



**April 29 – May 6, 2025**

## **1. General**

- 1.1 Except as may be modified herein, IGFA International Angling Rules ([www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)) will apply throughout the Cayman Islands International Fishing Tournament (the "CIIFT" or the "Tournament") and any fishing tournament sanctioned by the Cayman Islands Angling Club (the "CIAC"), and subject to the foregoing, these rules shall constitute the full governing Rules. **It is the responsibility of each registered captain, angler and crew member to know, understand and abide by the rules during the tournament.**
- 1.2 For all fish caught in the Tournament to qualify, the angler catching the fish must be a registered angler. For the CIIFT, all anglers must be registered and fully paid-up Cayman Islands Angling Club members.
- 1.3 All fish qualifying for any prize shall be subject to verification as to having been caught in compliance with all rules and regulations of the Tournament. The Rules Committee reserves the right to employ verification procedures at its own discretion including but not limited to, the use of polygraph tests and consultation with any local or visiting marine biologist.
- 1.4 An entry fee is required to participate in the Tournament and entitles up to 4 anglers to compete. There must be a registered Captain on the team however, Captains are not automatically registered as an angler, if the Captain intends to fish, he **MUST** be registered as an angler. Additional anglers may be registered at an additional cost per angler. The entry fee entitles the anglers to weigh fish caught during fishing hours on all Tournament days. No refunds of entry fees will be made for any reason after the start of the first fishing day of the Tournament. All teams must be correctly registered by the close of registration for the Tournament. Teams that wish to register after the close of registration will be subject to a late fee of CI\$100. The team must be completely registered and have all associated fees paid by 6:30pm on the day prior to the next fishing day.
- 1.5 A captain or anglers are not permitted to change boats for the duration of the Tournament. If an exceptional event occurs, such as mechanical or electrical failure, permission to change boats must be granted from the Tournament Committee prior to fishing. If such permission is forthcoming, the Captain and anglers may only switch to a boat within the same size category. If the boat is in a different size category, the team must register again in the new size category. If permission is granted to an angler to transfer to a previously registered boat, any fish which the angler may have caught before permission to transfer was granted may not be transferred for the purposes of any team or boat prize.
- 1.6 Any type of boat may be used in the Tournament. All participating boats shall have adequate safety equipment on board and must comply with the Port Regulations, or any amendments thereto. **For safety reasons, all boats must have a minimum of two people on board for the duration of all fishing hours.**

1.7 Sanctioned tournaments during C.I.I.F.T. have their own prize lists and separate entry fees for those who choose to participate. In order to participate in the sanctioned tournaments anglers must first be registered with the C.I.I.F.T.

1.8 Visiting boats are not permitted to solicit charters in the Islands.

1.9 The CIAC reserves the right to refuse entry to any boat, captain or angler.

## 2. Fishing

2.1 Fishing hours on Tournament days shall be from 6:00am – 4:30pm unless otherwise specified for the tournament held. For tournaments including a Bimini Start on the first day, fishing will commence immediately after the Bimini Start. All boats participating in the tournament and wish to fish on the first day MUST be present at the Bimini Start. If an exceptional event occurs and a team is not able to participate in the Bimini Start, a registered team member must notify the CIIFT rules committee as soon as possible. It is up to the sole discretion of the rules committee if that team will be permitted to fish on the first day.

2.2 Weigh Station hours are from 4:30pm – 6:30pm on each Tournament fishing day unless otherwise specified for the tournament being held. All fish caught must be weighed on the same day caught and during Weigh Station Hours. A registered team member must be present at the Weigh Station when weighing fish for a team. The Fish Catch Form must also be signed by a registered team member after the fish is weighed and verified.

2.3 Where tournaments include more than one Weigh Station (i.e. Cayman Brac), a fish caught by a boat and weighed at a Weigh Station where the Weigh Station port is not the departure port of the boat, will be allowed, given the captain of the boat declared his intentions to travel to and weigh the fish at the Weigh Station.

2.4 In the event a fish is hooked prior to 4:30pm and landed after 4:30pm, the fish must be weighed before the close of the Weigh Station for that day, except that;

- i) a captain may weigh this fish after the close of Weigh Station, provided that he/she has communicated this intention to Tournament Control during Weigh Station hours.
- ii) all other fish on board on the relevant day will be disqualified regardless if the fish was landed or not.
- iii) the fish to be weighed must be weighed by the Weigh Master as soon as the boat can arrive at the Weigh Station on the same day.

2.5 A person can register as both Captain and Angler on a team. However, a registered angler may not qualify as both angler and boat Captain in the catching of any fish. For any registered angler catching a fish, there must be a boat Captain other than that angler.

2.6 Charter boat Captains and mates may register as anglers in the Tournament. However, on days when the boat is chartered, only fish caught by the charter party (if registered) will be eligible.

2.7 There is no limit as to the number of lines which may be fished by each angler or from each boat. In the event of a double hook-up, an angler can only fish one rod/line at a time.

2.8 The fishing area will be determined by the CIAC for the respective tournament held.

2.9 From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook and fight the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations/rules.

2.10 If a rod holder is used, once the fish is hooked, the angler must remove the rod from the rod holder as quickly as possible.

## 3. Release Rules

3.1 Blue Marlin, Sailfish, White Marlin and Spearfish are eligible for the release category. . When you know, you are going to release the fish, you must call tournament control and ask for a release card. Then have your

designated videographer or any other crew member hold up the release card next to the fish as the video is taken. The video must identify the species, and release card, and must also show the fish swimming away freely after release.

3.2 At the end of the day's fishing all release videos must be brought to the weigh station during the designated hours and provided to the tournament judges by a registered team member for verification. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of the release(s) for that day. Please note that the verification must take place during weigh station hours on the day the fish is released. Do not delete any videos taken during tournament hours. The release videos must also be uploaded to [upload address] by 6am the next day.

3.3 A fish is considered released when one of the following actions is completed. A - The mate or fellow angler is able to grab the leader. B - The swivel hits the rod tip. C - The connection (knot, splice, etc.) between the leader and the mainline/double line/flyline passes through the rod tip.

3.4 This is a release category of the tournament. A boated fish or fish brought to the boat dead will not qualify as a release.

3.5 In the event of a tie, the prize shall be awarded to the team first reaching the most points. The time used in determining all such awards will be Tournament Control radio log time.

3.6 Blue Marlin Weight Estimation: As a rough "rule of thumb" the following calculation will provide good guidance for estimating the weight of a Blue Marlin. Short Length (in inches) x Girth (in inches) x Girth (in inches) divided by 800 = Estimated Weight lbs. Short length is measured from the V of the tail or caudal fin to the tip of the lower jaw.

## 4. Prizes and Awards

4.1 All tournament cash prizes are in US dollars. Cash prizes will be paid by check or bank transfer and paid to the registered captain of the team.

4.2 Tournament prizes and awards are paid out to teams/anglers whose fish caught were eligible for a respective prize. Tournament prizes that have not been awarded will be allocated to ongoing and future angling club initiatives.

4.3 In the event of a tie, the prize shall be awarded to the angler, captain, boat or team first landing the winning fish or first reaching the winning points total as the case may be. The time used in determining all such awards will be Tournament Control radio log time.

4.4 For the purposes of record fish, the relevant records are those current records in effect the day prior to the start of the Tournament. In line with IGFA regulations, in order to qualify as a new record, the weight of the fish caught must exceed the existing record by at least half of one percent of the current record.

4.5 Prizes for fish exceeding the existing Cayman Islands record will go to the heaviest qualifying fish over such record caught during the Tournament. Anglers breaking Island Records may have to take and pass a polygraph test for the record to be confirmed.

4.6 The Grand Slam prize will be awarded to the team landing the heaviest aggregate weight of the heaviest individual fish of Wahoo, Dolphin and Yellowfin Tuna, over the duration of the Tournament. The Super Grand Slam prize will be awarded to the team weighing the heaviest aggregate weight the heaviest individual fish of Wahoo, Dolphin, Yellowfin Tuna and Swordfish.

## 5. Communications

5.1 All participating boats must have a working VHF radio on board at all times. VHF channel 28 in Grand Cayman will be the frequency which will be used for all Tournament communications. Tournament Control in Cayman Brac will use VHF channel 10. The telephone number for Tournament Control is 916-0179 unless otherwise specified for the tournament held. The use of cellular phones or satellite phones is an acceptable means of secondary contact with Tournament Control.

5.2 Tournament Control radio hours are 6:00am – 6:30pm on all Tournament days. The Captain of each boat MUST check in and out with Tournament Control each day.

5.3 The Captain of any boat planning to fish out of VHF radio range must complete and deliver the appropriate Offshore form to Tournament Control/Weigh Station between 4:30pm and 6:30pm the day prior. Any boat that has ventured out of VHF radio range of Tournament Control and does not have satellite phone capability must maintain VHF radio contact with a participating boat which has such capability, or which is in VHF radio range of Tournament Control. This rule will be strictly enforced. Failure to comply with the foregoing will disqualify any fish caught that day.

5.4 Any boat that has submitted an Offshore Form and intends to fish offshore is not permitted to leave the dock/home port before 10pm on the night prior to fishing (for example if you plan to fish Pickle bank on Saturday you cannot leave the dock before 10pm Friday). Any boat that fishes offshore must return to a Tournament Control port each day, staying overnight is not permitted.

5.5 All hook-up's must be called in at the time the fish strikes the line and is confirmed hooked. When calling in a hook-up, the Captain must state the name of the angler fighting the fish. After landing a fish, as soon as it is safely possible the fish shall be measured and the Captain shall report the species, measurement of the fish, line class, anglers name and the location to Tournament Control. After releasing a fish, the Captain shall report the species, line class, anglers name and the location to Tournament Control. Lost fish must also be reported to Tournament Control. For fish that are called in as landed and Tournament Control has no official logged record of a hook-up reported, the fish will not be weighed and not counted towards a team's catch. A weight estimation of the fish is not required and will not be documented by Tournament Control.

5.6 Boats fishing the outer banks where communication is limited to satellite phones will be strictly held to the same "Call-in" requirements and expectations stated above in 5.5.

## 6. Anglers

6.1 A team is allowed to have as many people as they wish on the boat however, only registered anglers' fish caught will be weighed and counted towards the tournament.

6.2 If a team wishes to register additional anglers after the close of registration, they must do so with tournament control during weigh station hours on the day prior to fishing.

6.3 A registered junior angler is a boy or girl who has not attained age 17 on the day of the start of the Tournament. Juniors must be registered and a current paid up CIAC member, but are allowed free entry to the tournament and do not count towards the 4 anglers that comprise a team.

6.4 Junior Anglers are only eligible for Junior Angler prizes, however fish caught by a Junior Angler will count towards the total boat weight. For the avoidance of doubt, fish caught by junior anglers are NOT eligible for jackpots, daily prizes, grand slams and all angler or boat prizes. A team may register an angler under age 17 as an adult angler. This angler will count as one of the four anglers per team and will not be eligible for Junior Angler prizes, but will be eligible for all angler/team prizes.

6.5 An overseas angler is a person who is not ordinarily a resident in the Cayman Islands.

6.6 Sanctioned tournaments during C.I.I.F.T. have their own prize lists and separate entry fees for those who choose to participate. In order to participate in the sanctioned tournaments anglers must first be registered with the C.I.I.F.T.

## 7. Prohibited Gear

7.1 Fishing with live bait, as well as the use of kites is permitted.

7.2 The use of WIRE LINE is strictly prohibited. Any boat found with wire line aboard during the Tournament will be disqualified as will all fish entered up to the date the rule infringement is observed. There will be no refund of entry fees.

7.3 Tournament Officials shall be permitted to board any boat participating in the Tournament at any time in order to verify compliance with the Tournament rules. Refusal to allow boarding and inspection will be grounds for disqualification from the Tournament and any prizes.

## 8. Eligible Fish and Minimum Weights/Length

8.1 Eligible fish and minimum weights: Wahoo and Dolphin 15lbs., Yellowfin Tuna 30lbs., Blue Marlin 587lbs (please refer to section 3.3 for weight estimation guide for Blue Marlin), Swordfish 48 inches short length.

## 9. Protests

9.1 All protests must be filed in writing or electronically (email, text message, etc.) with Tournament Control before closure of the weigh station on the day of the alleged offence. Any pictures/videos or supporting evidence must be submitted with the protest.

9.2 The accused team shall be contacted by the Rules Committee immediately after the protest is submitted and informed of the protest filed against them. The accused team will have an opportunity to present their case to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee, will consult with the Judges in aid of making a fair ruling. The ruling shall be made by noon of the following fishing day.

9.3 In the event the accused team is found guilty of committing the alleged offense, all fish caught on the day of the offense for that boat will be automatically disqualified. It is the sole discretion of the Rules Committee to allow, or not allow the boat to participate in the remainder of the Tournament based on the severity of the offense committed.

9.4 Any protest brought forward to the CIAC outside of a Tournament may only be submitted by a current paid CIAC member and must be filed using the prescribed Protest Form. Any protest filed outside of a Tournament will only be valid if the protest is filed within one (1) year of the last fishing day of the respective Tournament. Protests filed after the 1 year will not be accepted by the CIAC.

9.5 Where the accused party is found guilty by the CIAC Executive Committee, it is the sole discretion of the CIAC Executive Committee to determine the proceeding course of action. Where the accused team has received prize money, awards, trophies, merchandise etc., it is the sole discretion of the CIAC Executive Committee to determine what items must be returned to the CIAC.

## 10. "Spirit of the Tournament"

10.1 All fishing, conduct, protests and rulings are to be within the intentions and spirit of the Tournament. It is intended to be enjoyable, in good fellowship, and for everyone to have a good time. Unacceptable conduct (ashore or at sea), unfounded protests, etc. will be strongly considered as grounds for exclusion from the tournament in future years.

10.2 It is expected of all participants, that only those fish weighed for Tournament awards or used for food purposes are kept. Other fish of all species should be carefully released.

10.3 The Tournament Committee wishes to stress the conservation of our marine resources.

## 11. Indemnity and Liabilities

11.1 It is expressly understood that all persons participating in the Tournament do so at their own risk. By registering as an angler in the Tournament, the angler holds harmless the Cayman Islands Angling Club, Cayman Islands Government, CICO Rent-a-Car, The Barcadere Marina, the Tournament Committee, the Rules Committee, Tournament Judges, the organizers, it's sponsors and donors and all persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Tournament from any liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death suffered by any participant, entrant, sports-fisherman, their companions, boat captains, crew members, family, vessels and equipment which may occur during the Tournament. All registered anglers chartering boats do so entirely at their own risk.

11.2 By registering as an angler in the Tournament, the angler consents to the use by the Tournament organizers, without payment or restrictions, any photographs/videos in which he or she appears for any purpose whatsoever, including, but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material. The angler further releases the Tournament organizers from any injury, loss or damage which may result from the use of said pictures.

## 12. The Following will disqualify a catch

12.1 Failure to comply with IGFA equipment or angling regulations.

12.2 The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.

12.3 Resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish.

12.4 Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.

12.5 Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks and halibuts) at any stage of the catch.

12.6 Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.

12.7 Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.

12.8 Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.

12.9 Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.

12.10 Intentionally foul hooking a fish.

12.11 Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.

12.12 Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.

12.13 Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.

12.14 If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.

12.15 Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off of the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.



## The Cayman National Jackpot

**Tournament:** The Cayman National Jackpot is a CIIFT sanctioned tournament, participants must be registered in the CIIFT to enter The Cayman National Jackpot.

**Entry Fee:** The entry for The Cayman National Jackpot is US\$3,500 per boat/team.

**Prizes:** The Cayman National Jackpot is a winner take all format with the ultimate 1<sup>st</sup> prize being awarded all team entries and the initial US\$50,000 sponsorship. For example, if 22 boats enter at US\$3,500 each, these total entries of US\$77,000 (22x3,500) will be added to the US\$50,000 sponsorship for a total purse of US\$127,000. At the end of the tournament, the boat with the most points will be awarded the total purse. Cayman National has also sponsored a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of US\$10,000 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of US\$5,000. There is also a US\$2,500 daily prize for the team with the most points on each fishing day.

**Format:** Points will be awarded as follows: 400 points for each verified Blue Marlin release, 200 points each for any other verified eligible billfish release, 1 point per pound for eligible Yellowfin Tuna, 2 points per pound for eligible Wahoo and Dolphin. The winner at the end of the tournament will be the team with the highest aggregate total of points. In the event of a tie, the team first reaching the winning points total, as determined by the Tournament Control log will be declared the winner.

**Rules:** The rules governing The Cayman National Jackpot are those of the CIIFT.



## The Meatfish Jackpot

**Tournament:** The Meatfish Jackpot is a CIIFT sanctioned tournament, participants must be registered in the CIIFT to enter The Meatfish Jackpot.

**Entry Fee:** The entry for The Meatfish Jackpot is US\$500 per boat/team per species. Entry fees are for the full duration of the event. Entries received after commencement of the event, subject to the daily cut-off times designated in the CIIFT rules, are required to pay the full entry fee. Only fish caught after the payment of entry fees will be eligible for prizes.

**Prizes:** The Meatfish Jackpot provides a daily cash prize for the heaviest and second heaviest for each species. The prizes paid will be a direct function of the pot for each day with the heaviest receiving 2/3 of the daily pot and second heaviest receiving 1/3 of the daily pot. In the event of a tie, the team landing the first fish, as determined by the Tournament Control log will be declared the winner.

**Format:** The pot will be divided by the number of days where eligible fish have been caught. For example, if eligible Wahoo were caught on 2 of the 4 fishing days, the pot will be divided by 2. In the event of a tie, the team landing the first fish, as determined by the Tournament Control log will be declared the winner.

**Rules:** The rules governing The Meatfish Jackpot are those of the CIIFT.

## Break The Weigh Challenge

**Tournament:** The “Break The Weight Challenge” (BTWC) is a CIIFT sanctioned tournament, participants must be registered in the CIIFT to enter The “Break The Weight Challenge”.

**Entry Fee:** The entry for The BTWC is US\$200 per boat/team per species. Entry fees are for the full duration of the event. Entries received after commencement of the event, subject to the daily cut-off times designated in the CIIFT rules, are required to pay the full entry fee. Only fish caught after the payment of entry fees will be eligible for prizes.

**Prizes:** The team with the heaviest eligible fish for each species over the target weight will receive the entire pot for the respective specie. The payout for each pot will be a combination of the starting value plus all entries for the respective specie. For example, if 10 teams register for the Dolphin BTWC, the total pot will be \$5,000.00 (\$3,000.00 starting value + \$2,000.00 additional registered teams). The starting values for each pot are as follows;

Wahoo	Yellowfin Tuna	Dolphin
\$3,800	\$3,580	\$3,000

**Format:** The BTWC pot is a rolling pot where if the prizes have not been won, the purse of



the pots will roll forward to the next tournament. The CIAC shall retain 10% of each pot upon payout or rollover. Target weights for the BTWC have been set by using historical catch statistics over the last 5 years of the average heaviest fish per species caught in CIAC sanctioned tournaments. Where a species weight has not been broken in the fishing calendar year, the target weights will reduce by 3%. For example, if a target weight of 50 pounds for Wahoo is not broken this year, the new target weight will be 48.5 pounds at the start of the next year. The target weight per species are as follows;

<b>Wahoo</b>	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	<b>Dolphin</b>
61.2 pounds	86.9 pounds	49.2 pounds