



## **HURRICANE HOLE INVITATIONAL: MAY 6-9, 2026**

### **TOURNAMENT ENTRY**

- Entry Fee is \$5,000 per boat through April 1st and covers: 1 Boat, Captain, Crew, and 4 anglers. The entire team can attend all functions. Each additional angler can be registered for \$400 per person. Cash, check, or credit card (3.5% service charge) will be accepted for payment.
- After April 1st, 2026 there will be a \$500 late fee per boat.

All tournament entries are non-transferable and non-refundable. If your vessel is unable to compete in the event after submitting payment, your entry will be rolled over to the following year for full credit. Entry fees will ONLY rollover one time. Payment of the entry fee constitutes a representation by each entrant that he/she has read and fully understands the tournament rules that he/she will abide by such rules and the decisions of the Tournament Director, Weigh Master, and/or Committee.

### **REGISTRATION**

Date: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026

Time: 5:00pm-10:00pm

Location: Hurricane Hole Restaurant

All participants are invited to attend the Kick-off Party at 6:00pm at Below Deck Bar

### **CAPTAIN'S MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026

Time: 5:30-6:00 pm

Location: Hurricane Hole Club House at 1850 Highway 1 in Grand Isle, LA

Rules are Subject to Change. Any changes to the rules and final instructions will be given at the meeting. **A representative from each team is required to attend the Captain's Meeting** as each team is responsible for knowing the rules including any changes or clarifications made during the meeting.

### **FISHING HOURS**

Each boat will be eligible to fish a maximum of 3 days, Thursday, May 7th, Friday, May 8th, and Saturday, May 9th, 2026.

Teams will depart from Hurricane Hole Marina in Grand Isle at **10am on Thursday**. Boats cannot be trailered during fishing hours and must return to weigh-in by water. All boats with catch & release videos and fish to be weighed, must pass under the Grand Isle Bridge and check-in by 6:00pm on Saturday.

### **WEIGH STATION HOURS**

Teams **MUST** weigh in at Hurricane Hole Marina.

**Thursday:** By Request 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Friday:** By Request 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Saturday:** 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

On Thursday and Friday, you can request the weigh scales to be opened for you to weigh in between the hours of 5pm and 7pm. If you are not inside of the rocks entering Hurricane Hole Marina before 7pm you will have to hold your fish until the following day. You must text (985) 503-1706 to request a weigh in on Thursday or Friday and you must give advance notice with an ETA.

All boats that desire to weigh fish, submit videos, or enter the marina on Saturday must **radio tournament committee on channel 72** upon passing under (Not Before) the LA-1 bridge. You will be acknowledged and placed in the weigh station and video review que at that time. If you only have video or have nothing to weigh and no video to submit, please state so to receive further instructions. As a backup, if you are not acknowledged on the radio by the tournament committee please **Text the Marina (985) 503-1706**.

For weighing fish, only 1 boat will be allowed at the weigh station at a time. You must have your tail tags and scorecard filled out prior to weighing in. The scales will close immediately after the last fish on the last checked-in boat is weighed. All billfish catch verification forms and video footage for boated blue marlin and catch and release fish must be turned into officials before the scales close.

## **QUALIFYING FISH**

The following species are eligible for competition when caught by registered anglers in accordance with tournament rules:

### **Eligible for Weigh-in at Scales**

- Blue Marlin-Minimum 112 inches LJFL (1 per vessel per day)
- Tuna – 20 lbs. minimum weight
- Wahoo – 20 lbs. minimum weight
- Dolphin – 20 lbs. minimum weight
- Swordfish – 60" minimum (LJFL) (Optional Betting ONLY)

For each day the scales are open, each boat will be allowed to bring to the scales a maximum of 1 blue marlin, 3 tuna, 3 wahoo, 3 dolphin, and 3 swordfish.

The tournament committee reserves the right to reject any fish entry because of poor condition (must be in fresh edible condition), mutilation (defined as anything that would impair the fish's ability to swim away, being cut by the propeller or bit by a shark) or one that does not meet the eligible requirements set by this tournament. The condition of the fish will be left to the scrutiny of the tournament director and committee. **THEIR DECISION IS FINAL.**

## **WEIGH IN PROCEDURES**

**IMPORTANT:** A tail tag with the boat name and registered angler's name must be attached to each fish before unloading at the weigh scales.

**Tournament scales will be located at Hurricane Hole Marina.**

Anglers must remain with their fish until completion of the weigh-in procedure. The angler must sign the weigh-in stat sheet to verify the weight, at which time will make the weight official.

Once the fish is weighed in at Hurricane Hole, the fish will be released back to the vessel.

## REPORTING A BILLFISH

Each boat is required to record all billfish that are boated or released in the order in which the fish are caught on the Billfish Scorecard. The order of the recorded releases should match the order that appears on the boat's Catch & Release video. The Billfish Scorecard will be available at Registration.

Report all boated Blue Marlin on the form. Be prepared to give the following information:

- Name of Boat
- Name of Angler
- Length of boated Blue Marlin
- ETA of a boated Blue Marlin to scales
- Time and date released or boated

The tournament committee will be monitoring the weigh station phone (985) 503-1706. Teams are asked to make best efforts to report all boated and released Marlin within 30 mins via text at the number above. It would be greatly appreciated if you send a short video and/or pictures with the reported catch.

## TOURNAMENT DESIGNATOR / IDENTIFICATION MARKERS

Designators will be assigned at the mandatory Captain's Meeting. These markers must appear in all video submissions.

## VIDEO VERIFICATION

For boated Marlin and catch and release marlin, Video submitted must include the following technical elements:

- Angler fighting fish, including video of rod and reel
- Tournament designator
- Video of swivel at the rod tip or mate touching the leader
- Video of Billfish for species identification. (Judges use dorsal, anal and pectoral fins for fish identification)
- Billfish released and swimming away or being brought on the deck if it is a kill fish
- Cockpit pan
- Clear video of the date & time on your GPS after the release to be used for official release or boating time. Hold the camera steady for several seconds to allow clear focus of GPS Date & Time (**This is critical**). GPS must display in CDT.
  - If the Date and Time of your release is not visible for video review from your GPS video, then your official release date and time will be recorded as 6:00pm on Saturday the 16th.

Verification Videos become the property of the tournament. Verification videos and billfish scorecards must be turned in to the video judges at the designated judging location near the weigh station between the hours of 3:00 pm - before the scales close on the last fishing day.

## BILLFISH SCORECARD

All Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, and Spearfish released or boated must be logged on the Billfish Scorecard in the sequence in which they were caught. Scorecards must be signed by the Boat Captain indicating they agree to the information as recorded. The scorecard must include boat name, angler's name, species, date and time of release or boated. Detailed instructions are printed on the billfish scorecard which is included in the team packet handed out at registration.

All billfish must be recorded on the Billfish Scorecard. In case there are no blue marlin that qualify for the minimum size requirements and no awards are issued for that division, the money for blue marlin will be divided between the top 3 teams in catch and release

## **BILLFISH Catch & Release Scoring**

Billfish are considered caught when the leader connection or swivel touches the tip of the rod or other team member touches the leader.

Billfish removed from the water or boated and deckchecked will be disqualified.

**Blue Marlin:** 500 Points

**White Marlin:** 200 Points

**Sailfish, Spearfish, Unidentifiable Billfish:** 150 Points

\*Swordfish are not part of the Catch & Release Category.

## **TOURNAMENT AWARDS**

Tournament Awards are based on 50 registered tournament teams. Payouts are based on 80% of the accumulated entry fee. Payouts are subject to change depending on the number of entries. Awards for Heaviest Fish will be presented to the angler/boat for fish caught in the following categories:

Blue Marlin	\$37,500	\$22,500	\$15,000
Catch & Release	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Tuna	\$12,500	\$7,500	\$5,000
Wahoo	\$12,500	\$7,500	\$5,000
Dolphin	\$12,500	\$7,500	\$5,000

\*Swordfish are not a part of the base entry. Swordfish are only eligible for Optional Entry

If no qualifying blue marlin are weighed, the cash award for blue marlin will be divided between the top 3 teams in catch and release. If there is no entry for another category, that category payout will be rolled over into other remaining categories and divided based on a 50/30/20 split.

## **OPTIONAL ENTRY**

Blue Marlin, Catch & Release, Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin, and Swordfish will pay 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with a 50%, 30%, 20% split. Crew Jackpot is winner take all. In the event of limited participation in any category listed above, the

payouts will be modified as follows: One team entered will be refunded in full, 2-3 teams will be winner-take-all, 4-6 teams will be 60/40 split, and 7 or more teams will be the standard 50/30/20 split.

Optional Awards for Catch & Release divisions are determined by points according to Tournament Rules. Optional Awards for boated Blue Marlin, Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin, and Swordfish are determined by weight according to Tournament Rules. In the event that no qualifying fish are weighed by an Optional Entry participant in a given Division eligible for an Optional Award, 90% percent of the Optional Entry Fees collected for that division are returned to the participant(s) who paid Optional Entry Fees for that division.

## **Crew Jackpot**

- Entry cost for the category is \$500
- Winner is determined by the heaviest fish caught in the tournament.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Hurricane Hole Invitational is a sportfishing tournament where participants agree to fish in a fair and ethical manner. While the tournament does not strictly enforce the use of IGFA rules, it certainly expects that only minor technical differences will be employed by anglers. *One noted exception is the allowance that the rod may be handed off one time within the first minute of the fight.*

The full page of State Saltwater Fishing Rules can be found at  
<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/recreational-saltwater-finfish>.

## **PERMITS & LICENSES**

An Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit is required and participants must be familiar with and follow HMS regulations.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-angling-permit-open-access>

Anglers must obtain a Louisiana Basic Fishing License, a Saltwater Fishing License, and Saltwater Landing Permit. All of which can be obtained locally or online at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov)

## **PAYMENTS FOR CASH AWARDS**

Prior to fishing, each tournament boat must designate a representative payee to receive payment of all cash awards. Payment of cash awards is by check. A single check will be written to the boat's representative payee for the combined total of tournament cash awards and optional cash awards. Hurricane Hole Invitational LLC accepts no responsibility for the division of any cash awards between team members.

Checks will be written after the Awards Ceremony on Saturday and mailed the following week.

## **WEATHER: TOURNAMENT DELAY OR CANCELLATION**

In the event the tournament committee feels, using their best judgment, that fishing is unsafe due to severe weather, high seas, or any cause beyond the control of the Hurricane Hole Invitational Committee, the tournament may be canceled or delayed. If delayed, a new start time or date will be announced should weather conditions improve. If canceled, entry fees will be rolled over to the following year in their entirety. If one day is fished, the tournament goes on.

Entrants shall have no claim against Hurricane Hole Invitational for return of paid entry fees.

All teams and participants should make their decision to fish based solely on their own judgment. Fish at your own risk.

## **TIE BREAKERS**

For Catch and Release: Team placement is determined by the first team to reach the highest total points as verified by the boat's GPS time and date on the video.

For kill Blue Marlin: Team placement is determined by the boat's GPS time and date on the video.

For Tuna, Wahoo, and Dolphin Weighed: Team placement is determined by the order of weigh-in at the scales. The recorded time of weigh-in determines placement.

## **PROTEST**

Any protests relating to the tournament must be submitted in writing along with a \$1,000 deposit by the team captain to the tournament committee no later than 15 minutes after the last fish is weighed on the final day of the tournament. All entrants agree to abide by tournament rules and regulations.

All disputes are decided by the Tournament Director and Committee. Their decision is final.

Poor sportsmanship will be grounds for disqualification from the Hurricane Hole Invitational. Any violation of these rules resulting in disqualification will result in forfeiture of entry fee and prize money.

## **WAIVER/DISCLAIMER**

It is understood that all participants in the Hurricane Hole Invitational enter at their own risk, and that the officers, committee members, sponsors, directors, tournament venue and all persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of said tournament, shall be exempt from any liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death suffered by any participant, entrant, anglers, his/her companions, boat captains, mates, crew members, vessels and equipment which may occur during or in conjunction with the tournament.

By tournament entry, the captain consents that the Hurricane Hole Invitational may use without payment or restriction, any photographs in which he/she or any of their crew may appear for any purpose whatsoever; including, but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material. The captain and his crew further release the Hurricane Hole Invitational, officers and directors, and all persons from injury, loss or damage which may result.

All entrants agree to submit to a polygraph examination at the request of the tournament committee if there is a conflict involving said entrant. Failure to submit to such an examination will result in disqualification of the entrant at the sole discretion of the tournament committee.

**ALL DECISIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND COMMITTEE WILL BE FINAL.**

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