



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament August 23–26, 2017

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Revised July 19, 2017*

### **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23 REGISTRATION**

- 5:00–10:00pm..... Registration **Time Change**
- 6:00–10:00pm..... Kick-Off Party with Live Music
- 7:00–9:00pm ..... Dinner
- 7:30pm ..... Captain's Meeting
- 8:30 ..... Charity Check Presentation

### **THURSDAY AUGUST 24 DAY 1 FISHING**

- 8:30am–3:00pm..... Fishing Day One
- 12:00–8:00pm..... Scales Open—Billfish Scorecards must be turned in by 8:00pm
- 7:00–10:00pm..... Dock Party with Music
- 7:00–9:00pm ..... Dinner

### **FRIDAY AUGUST 25 DAY 2 FISHING**

- 8:30am–3:00pm..... Fishing Day Two
- 12:00–8:00pm..... Scales Open—Billfish Scorecards must be turned in by 8:00pm
- 7:00–10:00pm..... Dock Party with Live Music
- 7:00–9:00pm ..... Dinner

### **SATURDAY AUGUST 26 DAY 3 FISHING & AWARDS**

- 8:30am–3:00pm..... Fishing Day Three
- 12:00–7:00pm..... Scales Open—Billfish Scorecards must be turned in by 7:00pm
- 7:00–9:00pm ..... Prime Rib Dinner and Charity Auction
- 9:00–11:00pm..... Awards Presentation followed by Live Music

# ENTRY INFORMATION

updated August 19, 2017

## ENTRY LEVELS & CASH AWARDS

There are seven levels of entry: One mandatory tournament entry (Level 1) and six optional levels. A 20% management fee is retained from Level 1; Level 2-6 are 100% return. Level 7 is a 75% return with the other 25% going to charity.

### LEVEL 1 Top Boats (mandatory)..... \$2,400

Awarded to the five teams accumulating the most overall billfish points—first through third place receive cash awards, fourth and fifth place are awarded trophies. The amount allocated to cash awards is split 50-30-20 between the top three teams. If only two teams qualify, the split is 60-40 and if only one team qualifies, the winner takes all.

### LEVEL 2 Billfish Jackpot (optional) ..... \$1,000

Awarded to the three teams accumulating the most overall billfish points and also entered in this level. Cash allocation between the winners is the same as Level 1.

### LEVEL 3 High Rollers Jackpot (optional) ..... \$1,500

*Teams must be entered in Level 1 and Level 2 to enter Level 3.*

Awarded to the three teams accumulating the most overall billfish points and also entered in this level. Cash allocation between the winners is the same as Level 1.

### LEVEL 4 Billfish Daily Jackpot (optional)..... \$1,500

The cash in this level is split evenly between each day of competition and is awarded to the top two teams that accumulate the most overall billfish points for the day and are also entered in this level. Cash allocation between the two winners is 70-30. At least 10% of the fleet must fish in order for the Daily to be paid. See Rule #7.

### LEVEL 5 Gamefish Division (optional) ..... \$500

The cash in this level is split evenly between the three eligible gamefish species (dolphin, tuna, wahoo) and awarded to the teams weighing the single heaviest fish in each species category and also entered in this level. If there are no winners in an entire species category, the cash award for that species rolls evenly into the remaining species categories.

### LEVEL 6 Blue Marlin Jackpot (optional)..... \$1,000

Awarded to the team weighing the single heaviest blue marlin and also entered in this level. If no qualifying fish are weighed, the award goes to the team that accumulates the most billfish release points and is also entered in this level.

### LEVEL 7 Charitable Mystery Fish (optional).... \$1,000

The cash in this level is split four ways with 25% going to the VBBT charities and 25% going to each of the daily winners based on a drawing. For teams entered in this category a “chip” would be added to the bucket for each billfish you caught that day. For example, if your team caught four billfish, you would get four “chips” in the bucket. Drawings for each day are done at the Awards Presentation Saturday night.

Sample Cash Distribution						
Basis of Cash Distribution (Teams*Fee)		75	\$2,000	\$120,000.00		
LEVEL 1 NUMBER OF WINNERS						
TOP BOAT DIVISION		3	2	1		
1st Place	50%	\$60,000	60%	\$72,000	100%	\$120,000
2nd Place	30%	\$36,000	40%	\$48,000		
3rd Place	20%	\$24,000				
Basis of Cash Distribution (Teams*Fee)		60	\$1,000	\$60,000.00		
LEVEL 2 NUMBER OF WINNERS						
BILLFISH JACKPOT		3	2	1		
1st Place	50%	\$30,000	60%	\$36,000	100%	\$60,000
2nd Place	30%	\$18,000	40%	\$24,000		
3rd Place	20%	\$12,000				
Basis of Cash Distribution (Teams*Fee)		60	\$1,500	\$90,000.00		
LEVEL 3 NUMBER OF WINNERS						
HIGH ROLLERS JACKPOT		3	2	1		
1st Place	50%	\$45,000	60%	\$54,000	100%	\$90,000
2nd Place	30%	\$27,000	40%	\$36,000		
3rd Place	20%	\$18,000				
Basis of Cash Distribution (Teams*Fee)		60	\$500	\$30,000.00		
LEVEL 4 NUMBER OF WINNERS						
BILLFISH DAILY AWARD		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3		
Daily Winner	33%	\$9,990	33%	\$9,990	33%	\$9,990
Basis of Cash Distribution (Teams*Fee)		60	\$500	\$30,000.00		
LEVEL 5 NUMBER OF WINNERS (PER SPECIES)						
GAMEFISH DIVISION		Dolphin	Tuna	Wahoo		
1st Place	100%	\$10,000	100%	\$10,000	100%	\$10,000
Basis of Cash Distribution (Teams*Fee)		60	\$1,000	\$60,000.00		
LEVEL 6 WINNER TAKE ALL						
BLUE MARLIN JACKPOT		1 WINNER				
1st Place	100%	\$60,000				
Total Cash Awards:						\$390,000.00

## OTHER TOURNAMENT AWARDS

*Trophies, plaques, and/or merchandise are awarded in the following categories:*

**Top Overall Angler** — Angler who accumulates the most total billfish points

**Top Release Angler** — Angler who accumulates the most billfish release points

**Top Lady Angler** — Lady Angler who accumulates the most total billfish points

**Top Crew** — Captain and crew who accumulate the most total billfish points

**Top Junior Billfish Angler** — Junior Angler (15 years or younger) who accumulates the most billfish points

**Top Junior Gamefish Angler** — Junior Angler (15 years or younger) who catches the largest single dolphin, tuna or wahoo

**Joel Webb Memorial Top Mate** — Awarded to the mate on the boat that accumulates the most billfish points.

**Wayne McLeskey Top Boat Perpetual Trophy** — Trophy bears the names of the top boats from 2012 onward and is held in a place of honor throughout the year

## PRIZE DISBURSEMENT

**Trophies**—Trophies, six per team, are handed out on stage during the Awards Celebration.

**Disbursement Order**—Before winnings are paid each team receiving a cash award must complete a Disbursement Order specifying how the funds are to be distributed. We suggest you decide how prize money is to be distributed before the tournament. Disbursement Orders are handed to the team at the Awards Celebration. The Disbursement Order must be signed by the Team Contact as recorded on the Entry Form.

**Cash Disbursement and Tax Documents**—Cash awards are paid by check and mailed within two weeks following the event. A 1099-MISC is issued for all prize money to the person or company to whom the check is made payable.

**Deducting Entry Fees**—You may deduct entry fees from your winnings to be applied toward the following year's tournament.

## REGISTRATION

Teams must submit an entry form either before the tournament (Pre-Registration) or at Final Registration. Entry forms can be found on [www.vbbt.com](http://www.vbbt.com), and may also be requested by calling 757-652-8409 or emailing [paula@vbbt.com](mailto:paula@vbbt.com).

Fax completed entry forms to 757-428-5935 or mail entry forms and payment to:

Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament, PO Box 568, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**Teams may submit entry forms through 5:00pm on Tuesday, August 22 to pre-register.** After that entry forms must be submitted during Final Registration. All teams must check in during Final Registration to pay any balance due, verify team information, pick up event tickets, tournament forms and team merchandise and attend the Captain's Meeting. **Final Registration takes place on Wednesday, August 23 between 5:00pm and 10:00pm.** Teams running late due to weather or mechanical problems may register up to 8:30am on Thursday, August 24, but must make arrangements with the tournament director beforehand. Teams registering late are still expected to abide by any rules changes that may be announced at the Captain's Meeting.

## PAYMENT

Entry fees may be paid by either cash or check. Make checks payable to the "Virginia Beach Billfish Foundation" or "VBBF".

## TEAM CONTACT (Also relates to refunds and prize money distribution)

*Please carefully read the following and choose your Team Contact accordingly.*

The Team Contact is the designated team leader; there can be only one Team Contact per team. The Team Contact must know how to reach each member of the team, and the contact information for the Team Contact must be complete and include a mailing address, cell or local phone number and email address. Any instructions, confirmations or requests for information are sent to this person. In addition, the Team Contact is the person to whom any refunds are made payable, and signs the Disbursement Order designating how cash awards are distributed.

## **ANGLERS, CAPTAINS and MATES**

There is no limit to the number of anglers per team, and it does not matter on which day the angler fishes, but anglers must be registered with the tournament before fishing for the day starts. Captains and mates are also considered anglers. At a minimum, you must provide a First Name, Last Name, City and State for all team participants. Any angler changes must be made in writing and may be turned in at the Weigh Station, Scoring Table, Fisherman's Wharf Marina or the Virginia Beach Fishing Center. Anglers may not change teams during the tournament.

## **EVENT TICKETS & TEAM BAGS**

Each team receives eight event tickets and a team bucket or bag with sponsor gifts and eight tournament t-shirts. Merchandise and event tickets for additional team members may be purchased at the event

# 2017 TOURNAMENT RULES

Updated February 4, 2017

Rules are subject to change. Final instructions are given at the Captain's Meeting.

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## 1. Rules Acceptance

It is the responsibility of the captain, crew and anglers to understand and abide by the Tournament's rules, including any special instructions or changes that may be announced during the Captain's Meeting. **The Captain's Meeting takes place Wednesday, August 23 at 7:30pm.** At least one representative from each team must be present.

## 2. Permits and Licenses

Registered boats and anglers are expected to comply with all Federal and State laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits and any other regulations that may apply. For information regarding Federal HMS Permits refer to [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com) or call 888-872-8862. For information regarding the National Saltwater Angler Registry program refer to [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov). You may need to register with the Virginia Fisherman Identification Program (free). Review information at [www.mrc.virginia.gov/FIP/](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/FIP/) or call 800-723-2728. For information regarding Virginia state saltwater fishing licenses refer to [www.mrc.state.va.us/mrc-permits.shtm](http://www.mrc.state.va.us/mrc-permits.shtm) or call 800-986-2628. If you wish to be eligible for a Virginia Citation, you must have a Virginia Saltwater Fishing License. For information regarding the Virginia Citation program call 757-491-5160 or visit [www.mrc.state.va.us](http://www.mrc.state.va.us).

## 3. Fishing Dates and Times

Tournament fishing days are Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Fishing hours are 8:30am to 3:00pm all three days. No lines or teasers may be in the water before the official start or after the official end of tournament fishing. Billfish hooked and reported to the Committee Boat prior to lines out may be fought until caught or released, except for the final day when any team wishing to weigh a fish must be within Rudee Inlet by 6:45pm.

## 4. Lay Day

Teams may fish any two of the three available fishing days (Captain's choice). Lay Day forms must be signed by a registered member of the team and turned in at Fisherman's Wharf Marina or the Virginia Beach Fishing Center by 8:30am of the day being declared as a lay day, otherwise the boat is recorded as fishing that day. Should an issue arise with regard to the submission of a Lay Day form, only verbal contact with Tournament Officials Paula Owen (757-652-8409) or Deirdre Bell (757-287-4932) prior to 8:30am of the day at issue shall constitute notice, and resolution shall be at the sole discretion of these Tournament Officials. Voicemail, email and text messages do not apply – you must speak directly with either Paula or Deirdre.

## 5. Tournament Communications

Tournament Officials and Committee Boats monitor VHF Channel 74 and SSB Channel 452 (4149.0).

## 6. Official Clock

Official tournament time is continuous GPS time and starts at Thursday at 8:30am. Times are recorded to the full minute.

## 7. Weather and Cancellation Policy

Weather related decisions are at the sole discretion of each Captain. The Tournament Committee does not declare a “weather” day in the event of severe weather conditions. If any of the boats registered in the tournament decide to fish on a particular day (based on lay day forms), that day is declared an official fishing day and all eligible fish are scored according to tournament rules. However, at least 10% of the fleet must fish in order for a Daily Award to be paid.

## 8. Boundaries and Ports of Departure

All boats must fish into and out of Virginia Beach. Boundaries are 100 nautical miles from the Rudee Inlet Sea Buoy. Fish must be hooked within these boundaries, but may be fought outside of the boundaries once hooked.

## 9. Equipment and Angling Rules

IGFA Saltwater Equipment and Angling rules apply with the exception of any special instructions given in these rules, and any instructions or changes that may be given during the Captain’s Meeting. Copies of IGFA rules are available during Registration. The VBTT is a Boat tournament—any member of the crew may set the hook, but a registered angler must then fight the fish unassisted. Unconventional non-trolling techniques are strictly prohibited. No backing into schools, casting, use of casting tackle, use of live bait or live bait teasers.

## 10. Mechanical Failures

Should a situation arise where a boat cannot make it back by the deadline, the fish and angler with scorecards may be transferred to another tournament boat, after consulting with VBTT Officials. If a boat becomes completely disabled, another boat may be substituted. Substitute boats must be registered with the Tournament Director prior to fishing.

## 11. Eligible Species and Points

ELIGIBLE SPECIES AND POINTS				
SPECIES	MINIMUMS	POINTS per POUND	RELEASE POINTS	LIMITS
Blue Marlin	110” (LJFL) or 400 lbs.	up to 599.9 : 0.5 600.0 and up : 1.0	70	1/angler/day
<i>The capture of a blue marlin under 110-inches and 400-pounds results in the forfeiture of all accumulated points and disqualification of the team from further competition.</i>				
Sailfish	n/a	n/a	70	n/a
Spearfish	n/a	n/a	70	n/a
White Marlin	n/a	n/a	70	n/a
Dolphin	n/a	1 (one)	n/a	10/angler/day
Albacore	n/a	1 (one)	n/a	n/a
Bigeye Tuna	27” CFL	1 (one)	n/a	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	27” CFL	1 (one)	n/a	set by NMFS
Yellowfin Tuna	27” CFL	1 (one)	n/a	3/angler/day
Wahoo	n/a	1 (one)	n/a	10/angler/day

## 12. Reporting Billfish and Scorecards

As soon as you release or boat a billfish, call a Committee Boat and report Boat Name, Species, and Status (Released or Boated). In addition, billfish hooked within the last hour of fishing on any day, and billfish still being fought at lines out must be reported to a Committee Boat. If a Committee Boat cannot be raised, a verifiable report must be given to another tournament boat and the boat name noted on the Scorecard. Committee Boats are announced during the Captain’s Meeting.

The Billfish Scorecard is the Team’s record of billfish hooked and subsequently released, tagged, lost or boated. Scorecards are compared to the Committee Boat radio logs for verification. Billfish should be recorded as caught to ensure accuracy. If you caught a billfish you must turn in a Scorecard. Scorecards are distributed during Registration. Lost billfish should not be

reported to a Committee Boat but should be recorded on the Scorecard for statistical purposes. The same applies to recording the time the billfish was hooked and whether it was tagged.

Before turning in your Scorecard be sure it's filled in completely including a suffix if necessary for the angler (i.e. Jr., Sr., III). If the angler was a Lady, check off under the "L" column. If the angler was a Junior, write in the junior's age under the "JR" column. The boat captain must print their name and sign indicating they agree to the information as recorded. Turn in all copies of the Scorecard to the Scoring Table by the designated deadline (see Rule #14). If you did not catch a billfish you do not need to turn in a Scorecard.

### 13. Official Billfish Release

A billfish is considered officially released when the leader connection is wound to the tip of the rod, or the mate or other crew member touches the leader. Tagging is not required for tournament points, but is encouraged if the billfish is under control and the tag can be placed without injury to the fish. If a gaff breaks the plane of the cockpit covering boards, the team has committed to a capture and the billfish will not count as a release whether or not it is subsequently captured.

### 14. Weighing Fish

All fish must be weighed at the official Weigh Station located at Southside Marina, and must be brought to the scales by boat. The scales open daily at 12:00 noon. On Thursday and Friday, the scales close at 8:00pm. On Saturday, the final day of fishing, the scales close at 7:00pm. On the final day of fishing, any boat wishing to weigh a fish must be inside Rudee Inlet by 6:45pm. The Weighmaster and VBBT Officials reserve the right to refuse to weigh any fish that does not meet tournament requirements. **Additional Rules:**

- Boats are lined up to weigh in the order in which they arrive.
- The weighing of blue marlin takes precedence over gamefish.
- Fish must arrive at the dock in edible condition.
- Mutilated fish are not weighed. In this case, "mutilation" is defined as any damage that would impair the fighting ability of the fish.
- All fish are weighed to the tenth of a pound.
- If anyone wishes to have a fish re-weighed, it must be done while the fish is still hanging.
- The angler must remain with the fish throughout the weigh-in process, and before leaving the scales must sign the Weigh-In form.

### 15. Scoring

Scoring closes Thursday and Friday at 8:00pm and at 7:00pm on Saturday. Forms are accepted after 8:00pm on the first two days of fishing only if the team is fighting a fish or their boat becomes disabled, however, the Tournament Director must be made aware of the situation delaying the team. **On the final day of fishing, forms must be turned in by 7:00pm.** The location of the Scoring Table is announced at the Captain's Meeting.

### 16. Breaking Ties

Ties between the weights of two or more fish are broken by the time the fish was weighed. Ties between Release Points are broken by the time of release. The date of Release is based on the boat's fishing day (day 1 or 2) as opposed to the tournament fishing day (day 1-2-3). The Rules Committee may consult Committee Boat Logs to reach decisions on release time or sequence of releases.

### 17. Observers

The Tournament, at their sole discretion, may assign an observer to any boat on any fishing day. If an observer is assigned, the boat is responsible for the observer's comfort and safety, including providing lunch and non-alcoholic beverages.

## **18. Polygraph Examination**

Registered Participants agree to submit to a polygraph examination if requested to do so by VBBT Officials. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the Participant and, at the discretion of VBBT Officials, the Participant's entire team. Disqualified Participants/Teams or Participants/Teams that fail a polygraph examination forfeit any and all entry money, prizes or prize money, and are refused entry to future VBBT tournaments. The decision of the Rules Committee is final.

## **19. Protests**

Registered participants may submit a protest against any fish entered. Protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director by 9:00am on the day following the catch of the disputed fish or by 8:00pm on Saturday. The Rules Committee at their discretion may use a polygraph examination to reach a decision. All participants agree to the final decision of the Rules Committee.