



JANUARY 22 – 25, 2020

35TH ANNUAL REEF CUP SAILFISH INVITATIONAL RULES

1. Each released sailfish scores 100 points, regardless of size or weight. Only sailfish will count, as they are the target species for this tournament. All billfish caught during the tournament must be released. Precautions must be taken in order to ensure to the fullest possibility that the sailfish does not lose its life. If a person wishes to mount a fish, only the approximate size or weight of the fish is necessary for the mount. Tagging your fish is encouraged for research purposes, but not required.
2. A legal release shall be deemed to occur when the swivel or knot between line or double line and leader touches the rod tip while still fighting the fish. The leader must be cut as close to the fish as possible, or the hook removed from the fish. Intentionally "Popping" or breaking the line or leader is prohibited.
3. Each boat, which must be 28' or over and have the name of vessel prominently displayed on sides or transom, will be entered as a team with a maximum of 6 anglers. Anglers may be substituted any day or days as long as no more than six anglers fish each day. The committee boat must be advised of angler changes by 8:00 AM on each fishing day. Each boat may fish up to four lines regardless of the number of anglers. Prizes will be awarded in both team and individual categories.
**** Persons who have been paid for their professional services as a captain, mate or crew member while engaging in fishing within the last twelve (12) months are ineligible to participate as an angler.****
4. All tackle and line will be 20# class or lighter. There is no restriction on leader material or weight class as long as leader length does not exceed 15' and the combined length of double line and leader does not exceed 20'. All I.G.F.A. rules apply. In addition, all anglers must use only circle hooks while fishing. Any type, size or manufacturer of circle hook may be used, as long as the manufacturer classifies it as a non-offset circle hook. Any fish caught on an unauthorized hook, or a circle hook that has been modified will be disqualified.
5. There is no restriction on bait. Live, dead and artificial are all allowed. Presentation of baits by kites, balloons, or any other aerial device is not allowed. Private/commercial bait boats during fishing hours, chumming and live bait teasers are not allowed.
6. The angler must present the bait, hook and fight the fish without any assistance and without anyone touching his equipment during the fight. Multiple hook-ups per angler are allowed; a rod holder may be used to facilitate an unattended rod while multiple fish are on; however, crew are not allowed to cast to schools, set hooks, bait sailfish or otherwise perform any traditionally accepted functions of an angler.
January 22-25, 2020.



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7. All sailfish released must be reported immediately to the committee boat on VHF Channel 78 noting the angler's name and boat name. Ties will be broken on time. Time of release will be recorded as time reported to the committee boat. Daily time reporting sheets signed by both captain and angler(s) must be turned in to the Dockmaster's Office by 6:00 pm each fishing day. Failure to turn in score sheet will result in disqualification of all sailfish released that day.
8. Invitation holder must be present on a participating boat during all fishing hours. Those hours are 8:30am to 4:00pm each day. All boats must return to Ocean Reef by 6:00 pm, failure to comply will result in a score of 0 for that day. Boats may leave the marina any time in the morning; however, no lines or teasers are allowed in the water before 8:30 am. All boats fishing this event will depart and return to the waters of Ocean Reef. In the event a boat is substituted due to mechanical failure; the tournament Rules Committee must grant prior approval. The substituted boat must leave from and return to Ocean Reef waters.
9. Boundaries are:
South- Elbow Reef (Latitude 25° 8.67)
North - Triumph Reef (Latitude 25° 29.00)
If a boat goes outside these boundaries to hook or fight a fish, that fish will be automatically disqualified.
10. There will be no officially declared weather days. This event is a three-day tournament with two days of fishing. The choice of a "lay day" is at the discretion of the individual boats participating. All boats are encouraged to take one day off and relax and enjoy the Club's facilities, as only two days of fishing will count in the overall scoring for either the boat or any individual angler. A "lay day" must be declared prior 8:00 am on any fishing day and called into the Tournament Boat for official "lay day" confirmation via VHF radio. Should a boat fish all three days, the third day's released fish will not count toward any daily or overall award. All boats, anglers, crews and guests will fish at their own discretion and at their own risk. All participants and guests in the 35th Annual Reef Cup agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Ocean Reef Club, all members of the Tournament Committee, sponsors, press and their agents and employees from any and all liability, loss or damage, including attorney's fees, that they may suffer arising out of this fishing tournament.
11. The Reef Cup will be conducted on the honor system. Infractions must be reported in writing at the end of the fishing day in which the alleged infraction occurred. The Tournament Committee will review alleged infractions and its decisions will be final. Any boat ruled guilty of an infraction may be disqualified from competition and offenders may be barred from future Reef Cup tournaments.