



## **FLORIDA BILLFISH MASTERS RULES**

(IGFA Rules apply except where otherwise stated)

1. Entry Fee is \$2500.00 per boat. Up to six anglers will be allowed per boat. The entry fee includes social tickets for each registered angler. The Kick-off will be held 6:30 pm, March 13th, 2008 at Texas de Brazil restaurant at the Miami Beach Marina. The awards Bar-b-que will be on the dock at 6:00 pm following fishing Sunday.
2. The rules will be strictly enforced and all decisions of the rules committee are final.
3. The tournament committee will be notified of any angler or boat substitution prior to checkout. Checkout will begin at 6:30 am on the breakwater in front of the MIAMI BEACH MARINA tower on "E" pier (the fuel dock) and will be confirmed by radio with the committee boat located at the Marina.
4. Lines in at 8:00 am - Lines out 4:00 pm. Saturday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday. Bait fishing is permitted after the boat has checked out before the official start of fishing and after fishing has ended. If bait fishing during official tournament hours all sailfish fishing outfits, rigging and kites must be cleared of the water. Boats must notify the Committee Boat, and receive permission by radio, of their intent to baitfish during official tournament fishing times. Anglers and boats shall return to MIAMI BEACH MARINA no later than 5:30 pm Saturday and 4:30 pm Sunday.
5. There will be NO dead or live bait chumming. Put your dead baits in a bucket. "If it is plastic it is not chum." Ground chum in bags may be used while bait fishing.
6. Maximum line test will be manufacturers stated **20** pound. Bait may be live, dead or artificial. Use of *non offset circle hooks* is **MANDATORY (see approved hook list)**. Lures may be used with "J" hooks (no treble hooks). No more than 6 lines may be in the water at any one time. The angler must hook, fight and bring in the fish unaided by any other person. No one other than the angler may touch the line or rod. The fish will be considered hooked at the time of the strike. No wire lines are permitted other than leaders. Leader length is not to exceed 15 feet with double line not to exceed 5 feet for a combined total of not more than 20 feet. A legal release shall be deemed to occur when the swivel, knot, or float between the line or double line and leader touches the rod tip, or a crew member touches the leader. Fish should be cut off as low on the leader as possible.

**\*NO intentional jerking of the leader to break off the fish is permitted\***

7. Billfish (marlin, sailfish, spearfish and swordfish) will be scored at **one (1) point per fish**. The total of two days fishing will determine the winning team (one day fishing will constitute a valid tournament, see rule 14). At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, Teams may be subject to polygraph tests. Any angler(s) awaiting fish entry at 5:30 pm Saturday and 4:30 pm Sunday will be allowed to enter those fish if their boat is within the MIAMI BEACH MARINA area and has been

cleared by radio. In the event of a tie the "last fish caught first" rules applies. All anglers entering billfish releases must submit a tournament release form by the end of weigh-in each tournament day. Writing each confirmation number on the release form is mandatory. All forms must be signed by the angler and captain. Failure to turn in release forms constitutes a disqualification of that days catch.

8. Tournament vessels must provide their own digital camera. Teams will be instructed to initialize their camera each day with a tournament directed photo, of one of the colored photo catch verification cards. Each released fish must be clearly photographed showing that it is a billfish. After receiving a confirmation number from the Tournament committee, the team will be instructed to take a photo of one of the colored cards as mandated by the Committee. Each release for the Team will be followed by a different photograph of another colored verification catch card, thereby initializing the camera for the next release photo. At the end of fishing each day, along with the Teams catch cards, the camera or memory card will be downloaded into a computer at the weigh station for review. All photos become property of the Tournament and Teams expressly permit their use by the Tournament Committee.

9. After releasing a billfish, notify the Committee Boat by radio with your boat name and the angler's letter. The Committee Boat will acknowledge information given with a confirmation number and color of the card to be photographed. Boats unable to make radio contact with the Committee Boat shall contact another boat for a relay. The Committee Boat will acknowledge all releases by radio to all participating boats. VHF Channel 82 is reserved for the Official Tournament Committee boat. VHF Channel 79 will be used as an alternate.

10. All hookups must be called in to the committee boat during the last 10 minutes of the tournament each day.

11. Any protests concerning the tournament must be made in writing by the end of weigh-in and accompanied by a \$100 no-refundable check made payable to Florida Billfish, Inc.

12. In consideration of the tournament's acceptance of an angler entry, each registered angler specifically agrees and consents to voluntarily submit to a polygraph examination or examinations, to be conducted by a polygraph examiner selected by the Tournament Committee, at any time until the prize winner is determined and announced. Further, each registered angler agrees to obtain the agreement and consent of each and every occupant of the boat from which the angler fishes during the tournament, including, but not limited to the captain and crew, to submit to a polygraph examination or examinations as described above. The method and conduct of all polygraph examinations, and the interpretation of the results thereof, shall be in the sole judgment of the polygraph examiner appointed by the Committee, whose opinion shall be final. If any registered angler or occupant of a vessel refuses to submit to a polygraph examination, or if any registered angler or occupant of a vessel refuses to submit

to a polygraph examination, or if any registered angler or occupant gives a response which, in the sole opinion of the polygraph examiner is not accurate or truthful, then all registered anglers on the boat shall be immediately disqualified without further notice by the Tournament Committee. Any registered angler so disqualified shall not be entitled to any prize, award, or entry fee refund including attorney's fees they may suffer arising out of this fishing tournament.

13. All boats, anglers, crews and guests fish at their own discretion and at their own risk. All participants and guests in THE FLORIDA BILLFISH MASTERS TOURNAMENT indemnify and hold harmless the, all members of the Tournament Committee, sponsors, press and their agents and employees from any and all liability, loss or damage including attorney's fees they may suffer arising out of this fishing tournament.

14. Participation by at least one member of each team at the Captain/Angler meeting is mandatory. If inclement weather necessitates the cancellation of one day of fishing the tournament shall be determined on the basis of only one days catch. This shall only be done if the weather is considered unsafe by the angling committee.

15. Tournament boundaries are inside a line extending to the east of Carysfort Light on the south and the lighthouse at Hillsboro Inlet on the North out to 25 nautical miles offshore. Boats may not fish to the north or south of these perimeters. If a fish is hooked, and during the fighting of the fish a boat exceeds the boundary, they may continue to fight the fish. If however any additional fish are hooked while outside of the boundary these will not count towards release points.

16. No boat may aid another boat or angler in getting to the weigh-in unless that boat has broken down. The disabled vessel must call the Tournament Committee and inform them as to the reason for an assist and obtain permission to effect the transfer and delivery of their catch cards. At least one team member must accompany the catch cards to the weigh-in and must arrive in within the prescribed time frame.



## **ENTRY FEES**

The Tournament will pay-out 80% of the entry fee proceeds in prize money. The split will be 3 ways with 1st Place overall receiving 33%, 33% of day one top Team catches split 50/30/20 and day two top Teams splitting 33% for 50/30/20.

**40 Boats @ \$2500 = \$100,000**

**80 % of the entries = \$80,000**

**1st place = \$26,650**

**Day One-50% = \$13,330 30% = \$7,995 20% = \$5,330**

**Day Two-50% = \$13,330 30% = \$7,995 20% = \$5,330**

## **ADDED VALUE CATEGORIES**

Added Value entries will be divided into two (2) categories, LIGHT and HEAVY. Teams must choose to compete in either the LIGHT or HEAVY category but not both or "mix and match". After choosing the LIGHT or HEAVY category, the Team may enter any or all of that categories divisions. The decision as to fish one category or the other must be made at the time of registration

Added LIGHT 50-30-20 split @ \$1000 per boat-20 Teams= \$20,000 90% of the entries = \$18,000

Split 50% = \$9,000 30% = \$5,400 20% = \$3,600

Added HEAVY 50-30-20 split @ \$2500 per boat-20 Teams = \$50,000 90 % of the entries = \$45,000

Split 50% = \$22,500 30% = \$13,500 20% = \$9,000

Added LIGHT Daily @\$500 per day (\$1,000 total)-20 Teams=\$10,000 90% of the entries = \$9,000

Split - 60% = \$5,400 40% = \$3,600 paid per day

Added HEAVY Daily @\$2,000 per day (\$4,000 total)-20 Teams=\$40,000 90% of the entries = \$36,000

Split - 60% = \$21,600 40% = \$14,400 paid per day

Winner Take All @ \$1000 per boat

15 Boats @ \$1000 = \$15,000

90 % of the entries = \$13,500

OPEN TO EITHER LIGHT OR HEAVY CATEGORY ENTRANTS

**In addition to Cash Awards, Trophies will be awarded for first thru third,  
Top Angler and the leg winner of the Libertad Challenge**