

## Team Requirements

This is an invitational tournament with teams receiving an application to participate in the tournament. Acceptance of the application is at the sole discretion of the tournament organizers. A team shall consist of a minimum of two (2) anglers and a suggested maximum of six (6) anglers representing their qualifying tournament team. There is no limit to how many anglers a team can register. At least one (1) person on the team has to have been on the original team of the qualifying tournament they are representing. The entry fee of \$8,000 provides entry for one team of up to (4) registered anglers. Only five (5) anglers may be registered for any one fishing day, and only these five anglers will be allowed on the boat. In the event there are more than five anglers on the team, anglers may be rotated daily. In the event anglers need to be rotated in, the team must deliver a list of anglers to the tournament director prior to the start of fishing, indicating who the anglers are for that given day. Teams are provided a registered tournament charter boat, captain and mate. Registered charter boat captains or mates cannot be registered tournament anglers. Teams are not allowed to replace registered charter boat captains, mates or charter boats provided by the tournament. Teams are allowed to leader or handle their own fish releases or catches. Teams are not allowed to hire other boats, planes or helicopters to find fish or assist them in any way in catching or releasing fish. Mexican regulations require that everyone on the boat have a fishing license and each charter boat have a registered captain and mate for that fishing day. The tournament will provide fishing licenses for registered anglers. All teams must participate in the charter boat draw. Teams will fish on a different charter boat each day. In the event a boat is disabled, a replacement boat will be rotated in for that day and any lost fishing time will be compensated for at the discretion of the tournament organizers.

## Entry Fees

The fee is \$8,000 per team (up to four registered anglers). This basic entry fee covers the participation of two to four registered anglers. It also covers attendance at all planned entertainment and social activities for up to four (4) participants, charter boats for four days of fishing, angler gifts and prizes and awards. Additional anglers can be added for a fee of \$750 per angler.

Non-angler participation ticket packages can be purchased for \$300 per person. (Guests of anglers are welcome but are required to purchase participation tickets for entry to all planned entertainment and social functions.) Only registered anglers will be allowed on the charter boats.

## Team Registration, Casting Seminar, Release Video Camera Check-in

Participating teams must register and pay the entry fees by April 13, 2012. All registered participants must check in at the tournament desk at the hotel to receive their tournament credentials and register their video cameras. The registration check-in location will be at the Hotel Finisterra from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 13, 2012. All registered participants will receive an angler welcome bag at the registration check-in and have their team photo taken. Any team failing to check in at that time must inform tournament organizers prior to the registration date. A casting seminar will also be available during this time to help teams learn the techniques of casting to billfish.

## Rules Briefing, Boat Draw, Gala Kickoff Party

The tournament rules briefing and charter boat draw will be held from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 13, 2012, at the Hotel Finisterra patio. All registered anglers must attend the scheduled angler's rules meeting. If they do not attend, they accept and agree to be bound by all instructions and/or rule changes made orally or in writing during that meeting. It is mandatory that one member of the fishing team be present at the briefing and the boat draw. Immediately following is the gala kickoff party dinner.

## Rules

IGFA rules apply in this tournament unless otherwise stated. (See release rules for scoring release points.) It is the responsibility of each team and crew member to know, understand and abide by IGFA and tournament rules during this competition. Any angler, captain or mate who breaks these rules are subject to expulsion and disqualification, upon determination by the tournament organizers, from this and future tournaments *without* a refund of any registration fees.

IGFA equipment and angling rules apply with one exception: Mates or other non-registered anglers are not permitted to pitch baits to fish. Because many fish that are caught during the tournament are sighted and pitched to, we suggest that teams practice casting baits in advance of the tournament. In the event that the provided captain or mate breaks and IGFA rules please notify the tournament director.

**Fishing Line:** All catches must be made on Momoi Hi-Catch IGFA 30-pound-class line in hi-vis fluorescent yellow only, the official line of the IGFA Offshore World Championship.

Teams are responsible for ensuring that IGFA rules are followed. Teams are encouraged to check tackle, leaders, hook

arrangements and line prior to the start of fishing. Boats are required to have 30-pound rods and reels on board with official tournament line. We encourage anglers to bring their own rods and reels and fishing gear and be sure to have the official Momoi line. Only fish caught on rod and reel with the official line will qualify. Each boat will be provided an equal amount of live or dead bait depending on what is available during tournament time. Teams may purchase additional dead bait only. Live bait may not be purchased or passed between boats. Live and dead bait must be rigged with non-offset circle hooks only. Circle hooks may not be offset. Lures may be rigged with conventional J-hooks. Teams may purchase and provide their own dead bait. Fishing for bait prior to the start of fishing is prohibited. No lines are permitted in the water prior to the start of fishing. Fishing for live bait is permitted during tournament fishing hours. Teams must use the official tournament line when live bait fishing.

Each team must complete a Daily Catch Report Affidavit form, which is supplied in the tournament bags at registration. The form must be completed and turned in at the end of the fishing day. No form, no points! The angler must furnish, upon request, the lure, leader, line, hook, rod, reel and terminal tackle with which the fish was caught.

The Rules Committee has the right to investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the tournament. It shall have the right to disqualify any capture following examination and measurement of tackle and equipment used on the boat. The tournament committee holds the right to examine any tackle, hooks, line and/or leaders anytime during the event. Refusal to allow the committee to examine any tackle, line and/or leaders will result in immediate disqualification from the event *without* a refund of any registration fees. The tournament committee reserves the privilege of changing the rules and starting and finishing times for any reason it deems necessary. All decisions of the Rules Committee are final and non-appealable.

### Observers/Photographers

The tournament, at its sole discretion, may assign an observer or photographer to any boat on any fishing day. If an observer or photographer is assigned, the boat is responsible for their comfort and safety. **Observers do not determine official releases or catches.**

### Communications

All billfish hookups, releases, lost fish and boated game-fish intended to be weighed are to be reported to tournament control along with the assigned team number, angler name and fish species. If a tournament boat is out of range, the hookup must be relayed via radio or cell phone as soon as possible. Tournament control's time will act as the official time for the start, catch, release and end of fishing each day without exception. The official tournament VHF channels will be announced at the captain's meeting. A Los Cabos cell-phone number through which teams can also communicate will be given at the captains meeting as well. All hook ups must be reported during the last 30 minutes of fishing.

### Line

All catches must be made on Momoi Hi-Catch IGFA 30-pound-class line in hi-vis fluorescent yellow only — the official line of the IGFA Offshore World Championship.

### Leaders

The length of the leader is the overall length, *including* any lure or hook arrangement. In all line classes exceeding 20 pounds (10 kg), the leader shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 40 feet (12.19 meters) total.

### Rods

Unlimited in use or numbers.

### Teasers

Unlimited in use or numbers.

### Hooks

All tournament participants must use non-offset circle hooks for all species whenever live or natural bait is used.

### Baits

Live and dead bait, lures and any combination thereof are permitted in this tournament. Live bait cannot be purchased by the teams. Dead bait cannot be purchased during tournament fishing hours. Teams are allowed to purchase dead bait prior to the start of fishing.

### Weather

There is no weather committee. The tournament is conducted on a "fish at your own risk" basis. If any portion of the tournament is fished and a team or teams land or release fish that match the tournament's eligible species and minimum weight limits, then

prizes will be awarded.

### **Protests**

Participants may lodge protests against any catch which they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. All protests must be stated in writing and accompanied by \$500. The tournament judges may call a protest hearing in their discretion; a protest hearing is not guaranteed. All protests will be settled on the day of the incident unless the tournament judges feel more time is necessary. All protests on May 14, 15, 16 and 17 must be in the hands of the tournament's designated rules official by 7 p.m. on the day of the alleged incident unless there is a protest regarding a fish that comes to the scales late. The protesting party, as well as the accused team members, captain and crew, must be present at any official protest hearing. The tournament committee may refuse to consider any protest evidence not submitted at the protest hearing in the presence of the protested team. If the protesting or protested team fails to show up for the protest hearing, that team forfeits its right to submit evidence. Decisions of the tournament organizers with regard to protests are final, nonappealable, and nonjusticiable.

### **Sportsmanlike Conduct**

All participants are expected to maintain a reasonable and sportsmanlike demeanor at all times throughout the tournament. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct towards tournament organizers or other participants, or any other behavior which the tournament organizers deem inappropriate, in their sole discretion, will result in immediate disqualification of the entire team with no refund of entry fees.

### **Scoring Points**

**Billfish:** Any blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, sailfish, spearfish or swordfish released in accordance with the tournament rules shall be awarded the following points:

- Blue and Black Marlin or Swordfish earn 500 points per release
- Striped Marlin, Sailfish/Spearfish earn 200 points per release

### **Weighed Fish**

**Game Fish:** Points will be awarded on the basis set below for any game fish that exceeds the minimum weight limit in the following categories: yellowfin or bigeye tuna, wahoo or dorado. Minimum size limit is 25 pounds for each of these species. Weigh-in limit is two per species (2) per day per team for tuna of either species, wahoo or dorado. Game fish will be weighed to the tenth of a pound up to 200-pounds and to the pound for fish over 200-pounds. Teams will be awarded one point per pound for fish up to 99-pounds, one and a half points for fish 100-199-pounds and two points per pound for fish 200-pounds or more. For example, a 40.6-pound tuna would earn 40.6 points. A 150-pound tuna would earn 225 points and a 201-pound tuna would earn 402-points.

### **Release Rules**

**Released blue and black marlin or swordfish will receive 500 points; striped marlin, sailfish or spearfish will receive 200 points. Teams may not catch the same fish twice.**

### **VIDEO RELEASE RULES**

All teams must provide their own video camera(s) and know how to operate them to verify releases. All video recording equipment must be synchronized to the official tournament time and checked in by the tournament organizers. Teams must video their boat and team number with all release cameras each day before departing to go fishing. To score an official release, the video footage must include the charter boat and team number and sufficient continuous footage to (1) clearly identify the species; (2) show a team member or crew touching the leader while the fish is still hooked; (3) identify the time and date of the catch; and (4) show the catch and full release of the fish. The video must be continuous, with no breaks in recording, and identify all of these elements. **Do not delete any video taken during fishing hours, even if it does not include the above elements and will not be used to prove a catch.** After the release video is taken, the official time, species and angler name must be written on the catch-report affidavit. Each registered angler and boat captain must then sign the catch-report affidavit. At the end of the day's fishing, the video camera, camera connections used to plug into a computer, catch-report affidavit and all video footage taken must be brought to the weigh station for

verification of official release points. Catch reports should be turned in by 5:00 p.m. unless a team is fighting a fish after lines out at 3:00 p.m.

The hook/lure, leader, line and double line for each caught fish must be turned in for verification by tournament officials. A single leader/lure may be used to catch multiple fish. Each registered angler and boat captain must sign the catch-report affidavit provided. At the end of the day's fishing, the camera, catch-report affidavit, terminal tackle and all video footage taken must be brought to the weigh station for verification of official release points. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of that day's catch.

If a fish is dead or nearly dead when landed and there is no chance for survival, the fish can be boated and the team receives the points for the fish as a released fish. Any dead fish is the property of the tournament and will be donated to a local charity. If an angler catches a potential world-record billfish, that fish may be boated and weighed at the official IGFA weigh station. If it is heavy enough to be considered for a world record in the line class on which it was caught, the same points will be awarded as if the fish was released. If, however, the fish is not heavy enough to be considered for a world record, no points will be awarded and the fish will be disqualified.

### **Fishing Days/Times**

All boats fishing in the tournament must depart from the designated starting point in front of Cabo San Lucas Harbor. The start and stop signal will be announced on the radio. Do not start fishing until tournament officials declare "lines in" on the radio. All fish must be hooked and called in to tournament radio control prior to 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 it is released, boated or lost. Tournament radio control must be notified as soon as possible when a team is hooked up or the fish will be disqualified. The fishing days are Monday, May 14, Tuesday, May 15, Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 17, 2012.

#### *The fishing hours are:*

*7 a.m. Start fishing*

*3 p.m. Stop fishing*

All teams must turn in their catch-report affidavit, video and weighed fish no later than 6 p.m. or catches will be disqualified. Exception: if a fish is called in before lines out and is still being fought at the time of lines out or if the boat has mechanical difficulties and returns to the dock late.

### **Tipping**

Tipping of captains and mates is expected and the responsibility of the team. Suggested tip for boat per day is \$100 to \$200 and should be handed directly to the boat captain.