

## 10th Annual HGS Tournament Official Rules

### **Entry Fees:**

**Level I Billfish - \$500**

**Level II Billfish - \$600**

**Level III Game fish - \$400**

**Level IV Grand Slam Jackpot - \$200**

**Level V Laney Howell Women's Billfish - \$300.00**

**Level VI Cap'n B Blue Marlin \$1000**

**(See entry form for credit card pricing)**

**REGISTRATION** - All boats must be registered with the Tournament committee and entry fee paid prior to fishing to qualify for prizes and trophies. Any boat may be withdrawn or substituted prior to 6:00 PM on the day before the first fishing day of the Tournament. A refund (less 15%) will be given to boats withdrawn prior to that time. Any substitute boat must be registered with the Tournament committee and entry fee paid. Any boat paid and entered that suffers mechanical or other issues that render the boat inoperable may fish on a substitute boat provided the Hatteras Grand Slam Rules Committee approves the substitution prior to fishing. **You may enter and pay required entry fees to enter The Hatteras Grand Slam at any time prior to lines in to qualify for prizes and trophies.**

**FISHING TIMES and DAYS** - No chum, bait, lines or teasers in the water before official fishing hours each day. Available fishing days are July 10th, 2014, July 11th, 2014 and July 12<sup>th</sup> 2014. Boats may fish all three days. Choose your 2 best days. There will be no required lay days. Official fishing hours are 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. **BOUNDARIES**- All boats fishing in the Hatteras Grand Slam must fish between LORAN coordinates East 26750, North 40500, and South 39800. All boats fishing the Hatteras Grand Slam must return through Hatteras Inlet on their first fishing day and depart from Hatteras Inlet on their last fishing day.

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS** - All boats entered must be in full compliance with Federal Fisheries Regulations. NMFS Highly Migratory Species permits are required. For more information - [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com) or (888)-872-8862. The use of any natural bait requires the use of circle hooks. J-hooks may be used with artificial lures only. Any boat found to not have a valid HMS permit will be disqualified. Minimum size to retain a blue marlin is 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length. Federal law requires that all released billfish be left in the water.

**REPORTING** - All billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, Hatchet Marlin, Swordfish and Spearfish) must be reported to the committee boat when hooked, lost, released or boated. Radio frequency shall be VHF channel 74. No hookup reporting is required for game fish.

**MANDATORY ENTRY** - You must enter Level I before you can enter any other level.

**LEVELS I AND II BILLFISH POINTS BILLFISH POINTS** - Winners of Level I & II will be determined by points. Released Blue Marlin are worth 400 points, all other released billfish (White Marlin, Sailfish, Hatchet Marlin, Swordfish, and Spearfish) are worth 150 points for each release. Blue Marlin weighed in are worth 1 point per pound provided they meet the tournament minimum of 110 inches lower jaw fork length or 400 pounds in weight. If a Blue Marlin brought to the scales is less than 110 inches lower jaw fork length or 400 pounds in weight, the boat will be penalized 400 points. All billfish released species must be verified by digital photo or video. Federal law requires that all released billfish be left in the water. In the event of a tie in levels I and II, the winner will be determined by the boat who

achieves the point total with Blue Marlin accounting for more of the points.

Example:

Boat A - 8 sailfish = 1200 points

Boat B - 3 Blue marlin = 1200 points

Boat B wins. In the event there is still a tie, the boat achieving the points first wins (on time).

**LEVEL III GAMEFISH - TUNA, DOLPHIN, WAHOO** "Gamefish" - The largest Tuna, Dolphin, and Wahoo will win the prize money allotted to each Gamefish species. In the event no Gamefish are entered for a particular species, the prize money allotted to that species will be split between the other Gamefish species. Official weights will be determined by the Official weight station, Hatteras Harbor Marina. Eligible Tuna species include Bluefin, Big Eye and Yellowfin. All Gamefish must be in fresh edible condition and weighed the day they are caught. Gamefish may be brought to the weigh station by boat or vehicle. Weigh station opens at 3:30 pm and closes at 6 pm. Any boat that is not through the Marina cut by 6 pm will not be permitted to weigh a fish. The weigh-in deadline will be extended for boats which are fighting a blue marlin at the end of each day. However, once the fight is over the captain must make every effort to get to weigh in as quickly as possible. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the first fish weighed-in. All Gamefish must be weighed on the day they are caught. Hookup time for Gamefish should NOT be reported to Tournament Headquarters.

Yellowfin Tuna- 27" curved fork length, 3 per person per day. Permit required.

[www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com).

Wahoo-2 per person per day

Dolphin- 10 per person per day

### **LEVEL IV - GRAND SLAM JACKPOT**

**GRAND SLAM JACKPOT** - To win the Grand Slam Jackpot, the boat must be the first to catch and release one Blue Marlin, one White Marlin and one Sailfish on the same day during the Tournament. Boated Blue Marlin also counts toward the Grand Slam, if meeting minimum tournament requirements. If no boat does this during the Tournament, then all prize money for the Grand Slam Jackpot will be carried forward to the following year's Tournament and Tournaments thereafter until we have a winner for this level. Winner will be determined by the time of release for the last of the three fish. All billfish released species must be verified by digital photo or video. Federal law requires that all released billfish be left in the water.

### **LEVEL V - LANEY HOWELL WOMEN'S BILLFISH RELEASE**

**LANEY HOWELL WOMEN'S BILLFISH** - Winner of level V will be determined by points of fish caught by female anglers. Only billfish caught by female anglers apply to this level. Blue Marlin are worth 400 points, all other billfish (White Marlin, Sailfish, Hatchet Marlin, Swordfish, and Spearfish) are worth 150 points for each release. Blue Marlin weighed in are worth 1 point per provided they meet the tournament minimum of 110 inches lower jaw fork length or 400 pounds in weight. If a Blue Marlin brought to the scales is less than 110 inches lower jaw fork length or 400 pounds in weight, the boat will be penalized 400 points. All billfish released species must be verified by digital photo or video. In the event of a tie in levels I and II, the winner will be determined by the boat who achieves the point total with Blue Marlin accounting for more of the points.

Example:

Boat A - 8 sailfish = 1200 points

Boat B - 3 Blue marlin = 1200 points

Boat B wins. In the event there is still a tie, the boat achieving the points first wins (on time).

#### **LEVEL VI – Cap'n B BLUE MARLIN LEVEL**

**BLUE MARLIN LEVEL** - In level VI, the winning Blue Marlin will be determined by weight. Any blue marlin that is boated must be weighed in at the official weigh station. In the event of a tie, the largest total measurement of girth plus length will be determined the winner. Length will be measured from the V-notch in the tail to the tip of the lower jaw. Any Blue Marlin weighing **400** pounds or more or measuring 110 inches or more will be eligible. In the event a blue marlin does not meet either of these qualifications, the fish will be disqualified and the boat will be penalized **400** pounds. In the event that no qualifying Blue Marlin is weighed, 80% of Level VI money will be returned to participants. The tournament will refuse to weigh any Blue Marlin brought to the scale not measuring 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length as per Federal Regulations. Blue Marlin may not be boated to measure for qualifying length. Federal law requires that all released billfish be left in the water.

**RELEASE/FISHING DAYS DOCUMENTATION** - Released billfish must be attested to by signature of the angler, boat captain and one crewmember on board the boat at the time of the release on the Official Release Form provided by the Tournament Committee. This form shall be turned in to the official Tournament desk at Hatteras Harbor Marina by 6:00 PM on the day the fish was caught. Release forms must be turned in the day the fish is released to qualify. To be considered a release, the mate or crewmember must touch the leader before the fish is released. All leaders must not exceed 30 feet.

**GENERAL RULES** - This is a rod and reel tournament. No mechanical devices are to be used in aid of angling a fish (no mechanical, electric or hydraulic assistance to the reel). Double line and leader combined may not exceed 40 ft; neither of which may exceed 30 ft..

**RULES MEETING** - At least one person from each boat should attend the Captains Meeting on Wednesday July 9th 2014, the Captain's Meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Registration will continue until 8:00 PM at The Hatteras Civic Center. At least one person from each boat is responsible for knowing the Tournament rules, including any changes that may take place at the Captains Meeting. Failure to attend the Captains Meeting shall not result in disqualification, however, late registrants and boats failing to attend the Captains Meeting are still bound by any rule clarification or changes made at the Captains Meeting.

**PRIZE MONEY**- Prize money checks will be made payable to the person or entity so indicated on the registration form of the winning boat. Social security number or Taxpayer ID number of the recipient must be provided on the entry form. All prize money checks will be mailed within 14 business days from the last day of the Tournament.

**PROTEST** - Any dispute must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Rules Committee by 6:00 PM on the last fishing day. All decisions by the Hatteras Grand Slam Rules Committee will be final.

**REFUNDS** - In the event that no qualifying fish are caught in any entry Level (Levels I & II –Billfish Release, Level III – Gamefish, or Level 4 – Grand Slam Jackpot), all prize money from

that Level will be retained and added to the following year's purse to the prize schedule established by the Hatteras Grand Slam Rules Committee. .

**DISQUALIFICATION** - Any boat breaching any of the above Tournament Rules will be disqualified. Decisions of the Rules committee and Board of Directors are final and binding on all participants and owners.

**WEIGHT ALTERATION** - Attempted weight alteration of fish will automatically disqualify the boat from the Tournament. IGFA rules regarding mutilated fish apply to any fish weighed. The Rules Committee reserves the right to cut open any fish for inspection of suspected weight altering efforts such as inserted weights, ice, water, etc.

**FORUM SELECTION/INDEMNIFICATION** - By entering the Tournament, all participants, owners of vessels or pro hoc owners of vessels, consent and agree that the federal and state courts for Dare County, North Carolina, shall serve as the sole venue for all litigation and disputes arising out of a person or vessel's participation in the Tournament. In the event any dispute results in litigation, the participants agree that the Hatteras Grand Slam Tournament, the Tournament Committee, the Hatteras Grand Slam Rules Committee, and the Hatteras Grand Slam Tournament organizers (collectively the "Tournament Organizers) shall not be a party to such litigation and that the litigation shall be maintained between the participants and/or boat owners. The sole responsibility of the Tournament Organizers shall be to pay the disputed prize money into the court in which such litigation is pending, or by paying the disputed prize money into a court of proper jurisdiction by bill of interpleader and the parties to such litigation agree to indemnify the Tournament Organizers for any and all expenses (including attorney's fees) incurred by the Tournament Organizers. If a participant does not secure the signature of the vessel's owner and/or pro hoc owner for this agreement, the participant(s) agrees to indemnify the Tournament Organizers against all claims brought by the owner and or pro hoc owners of the vessel(s).

**HMS PERMITS** - All boats must have one of the following valid permits - HMS Angling (recreational), HMS Charter/Headboat, or Atlantic Tunas General Category Permit (commercial). Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2014.

Permits must be on board the vessel when engaged in fishing. The HGS is a registered recreational HMS Tournament. Any boat found to not have a valid HMS permit will be disqualified.

Acceptance of Tournament Rules:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2014

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**15% OF ENTRY FEES RETAINED BY TOURNAMENT for expenses and charitable donations.**