

2019 World's Richest Tarpon Tournament Official Rules

June 6-7, 2019 (3:30-7:30 pm both days)

Entry Fee: \$5,000 40 Team/Boat Maximum (4 Angler/Team) Most Release Event

The 2019 WRTT Total Purse is based on 80% of the Entry Fees. The Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce retains 20% of the Entry Fees for Tournament expenses.

Prizes

1st Place – Most Total Releases

Team Prize: 30% of Total Purse (Ex: 20 Boat Field = \$24,000)

Captain Prize: TBA + 65 YETI, Mate Prize: 45 YETI

Team/Captain: 2019 1st Place Champion Rings donated by Barbara Ann Jewelry & Repair

1st Place Trophies: 4 Angler Plaque Trophies/1 Captain Trophy

2nd Place – 2nd Most Total Releases

Team Prize: 20% of Total Purse (Ex: 20 Boat Field = \$16,000)

Captain Prize: 65 YETI, Mate Prize: 45 YETI

2nd Place Trophies: 4 Angler Plaque Trophies/1 Captain Plaque Trophy

Day 1 First Fish Released

Team Prize: 12.5% of Total Purse (Ex: 20 Boat Field = \$10,000)

Day 1 Last Fish Hooked and Released

Team Prize: 12.5% of Total Purse (Ex: 20 Boat Field = \$10,000)

Day 2 First Fish Released

Team Prize: 12.5% of Total Purse (Ex: 20 Boat Field = \$10,000)

Day 2 Last Fish Hooked and Released

Team Prize: 12.5% of Total Purse (Ex: 20 Boat Field = \$10,000)

Schedule

2019 Grande Tradition Event

Date: Monday, June 3, 2019

Time: 6 – 8 pm

Venue: Crowninshield Community House

240 Banyan St. Boca Grande, FL 33921

2019 WRTT Sponsor Reception

Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2019

6 to 8 pm

Venue: Eagle Grille

220 Harbor Dr. Boca Grande, FL 33921

2019 WRTT Captain's Party

Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Time: 6 – 9 pm

Venue: The Gasparilla Inn Beach Club

451 Gilchrist Ave. Boca Grande, FL 33921

2019 World's Richest Tarpon Tournament (Day 1)

Date: Thursday, June 6, 2019

Time: 3:30 - 7:30 pm

Venue: Boca Grande Pass

2019 World's Richest Tarpon Tournament (Day 2)

Date: Friday, June 7, 2019

Time: 3:30 to 7:30 pm

Venue: Boca Grande Pass

2019 WRTT Awards

Date: Friday, June 7, 2019

Time: 9:15 p.m.

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).

RULES

- 1) No more than two 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 50-lb test rating per the manufacturer.

4) Leader: Leader line must be a minimum of 60-lb test rating per the manufacturer, minimum length of 10-ft, and no longer than 15-ft 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 10-ft 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 registered angler can substitute or aid that person for the remainder of the fight.

15) Boats must be operated in a safe sportsmanlike manner. All judge 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 and World's Richest Tarpon Tournament Committee 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.

19) If the 1st day of fishing is cancelled due to inclement weather, an additional hour will be granted the 2nd day of fishing. Fishing time may be extended on the 2nd day but may not exceed 8:30 pm.

20) **Bad Weather:** At the Head Judge and World's Richest Tarpon Tournament Committee's Discretion, the tournament may be shortened, postponed or delayed due to bad weather and the prizes will be awarded as usual if there have been any Tarpon released during the tournament. Fishing time may be extended on the 2nd day but may not exceed 8:30 pm.

80% of the entry fee will be reimbursed to the team captain in the event of total tournament cancellation for poor weather conditions prior to a line being dropped in the water. The Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the World's Richest Tarpon Tournament, retains 20% of the entry fee to cover tournament expenses.

21) No one team can win both First and Second Place. In the event that only one fish is caught over both days of the tournament, the winning team will win First Place and First and Last Release of Day 1 and Day 2. The Second Place Prize will be rolled over to the following year's World's Richest Tarpon Tournament Total Purse. In the event that no fish are caught over the entire tournament, all prize money will be rolled to the following year's World's Richest Tarpon Tournament.

Sportsmanship and radio traffic: 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 Richest 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.

Anyone using channel 71, the official tournament channel, for anything other than official tournament business will be warned, then possibly disqualified. In order for all judges to clearly hear captains call in the times of hook-up and release, the channel must be clear as much as possible.

If a captain's radio malfunctions during the tournament, someone from his boat can call in the times of hook-up and release to the Head Judge, Dixie Hollins, at (352) 697-2424.

Releases: An official release will occur when a judge boat verifies the hooked fish is a tarpon, the angler retrieves the line to the point where the tarpon is released with leader or swivel in hand. It is the captain's responsibility to make sure the tarpon is visible to the judge before release. After unhooking/releasing the tarpon it 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) right away, and verify a response from officials.

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 boat's 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.

Any ruling/decision by the Head Tournament Judge and the World's Richest Tarpon Tournament Committee is final.

Tournament Flags and Numbers: The authorized tournament flag presented to each team must be displayed on the boat at all times during the tournament. The boat's tournament flag must be placed prominently on the boat, to make sure all judge boats can see the number. When a fish is called in as hooked or released by the captain he will give the boat name and the boat number for identification.

Tiebreakers: Tiebreakers will be decided by time of tarpon release. Official time shall be kept by all official boats. For first fish of the day prize, the angler with the first tarpon released will win. For the last fish of the day on both days, it is the angler who hooks the last fish during regulation time, and is the first to successfully release it.

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. The entry fee of \$5,000 includes 4 anglers, additional anglers may be registered for a team for a fee of \$100 per angler to cover expenses (not contributing to payout) up to a limit of 6 total anglers/team.

Change of Captain/Mate: A change of captain or mate is allowed if and only when the current operating captain communicates and gets authorization from the Head Judge, Dixie Hollins at via VHF radio (Channel 71).

Boat Requirements: All boats participating in tournament fishing must be 18-feet or longer in length, seaworthy, have a working VHF radio (Channel 71), and be 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. If a different captain is operating the second boat, see "Change of Captain/Mate" rule to proceed. In the event of such action, the team or Captain must notify the Head Judge, Dixie Hollins via VHF radio (Channel 71) 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, Dixie Hollins via VHF radio (Channel 71). No one other than the designated "captain" will be allowed to make a protest. Any ruling/decision by the Head Tournament Judge and the World's Richest Tarpon Tournament Committee is final.

Overtime ruling: There will be no overtime on either day of fishing, with the exception of the 1st day being completely canceled due to bad weather, in which case one hour will be added to the 2nd day of fishing but will not exceed 8:30 pm.