

Hurricane Hole

HURRICANE HOLE INVITATIONAL: JULY 27-JULY 29, 2023

TOURNAMENT ENTRY

- Entry Fee is \$3,000 per boat through July 1 and covers everyone on board. The entire team can attend all functions. The entry fee covers: 1 Boat, 1 Captain, 1 mate, 4 anglers. Each additional angler can be registered for \$300 per person. Cash, check, or credit card (3.5% service charge) will be accepted for payment.
- After July 1, 2023 there will be a \$300 late fee per boat.
- Dues must be paid before or at registration on Wednesday, July 26, 2023.
- **International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo:** With your entry into the Hurricane Hole Invitational, boats will automatically be registered one ticket for the 2023 International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo Tournament (\$55 per ticket value). Additional tickets for Tarpon Rodeo can be purchased at additional cost. Participants will be required to follow all rules and guidelines set forth by the Tarpon Rodeo Committee.
 - Vessels will come to Hurricane Hole first to weigh their catch. Then, vessels will have the option to bring their fish to the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo at Grand Isle Marina to be weighed and entered into their tournament as well.
 - **NOTE:** The following rules and guidelines are specific to Hurricane Hole Invitational. For a complete list of International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo Tournament rules and more information, visit their website. www.tarponrodeo.org

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, but this does not roll over for entry into the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo. 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.

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-Over 111 inches
- Tuna – 50 lbs. minimum weight
 - Tuna Species: Yellowfin or Blackfin
- Wahoo – 20 lbs. minimum weight
- Dolphin – 20 lbs. minimum weight

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

The tournament committee reserves the right to reject any fish entry because of poor condition 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.

TOURNAMNET AWARDS

Tournament Awards are based on 50 registered tournament teams. Payouts are based on a 50/30/20 split of accumulated 80% 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	1st (12.5%)	\$15,000	2nd (7.5%)	\$9,000	3rd (5%)	\$6,000
Tuna	1st (12.5%)	\$15,000	2nd (7.5%)	\$9,000	3rd (5%)	\$6,000
Wahoo	1st (12.5%)	\$15,000	2nd (7.5%)	\$9,000	3rd (5%)	\$6,000
Dolphin	1st (12.5%)	\$15,000	2nd (7.5%)	\$9,000	3rd (5%)	\$6,000

*Tuna Species: Either Yellowfin or Blackfin

If there is no entry for a category, that category payout will be rolled over into other remaining categories and divided based on a 50/30/20 split.

REGISTRATION

Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Time: 2:00pm to 6:30pm

Location: Hurricane Hole Marina

All participants are invited to attend the Kick-off Party following at 7:00pm

CAPTAIN'S MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023

Time: 6:30-7:00pm

Location: Hurricane Hole Club House at 1851 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 should 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, July 27 to Saturday, July 29, 2023.

Teams will depart from Grand Isle at 11am on Thursday morning and will continue fishing until scales close at 7:00pm on Saturday. 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 7:00pm on Saturday.

FISHING PARAMETERS

Tournament fishing waters extend from the Texas state line all the way to the Mississippi state line including all Louisiana offshore territorial waters south, including the Gulf of Mexico waters.

WEIGH STATION HOURS

Teams are allowed to depart from any Louisiana port but **MUST** weigh in at Hurricane Hole Marina.

Scales will be open from 3:00pm until 7:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All fish caught during the tournament must be weighed before scales close on Saturday night. Boats must be checked in at Hurricane Hole Marina 7:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to have their fish weighed in that day. Scales will close immediately after the last fish on last checked-in boat is weighed. All billfish catch verification forms for boated fish must be turned in to officials before the scales close.

Once the fish is weighed in at Hurricane Hole, the fish will be released back to vessel and can be weighed in at the location of the weigh station for the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.

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. Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo weigh scales will be located at Grand Isle Marina.

- Vessels will come to Hurricane Hole first to weigh their catch. Then, vessels will have the option to bring their fish to the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo to be weighed and entered into their tournament if participating.

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. All fish weighed at the scales must be returned to the angler.

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 in your boat information packet. Report all boated billfish on the form.

Be prepared to give the following information:

- Name of Boat
- Name of Angler
- Species of Fish (Blue, White Marlin, or Sailfish)
- Time released or boated

DO NOT report Tuna or Swordfish on the catch & release form.

Committee boats will be used for conservation and informational reporting only. Your committee boats will be monitoring VHF Channel TBD and weigh station phone (985) 503-1706.

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 Marlin catches, Video submitted must include the following technical elements:

- Angler fighting fish, including video of rod and reel
- Tournament designator
- Video of Billfish for species identification. (Judges use dorsal, anal and pectoral fins for fish identification)
- Clear video of GPS date & time to be used for official boating time. Hold camera steady for several seconds to allow clear focus of GPS Date & Time (**This is critical**). GPS must display in CDT.

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 3:00-7:00pm on Fishing days.

BILLFISH SCORECARD

All billfish 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. 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 will be divided and roll over to the teams with the most points on the scorecard.

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-finish>.

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

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 and sent to designated address after the tournament.

WEATHER: TOURNAMENT DELAY OR CANCELLATION

In the event the tournament committee feels in their best judgement 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 cancelled or delayed. If delayed, a new start time or date will be announced should weather conditions improve. If cancelled, 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 judgement. 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 boats GPS time.

For Fish Weighed: Any category of fish brought to the scales, 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.

This document is subject to change. Final rules will be discussed at Captain's Meeting.