

The Tournament

The Casa de Campo International Blue Marlin Classic is a 3-day all-release team event under IGFA guidelines, in which all points accumulated by one boat/team throughout the competition determine the overall winners. Teams may be comprised of up to four (4) anglers - minimum of two (2) anglers per team. There will be one team per boat accompanied by a different Official Certified Observer each day of fishing.

Visitor's Entry Fees

The basic Team entry fee covers competing in the Tournament as well as all tournament functions (hotel & charter boat not included – see next sections). The 2018 Entry fees are \$2,350 for a team of 2 anglers, \$2,650 teams of 3 & \$2,950 for 4. However, **Early Bird** prices of \$2,050 for 2, \$2,350 for 3 & \$2,650 for 4, will apply to **Team Registrations with payments received by 3/15/18** - Non-angler fee for guests and non fishing companions is \$250. Fee entitles the non-angler to attend **all** social functions during the event. For Online registration visit www.intlbillfishtourns.com.

Hotel Package

In addition to the registration fees, we will be offering a hotel package to the tournament anglers and their companions which includes, airport reception and round trip airport/hotel transfers, plus **FIVE (4) NIGHTS** at **Casa de Resort & Villas**. For package prices and airfares hometown to La Romana (LRM) contact us at info@intlbillfishtourns.com or (305) 213 5521.

Boats & Dockage

Unless you're among those bringing their boats to Casa de Campo for the event (most anglers from the U.S. and the Caribbean do so), you will also need to charter a boat for the three (3) days of competition. See the enclosed list of top charter boats available for the tournament. For **Dockage Information** contact Oscar Paredes – Harbor Master at Marina Casa de Campo email: o.paredes@marinacasadecampo.com.do Tel: 809-523 --2111 / 2112 – Fax: 809-523-2065.

Program of Events

- Tuesday*
APR 17th
- Arrival of visiting boats, observers and anglers.
 - 7:30PM - **Mandatory captains & crews meeting** at Yacht Club.
- Wednesday*
APR 18th
- Arrival of visiting anglers, boats and observers.
 - 3:00PM - Angler and observer registration at Marina Casa de Campo
 - to Yacht Club.
 - 8:00PM
 - 6:30PM - **Mandatory Observer Meeting** at Yacht Club mezzanine.
 - 7:30PM - **Angler Meeting & Kick-Off Cocktail Party** at Marina Yacht Club (Credentials Required).
- Thursday*
APR 19th
- 6:00AM - Dock Shuttles from hotel to marina begin.
 - Boats may depart as soon as your assigned observer arrives.
 - 8:30AM - Lines in the water.
 - 5:00PM - Fishing ends. Happy Hour at the docks begins.
 - 5:45PM - Return Shuttles to hotel begin.
- Friday*
APR 20th
- 6:00AM - Dock Shuttles from hotel to marina begin.
 - Boats may depart as soon as your assigned observer arrives.
 - 8:30AM - Lines in the water.
 - 5:00PM - Fishing ends. Happy Hour begins at the docks.
 - 6:15PM - Return Shuttles to hotel begin.
 - 8:00PM - **Fiesta Latina** at La Casita Restaurant located between Docks H and J. Fun, food, music, entertainment and Sponsor Beverages.
- Saturday*
APR 21st
- 6:00AM - Dock Shuttles from hotel to marina begin.
 - Boats may depart as soon as your assigned observer arrives.
 - 8:30AM - Lines in the water.
 - 4:00PM - Fishing ends.
 - 5:15PM - Return shuttles to hotel begin for those who need them.
 - 8:00PM - Cocktails followed by **Gala Awards Banquet** (Place to be advised - Credentials required). Tickets will be on sale for guests not previously registered.
- Sunday*
APR 22nd
- Anglers and observers depart for home or on sightseeing and/or fishing extensions.

RULES CASA DE CAMPO INTERNATIONAL BILUE MARLIN CLASSIC

The intent of these rules is to afford anglers and crews the opportunity to compete on an equal basis. **IGFA rules and guidelines apply.** In the event that the written rules do not specifically apply, the judges' decisions will be final. Any angler, captain, or mate who deliberately breaks these rules will be immediately expelled from competition.

I- RODS, ANGLERS, LINE & TEASERS

A maximum of four (4) baits with hooks, including lures, will be allowed in the water per boat during fishing times and reels may be spooled with manufacturer's stated 50-pound-test or less. For example, teams may fish a combination of reels spooled with 50 and some with 30-pound-test lines. Pitch baits are allowed (bait & switch). A minimum of two (2) registered anglers are required in each team and up to four (4). In the event a registered angler becomes incapacitated a substitute "alternate" may be appointed. Teams must advise tournament officials of substitutions prior to lines-in. Points scored by the substitute angler will count towards the overall score of the team but not towards the individual angler's score he/she is substituting. No limit will be enforced during fishing times on the number hookless teasers per boat, which can be *daisy chains* or "dredges" or any combination thereof.

II- LEADERS

The use of a leader is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader.

The leader shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 40 feet (12.19 meters).

III- TIMES

Baits and teasers may be officially placed in the water at 8:30A.M. Fishing will end at 5:00P.M., except on the last day when it will end at 4:00P.M. A maximum fight time of two and a half (2:30) hours is permitted on a billfish. Unless an extended battle with a fish hooked within tournament fishing hours prevents it, observers **must** keep time to ensure that the boat they're on clears the Marina inlet by the required time of 6:45P.M. and turn in catch report to the scorekeeper by 7:00P.M. on the first two days of competition. On the last day, **WITHOUT EXCEPTION**, boats **must** clear inlet by 6:00P.M. and observers turn in reports by 6:15P.M.

IV- RELEASES

A.- **Swivel Rig:** In the case of a fish hooked, for example, on the type of rig normally used with an artificial lure (also used sometimes on natural dead bait rigs), the swivel must touch the rod tip at least one (1) time. After the catch has been "officially tipped", the mate may grab the leader whenever it is within reach.

B.- **Wind-On Leader:** In the case of a fish hooked, for example, on the type of rig sometimes used for trolled natural dead bait, the "wind-on" leader must penetrate and clear at least the rod tip guide for the catch to be "officially registered". The mate may then grab the leader whenever it is within reach.

V- TAGGING

To qualify for "The Crew Tag Award", tags must be properly applied to billfish within the 'target area' in accordance to The Billfish Foundation (see flyer). Tags applied to a fish in areas outside the 'target area' will not count for the award. Billfish Foundation or NMMA tags are permitted. A "Tag Award" will be given to the **crew** with the most **properly** tagged billfish.

VI- BOATING A BILLFISH

No billfish can be killed in this tournament. Therefore, all fish **must** be carefully released.

VII- POINTS SCORING

Billfish killed or mutilated **will not** count for tournament points. Released blue marlin count for 400 (four hundred) points regardless of the estimated weight. Billfish caught on "circle hooks" will have a 5 point bonus as well as fish caught on 30-pound-test or less. In the event of a tie, the angler or team that reaches the high score first, wins.

VIII- COMMUNICATIONS

A "hooked-up", "released", or "lost fish" must be reported to the committee boat (tournament control), as soon as possible. If the report is not filed by VHF radio, boats may use cellular phones, satellite phones, or through relays by other boats. If unable to get word to committee boat through any of these means, it will be the responsibility of the official tournament observer on the boat to verify and validate the release. Tournament channel will be advised at the crew's rules meeting.

IX- MISCELLANEOUS

In the event of a multiple hook-up, the angler hooked-up first controls the boat. If an angler controlling more than one rod hooks a fish on one of his rods, and a second fish hooks itself on his second rod while his team mate (s) are busy fighting a fish of their own, he/she must complete his battle with the first fish till it's officially released or lost, before he can touch, or pick up the second rod to fight the second fish.

A different **Qualified Official Tournament Observer** will be assigned to every tournament boat during each day of competition. It will be the observer's responsibility to prevent rule infractions, ensure that all rules are followed aboard each boat, validate and keep score and times of his/her assigned team's catches. Each team must register, as part of "the team", a boat captain and at least one (1) mate, and neither will be allowed to substitute as an alternate angler during the event.

Only boats 27' or larger may compete in this tournament.

NOTE: All rules are subject to revision during scheduled mandatory rules meetings. **All anglers, crews and observers please attend your respective meetings.**