



# 22nd ANNUAL "BAND THE BILLFISH" TOURNAMENT RULES

[www.bandthebillfish.com](http://www.bandthebillfish.com)



1. International Game Fish Association Rules shall prevail. Exception non-anglers will be allowed to hook fish.
2. All boats must be entered and all fees paid prior to fishing to qualify for prizes, trophies and awards. Any substitute boat must be registered with the Tournament Committee and will be allowed only if the original boat becomes disabled. All boats must be represented at the Captains meeting on July 29, 2010.
3. Fishing days and hours will be:  
Friday, July 30, 2010 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Saturday, July 31, 2010 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
  
Scales will close at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. No lines or teasers in the water prior to 9:00 a.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. Saturday. No lines or teasers in the water after 3:00 p.m. on Friday and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.  
  
Any fish hooked and reported to the Committee boat prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday or 2:00 p.m. Saturday may be played until caught or released. Official weigh station will be the Big Rock Weigh Station unless other weigh stations are designated by the Rules Committee. The weigh-in deadline will be extended for boats which are fighting a billfish at the end of each day. However, once the fight is over the captain must make every effort to get to weigh-in as quickly as possible.
4. All fishing will be done within Lat-Lon boundaries. The boundary to the North is 35 degrees 10 minutes North latitude, and to the South is 33 degrees 30 minutes North latitude. Any fish hooked up outside these boundaries will be disqualified.
5. Score sheets must be turned in before the scales close each day at the tournament headquarters located at the Big Rock Weigh Station. Score sheets showing catch and daily points (in categories) must be signed by the team captain and the boat captain. Score sheets will be in the captain's bag and will be available at the tournament headquarters daily at the Big Rock Weigh Station.
6. Protests must be submitted in writing and turned in to the tournament officials before 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday or within 1/2 hour after the fish is officially weighed, whichever is later. Any decision by the Rules Committee will be final.
7. There is no Weather Committee. The choice to fish is by team or captain's discretion.
8. The tournament will recognize a 110" minimum length or 400 pounds on Billfish to be weighed. This length is measured from tip of lower jaw to the fork of the tail. Any fish brought to the dock less than 110" and 400 pounds will be disqualified. A released Blue Marlin will be awarded 400 points. All other released billfish will be awarded 150 points. All billfish are to be released except those in excess of 110" or 400 pounds, and then it is up to the crew whether or not they want to take the fish. Billfish which meet a minimum (110" or 400 lbs.) to 499 lbs. will be awarded 1 point per pound. Billfish which weigh 500 lbs. to 699 lbs. will be awarded 2 points per pound. Billfish weighing 700 lbs. and over will be awarded 3 points per pound. You must enter Level 1 to enter Level 2.
9. Any billfish gaffed or boated to determine if it meets minimums is a taken fish and is not eligible for release points. Nothing can be put inside any fish to enhance its weight; i.e. water, ice, weights or fish.
10. All participating boats must adhere to state and federal regulations to qualify for prizes. Atlantic Tuna/ HMS Permit Required - Automated Permitting System - 888-USA-TUNA (872-8862). All participants must adhere to the North Carolina Coastal Recreational License. Call 1-800-682-2632 or DMF 1--252-756-7021 for information.
11. First, second and third place winners in the PLT Concrete Category (Level 1) are not eligible for daily prizes.
12. All fish must be weighed in on the day they are caught and must be in fresh edible condition fit for human consumption. One wahoo, tuna (yellowfin, bigeye) and dolphin (sport fish) may be weighed by each boat per day. The total poundage of these fish will serve as tie breakers for awards and prizes in the PLT Concrete & The Action Group Categories. Only one of each species of fish per boat can be weighed per day. Sport fish to be weighed may be transported to the weigh station by chase boat or on board the boat on which the fish was caught with the daily catch report and a member of the fishing team. Sport fish only break ties and cannot win anything by themselves except designated sport fish categories.
13. If there is only 1 winner in Level I or Level II categories then they take 100%, if only 2 winners prize money will be split 60% - 40%. If no winners in Level I, Level II, or the Gregory Poole Marine Power Tournament or the Crazy Coho 35ft. and under category, then those respective monies will be returned. If there is not a winner of a daily, that prize money will be added to Level I category three place finishers purse. The rest of the paragraph will be the same. If one or two of the sport fish species are not weighed in, then that winning money will be pro-rated between the other winners in the BB&T Category. If Tournament is called for reasons beyond our control, all social events will be held if possible, entry fees will be retained to help defer Tournament expenses and competition monies will be refunded.
14. Polygraph test will be mandatory and shall be administered to the top money winners (captains or mates only). ALL winners are subject to polygraph testing. Refusals to take the test will result in immediate disqualification. Any candidate who is impaired by drugs or alcohol will immediately cause their boat to be disqualified. In the event that a boat designates a release as a Blue Marlin on the score sheet and the Captain or Mate cannot successfully pass the polygraph as to the same, that fish will be disallowed for all categories and the boat will be penalized 400 points.
15. The first boat entered in the PotashCorp-Aurora Recapture Category to recapture a tagged billfish will win a quality shotgun to be announced at the Captain's Meeting. The recaptured tag with recapture card must be turned in to qualify. If no tagged billfish is recaptured all billfish released or boated will be numbered in the chronological order as they are caught. The numbers for all billfish released or boated will be in a drawing at the awards banquet. The first billfish drawn which was caught by a boat that is entered in the PotashCorp-Aurora Recapture Category will win a quality shotgun to be announced at the Captain's Meeting. If no fish is caught by a boat entered in this category then there will be a drawing of all the boats entering this category for the winner of the gun.
16. Sport fish of the boat will serve as tie breakers for Greenwing, Release and Linda Rike Realty Lady Angler.
17. Tournament winner is the boat with the most Points. Prizes will be split if there is a tie after sport fish tiebreakers.
18. Weighed fish remain the property of the boat on which they were caught.
19. Rulings of the committee on all issues will be final.
20. All releasing and taking of Billfish must be radioed to the committee boat immediately.
21. Fish can be transferred to another boat to meet the weigh in deadline. They must be accompanied by the angler, responsible team member and with the daily catch report.
22. Open to any boat 35' and under. Points given as rule #8.
23. The FIRST boat Friday & Saturday entered in this category to release a billfish and CALL IT IN to the committee boat will win the daily prize.
24. To win the R&R Pheasant Hunting Grand Slam Category the boat must be the first to catch one Blue Marlin, one White Marlin and one Sailfish on the same day during the tournament. If no boat does this, then all eligible funds will be carried forward to the 2010 tournament and tournaments thereafter until we have a winner. Winners will be subject to a polygraph. Ties will be awarded to the first boat called in to the committee boat. If there is still a tie, the boat with the most tournament points and total poundage of meat fish will be the winner.

\*Rules may be changed by tournament committee. Any changes will be announced at the PotashCorp-Aurora Captains Party meeting July 29, 2010.