

F.W.M. 2021

- 1. Registration:** All boats must be registered and have paid their entry fees in full by Sunday, August 22 at 5:00pm.
- 2. Rules Meeting:** There will be no rules meeting; however, teams are encouraged to read the rules outlined below & submit any questions to Maggie or Rachael prior to Sunday, August 22 evening at 5:00pm to have your question answered. All questions asked and answers given will also be summed up in an email and sent out by 7:00 pm Sunday, August 22 to all registered boats.
- 3. Permits & Licenses:** Registered boats and anglers are expected to comply with all Federal and State laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits, and any other regulations that may apply.
- 4. Hook Requirements:** Federal law mandates that all anglers participating in a tournament must deploy only non-offset circle hooks when using natural bait and/or natural/artificial lure combinations. J hooks are allowed on artificial lures only.
- 5. Fishing Dates & Times:** Official time will be continued GPS time and recorded to the full minute. Fishing days for all eligible boats shall be any two of the available six days, captain's choice. Tournament fishing days are Monday, August 23 through Saturday, August 28. Fishing times are 8:30am to 3:00pm all six days. Lines or teasers may not be in the water before the official start or after the official end of tournament fishing. Fish hooked and reported prior to lines out may be fought until caught or released, except for the final day when all catch reports must be received by 6:45pm.
- 6. Fishing Days:** To declare a fishing day, team contact must text Maggie by 8:00pm the day prior to fishing. A response will be given as soon as it is received to confirm teams fishing day. Please include boat name in text. **Only tournament fishing days are to be declared** (not lay-days).
- 7. Tournament Communications:** All registered boats are acting committee boats. Tournament officials and tournament boats monitor VHF channel 74. All billfish releases must be called in to another tournament boat at the time of release. If no committee boat can be reached- a verifiable report must be made to another boat and said boat must be noted on scorecard. Team contact will be texted daily by 8:15pm with the list of boats that have declared tournament fishing the following day.
- 8. Boundaries:** Boats are not required to fish into or out of Virginia Beach; however, all fish must be weighed at the official weigh station in Rudee Inlet. The boundaries are 100 nautical miles from the Rudee Inlet Sea Buoy. Fish must be hooked within these boundaries but may be fought outside of the boundaries once hooked.
- 9. Mechanical Failures:** If a boat is unable to make it back by the deadline, the fish, angler, and scorecard may be transferred to another tournament boat. If a boat becomes completely disabled, another boat may be substituted; however, this must be registered with Maggie prior to fishing.
- 10. Points System:** To receive release points all billfish must be released (except for captured blue marlin to be weighed). **100 release points will be awarded** for all billfish including white marlin, sailfish, hatchet marlin, blue marlin, swordfish, and spearfish. **An extra 100 points will be awarded for photo/video verified blue marlin.** This photo/video evidence must be submitted at the same time as team scorecard or will not be counted. To qualify as a release the leader must be touched by a team member or the connection between the leader and line must pass through the rod tip. Additionally, the scorecard must be filled out in its entirety and signed by captain.
- 11. Blue marlin captures:** Blue marlin must be either 500 pounds **OR** 110 inches, forked length, to be eligible to be weighed for points. Blue marlin 500+ will be awarded 1 point per pound. The penalty for weighing an undersized blue marlin will be a deduction of 500 points from teams' points. There will be no penalty for a 110+ inch blue marlin that does not meet the minimum weight of 500 pounds; however, no points will be awarded either. Fish must arrive to the dock in edible condition. Mutilated fish will not be weighed. In this case, mutilation is defined as any damage that would impair the fighting ability of the fish.
- 12. Trolling Rules:** If a boat is engaging in trolling, the boat is expected to follow strict trolling rules- no live baiting and/or slow trolling. Electric reels may be used for anything hookless. No use of Tinker/Chub Mackerel or Atlantic/Boston Mackerel.
- 13. Catch forms:** All catch forms are to be brought to the Virginia Beach Fishing Center. If you are unable to bring physical form- it must be emailed or texted to Maggie. A response is required for it to count. If you do not receive confirmation shortly thereafter sending it, we recommend calling to verify. See below for contact information. Prior to turning in scorecard, the captain must sign the scorecard.

14. **Weigh-In:** The official weigh station is at The Virginia Beach Fishing Center, Southside Annex at 416 Southside Road. Scales will open at 12:00pm and will close at 7:00pm daily, except for the final day where it will close at 6:45pm. Boats must be visible from the weigh station by closing time to weigh a fish.
15. **Ties:** In the event of a tie, the winning boat will be determined by the time of their final release. The boat with the earliest release time on their day of fishing would take the lead. In the event of a tie in weight of a gamefish, the winning fish will be determined by the fish that was weighed first.
16. **Prize Payout:** After 10% given to designated charity of the year:
First [photo/video verified] blue marlin release: \$3000.00
Billfish points: 50-30-20 split
Game fish: (dolphin/tuna/wahoo): \$500.00 to winner of single heaviest fish in each species category
17. **Protests:** Any protest by any participant against the catch of another participant must be submitted in writing to the tournament rules committee. No protests are allowed against the tournament. Any protest must be received by 9:00am on the day following the catch of the disputed fish and by 7:00pm on the last day of the tournament. **If you are questioning whether something is permitted- assume it is not OR contact Maggie or Rachael.**

Questions/comments/concerns/forms/etc. can be directed to:

Maggie Whittemore: 757-403-9413, maggie@virginiafishing.com

Rachael Davanzo: 757-377-1006