



**The 2025 Republic Bank Sir Charles Williams International  
Tournament**

**Official Tournament Rules**

Contact:

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## **Fishing Hours / Moorings / Tournament Control**

A Bimini Start, worth 1,000 points. to those boats taking part, will be held at 6:30 a.m. on the first day of the Tournament. The Tournament Committee at its discretion, may award the 1,000 points. to a boat that misses the Bimini Start if it is satisfied that the absence was due to exceptional circumstances. Lines-in will commence on the first day at 6:30 a.m. On the second and third days boats are allowed to leave at 5:00 a.m. and lines-in will be 6.00 a.m.

Tournament control will be based at Port St Charles Marina and all SD cards must be handed in each day here. The control desk and scale will close at 6pm each day.

**FREE** berthing is available for all boats at the Jetty from **April 8th - April 12th, 2025.**

Lines-out of water are:

**Day 1 - 4:30pm**

**Day 2 - 4:30pm**

**Day 3 - 3:30pm**

**Please note that no lines are permitted to be in the water outside of fishing hours – this includes any dredges, teasers or other hookless baits.**

For fish and cameras containing pictures or videos of releases to be considered eligible, they must be at the weigh station on days one and two by 6:00 p.m. However, on the first and second days, a fish hooked before the official lines-out time may be fought past the lines-out time and until the fight is concluded, without penalty, provided the hookup was reported at the time to 'Radio Control' before lines-out, and the total prior catch declared at that time. A fight is deemed to have been concluded at the point where the fish has been gaffed and/or held alongside the boat. On the third day all fish and cameras containing release pictures must be at the weigh station by 5:00 p.m.

## **Rules and Spirit of the Tournament**

The rules for the Barbados International Fishing Tournament shall be those rules contained herein and in the case of angling, the I.G.F.A. International Angling Rules shall apply, except where stated herein to the contrary. There will be a Tournament Judge whose responsibility will be to ensure that the Rules and Regulations of the Tournament are followed, and who will adjudicate in the first instance on all matters involving the Rules and Regulations, and will report directly to the Committee of Management and Protest Committee in the event of any dispute. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final. All fishing conduct, protests and rulings are to be within the intentions and spirit of the Tournament. It is intended to be in good fellowship and for everyone to have an enjoyable time.

Unacceptable conduct, ashore or at sea, will be strongly considered as grounds for exclusion from future tournaments. All IGFA legal line and lines classes up to a maximum of 130 lb test will be accepted, noting that any fish caught on a line that tests over 130 lb breaking strain will be disqualified.

## **Tournament Committee**

Paul Hamel-Smith, Jason Lampkin, Guy Mahon, Mike Parris, Buddy Clarke, Shae Warren, Neil Smith & Clem Hassid.

## **Protest Committee**

Three visiting anglers from different countries and two from Barbados to be announced at the Briefing.

## Eligible Species

The following are the only species of fish that will be accepted for this International Tournament:

Blue Marlin  
White Marlin  
Sail Fish  
Spear Fish  
Dolphin  
Wahoo  
Yellow Fin Tuna  
Barracuda

## Release Points

Points will be awarded for every confirmed Release. Clear pictures or video showing proper identification is required for points.

	<u>Points</u>
<b>Blue Marlin</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>White Marlin</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Sailfish</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Spearfish</b>	<b>250</b>

All teams must provide their own digital photo or video camera(s) and know how to operate them to verify releases, noting that all devices must be synchronized to the official tournament time. Cameras must have a blank memory card at the start of the tournament. If a team wishes to change cameras during the course of the tournament and use a new one, Radio Control MUST be notified prior to its use, and a new sequence photo given.

No photographs or video footage will be allowed unless cameras contain the required sequence photos as supplied by Radio Control. Please note that photographs or video footage from a cellular phone or tablet will not be permitted, except in case of an emergency situation, where your tournament camera(s) have failed. In such a situation, Radio Control must be notified of the problem and security sequence photos given and recorded before and after any release photos for them to be considered. At the end of the day's fishing, the cellular phone or tablet must be submitted to the Tournament Control along with the dysfunctional camera(s), for consideration.

A successful release will be where a crewmember touches the leader or when the swivel touches the rod tip or when the connection between the main line and the leader passes through the rod tip. Boating a fish will disqualify a release, and a fish is considered boated when any portion of the fish breaks the plane of the boat and/or if any attempt is made to gaff it or in any other way harm the fish other than in the pursuit of releasing the fish in the best possible condition while overboard.

For a Release to be awarded points, photographs or video footage of the released fish must be accompanied by footage of the required sequence as advised by Radio Control both before and after the photograph(s) or video of the released fish. Footage of the sequence must appear in the correct time and sequence on the camera(s). For points to be awarded for a Release using still pictures, a clear photograph showing the identifiable species must be supplied on the team's camera evidencing the fish alongside the boat at the leader. To score an official release using video footage, a video file must be supplied that (1) clearly identifies the species; (2) shows a team member, angler or crew touching the leader while the fish is still hooked; (3) identify the time and date of the catch; and (4) shows the catch and full release of the fish. The video must be continuous, with no breaks in recording, and identify all of these elements. Do not delete any video or photographs taken during fishing hours, even if they do not include the above elements and will not be used to prove a catch. After the release photograph(s) or video are taken, the official time, species and angler name must be written on the catch-report affidavit, and the boat captain must then sign the catch-report affidavit. At the end of the day's fishing, the camera(s), camera connections used to plug into a computer, catch-report affidavit and all photographic or video footage taken must be brought to the weigh station by the appointed hour for later verification of official release points.

## Weigh Station

All fish qualifying for any prize shall be subject to verification as to having been caught in compliance with all rules and regulations of this tournament. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to employ verification procedures at its own discretion. A radio report of any protest must be made to the Tournament Committee within 3 hours of the alleged offense. Written confirmation of the protest must be lodged with the Tournament Committee no later than twenty-four hours after the alleged offense took place. All fish landed during the tournament for which points or prizes are sought will remain the property of the fishing team and may be sold or consumed at your discretion after the official recording of landed catch.

## Reporting Strikes, Landed Fish and Releases

All Strikes, Hookups, Fish Landed and Releases must be reported to radio control via the tournament designated channel on VHF. A report may be made via another participating vessel who must relay all required information at the time of such relay. In the event of a release, the strike must first be reported to radio control, who will relay to the Captain what needs to be done to verify the photograph in order for the release to be valid.

## Landing Billfish

The only billfish that is permitted to be landed is a blue marlin that breaks the existing Barbados blue marlin record (524.5lbs). In order to break the record, the fish must weigh a clear pound over the current record (i.e. it must weigh at least 525.5lbs). For any marlin brought to scale that weighs less than 525.5lbs, the team will receive a -250 point deduction from their overall tally.

## Pitch Baiting / Bait & Switch

Only the Angler that pitches or feeds the bait / hook / lure is allowed to set the hook & reel / fight the fish to be released. **No other persons are allowed to handle the rod or pass the rod to another Angler at any point. All Pitch Baiting / Bait & switch activity should be done while the boat is in motion. No drifting is permitted**

## Use of Live Bait

Participants are permitted to use live bait during the tournament. However, it is mandatory that all fishing activities utilizing live bait adhere strictly to the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules and regulations. All live bait must be procured using a rod and reel. Participants are restricted to catching their live bait solely within the official fishing hours of the tournament. This rule is in place to maintain the fairness and integrity of the competition, ensuring all anglers have equal opportunities and constraints regarding bait acquisition. When fishing with live bait, it is required that the boat be in trolling mode or in a consistent forward motion. Drifting is strictly prohibited while using live bait.

## Fish Gutting

Gutting of Dolphin, Tuna, Wahoo and Barracuda will be allowed out to sea for the purpose of maintaining freshness of fish caught early and will not be considered mutilated, but head, tail and fins must be intact. If fish is not gutted, then fish processors at the scales will deduct poundage from your whole fish when calculating a purchase price. If you gut your heaviest fish in any of the above categories then weight at the scale for gutted fish will be final. In this respect, we recommend not gutting only your heaviest fish in each category.

## Junior Anglers

An angler will be considered a Junior Angler if he/ she is 16 years of age or younger, or up to the point that he/she reaches their 17th birthday. In addition to Junior Angler prizes, a Junior Angler will be eligible to receive prizes in any other category for which they are eligible.

## Assistance

An angler must remove the rod from the rod holder, set the hook and bring the fish to release or gaff unaided.

## Tie-Breaker

In the event of two or more parties being tied on points or pounds, then the winner shall be the one who first achieved their total points or pounds by virtue of landing or releasing their fish. The time of any landing or release will be

recorded as being the time that the required report was received by Radio Control confirming that the fish was successfully landed or released.

### **Communications**

Captains are asked to check on radio communications and frequencies to be used. There are no fishing area limits, however, all boats must check in and out with 'Control' each day. All participating boats must have a working ship-to-shore radio (VHF) on board at all times. The VHF channel to be used as the official tournament channel for all communications will be advised at the captain's briefing on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Docking Facilities and Accommodation**

Berths are assigned on a first come first served basis. Hotel accommodation and car rentals can be arranged given prior notice (no less than 7 days). A limited number of charter boats are also available.

### **Photographs**

An official photographer may be present during the weigh-in period. By registering as an angler in the Tournament, the angler consents that any photograph in which he or she appears may be used for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material. The Angler further releases the Barbados Game Fishing Association, its officers, sponsors and contributors from any injury, loss or damage which may result from said photograph.

### **Liability**

It is expressly understood that all participants in the Tournament enter at their own risk. By registering as an angler in the Tournament the angler holds harmless the B.G.F.A., its officers, its donors, sponsors 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, sport fisherman, their company, boat captain, crew member, vessel and equipment which may occur during or in conjunction with the Tournament.

**Any correspondence should be sent to:** The Barbados Game Fishing Association P.O. Box 80, Bridgetown, Barbados, W.I.

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS!**

**BGFA**