

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

August 5-9, 2026

Tournament Information

The 2026 Entry Fee is \$2,750 per boat, plus \$1,000 to the Mandatory Boat Pool, regardless of 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 2pm to 6pm, Thursday, at Grumbles Seafood Co. in Port Aransas. Tournament bags will be distributed at that time. This is the 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 **5pm Thursday, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Please verify your vessel's condition before entering the tournament.

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 at registration. Boats must make their own arrangements for dockage in their respective ports - including Port Aransas.**

Weigh Station- Fisherman's Wharf, Port Aransas, Texas. **All boats submitting video or weighing fish must return to Port Aransas, Texas. Boats must be inside the Port Aransas Municipal Harbor by 5pm Saturday.**

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.

If you are only presenting video, you must check in and then you may proceed to your slip. Videos must be presented to weigh master immediately after docking.

All registered boats will receive 6 Entry ID's along with a tournament bag and other gifts. Make sure you pick up your bag before departure. **OBJECT OF THE DAY will be included in the tournament bag.**

Additional Entry IDs 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. 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 5pm on Thursday. All boats must remain in their municipal harbor until 5pm Thursday.**
- All boats are required to return to Port Aransas, Texas to weigh any fish or submit any videos.
- Fishing time is 5pm Thursday to 5pm Saturday. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** All times are GPS times (CDT= Coordinated Universal Time - 5)

SUBMITTING RELEASE REPORTS

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Upon release or catch make every effort to report all Billfish by texting Tournament Headquarters at (361) 815-1612. Contacting Tournament Headquarters helps us keep our website/app/social media up to date with the latest fishing results!
- Do not report hook-ups or meatfish catches, only Billfish catch or release information.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

- Boat name, species, and time of release

COMMUNICATION

- Please do not report same fish more than once
- All boats are required to have a video device 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, reel and leader and boated by hand or gaff. Anyone may handle the rod.

- 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.
- Participants must 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.

- **WEATHER:** In case of very bad weather, the Tournament Committee may take a weather day or reschedule the Tournament. One day of 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 Saturday. A \$1,500 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. 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

This is a Blue Marlin Tournament. The overall champion must catch and boat and or catch and release a Blue Marlin. In the event no Blue Marlin is caught, the overall champion will be awarded to the boat with the most accumulated points.

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

All unidentifiable billfish scored as Sailfish

Bonus Points

Blue Marlin 600lbs 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.

If you catch a Blue Marlin that weighs over 600lbs, the tournament rewards your accomplishment with a 1000 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.

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.

Entry Fee and Boat Pools

Entry Fee and Mandatory \$1,000 Billfish Pool must be received at Tournament Headquarters by the final entry deadline of 5pm Thursday, 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. The pools are for Blue Marlin only and are for those participants strictly interested in fishing for Blue Marlin.

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 for Tournament Awards.

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%			

Captains' and Mates' Pools are winner take all.

Optional Captains' Pool \$250 - most billfish points
Optional Mates' Pool \$250 - most billfish points

Non Billfish Pools Pay 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

Payout on all pools is 90% with a 10% Administrative cost deducted.

Tournament Awards & Cash Prize!

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 Prize
Includes all Participants
\$5,000 to the first Blue Marlin

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.

Brokers Challenge

All boats brokered by Fox Yacht Sales or Galati Yacht Sales are eligible to enter. The Brokers have seeded the pool with \$5,000 of additional prize money. Must be entered in the \$2,500 Brokers Challenge pool to win.



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 preferred) to verify the release of all 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!
- Only releases verified by video device and by the video review committee earn points.

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.
6. **THE CORRECT TIME** immediately following the release by clear video of a GPS device with time.

IMPORTANT! Please have your video ready to show in a timely manner for the video review committee. It is up to you to furnish everything needed to view your video. Tablets such as an iPad take excellent video. We recommend to video with more than one device in case of equipment failure.

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!

