

Billfish Rules

1. **FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS:** All participants shall abide by all State and Federal regulations including size and bag limits.
2. **REGISTRATION:** All boats must be registered with the Tournament Committee and entry paid prior to the first day of fishing to qualify for awards. Any boat may be substituted during the Tournament but must be registered with the Tournament Committee prior to fishing.
3. **FISHING DAYS:** Tournament is Captains choice of 2 of 3 fishing days.
4. **LAY DAYS:** Lay day forms must be completed (available online and at the Committee desk) and submitted: online or dropped off at the Tournament Committee desk at the Tournament Tent located at the Beaufort Town Docks **BEFORE** 7:30 AM on the lay day.
Fishing days and times will count as Day #1 and Day #2 eliminating any advantage to fishing on Thursday.

Online form is available on the tournament website: www.billfishclassic.com

5. **WEIGH STATION:** All gamefish must be weighed in at the official Tournament Weigh Station at the Tournament Tent located at the Beaufort Town Docks. Gamefish may be transported by boat, or vehicle.
Scales open: 1:30 PM for the Inshore Division and 3:00 PM for Offshore Division each day.
Scales close: Thursday & Friday 6:00PM & Saturday 5:30PM.
6. **CAPTAIN'S MEETING:** To be held on Wednesday evening prior to the first day of fishing. Location and time TBA. 1 person from each boat should attend. All participants are responsible for knowing all the Tournament Rules to include any changes discussed at the Captain's meeting.

There will be an alternate Captain's Meeting on Thursday for boats whose first day of fishing is Friday. Check Thursday's event schedule on the Tournament website for time and location or check with the Tournament Desk.

7. **BOUNDARIES:** LORAN 40275 North and 39200 South. **Boats may depart from any inlet.**
8. **FISHING TIMES:** Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8:00AM to 2:00PM. No lines or teasers in the water prior to the official start time. GPS time is the official time.
9. **REPORTING:** All billfish must be reported to the Tournament Committee when hooked, lost, or released. Radio frequency VHF Channel # 73 or Alternate Channel TBA. The Tournament Committee time shall be the official release time.
10. **RELEASE:** No billfish shall qualify for release if boated for any reason, gaffed, harpooned, or otherwise injured. Tagging is recommended but not required. No part of a billfish shall cross over the gunnel of the boat.

Release forms must be completed and turned in to the Tournament Desk, or emailed to be officially entered into the tournament scoring. Email to: Director@billfishclassic.com
Deadlines are: Thursday & Friday 6:00PM & Saturday 5:30PM.
Release sheets shall be the final word.
Online release form is available on the tournament website : www.billfishclassic.com

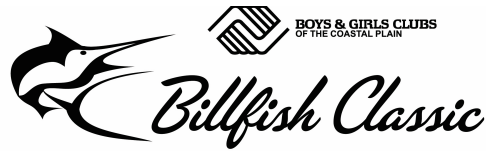
11. **BILLFISH POINTS:** Billfish release points are 400 points for Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Spearfish, and Hatchet Marlin.

Blue Marlin can qualify for 450 points if the release is documented with time and date stamped video or photo. If a blue marlin can not be confirmed, the release will be 400 points. The time and date stamped video or photo must be certified by a Member of the Rules Committee prior to the Weigh Station closing for that fishing day.

In order to qualify for a release a member of the fishing team or crew member must touch the leader, swivel, or the connection between the double line and leader, or the connection must pass through the rod tip.

In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the first boat to achieve the winning total as per reporting time under Rule 9.

12. **GAMEFISH:** Winning gamefish shall be determined by weight. In case of tie the first fish weighed in shall be the winner.
No Gamefish shall be transferred between boats with the exception of to and from the Official Chase Boats.
13. **TUNA SPECIES:** Yellow Fin, Blackfin & Skipjack tuna are the only species of tuna that may be weighed in. No False Albacore will be weighed or be eligible for any awards. Captains are responsible for insuring no False Albacore are brought to the Weigh Station.
14. **LEADER:** Double line and leader combined may not exceed 40 feet. Neither of which may exceed 30 feet.
15. **HOOKS:** Dead bait circle hook rigs and J Hook Lures only. **No live bait.**
16. **ANGLER:** A rod may be passed from one angler to another as long as it is immediate and the receiver fights the fish until released or boated. *The rod may be passed from the bridge - to the mate - and then to the angler.*
17. **PROTEST:** Any protest must be made immediately to the a Member of the Rules Committee at the end of the boat's fishing day and prior to the Official Weigh Station closing for that fishing day. (Rule 6) Dolphin Shootout protest must be made in accordance with the Dolphin Shootout Rules.
18. **INSHORE ENTRY:** Billfish Entry includes Inshore Entry
- 19: **RULE CHANGES:** Rules are subject to change prior to the first day of fishing. Any changes will be discussed at the Captain's meeting. All participants are responsible for knowing all the Tournament Rules to include any changes discussed at the Captain's meeting.



DOLPHIN SHOOTOUT TWT RULES

TWT 1. ENTRY: To enter the Dolphin TWT, the boat must be entered in the Billfish Tournament and have paid their entry fee **PRIOR TO THEIR 1st DAY OF FISHING.**

Inshore entrants are not eligible for the Dolphin TWT.

TWT 2. RULES: All Boys & Girls Club Billfish Classic rules apply to the capture of any dolphin to be weighed in the Dolphin Shootout TWT.

TWT 3. TAGS: All boats who register for the Dolphin Shootout will receive 2 (two) tags with their boat identified on the tag. Tags must be affixed to the dolphin's tail prior to the fish leaving the boat for the weigh-in.

TWT 4. WEIGH IN: All dolphin weighed in the Dolphin Shootout will be weighed in accordance with the rules of the Billfish Classic and under the supervision of the North Carolina Governors Cup.

TWT 5. 1 (One) dolphin may be weighed, per eligible fishing day, properly tagged, per eligible boat registered in the Dolphin Shootout TWT. Untagged fish may be weighed in the Billfish Classic.

TWT 6. ELIGIBILITY: Any dolphin weighed in the Dolphin TWT are also eligible for prizes in the Boys & Girls Club Billfish Classic Tournament.

TWT 7. PROTEST: Any protest regarding the Dolphin TWT will be made in writing to the Rules Committee by the end of the fishing day and will be accompanied by **\$1,000** in cash. In the event that the protest is **NOT UPHELD BY THE Rules Committee** the funds, in total, will become property of the Boys & Girls Club Billfish Classic Tournament. All decisions by the Rules Committee are final.

TWT 8. ESTIMATED PAYOUT: Based on a 50 boat Dolphin TWT field the winning payout shall be;

1 st Place	\$ 18,750
2 nd Place	\$ 11,250
3 rd Place	\$ 7,500

TWT 9. POLYGRAPH: One responsible member of the winning boat(s), if directed by the Rules Committee, must submit to and take a polygraph test with a designated and pre-authorized tester within 24 hours after the last fish has been weighed. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Rules Committee. Should the test be failed or not taken within said time frame, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to forfeit all winnings awarded to the winner in question.

TWT 10. MUTILATED FISH AND ADDITIONAL WEIGHT: To be eligible for a cash prize, any dolphin weighed must be delivered to the scales in fresh, edible, non-mutilated condition. IGFA rules apply with regards to the definition of what constitutes a "mutilated fish." The Rules Committee has the ultimate discretion in applying the IGFA standard to any weighed fish. The Rules Committee also has the right to examine or slice open any fish suspected of containing any additional weight. Any fish determined by the Rules Committee to be mutilated or have been augmented with additional weight, in any form, will be disqualified.

TWT 11. Prize Money – Dolphin Tournament **prize** money distribution forms and W-9 forms will be presented to the winning teams at the Awards Banquet. The Tournament Director will mail checks to the party indicated on the W-9 form only. Checks will be mailed 30 days after the tournament. Multiple W-9 forms are acceptable. In the event that no W-9 form is received within 30 days of the final day of the tournament the

boats winnings will be considered a donation to the tournament with no future consideration for the winning amount.