

WRTT

Pass Division Rules

May 19 and 20, 2016

Entry Fee: \$5,000

40 Team/Boat Maximum (4 Angler/team)

Most Release Event

Payout (based on a 20-boat field):

Day 1 First Fish Released: \$7,500

Day 1 Last Fish Hooked and Released: \$7,500

Day 2 First Fish Released: \$7,500

Day 2 Last Fish Hooked and Released: \$7,500

1st Place - Most Total Releases: \$30,000

2nd Place - Most Total Releases: \$20,000

Captain Party: Wednesday June 3rd, 2015 6pm-8pm @ TBA

Fishing:

Thursday May 19, 2016 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Friday, May 20, 2016 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Awards Friday, May 20, 2016 at 8 PM in Downtown Boca Grande

Boundaries:

East Boundary- A straight line from the lodge dock east between the last buoy in the inland waterway off Boca Grande and the red buoy off Cayo Costa.

West Boundary- A straight line from the northern most end of the old fishing pier on the SW end of Gasparilla Island to the first red buoy (R 12) to the west corner of Cayo Costa Island (Marked by an Orange Flag).

1. No more than 2 Rods can be actively fishing at any one time
2. Once a fish is hooked, any remaining lines/rods in the water must be reeled in. This will insure that a hooked fish is under control, prevent tangles, and warrant a quick release.
3. Fishing Line: Line must be a minimum of 50lb test rating per the manufacturer.
4. Leader: Leader line must be a minimum of 60lb test rating per the manufacturer, minimum length of 10ft, and no longer than 15ft in total length.
5. Live bait only.

6. Hooks: Only one hook per line may be used. Use of more than one hook, hooks in tandem, or treble hooks are not permitted.
7. Weights: There will be no weights, leads, split shots, or sinkers placed closer than 10ft from the hook.
8. Chumming: Chumming is not allowed
9. Anchoring: No anchoring by any tournament boats unless the boat is disabled and dead in the water.
10. Tarpon must remain in the water at all times. Any Tarpon that is removed from the water is disqualified for a release.
11. No Gaffing of Tarpon for any reason
12. Any Tarpon that jumps into a boat while hooked is disqualified for a potential release
13. The Captain or Mate can ONLY help an angler at the time of hookup of a fish (Placement of rod butt in gimbal) and at any time to make slight equipment adjustments during the fight.
14. During a battle with a fish, if an angler gets tired or overwhelmed, another teammate can substitute or aid that person for the remainder of the fight.
15. Boats must be operated in a safe sportsman like manner. All Official Boats will have the authority to warn or disqualify a team from the tournament for conducting unsafe boating conduct.
16. Any violation of state or federal laws may be grounds for disqualification.
17. All contestants and captains agree to be respectful to their official boats and that any ruling/decision by the head tournament judge is final.
18. Shark Rule: In the event of a shark encounter, If it's a confirmed tarpon, a release is counted ONLY if the tarpon is in one piece and alive. If the tarpon has been hit by a shark, but is still whole and not missing part of its body, the release is valid. If the tarpon has been mutilated and a portion of the body is missing or if the tarpon is no longer able to swim, the tarpon will not be validated as a release.

Sportsmanship: All participants are expected to maintain the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. Any action considered detrimental to the Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce and the World's Riches Tarpon Tournament, including but not limited to, foul or abusive language, poor boat operation, or violation of State or Federal Laws may be grounds for disqualification. Due to the congested nature of anglers fishing in the Boca Grande Pass, captains are encouraged and expected to make every possible effort to maneuver in a safe respectful manner, move out of the way for a vessel with a hooked Tarpon, and to try and maneuver a hooked tarpon outside the fleet of boats.

Releases: An official release will occur when an Official Boat verifies the hooked fish as a tarpon, the angler retrieves the line to the point where the captain or mate touches the leader, and Tarpon is released with leader or swivel in hand. After unhooking/release the Tarpon must swim away under its

own control. Once a Tarpon is hooked, the Captain of the boat must call an Official Boat on VHF channel 71.

Official Boats: Several Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce certified judge boats will be in the water to insure that all competing boats adhere to all rules and to verify Tarpon Releases. A Judge Boats release/non-release decision is final. Any attempt at intimidation or bribery from Captain or Anglers toward an Official boat or Judge may be grounds for disqualification.

Tournament Flag: The authorized tournament flag presented to each team must be displayed on the boat at all times during the tournament.

Tiebreakers: will be decided by time of Tarpon released. (Example: If 2 different Teams have 5 releases each, the Team who released Tarpon #5 first wins the tie) Official time shall be kept by all official boats. Third Place will be decided by the hook-up time of a tarpon closest to 8 PM. This Tarpon must be an official released. Teams in first or second place cannot participate in Third place.

Who can Fish: Only registered anglers can fish. A Captain engaged in boat operation is NOT allowed to actively fish. Substitutes are allowed but must be approved by the head tournament judge. A Captain and Mate are allowable substitutes if approved by head tournament judge.

Change of Captain: A change of captain is allowed if and only when the current operating captain communicates and gets authorization from the head Judge via cell phone or VHF radio.

Boat Requirements: All boats participating in tournament fishing must be 18ft or longer in length, seaworthy, have a working VHF radio (Channel 71), and safe for captain and anglers.

Disabled Boat: In case of a breakdown of a tournament entry boat, the team and captain will be allowed to use a substitute boat that complies with the rules of this tournament and the same captain will be required to operate the second boat. In the event of such action, the team or captain must notify the head Judge via cell phone or VHF Radio before rejoining participation in tournament fishing.

Protest: A protest must be made by the boat captain within five minutes of the witnessed infraction and called in to the head judge via cellphone. No one other than the designated "Captain" will be allowed to make a protest. A Protest committee will consist of the Head Judge, Tournament Chairman and 1 Chamber Board Member. All tournament Judge Decisions will be FINAL. The Head Judge may choose to involve the Protest Committee on any controversial decision.