



Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl
Official Tournament Rules – 11/03/2009

General Rules

1. The Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl is a two-day, all-release billfish tournament.
2. All anglers must adhere to the angling rules set forth by the International Game Fish Association (www.igfa.org), and practice good sportsmanship.
3. Any violation of these rules or violation of the guidelines as published at <http://www.igfa.org/PDF/InternationalAnglingRules09.pdf> will disqualify a fish.
4. Any disputes will be ruled upon by the Tournament Committee and all decisions made by the Tournament Committee are final. The team that scores the most points first wins.
5. All boats must depart and return to the same dock or launch destination every day or notify Tournament Control of any dock change.

Entry Fees

1. The Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl is a team tournament. The base entry fee is **\$4,500 plus sales tax** for a **team of six (6)**. The entry fee includes gift bags and social credentials for six (6) team members to attend all tournament functions and parties.
2. All teams that pre-register before December 1, 2009 are eligible for an early bird discount of 10% off the base entry fee (a savings of \$450). Early registration fees must be paid in full by Dec. 1st, 2009 to receive **10% discount**. All registration fees are fully refundable through Dec 1, 2009, less a \$450 administrative service charge. After December 1st, 2009, registration fees are non-refundable.
3. All six (6) team members are eligible to be anglers, this includes professional captains and mates. This entry is nontransferable once the tournament begins. There can be no substitution of anglers unless approved by the Tournament Committee.
4. The base entry fee also makes the team eligible for the base tournament prize purse and to receive their names on the Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl perpetual trophy should they win.

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5. Additional social credentials to all tournament functions and parties can be purchased for \$350 per person or \$150 per person for the awards banquet and dinner only.

Entry Refusal

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse tournament applications or entry to any prospective entrant at its sole discretion without cause.

Prize Money

1. The base entry fee monies will be awarded back to the top three teams minus tournament expenses. First place will receive 70% of the prize money, second place will receive 20% and third place will receive 10%. A net portion of the tournament proceeds will be donated to the Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund a non-profit, 501(c) 3 corporation.

2. The tournament also offers four (4) *optional jackpots*. All of the optional jackpot money (95 percent) will be awarded back to the top team in each individual jackpot category. Five (5%) percent will be awarded to the Gridiron Greats Charity Fund.

Mandatory Base Entry---\$4,500 (team of six (6))
Optional Day One Winner Jackpot---\$1,000
Optional Day Two Winner Jackpot---\$1,000
Optional Overall Winner Jackpot---\$3,000
Optional Heaviest Game Fish Jackpot - \$200
All-in Total ---\$9,700

3. Optional Heaviest Game Fish Category. Every team entered in the base entry of the Billfish Bowl is eligible to partake in the optional Heaviest Game Fish Category for a fee of \$200. All of the prize money in the Heaviest Game Fish Category (100%) will be awarded to the one team that weighs in the single heaviest game fish of the tournament. Eligible species include all tuna species, wahoo, dolphin or king mackerel. All fish must be weighed on the official tournament scale located at the Big Chill pool deck. You must weigh your game fish on the day the fish is caught. All game fish must meet a minimum weight of at least 10 pounds to count toward the Heaviest Game Fish category. All fish must be in fresh, edible condition.

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Angling Rules

The Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl rules shall be strictly adhered to and all decisions made by the Tournament Committee are absolute and final. Any team, captain, mate(s) or anglers found in violation of any tournament rules will be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit their base entry fee.

1. Bait Catching: Teams are allowed to catch bait before the start of the tournament.
2. Hooking Fish: No one except the registered angler may hook a fish.
3. Fighting Fish: No one except the registered angler may touch the rod, reel or line while the fish is being fought.
4. Casting: Crew members are permitted to cast baits, however the rod and reel must be placed in a neutral position (most commonly the rod holder) and in free spool, NOT PASSED DIRECTLY TO THE ANGLER.
5. Line: The Billfish Bowl is a 20-pound tournament. All teams must fish with manufacturer-stated 20-pound-test monofilament line or less. (No bonus points are awarded for fish caught on line less than 20-pound-test.) If there are any disputes over line, the Tournament Committee can request a sample of line.
6. Double Line and Leader: The double line is limited to 15 feet, and the combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 20 feet in length.
7. Hooks: Only non-offset circle hooks may be used on live or dead baits or lure-and-dead-bait combinations. Only single-hook rigs are permitted.
8. Rods: Each team can fish up to six rods and up to two teasers.
9. Scoring: This is a “team” tournament with a release format. Scoring is as follows: 100 points for sailfish and spearfish and 300 points for white or blue marlin. Although point scoring shall be on both a cumulative and individual basis for trophy purposes, the “team” accumulating the most release points first, will be judged the winner. No billfish shall be boated and brought back to the dock.

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10. Fishing Times: Day One — 8 a.m. lines in to 4 p.m. lines out. Day Two — 8 a.m. lines in to 3 p.m. lines out. A fish may be fought after lines out provided it has been reported to Tournament Control prior to lines out of the water.

11. Score Cards: All teams must turn in score cards to Tournament Control, located at the pool deck of the Big Chill by 7 p.m. on Day One and 6 p.m. on Day Two. It is the team's responsibility to return properly filled out score cards *on time* each day to Tournament Control. Those score cards received after the cutoff time will not count.

12. Chumming: Live-bait chumming is prohibited throughout the course of this tournament. Any bait that is replaced on a line or teaser line for any reason shall be retained within the vessel. In addition, any vessel participating in this tournament shall not permit any other vessel to chum in their behalf. This does not prohibit trolling or anchoring with a chum bag in the water to attract baitfish.

13. Multiple Hookups: In the event of multiple hookups on separate lines by a single angler, all released fish can be scored and single anglers may fight multiple fish utilizing the rod holders according to IGFA rules

14. Entanglement: If a fish should be hooked to more than one line or become entangled in another line, the fouled line(s) must be cut immediately. It is the intent of this rule that the fish be fought the majority of the time on a single line.

15. Mutilated Fish: Any mutilated fish will not count. All billfish must be released.

16. Fishing Kites: Fishing with kites is permitted.

Release Verification

1. All billfish hook-ups and releases must be reported immediately, by VHF radio CHANNEL 78 (back up channel 80) only, and acknowledged by Tournament Control to be scored.

2. The exact number of billfish hooked up must be reported, for example, a single, a double, a triple, or a quadruple. The term "multiple" will not be acknowledged by Tournament Control.

3. In addition, the captain must report the final location or position of the hook-up(s)

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to Tournament Control.

4. Reports may be relayed by another boat, if the reporting boat cannot reach Tournament Control.
5. Cell phones may not be used to call in hook ups and releases.
6. In order to qualify a fish as having been caught and released the following conditions must be met: The leader, knot or swivel touches the rod tip and/or the Captain, Mate or Angler touches the leader (not the double line). Cut the leader as close to the fish as possible. Touching the double line does not qualify as a release.

Boundaries

1. Fishing boundaries are as follows: The northerly boundary is Triumph Reef Latitude 25.48 N Longitude 80.11 W and the southerly boundary is Tennessee Light Latitude 24.45 N Longitude 80.47 W, fishing allowed within these boundaries only.
2. **SPA Rule.** Other than catching bait with the proper permits, no vessel will be allowed to engage in any fishing activity inside of a Special Preservation Area of the National Marine Sanctuary (SPA) marked by four yellow balls. If you hook a billfish and in the course of the fight the fish enters a SPA you may not pursue it into the SPA with your vessel or your fish will be disqualified. The fish is allowed in the SPA. Your vessel is not.
3. A boat may only be changed as a result of mechanical breakdown and after approval is received from the Rules Committee.

Weather Conditions

In the event of unsafe weather conditions, the tournament committee may choose to cancel a day of fishing for the tournament. If one day has been canceled, information will be acknowledged by radio to all participating boats. The tournament will be decided on the results of a single day. Captains are ultimately responsible for their crew and should make the decision as to safe sea conditions.

Protests

Any protests concerning the tournament must be made in writing and submitted to the Tournament Committee by 7 p.m. for Day One and 6 p.m. for Day Two along with a \$200 fee only refundable if the alleged violation is found to have occurred.

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Polygraph

1. Polygraph Tests shall be administered to the Day One, Day Two, Overall jackpot winners and the overall release winners. Polygraph tests will be administered to the captain, mate or angler, and/or others as deemed necessary by tournament officials. The team and/or team representative must pass the polygraph examination before being awarded any prize money. Individuals that are required to take the polygraph test must not have consumed any alcohol or controlled substances within eight hours prior to the test.

2. Any captain(s), angler(s) or mate(s), who fail or refuse to take this examination, by so doing, will be disqualified from winning any division of this tournament. By entering this tournament all anglers, captain(s) and mates(s) agree to abide by the results of the polygraph examination.

Disclaimer Release

1. Participants in this tournament enter at their own risk. Officials, committee members, sponsors and all persons connected directly or in directly with the operation of the Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl, Fisherman's Cove and the Big Chill shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered to any participant, entrant, sportfishing vessel, their companions, boat captains, crew members, vessels and equipment, which may occur during this tournament.

2. All anglers, captains and mates must sign the entry form on the night of the Captain's Meeting in order to be qualified as registered, and by signing this entry you adhere to all tournament disclaimers.

3. These rules are subject to change. A final copy of the rules will be circulated at the Captains Meeting.

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