

While all efforts are made to keep this information current, all published rules shall be considered unofficial. Official rules will be distributed and announced at the registration check-in and captains meeting. All participants agree to the terms of these rules by participating in the tournament.

SCRUB ISLAND BILLFISH SERIES RULES
LEG 1 – AUGUST 24 - 28, 2026

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 24, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Final registration in the Columbus Ballroom. The captain's meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Leg 1 Welcome Dinner 7:15 p.m.

August 25 — Fishing day: 7:30 a.m. lines-in, 5:00 p.m. lines-out. Release video check-in.

August 26 — Fishing day: 7:30 a.m. lines-in, 5:00 p.m. lines-out. Release video check-in

August 27 — Fishing day: 7:30 a.m. lines-in, 5:00 p.m. lines-out. Release video check-in.

August 28 — Leg 1 Awards banquet 7:00 p.m. Scrub Island Resort & Marina

THE TOURNAMENT

The Scrub Island Billfish Series is a two-tournament series in which teams earn points at each event, with the overall series winner awarded to the team with the highest total score.

Leg 1 is a three-day, team-based tournament, with top honors going to the team that accumulates the most points. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams—first, second, and third place.

Individual honors include awards for the high-point angler and top lady angler, each receiving a trophy and prize package.

Eligible species include blue marlin, white marlin, spearfish and sailfish.

Participating boats must stay at Scrub Island Marina or an approved alternative location within the British Virgin Islands. During the event, all boats must reside within BVI waters to be eligible to compete in the Scrub Island Billfish Series.

BASE ENTRY FEE

The base entry fee is \$5,000 per team and includes up to six(6) registered anglers. This fee covers both tournament participation and access to all scheduled entertainment and social events for those six participants.

The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual, organization, or corporation.

OPTIONAL JACKPOTS

Jackpots are completely optional, and you must be entered into each specific category in order to be eligible for cash prizes. See “Awards & Optionals” for more information.

ANGLERS AND CREW

Each boat must carry one designated captain and one designated mate at all times, without exception. Any changes to the captain or crew must be reported to the tournament committee prior to the start of fishing on that day. Designated captains and mates may also register as anglers, and guests are permitted on board.

Each team must designate a Primary Contact who is able to make decisions for the team. The representative must provide a cell phone number and email address. All correspondence will be sent to the Primary Contact.

All participants are expected to conduct themselves with professionalism and good sportsmanship at all times—whether at the dock, underway, or while fishing.

TEAM REGISTRATION

Final registration will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on August 24, 2026 in the Columbus Ballroom. All preregistered teams, as well as those registering onsite, must have at least one representative present to collect tournament credentials and the captain’s bag.

To encourage maximum participation, registrations will remain open until 7:29 a.m. on August 25, 2026.

CAPTAINS MEETING

The mandatory tournament rules briefing will take place at 7:00 p.m. on August 24, 2026, on the Grand Patio. All anglers and captains are required to attend. Those who do not attend agree to be bound by any instructions or rule changes issued during the meeting, whether communicated verbally or in writing.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the tournament start date will receive a full refund of the base entry fee and all optional jackpots. Cancellations within 30 days of the start date will receive a 50% refund of the base entry fee, along with a full refund of any optional jackpots.

CANCELLATION OF ENTIRE TOURNAMENT

If the tournament is canceled prior to any scheduled fishing days due to circumstances beyond Bonnier’s control—such as extreme weather, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other force majeure events—50% of the entry fee and 85% of any optional jackpot funds will be refunded.

If the tournament is canceled by Bonnier for any other reason, including insufficient participation, all entry fees and optional jackpot payments will be refunded in full.

Refunds will be issued to the Team Representative via ACH, check, or wire transfer within four weeks, provided all tournament entry fees have cleared the bank.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish

FISHING DATES/TIMES

Tournament fishing days are August 25, 26 and 27. Lines-in: 7:30 a.m., Lines-out: 5:00 p.m. daily

Lines-in and Lines-out calls will be announced via tournament radio—no fishing is permitted before the “lines-in” call.

The tournament committee reserves the privilege of changing starting and finishing times for any reason it deems necessary.

LATE HOOK-UPS

Hookups occurring within the final 15 minutes of fishing must be called in immediately. If a fish is still hooked at lines-out, the angler may continue fighting until the fish is released or lost; however, tournament control must be notified once the fight ends.

FIGHTING TIMES

In the event of late hookups, etc., all release footage must be turned in by 11:59 p.m. on the day of fishing.

RULES

IGFA angling and tackle rules apply unless otherwise stated. All registered anglers must hook and fight their own fish until it is released. All participants—anglers, captains, and crew—are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with IGFA and tournament rules throughout the competition. Any participant who intentionally breaks these rules is subject to expulsion and disqualification, upon determination by the tournament committee, from this and future tournaments without a refund of any registration fees. For a complete list of IGFA angling and tackle rules, go to igfa.org.

BILLFISH RELEASE RULES

All teams are responsible for supplying and operating their own video equipment to verify billfish releases. To validate a catch, all recordings must be time- and date-stamped in accordance with the official time as stated by Tournament Control prior to each day’s fishing. Teams must use the official release cards included in the team packets received at the captains’ meeting, and it is their responsibility to ensure the cards are on board before fishing begins. Teams will be notified which release card to use prior to the start of each day’s fishing.

To score an official release, the video footage must include clear and sufficient evidence of the following:

1. Clear identification of the species
2. Leader/mainline connection clearly visible inside the rod tip, swivel reeled all the way to the rod tip, OR a team member touching the leader while the fish is still hooked
3. Display the release card of the day designated by the tournament
4. Full release of the fish, showing the line being cut, hook removed, or fish swimming away freely
5. Time and date of the release

After each release, the official time, species, and angler name must be recorded on the catch affidavit. The affidavit must be signed by each registered angler and the boat captain.

At the end of each fishing day, teams must bring their camera, signed catch-report affidavit, and all original video footage to the Columbus Ballroom for verification. Catch reports must be submitted by 7:00 p.m., unless a team is actively fighting a fish after lines out at 5:00 p.m.

BILLFISH RELEASE POINTS

Five-hundred (500) points awarded for every blue marlin officially released. One hundred (100) points for every white marlin, spearfish or sailfish officially released.

In the event of a tie, rankings will be determined by the team that reaches the highest point total first, based on official release time.

RELEASE VIDEO CHECK IN

Release video check-in will be in the Columbus Ballroom 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

CATCHSTAT

The Scrub Island Billfish Series uses CatchStat for registration and team management and live scoring updates. All content on CatchStat is for entertainment purposes only. All content on CatchStat is for entertainment purposes only and may not reflect official standings or payout amounts. For official results, please contact the tournament committee directly.

BOATS WITH SONAR

Sonar devices may not be deployed prior to Lines In (7:30 a.m.) and must be powered off no later than 15 minutes after Lines Out (5:00 p.m.) each day.

LINE

Teams may fish up to 80-pound-test maximum manufacturer labeled line; tournament or non-tournament lines are eligible. If the stated line test is 80-pounds or less on the label, it is allowed in the tournament. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first five meters of line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line.

LEADERS

The length of the leader is the overall length, including any lure or hook arrangement. In all line

classes exceeding 20-pound (10 kg), the leader shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line, swivel, hook set and the leader shall not exceed 40 feet (12.19 meters) total. The tournament committee holds the right to examine any hook-sets, line and/or leaders at any time during the event. Refusal to allow the committee to examine any hook-sets, line and/or leaders will result in immediate disqualification from the event without a refund of any jackpot or registration fees.

RODS

Unlimited in use or numbers.

TEASERS

Unlimited in use or numbers.

BAITS

Live bait, dead bait, lures and any combination thereof are permitted in this tournament.

HOOKS

Bait must be rigged with non-offset circle hooks only. Artificial lures without natural bait may be rigged with conventional J-hooks.

RADIO/COMMUNICATIONS

The official tournament channel is 7 International. If out of radio range, tournament control may also be reached by phone (813) 928-6266 or the official tournament WhatsApp group. Access to the group will be provided at registration. Each team must designate one representative to submit all reports to the group to avoid duplicate entries. The timestamp of each message will serve as the official release time, and tournament control will acknowledge receipt with a "thumbs up."

All catches must be reported as soon as possible via radio, phone, or WhatsApp. Tournament control's time is final for all starts, hookups, and stops. All billfish releases must be reported with the angler's name and species, and all hookups must be reported during the final 15 minutes of fishing each day.

Channel 7 is reserved for official announcements and catch reports only. All other competitor communications must take place on alternate channels.

WEATHER

There is no weather committee. The tournament is conducted on a fish-at-your-own-risk basis. If any portion of the tournament is fished and a team(s) releases fish that match the tournament's eligible species, then prizes will be awarded.

PROTESTS

Participants may lodge protests against any catch which they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. All protests must be stated in writing and accompanied by \$1,000.

All protests on August 25, 26 and 27 must be in the hands of the tournament's designated rules official by 7:30 p.m. on the day of the alleged incident unless there is a protest regarding a fish that comes to the video verification later than 7:30 p.m. All protests will be settled the day of the incident.

The tournament committee may call a protest hearing in their discretion; a protest hearing is not guaranteed. The protest party, as well as the accused team members, captain and crew, must be present at any official protest hearing. The tournament committee may refuse to consider any protest evidence not submitted at the protest hearing in the presence of the protested team. If the protesting or protested team fails to show up for the protest hearing, that team forfeits its right to submit evidence. Decisions of the tournament organizers with regard to protests are final, nonappealable, and nonjusticiable.

SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

All participants are expected to maintain a reasonable and sportsmanlike demeanor at all times throughout the tournament. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct towards tournament organizers or other participants, or any other behavior which the tournament organizers deem inappropriate, in their sole discretion, will result in immediate disqualification of the entire team with no refund of entry fees.

The Scrub Island Billfish Series tournament committee reserves the right to update or change these rules at any time. By entering the Scrub Island Billfish Series tournament and paying the entry fees, all participants agree to abide by the tournament rules and accept all decisions made by the Tournament Committee as final.

TOURNAMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

www.scrubislandinvitational.com

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