



# **62nd HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH** **TOURNAMENT RULES**

*(July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024)*

## **A. TOURNAMENT RULES**

### 1. Eligibility:

(a) The Hawaiian International Billfish Association (H.I.B.A.) usually conducts two individual tournaments annually. These tournaments are the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, (H.I.B.T.) and the H.I.B.T. Pro-Am. The H.I.B.T. Pro-Am will not be held in 2024. The Board of Directors of H.I.B.A. reserves the right to withdraw its invitation at any time to any club, individual or entity.

(b) A team shall consist of the following number of anglers: A minimum of 2 anglers and a maximum of 6 anglers. The team shall represent a Club, City or State who are officially designated in writing to represent that Club, City or State by the recognized authority of the entity represented. All of the members of a team representing a city or state must be residents of the city or state it represents. All members of a team representing a club must be bona fide members of the club it represents.

(c) More than one team from an entity may be accepted by the Board of Directors, but the Board reserves the right to limit the number of total teams from a single entity or area in order to provide geographical balance, as well as a wide geographical distribution. Priority of entry shall be based upon the following considerations: (1) International teams; (2) Continental USA teams; (3) Local teams; all meeting standards that, from time to time, may be adopted by the Board. Within the foregoing groupings, priority of entry shall be based upon: greater number of points from prior participation in HIBA sponsored tournaments; number of HIBA sponsored and/or endorsed tournaments in which Billfish have been caught or released; finishing in the top ten of HIBA sponsored and/or endorsed tournaments.

The HIBT is an International Tournament. The Board is the final and sole authority on entries.

(d) Only team members shall fish from the boat during the tournament. Non-anglers may ride along on the boat for the day. Guests or spectators shall not be permitted to catch any fish.

(e) Team captains shall be responsible for the eligibility of the team and its members. The Board's decision on any question of eligibility shall be conclusive.

(f) No substitution of team members may be made after close of registration.

(g) All Anglers must be individual Financial Members of the International Game Fish Association and be able to provide their Membership number and/or status and proof.

### 2. Entry Fee Payments:

All fees must be paid in full before a team competes in an H.I.B.A. Tournament. Registration times and location of registration are as published in the Schedule of Events. Additional entry fees are noted on the tournament's entry form for additional anglers per team registered for each of the HIBA tournaments.

### 3. Mandatory—Official Registration:

Registration for the H.I.B.T. will be at King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel from 9:00AM to 4:30PM (Closed from 12:00PM to 1:30PM) on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and from 7:00AM to 9:00AM on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Any team failing to register at the times designated must inform tournament headquarters ahead of time to pre-register prior to, or after, the registration dates and times. A penalty may be imposed for late registration. In the event the team does not register and does not make other arrangements to register at an appointed time, then the team will be delayed on the first day of fishing until one (1) hour after the start of fishing time.

### 4. Mandatory—Official Team Briefing & Boat Draw:

The Captain of each team or the captain's designated representative (who must be a member of the team) MUST ATTEND AND REGISTER at the tournament briefing to be held at 9:00AM sharp following official registration on Sunday morning, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel – unless excused by the Tournament Director and the Chief Judge for justifiable cause. If the team does not register and attend the briefing then the team will be delayed one hour after the start of fishing on the first fishing day. The HIBT Boat Draw will be held immediately after the tournament briefing at approximately 10:30AM.

### 5. Charter Boats / Private Boats:

Charter boats will be available for the tournament at the rates set forth herein.

(a) HIBT - No team shall bare-boat charter a boat which holds active commercial charter fishing permits in the State of Hawaii.

(b) Local Teams - may fish on boats that do not hold an active commercial charter fishing permit with the State of Hawaii. These private boats shall be of type of construction that is seaworthy and, in the opinion of the Directors is outfitted in such a manner as to reflect credit on the tournament. A boat entry form must accompany a team entry form.

(c) All boats shall be equipped with an operating VHF radio transmitter with appropriate channels. All competing charter and private boats must be equipped with all safety equipment as published in U.S. Coast Guard regulations relative to these vessels.

( d ) All boats will report to Tournament Control when on line, the number of Crew and number of Anglers and Guests on Board ; **POB** for that Days Competition.

## B. TOURNAMENT CONTROL

### 1. Tournament Control "HIBT Control":

Radio Control will operate on VHF Channel 68. No CB's will be used. Boat round ups will be held at 10:00AM, 12:00PM, & 3:00PM. All hookups must be called in to radio control. If a tournament boat is out of range, the hookup must be relayed via radio. All Tournament boats shall radio in to tournament control as "secure" when boat has returned to Honokohau Harbor at the end of the fishing day.

### 2. Safety:

Emergencies, questions and problems should be relayed to HIBT Control. A Stand-by Charter Boat (safety vessel) may be present at the start of each day's fishing. Tournament boats should abide by all rules of the road and safety should be kept foremost in all operations of vessels.

### C. FISHING RULES

1. IGFA Rules and these Tournament Rules will apply to all catches.

2. Fishing Area:

The area is limited to fish caught between a line due west of Upolu Point (The northern tip of the Island of Hawaii) and a line due south of Humuhumu Point (near the southern tip of the Island of Hawaii). A grid chart will be furnished.

3. Fishing Days & Time:

HIBT - There shall be five days of fishing: **August 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

The fishing hours on Wednesday, **August 3<sup>rd</sup>** are 7:00AM Start Fishing — 3:00PM Stop Fishing.

The fishing hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are 8:00AM Start Fishing — 4:00PM Stop Fishing.

All boats fishing in the tournament must depart from the starting point, an invisible line in Kailua Bay between Kailua Lighthouse and the Royal Kona Resort. The start and stop signal will be announced on the radio. All fish must be hooked by the time of the stop fishing signal each day. If in the event a fish is still hooked up at the call of stop fishing, the angler may keep fighting the fish until fish is tagged and released, boated, or lost. HIBT radio control must be notified that the team is hooked up prior to stop fishing signal being called or fish will be disqualified.

4. Rod, Reel and Terminal Tackle:

Only fish caught on rod and reel, trolling or drift fishing, will qualify. Hand lines are permitted only for the catching of bait. Live bait may not be passed between boats and cannot be caught prior to the start of fishing. Live bait and dead bait must only be rigged with Circle Hooks that are not curved or bent in an offset manner; i.e., the Hook should lay straight on an even plane, identical to a straight trolling 'J' Hook as generally used in skirted Lures. Note: Circle Hooks may also be used in skirted lures.

This is an 80 pound line class tournament with bonus points awarded where designated for fish taken on 50 pound line class.

5. Other Equipment:

Outriggers, downriggers, kites and birds can be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device

6. Tackle Classification:

Fishing Line: No specific brand of fishing line is required. However, the line used must be IGFA line test classification for either 50 lb. or 80 lb.

Tackle classes are based on the wet testing of the line used. Tackle classes are as follows:

(a) Light Tackle – 50 lb. (24 kg) line class.

(b) Heavy Tackle – 80 lb. (37 kg) line class.

NOTE: Both line classes will be treated in accordance with IGFA Line Testing Specifications.

7. Tag and Release:



To be counted as a tagged and released fish, the leader must be taken in hand and the fish tagged with a NMFS Tag and Released. The hook or hooks must be disengaged from the fish or the leader cut as close to the hook/s as possible. The fish must be alive and capable of survival when released.

In order to encourage proper handling of a fish after Tagging, the Tag may be called into HIBT Control as soon as the Tag is placed. The Hooks should be disengaged or the Leader cut, then the Fish swum in the correct manner to revive it. HIBT Control should then be advised that the Fish has been properly released in good condition, then given the Angler and Card details. The official time recorded will be the time at which the Tag was placed and called in.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: A fish that has been gaffed cannot be tagged and released.**

**Tag and Release Using Satellite Tags: THE GREAT MARLIN RACE**

Teams deploying Satellite Tags will only insert that tag into healthy and strong Pacific Blue Marlin. Each Satellite Tag has its own unique Identification Number, which also remains on the fish after the Satellite Tag has popped off.

This Satellite Tag Number is the Number to be reported to HIBT control after successful deployment. Points allocated for the Tag and Release are identical to Tag points, depending on Line Class used.

**D. SCORING**

1. Weighed fish:

Billfish points will be awarded on the basis of a point per pound for any Billfish 300 pounds and over, legally caught, of the following species: Pacific Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Striped Marlin, and Broadbill Swordfish.

Tuna will be awarded on the basis of a point per pound for any Tuna 100 pounds and over, legally caught.

In addition, bonus points will be added to the points awarded for individual fish as set forth below:

**BONUS POINTS FOR WEIGHED FISH**

33.3% BONUS POINTS ON WEIGHT OF WEIGHED QUALIFYING FISH TAKEN ON 50 LB. TEST.

100 BONUS POINTS FOR QUALIFYING MARLIN OR BROADBILL WEIGHING 500 LBS. OR HEAVIER.

100 BONUS POINTS FOR HEAVIEST QUALIFYING MARLIN OR BROADBILL ON EACH DAY.

100 BONUS POINTS FOR HEAVIEST QUALIFYING MARLIN OR BROADBILL OF THE TOURNAMENT.

2. Tag and Release:

Any Pacific Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Broadbill Swordfish, Striped Marlin, Sailfish, or Spearfish, regardless of weight, Tagged and Released in accordance with the Tournament Rules shall be awarded the following points.

Line Test	Blue or Black Marlin Broadbill Swordfish	Striped Marlin or Sailfish	Spearfish
80 lb.	250	150	50
50 lb.	300	200	100

All dead or any fish deemed by the captain and crew to be dead, or injured sufficiently to cause death, must be boated and brought to the pier and treated as a weighed fish. Points will be awarded only if this Billfish weighs in excess of 300 lbs. minimum weight as in (1) above.

3. Official Capture Time:

The time of capture or tag and release will be the time recognized by official tournament radio control, "HIBT Control".

In the event of ties in all team, individual, and charter boat trophies, awards, including bonus points, shall be made to the individual, team or charter boat that reaches the score first.

## **E. WEIGHING, JUDGING AND PROTESTS**

All fish submitted for prizes shall be Judged, weighed and measured by the Judges and may have their stomach contents examined. All tackle used to capture or tag a fish will be examined and measured by a Judge.

### **1. Weighing:**

To be eligible for points in HIBA Tournaments all Billfish & Tuna to be weighed must be presented in the condition in which they were landed or boated. Fish with additional cuts as for improved marketability will not be eligible for points.

The official scale for the HIBT is located on Kailua Pier. All fish must be weighed on this scale for the HIBT as soon as practicable after the fish is put ashore on the dock.

Each angler shall complete a CATCH RECORD FORM, furnished by HIBA for each fish caught, boated or tagged and released. All information required from the angler must be placed on the catch record form, in English, before the fish is turned over for weighing and measuring and before tackle is turned over to the Judges. A witness to the catch must sign the catch record form. The angler shall exhibit the lure, rod, reel, gaff and terminal tackle with which the fish was caught. He shall also furnish, upon request, the names of all persons witnessing the catch.

### **2. Judging:**

The Judges may, on their own initiative, investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the tournament. They shall also have the right to disqualify any capture following examination and measurement of tackle and investigation of any capture.

In the event that after testing by the Judges, the fishing line or backing tests above the class breaking strain claimed on the catch record, that capture or tag and release will be disqualified and no points will be awarded.

If the Line belongs to the Charter Boat, then the Charter Boat loses the Points; if it is the Teams Line, the Team loses the Points.

### **3. Protest:**

Any Protest, concerning the validity of any catch, shall be filed in writing, signed by the team captain and addressed to the Judges and delivered to the Chief Judge not later than 8pm of the day of the catch. The decision of the majority of the Judges panel shall be final.

### **4. Infractions:**

Any person, including charter boat captains, guilty of an infraction of the rules may be disqualified from participation in future Hawaiian International Billfish Association Tournaments.

## **F. AWARDS**

1. Henry Chee Award: Shall be awarded to the Charter Boat Captain and Crewmember(s) scoring the greatest number of Billfish points during the HIBT.

2. Please refer to Pages 7 and 8 of the HIBT Rules for the list of Awards.

## **G. INDEMNITY**

All registered anglers and guests participating in this tournament enter voluntarily and at their own risk. In consideration for the H.I.B.A. Inc. acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler and guest hold harmless and indemnify the H.I.B.A Inc. tournament's, its officers, managers, directors, agents, sponsors, donors, the city and county where the event is held, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournament, from and against any and all liabilities.



### ***HIBT AWARDS***

***GOVERNOR'S TROPHY (Perpetual) - Team***

To be awarded to the team scoring the highest number of Billfish points in the tournament. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

***GOVERNOR'S TROPHY SECOND PLACE TEAM***

To be awarded to the team scoring the second highest number of Billfish points in the tournament.

**GOVERNOR'S TROPHY THIRD PLACE TEAM**

To be awarded to the team scoring the third highest number of Billfish points in the tournament.

**DUKE KAHANAMOKU MEMORIAL AWARD (Perpetual) - Angler**

To be awarded to the angler boating the heaviest qualifying Billfish in the tournament. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona) This trophy honors Hawaii's famed sportsman who participated in this tournament for many years.

**GEORGE S. PARKER, JR. AWARD (Perpetual) - Angler and Skipper**

To be awarded to the angler and skipper boating a Marlin weighing 1,000 pounds or more. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

**THE EDWARD D. SULTAN AWARD - (Perpetual) - Angler**

To be awarded to the angler boating the heaviest qualifying Billfish on 80 lb (37 kg test line). The trophy honors a founder. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

**PORTER DICKENSON AWARD - Angler**

To be awarded to the angler boating the heaviest qualifying Billfish on 50 lb (24 kg test line). This trophy honors an HIBT founder.

**DUDLEY C. LEWIS - Angler**

To be awarded to the Wahine (female) angler, not on a team placing first, second or third, scoring the highest number of Billfish points in the tournament. This trophy honors an HIBT founder.

**DESMOND STANLEY AWARD - Angler**

To be awarded to the Kane (male) angler, not on a team placing first, second or third, scoring the highest number of Billfish points in the tournament. This trophy honors an HIBT founder.

**KENNETH F. BROWN AWARD - Individual**

Awarded for outstanding contributions over the years to the HIBT.

**C. M. COOKE III TROPHY - Team**

To be awarded to the team scoring the highest number of Tuna points in the tournament.



**HIBT AWARDS**

*(continued)*

**JIM HARVEY MEMORIAL TROPHY (Perpetual) - Angler**

To be awarded to the angler boating the heaviest qualifying Tuna in the tournament. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona) This trophy honors the eminent early day sportsman from Hawaii who for 25 years held the All-Tackle record for Tuna.

**PACIFIC OCEAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION - BARRY BOVEE TAG & RELEASE AWARD (Perpetual) - Team**

A trophy to be awarded to the first team to achieve the highest tag and release points during the tournament. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

**HENRY CHEE MEMORIAL AWARD (Perpetual) - Skipper and Crewmember**



To be awarded to the Captain and Crewmember of the Charter Boat upon which anglers in the tournament have scored the highest number of Billfish points. This trophy honors Kona's world-renowned pioneer Charter Captains. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

***HENRY CHEE MEMORIAL AWARD SECOND PLACE CHARTER BOAT - Skipper and Crewmember***

To be awarded to the Captain and Crewmember of the Charter Boat upon which anglers in the tournament have scored the second highest number of Billfish points.

***HENRY CHEE MEMORIAL AWARD THIRD PLACE CHARTER BOAT - Skipper and Crewmember***

To be awarded to the Captain and Crewmember of the Charter Boat upon which anglers in the tournament have scored the third highest number of Billfish points.

***RICHARD BOONE AWARD (Perpetual) - Captain and Crewmember***

To be awarded to the Captain and Crewmember of the charter boat receiving the highest scores rated by the teams during the week. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

***RICHARD BOONE SECOND PLACE AWARD - Captain and Crewmember***

To be awarded to the Captain and Crewmember of the charter boat receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest scores rated by the teams during the week.

***RICHARD BOONE THIRD PLACE AWARD - Captain and Crewmember***

To be awarded to the Captain and Crewmember of the charter boat receiving the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest scores rated by the teams during the week.

***HAWAII COUNTY MAYOR'S TROPHY (Perpetual) - Team***

To be awarded to the team that traveled the farthest distance to fish the HIBT. (Perpetual trophy remains in Kona)

***THE RICHARD F. MACMILLAN TROPHY (Occasional)***

To be awarded to an individual who authors outstanding description of the HIBT and the Kona fishery. This trophy honors an HIBT founder.

