Pools!

These pools are not just for weighed Blue Marlin, but also include released Blue Marlin just like the Billfish Pools. The pools are for Blue Marlin only and are for those participants strictly interested in fishing for Blue Marlin.

All of these pools will pay four places.

The Billfish Pools include points for Blue Marlin weighed or released, White Marlin release and Sailfish released.

The Tournament Places are based on the \$1,000 Mandatory Billfish Pool which all participants are required to enter.

The Optional Boat Pools are exactly that, Optional, and are not required or included in the base entry fee. Entry into the Optional Pools is not required to be eligible for Tournament Awards. Payout on all Boat Pools is 90%. 10% Administrative cost deducted.

The Billfish and Blue Marlin Pools use an aggregate point system with release points and weighed points and will pay up to 4 places. The boat with the most points wins.

Number of Places	4	3	2	1
1st Place	50%	50%	65%	100%
2nd Place	25%	30%	35%	
3rd Place	15%	20%		
4th Place	10%			

Captain's and Mates Pools are winner take all.

Optional Captain's Pool \$250- most billfish points
Optional Mates Pool \$250- most billfish points

Optional Fish Pools Pays Two Places!

The Two Heaviest Fish in each pool win!

1st Place - 65% / 2nd Place - 35%

A Boat may win more than one place.

20lb. Minimum weight on Yellowfin Tuna and Wahoo.

10lb. minimum on Dolphin.

Yellowfin Tuna Pools \$500/\$1,500/\$2,500
Wahoo Pools \$500/\$1,500/\$2,500
Dolphin Pools \$500/\$1,500/\$2,500

Tournament Awards & Cash Prizes!

Includes all Participants.

Tournament Places are decided by the winners of the Mandatory Pool.

Tournament Champion will have the boat's name engraved on the perpetual Bob Byrd Memorial Trophy and will receive the Champion pennant.

Top Four Places receive trophies

Top Captain receives the Capt. Bill Hart Memorial Trophy

Top Mate receives the Stewart Campbell Memorial Trophy

Cash Prizes

Includes all Participants

\$2,000 to the boats releasing the largest blue marlin determined by the video review committee!

\$1,000 to the boat releasing the first blue marlin!

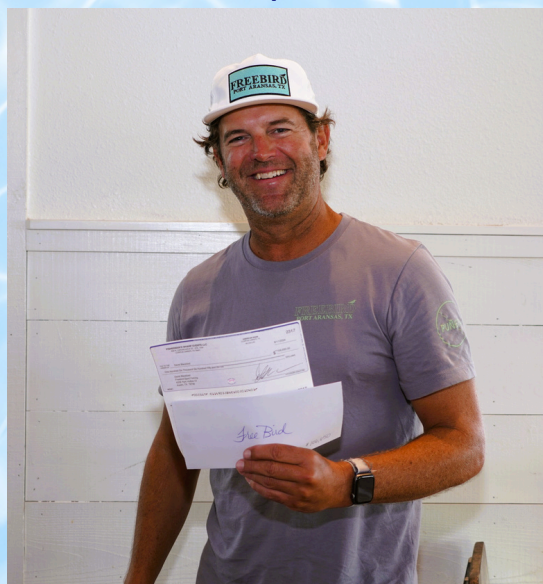
\$1,000 to the boat releasing the most billfish!

The Largest Blue Marlin Released will be determined by the Tournament Committee reviewing video footage. All participants are eligible for this prize. Participants should be aware that this is a judgment call and it can be difficult to determine the exact measurement of a live fish on a moving boat in the open ocean. Due to these circumstances, the committee's decision is final, no protests will be accepted. If you have a large fish, please take your time and get plenty of good video footage. For the Most Billfish Released prize, in case of a tie, tournament scoring rules apply.

Broker Challenge

Fox Yachts (FYS) and Galati Yachts(GYS) have each contributed \$2500 to bring a new award to the Legends Billfish Tournament this year . All boats brokered by FYS or GYS are eligible to enter. FYS and GYS have contributed a total of \$5000 to start the winner take all cash prize for all who enter the challenge. To enter the challenge, you must qualify as follows:

1. The boat must have been brokered by FYS or GYS.
2. Broker Challenge entry fee of \$2500 paid in full by 7pm when registration closes Aug.8.
3. Winner of the Legends tournament could also win this challenge, but their vessel must have been brokered by FYS or GYS so it is possible the winner of the Legends tournament and the Broker Challenge are two different vessels.
4. Winner of the Broker's Challenge will be determined by the vessel accumulating the most overall tournament points.



Fish Pool Awards

The largest fish of each species wins a trophy. You must be entered in an optional fish pool to receive the largest fish trophy of that species. The Largest Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo, and Dolphin.

Video Release Rules

- All boats are required to have a video device (iPad) to verify release of billfish. Each boat is responsible for its own video equipment.
- All boats will be required to present their video at the Weigh-in Station for the Tournament Committee to review and verify.
- The video review committee will have a computer available at the tournament and Tech Support on standby; however it is the responsibility of the participant to provide everything needed (wire, connectors, adapters, etc...) to view their video!
- Releases must be reported to Tournament Headquarters via text to 361-815-1612/361-816-3387 or a Committee Boat via channel 68 VHF.
- If Tournament Headquarters or a Committee Boat cannot be reached, another tournament boat can verify the catch.
- Only releases verified by a video device and verified by the video review committee earn points.
- It's a good idea to film with more than one video device in case of equipment failure.



To obtain release points, the video must **CLEARLY SHOW** the following in **CONTINUOUS, UNEDITED VIDEO**:

1. Angler fighting the fish.
2. Object of the day.
3. Clear identification of species.
4. Wireman with leader in hand.
5. **CATCH and RELEASE** of the fish by clearly showing at least one of the following events:
 - a. Fish swimming away following its release.
 - b. The hook being removed or the leader being cut.
 - c. The hook pulling free or leader breaking while the leader is in hand.

- **The CORRECT TIME immediately following the release. The Video Device TIME AND DATE STAMP is strongly preferred. The time on a digital time keeping device shown clearly in the video will be accepted (smart phones and iPads work great!).**

TO OBTAIN VIDEO POINTS, THE VIDEO MUST BE:

1. Recorded continuously on a video device from a time starting prior to the leader being in hand until clearly showing the time of release. If the identification is prior to the above starting point, then the video must be continuous - starting from the time of the identification of the fish.
2. Presented for review, continuous and unedited, in the video device it was recorded on or on a memory card enabling playback on computer monitor or similar device. Please provide your own.

IMPORTANT! Please have your video ready to show in a timely manner for the Video Review Committee. Using a CLEAN MEMORY CARD with no other data at the beginning of the tournament is a big help. It makes it much easier to find the video(s) to be reviewed. It is up to you to furnish everything needed to view your video. Also, **TIME and DATE** stamp on your video is preferred. **Tablets such as an iPad take excellent video that is easy to review and include a time and date stamp.** We recommend to video with more than one device in case of equipment failure. **Only releases verified by the committee earn points.**

MORE IS BETTER! THE MORE VIDEO WE SEE, THE EASIER IT IS FOR US TO VERIFY YOU HAVE MET ALL OF THE VIDEO RELEASE REQUIREMENTS!

Text your photos and videos to 361-816-3158 to be featured on our Texas Legends social media pages.