

# NOBGFC TOURNAMENT RULES 2024

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 and members must be registered prior to fishing. Any pre-registered boat that does not attend the tournament will not be charged. Registration is by telephone or e-mail to Joe Yurt at (504)512-5305 or [JAYurt@bellsouth.net](mailto:JAYurt@bellsouth.net). For regular Club tournaments, the registration fee is \$250 per boat.

Fish are not eligible in a tournament unless the member's boat was properly registered before the catch and the boat owner is a member in good standing.

## CLOSING TIME:

Unless otherwise specified by the NOIBT or Ladies Tournament, all fish entered must be weighed or the T&R data postcard presented to the Weighmaster prior to closing time of the tournament unless:

1) the fish is hooked and being fought, has already been tagged and released, or is already aboard your boat, 2) radio notification thereof including the angler's name, species (if known), boat name, line class, and time of catch or tag and release are communicated to a tournament committee boat or any other boat other than the one making the catch with a Club or tournament official aboard prior to the closing time for the tournament and 3) the fish is weighed on proper scales prior to 9 PM, or the tag and release data postcard is presented to the Weighmaster in person or by mail within seven (7) days of the end of the tournament.

For regular Club tournaments, fishing may begin at 6:00AM on the first day of the tournament, and continue until 6:00PM on the last day of the tournament.

## WEIGHING FISH:

The Club will maintain a weigh-in station at Cypress Cove Marina in Venice. Joe Yurt will serve as the Weighmaster. Members are responsible for removing their fish from the weigh station once they have been weighed on the Club's scale. The weigh station will close at 9 PM each day. The Club will allow eligible fish to be weighed at Hurricane Hole Marina in Grand Isle. The Hurricane Hole weighmaster is Rehgann Gafford and her cell number is (985) 787-3014 or [rehgann@hurricanehole.com](mailto:rehgann@hurricanehole.com). The Hurricane Hole weighstation should be called in advance, so that they are expecting your boat and the scales close at 8pm each day.

## TOURNAMENT TROPHIES and BOAT AWARDS:

Club tournaments will count only billfish points toward tournament boat awards. The top three fish (dolphin, yellowfin tuna, and wahoo) 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 the 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:** The Club adopts as its angling rules, the rules of the International Game Fish Association in effect promulgated as of the date of catch of the fish entered.

A copy of the latest IGFA rules will be made available by the Club to each member. These rule books are also available directly from IGFA. The Club encourages and recommends membership in the IGFA 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 IGFA and Club angling rules may be considered eligible fish in competition for member 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 IFGA and Club angling rules or any US 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 count per angler or per boat for event or annual awards:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size</u>	<u>Limitation*</u>
Blue Marlin	Federal Regulation	None
White Marlin	Federal Regulation	None
Sailfish	Federal Regulation	None

Spearfish	Federal Regulation	None
Bluefin Tuna	Federal regulation	
Yellowfin & Bigeye Tuna	20 lbs.	Three (3) Fish Weighed & (3) Tagged
Dolphin	20 lbs.	Three (3) Fish Maximum
Wahoo	20 lbs.	Three (3) Fish Maximum

**\*Note:** Federal or State laws and regulations may impose minimum sizes or limits on same species.

b. In order to be eligible, a fish must be caught in any Northern Gulf of Mexico waters, provided the boat from which the fish was caught either leaves from or returns to a US 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 considerations only if 1) the Guest was properly pre-registered and 2) 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 weighed on land on the Club scales at Cypress Cove Marina or Hurricane Hole. If the Board so approves in advance, then fish caught during Specific Events coincide with Club Sponsored events may be weighed 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 IGFA for weighing a world record fish,
- b. All documentation relative to the scale that would be required by the IGFA if furnished to the Angling Activities Committee, if requested,
- 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 IGFA 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/or Release Points are based on the type of fish properly tagged and/or released (see 11, "Tagging and/or Releasing").
- 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 angler and presented to the Weighmaster before the fish can be officially weighed. The Weighmaster will check the form, record official weight and sign the 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 Weighmaster for credit to be given for the catch. If the Weighmaster 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 or 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 postcard will not be brought into the weigh station prior to the close of the scales. In the event of 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 Cypress Cove, you must report the tagging and releasing to a Committee boat, and send the tagging data postcard (or a good copy) and a photo to the Weighmaster 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 cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service or Billfish Foundation, unwanted fish of the following species:

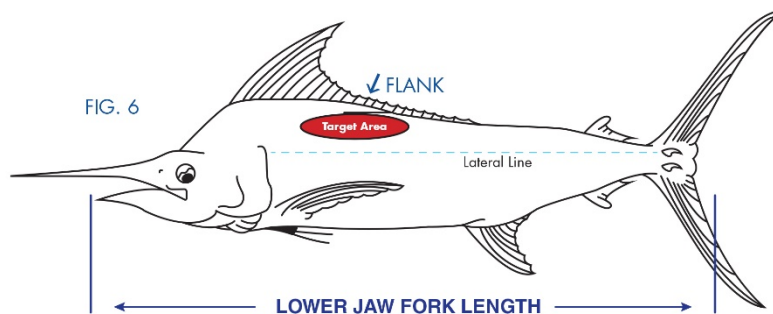
All types of billfish, including Swordfish, Sailfish, and White & Blue Marlin.  
 All tuna (Bluefin, Blackfin, and Yellowfin).  
 Amberjacks.  
 All sharks.  
 Tarpon.

Records on such tagging and releasing should be made on the regular Club entry forms. Tagging postcards should also be delivered to the Weighmaster along with a photo to properly identify species. Release Points are awarded for eligible fish properly released with photo verification. In order to qualify for release points or tagging bonus, the leader must be in hand or must hit the rod tip. Please make every effort to safely remove the hooks or cut the leader as close to the fish as practical without gaffing or otherwise permanently injuring the fish. The fish should be released alive and uninjured. Fish that are exhausted should be towed slowly until they revive.

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

Blue Marlin, any size	500 Points
Broadbill Swordfish, (3 maximum) any size	150 Points
Any other billfish, any size	150 Points

- The above points are to be multiplied by Line Bonus Points percentages where called for.  
 Yellowfin & Big Eye Tuna 100 Points
- Tagging Billfish - The club values tagging billfish for scientific and research purposes and encourages all anglers to tag and release billfish. The club will award an additional 50-points for a properly tagged blue marlin and 25-points for properly tagged white marlin, sailfish, or spearfish. These bonus tag points are in addition to release points, but receive no line bonus. Properly tagged billfish are tagged in the shoulder or flank and above the lateral line near the dorsal (see image below). A photo, identifying the fish and proper tag, is required to receive tagging bonus points.



- The tag must be permanently imbedded in the fish using a tagging stick no longer than eight (8) feet.
- No line class bonus points will be applied to tagged tuna. Line class bonus will be applied to tuna caught and weighed. Maximum of three (3) weighed and (3) tagged 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.

- **All fish tagged or released for points require photograph for identification.** 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 IGFA rules shall be considered for Club tournament 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 and 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 by guests. Each tagged billfish will receive similar award.

**13. Annual Awards:** Awards will be presented to members for eligible fish caught during the Club's fishing year as follows:

- a. **Largest Fish in Each Class:** To the member who catches the largest eligible fish by weight in each species during the Club angling year.
- b. **Most Blue Marlin Award- Member:** To the member who catches and/or tags and releases 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.
- c. **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.
- d. **Angling Champion:** To the member who 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:
  - i. Basic Points multiplied by Line Bonus percentages, and
  - ii. 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 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 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.

- e. **Dutch Prager Youth Award:** To promote big game sport fishing to our children and the public, angling points will be counted for eligible fish in Club tournaments for anglers less than 18-years of age. An annual youth angling champion is awarded to the eligible person with

the most weighed fish and tagged-and-released fish in a season. This award will have the same three (3) fish, tuna, wahoo and dolphin, limits as adult members and guests, and will include line bonuses. Tournament awards will be given to youth anglers for billfish tagged-and-released and other weighed eligible fish. Youth angling points will also count for member boat points. Eligible fish for youth anglers are the same as for members and guests, listed in paragraph 6.

f. **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:

- i. Basic Points multiplied by Line Bonus percentages, and
- ii. 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 caught 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 the 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 perpetual Trophy will be kept at the Clubhouse, and each year the name of the Top Boat shall be inscribed thereon.
- 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.
- Citation: Any notable fish caught other than in competition; in foreign place or places other than Louisiana Gulf waters should receive some recognition such as a citation.