

## **The Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club Official Rules**

1. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club, Inc. (MGCBGFC) is a tag-and release organization. Any team/boat arriving at the weigh-in with a dead billfish aboard will be disqualified from the event. Official tags of the MGCBGFC are: The National Marine Fisheries Service and The Billfish Foundation tags. If you wish to use another tag, prior approval must be granted. MGCBGFC “catch forms” are also accepted
2. All International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules of angling apply to tournaments held by the MGCBGFC, unless specifically excluded. It is the responsibility of each individual angler to obtain, familiarize themselves with, and abide by these rules.
3. No line heavier than IGFA 130 lb class may be used.
4. A completed tag card (or MGCBGFC “catch form”) must be submitted to the weighmaster for each tagged fish to be considered for points or awards.
5. Special cash events on billfish must be based on the order of finish (total points) in the tournament.
6. Hook-ups and landings of billfish must be reported to a committee boat at the time of hook-up and landing. The actual time a landing [tag inserted] is reported to, and acknowledged by, a committee boat will be the time used to determine ties.
7. Fishing begins and ends at specified times. Any angler with lines in the water before or after these times will be disqualified. Fish hooked, reported, and acknowledged during tournament hours, but still being fought, may be brought to tag.
8. All billfish must be photographed with the tournament colors (ribbon, or flag) visible. This photographic proof may be video, Polaroid, or both. (Polaroid preferred) The photo/video must be of such perspective and clarity as to allow for positive identification of the species while clearly showing the ribbon/flag. No edited tapes will be accepted.
9. All fish entered in a MGCBGFC tournament must be transported to, landed, and weighed at the designated weigh site by the vessel and angler that caught the fish. Any fish entered in another event or weighed at another site will be disqualified. The transfer of fish between boats is prohibited. Anglers are responsible for handling and disposing of their own fish following weigh-in. Unless specified otherwise for an individual tournament; only Tuna, Dolphin, and Wahoo will be weighed.
10. Teams and individuals will be penalized 500 points if their boat in any way interferes with another boat’s ability to fight, land, or tag a fish. Proof of intentional interference or cut-offs will result in disqualification from this and all future club tournaments and, if a club member, expulsion from the club. (If you see another boat with fish in the baits, or hooked-up, IMMEDIATELY get away.)

11. The Tournament Committee shall consist of the tournament chairman and the tournament weigh-master, or their designees. The Committee may require all parties to submit to polygraph examination, and the results of such examination will be considered in their deliberation. Failure to submit to a polygraph examination (if requested) will result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.

12. There is no protest procedure. Decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.

13. The National Marine Fisheries Service has promulgated requirements for all tournaments targeting Billfish or Tunas in the U.S. waters of the Gulf of Mexico. All MGCBGFC tournaments are registered with the NMFS and must comply with their regulations. Subsequently, all teams must present completed "DAILY BOAT LOGS" (One for each day of fishing) to the weighmaster before any fish will be considered for points or awards. The tournament committee may also consult these forms for scoring purposes, so accuracy is of utmost importance.

14. By entering and/or participating in any MGCBGFC tournament, individuals and teams declare that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by these rules, as well as any individual event rules, or special guidelines which may be announced at the captain's meeting.