

TOURNAMENT RULES

NOBGFC tournaments are conducted in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the IGFA and NOBGFC Rules, Regulations and Specifications

REGISTRATION:

In order to be eligible to participate in NOBGFC Tournaments, boats, members and guests, including complete names, must be registered prior to fishing. Any boat pre-registered that does not attend the tournament will not be charged. Registration is by mail, telephone or E-Mail to the Club Secretary, Jacque Kuchta, (504) 586-7704, jkuchta@pclient.ml.com, Joe Yurt at 504-941-4574 or log in boat and each member and guest at the Houseboat before departing to fish. If you are not fishing out of South Pass, you must confirm your participation by radio contact with a committee boat, giving all details prior to fishing followed by logging in at the Boat that night. Registration Fee is \$75.00 per boat.

FISH ARE NOT ELIGIBLE IN A TOURNAMENT UNLESS THE ANGLER (MEMBER OR GUEST) WAS PROPERLY REGISTERED BEFORE THE CATCH: It is not mandatory that every person aboard be registered. However, only fish caught or tagged and released by anglers properly registered aboard are eligible for points in NOBGFC Tournaments or annual awards.

CLOSING TIME:

Unless otherwise specified by the NOIBT and the Ladies Tournament, all fish entered must be weighted or the T & R data post card presented to the Weighmaster prior to closing time of Tournament unless: 1) the fish is hooked and being fought, has already been tagged and released, or is already aboard your boat and 2) radio notification thereof including the angler's name, species (if known), the boat name, the line class, and the time of catch or tag and release are communicated to a Tournament Committee Boat or any boat other than the one making the catch with a Club or Tournament Official aboard prior to closing time for the Tournament, and 3) the fish is weighed on proper scales prior to noon the next day, or the tag and release data post card presented to the Weighmaster in person or by mail within seven (7) days of the end of the Tournament.

HARBOR MASTER & DOCKING FACILITIES:

These facilities are run by the Parish, and not by the NOBGFC. See the Harbor Master for matters relating to the Marina.

WEIGHING FISH:

This season, the Club will maintain two weigh in stations at Port Eads. For large fish such as blue marlin, bluefin tuna, etc, Joe Yurt shall weigh the fish located at the scales located on the river in front of the old clubhouse. Because this dock is accessible by boat only, members bringing in large fish to weigh should radio ahead and alert Joe Yurt that they wish to weigh a large fish. Joe can then meet the vessel at the front dock on the river in a timely fashion.

For fish such as tuna, wahoo, dolphin, etc, there will be a scale located at the Club's pavilion on the west side of the marina. Boats should return to their normal stall in the evening. If the boat has a fish to weigh, carts will be made available to members to transport fish from the boat to the scale. Members will be responsible for removing their fish once they have been weighed at the Club scale, and returning the carts back to the pavilion.

REFUELING COURTESY:

Due to congestion at the fuel dock, it is requested that all members conduct their business of refueling courteously and expeditiously so all can benefit.

RADIO TRANSMISSIONS:

It is MOST IMPORTANT that all transmission on VHF-FM Channel 16 be held to an ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. All channels, and particularly Channel 16, are often monitored by the FCC or the USCG with a threat of violation notices. Members are encouraged to use Channels 68 or 69 as their VHF-FM frequencies and Channel 11 CB. **DURING THE LAST 15 MINUTES OF EACH TOURNAMENT, PLEASE CLEAR VHF-FM CHANNELS 68 AND 69 SO BOATS WITH FISH TO REPORT WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO!**

ALL BOATS MUST SLOW DOWN IN RIVER:

Repeat – All boats should proceed at no wake speed and as close to the east bank of the River as practical in front of the Clubhouse and wharf, even if no boats are docked there. Wakes will damage the Clubhouse and wharf.

NO FIRES OF ANY KIND ON OR NEAR WHARVES:

The Parish, who runs the Marina, has prohibited any fires – barbeque, charcoal, or otherwise – on or near the docks, wharves or walkways. There is a barbeque area provided. All members are asked to help enforce this regulation by guests as well as members are asked to help enforce this regulation by guests as well as members for the mutual safety of all.

TOURNAMENT TROPHIES AND BOAT AWARDS:

Club Tournaments will count bill fish points only toward Tournament boat awards. The top three in weight of each species will also receive trophies. The points for species other than billfish will not be included in the boat's tournament points, but will count toward annual awards as provided in the club's Angling Rules.

ANGLING RULES

1 - ANGLING ACTIVITY:

All organized Club angling activity will be conducted according to these rules promulgated by the Committee on Angling Activities, consisting of a chair, and not less than one or more than five committee members, to be appointed by the Board.

2 - COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY:

The angling activities committee (also referred to as the "Rules Committee") will determine Club championships, yearly competitions, and special contests, recommend and interpret club angling rules, declare or change eligible fish and minimum weights, settle angling disputes, and disqualify any entry not in accord with the intent of these rules. In case of interpretations, disputes, and qualifications, any individual committee member or members present shall decide. Any member not satisfied with the ruling of the Committee has the right to appeal to the Board of Directors.

3 - MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE:

All members in good standing are eligible to compete for angling championships, prizes, citations and points.

4 - ANNUAL COMPETITION

The Club's fishing year will begin with commencement of the first scheduled tournament and extend through the end of the final tournament of the year. The tournament schedule will be established by vote of the board.

Only fish caught in club sponsored events will be eligible for points and awards. All fish entered in annual competition and specific events must be caught in accordance with Club angling rules in effect on the date of the catch. Fish entered in Club sponsored specific events are automatically thereby entered in annual competition.

5 - ANGLING RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL FISHING COMPETITIONS

This Club adopts as its angling rules, the rules of the International Game Fish Association in effect and promulgated as of the date of catch of the fish entered.

A copy of the latest I.G.F.A. rules will be made available by the Club to each member. These rule books are also available directly from I.G.F.A. and the Club encourages and recommends membership in the I.G.F.A. by Club members.

In the event of a tie, the winner will be decided by the boat attaining the highest number of billfish points first.

In addition, eligible fish must be caught in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Club set forth herein or otherwise promulgated to the membership as of the date of the catch.

Registration for specific events shall come under the jurisdiction of the Angling Committee in the case of Club sponsored events, and their decision as to entry eligibility shall be final.

6 - ELIGIBLE FISH AND MINIMUM WEIGHTS

The following species caught in accordance with I.G.F.A and Club angling rules may be considered eligible fish in competition for members and guests. The angling Activities Committee may add or subtract fish from the listing, but such changes shall not affect any fish caught prior to the effective date of the change. No fish weighing less than the listed minimum weight or not caught in accordance with I.G.F.A. and Club angling rules or any U. S. law or regulation will be eligible for points for either annual or specific events awards.

- A - For certain species there is a limitation on the number of points that can count per angler or per boat for event or annual awards:

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE	LIMITATION *
Blue Marlin	Federal Regulation	None
White Marlin	Federal Regulation	None
Sailfish	Federal Regulation	None
Mako Shark	None	None
Bluefin Tuna	Federal Regulations Apply	
Yellowfin Tuna	20 lbs	Three (3) Fish Maximum
Dolphin	20 lbs	Three (3) Fish Maximum
Wahoo	20 lbs	Three (3) Fish Maximum
Tarpon Over 18"	None	None NO T & R Points

* **NOTE:** Federal or State laws regulations may impose minimum sizes or limits on some species.

- B - In order to be eligible, a fish must be caught in any Louisiana waters, provided the boat from which the fish was caught either leaves from or returns to a Louisiana port on the day of the catch, or during any day of a specific event.
- C - Catches by Guests or Members during tournaments are eligible for consideration only if (a) the Guest was properly pre-registered, and (b) a Club Member was aboard the boat when the catch was made. Catches by anglers not registered may not be entered in club competition.

7 - SCALES AND WEIGHING

Entries for weight must be weighted on land on the Club scales at South Pass. If the board so approves in advance, then fish caught during Specific Events coincide with club

Sponsored events may be weighted on the official scales of that event instead of on the Club scales; but only if:

- A - The scales and weight would be acceptable to the I.G.F.A for weighing a world record fish, and
- B - All documentation relative to the scale that would be required by the I.G.F.A. if furnished to the Angling Activities Committee if requested, and
- C - The fish is officially entered in the approved event, and
- D - The completed Club entry form for the specific event (see 9, "ENTRY FORMS) executed by the official weighmaster of the event is delivered to the Club weighmaster, or Angling Committee member within seven (7) days of the weighing of the fish

Such scales may be inspected by the weighmaster or the Angling Committee, and if determined to be not of a proper type, not accurate, not reliable, or that the fish was improperly weighed, the entry may be disqualified; or reweighed on the Club Scale.

For any fish weighed on both the Club scale and another scale, the weight on the Club scale only will be considered.

NOTE: See section on "ENTRY FORMS" for rules pertaining to witnesses and forms to be used in weighing fish.

NOTE: See the I.G.F.A rules booklet for further requirements in the event a fish is eligible to be recognized as a world record.

8 - POINT SYSTEM

A system of points will be used in computing the recipients of the annual and special competition awards.

Basic points are computed at the rate of one point for each pound the fish weighs. Fractional pounds are not awarded points except to break ties.

Tag and Release Points are based on the type of fish properly tagged and released (see Section 11).

Line Bonus points are awarded for the use of lighter tackle, and are computed by multiplying the Basic Points or Tag and Release Points by the following percentages:

130	# class line	100%
80	# class line	130%
50	# class line	150%
30	# class line	200%
20	# class line	300%
16	# class line	350%
12	# class line	400%
8	# class line	450%
4	# class line	500%
2	# class line	600%

9 - ENTRY FORMS:

Entry forms for fish entered in a Club specific event will have to be filled out by the angler and presented to the Weighmaster before the fish can be officially weighed. The Weighmaster will check form and record official weight and sign form. The Weighmaster will retain the original copy (see 7, SCALES AND WEIGHING).

A witness to the catch and to the weighing of the catch must sign on the lines so designated.

Weighing of a catch must be witnessed for consideration of a Club record, or when an entry is for the purpose of accruing points in any Club competition. Actual signatures, rather than initials, must be used. No entry shall be considered unless entry form is checked, certifying that the equipment used for the catch meets the specifications of the division or class in which the catch is entered. Member's signature shall serve as a guarantee to these facts. Members are urged, but not required, to submit good photos of potential Club record fish.

Tag cards must be turned in to the weigh master for credit to be given for the catch. If the weigh master is notified of a tagged fish the card must be mailed to the Angling Committee within seven (7) days after the catch has been made (see 10, COMMITTEE BOATS)

10 - COMMITTEE BOATS

Committee boats shall be any boat on which an Angling Committee member of Club Board Member is fishing. A Committee boat must be notified of any fish being fought and/or on board when it is conceivable that the fish or the tagging

data postcard will not be brought into the weighstation prior to the close of the scales. In the event a committee boat could not be notified, then any other club member should be notified provided he is not on the reporting boat. A fish "on" prior to the close of the scales will be considered eligible after the close of the scales only if he is reported as outlined above. If you do not return to Port Eads, you must report the tagging and releasing to a Committee boat, and send the tagging data postcard (or a good copy) to the Club Weighmaster (Joe Yurt) within seven (7) days of the event in order for this fish to count in the event or for annual competition.

11 - TAGGING AND RELEASING

The Club encourages the release of all fish too small for competition and which will not be kept for mounting.

The Club likewise encourages members to tag and release, in co-operation with the National Marine Fisheries Service or Billfish Foundation, unwanted fish of the following species:

All type of billfish, including swordfish, sailfish, white or blue marlin.

All tuna (Bluefin, Blackfin, Yellowfin)

Amberjacks

All Sharks

Tarpon

Records on such tagging and releasing should be made on the regular Club entry forms. Tagging post cards should also be delivered to the weighmaster.

Tag and Release Points are awarded for eligible fish properly tagged and released. In order to qualify, the leader must be in hand and cut as close to the fish as is practical, or the hook released without gaffing or otherwise permanently injuring the fish, and the fish released alive and uninjured. Fish that are exhausted should be towed slowly until they revive. The tag must be permanently imbedded in the fish using a tagging stick no longer than eight (8) feet.

The number of Tag and Release Points for each type and/or size of fish is as follows:

FISH	POINTS
Blue Marlin, any size	500 Points
Broadbill Swordfish, any size	300 Points
Any other billfish, any size	150 Points
Tarpon, longer than 18"	100 Points

The above points are to be multiplied by Line Bonus Points percentages where called for.

Yellowfin Tuna

100 Points

No line class bonus points will be applied to tagged tuna. (Line class bonus IS applied to tuna caught and weighed. Maximum of three (3) tuna will be eligible for competition.

- * Previously tagged billfish: In the event of a previously tagged billfish being caught, the angler is encouraged to remove the existing tag as close to the fish as possible and insert a new tag. Information related to the size and condition of the fish should be collected and the fish released in accordance to club guidelines.

For additional information on entering tagged and released fish in Club events (see 10, COMMITTEE BOATS).

12 - TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Only eligible fish as listed in these Club Rules and caught in accordance with Club and I.G.F.A. rules, shall be considered for Club tournaments awards.

Specific events awards will be presented to boats, member anglers and guest anglers in accordance with Tournament Rules as set for each specific event by the Angling Committee and approved by the Board.

- A - Tournament Boat Awards (major awards) shall be presented to each of the top three (3) boats. These awards shall be determined by the boat with the most overall points (including line bonus and tag and release points) for billfish only
- B - Tournament Fish Awards shall be presented to the three (3) largest fish for each eligible species caught by members and, also, by guests. Each tagged billfish will receive similar award.

13 - AWARDS

- A - **ANNUAL:** Awards will be present to member for eligible fish caught during the Club's fishing year as follows:

LARGEST FISH IN EACH CLASS:

To the member who catches the largest eligible fish by weight in each species during the Club angling year.

MOST BLUE MARLIN AWARD: Member

To the member who catches and/or tags and released the most eligible Blue Marlin during the angling year. In event of a tie, the angler accumulating the most points first shall be determined the winner.

MOST BLUE MARLIN BOAT AWARD:

To the member whose boat had the most Blue Marlin properly tagged and released or caught aboard by members or guests. Ties are broken by the boat with the most tagged and released Blue Marlin; then by the most points for tagged and released Blue Marlin then by the largest fish weighed.

ANGLING CHAMPION:

To the member ho accumulates the greatest total of points while fishing competitively in Club specific events.

The following points will be counted toward this award; subject to limitations in 6 and 11:

A - Basic Points multiplied by Line Bonus percentages, and

B - Tag and Release Points multiplied by Line Bonus percentages

Only points earned for eligible fish during Club specific events will be considered for this award.

In addition to all other limitations each angler is limited to the points form the three (3) largest eligible Dolphin, the three (3) largest eligible Wahoo caught aboard and the three (3) eligible Yellowfin Tuna giving the highest point count caught or tagged and released by the angler each year.

This trophy is to be kept at the Clubhouse, and each year the name of the Angling Champion shall be inscribed thereon.

BOAT AWARD

Awarded to the member whose boat earned the most points during the annual competition for eligible fish properly tagged and released or caught aboard by members or their guests and entered in Club specific events.

The following points will be counted toward this award:

A - Basic Points multiplied by line Bonus percentages, and

B - Tag and Release Points multiplied by Line Bonus percentages

In addition to all other limitations each boat is limited to the points from the three (3) largest eligible Dolphin weighed in, the three (3) largest eligible Wahoo weighed in, and the three (3) eligible Yellowfin Tuna giving the highest point count weighed or tagged and released aboard the boat each year. (Note Tuna limitation)

Points are not transferable from boat to boat during the year or during a tournament.

In case of a member-owned boat, only fish caught when the boat is fished by the owner-member and his non-chartering guests are to be considered for this award.

A - A perpetual Trophy will be kept at the Clubhouse, and each year the name of the Top Boat shall be inscribed thereon.

B - TOP TEN BOATS

Recognition will be given to the Top Ten Boats by point standing for each angling year.

Awards will be presented according to the same rules applied to the Boat Award.

C - CITATION:

Any notable fish caught other than in competition, in foreign places or places other than Louisiana Gulf waters should receive some recognition such as a citation.