



The Tournament

The Solera Open International La Guaira Billfish Shootout is a 3-day all-release team event under IGFA rules, in which all points accumulated on one boat throughout the competition determine the overall winners. Teams may be comprised of up to four (4) anglers - minimum of two (2) anglers per team. There will be one team per boat accompanied by a different official tournament observer each day of fishing.

Visitor's Entry Fees

The basic entry fee covers participation in the Tournament and all tournament functions. It does not cover hotel, charter boat or airline expenses. These are found in the next section. The 2005 Entry fees are: \$2,200 for a team of 2 anglers - \$2,600 for a team of 3 anglers - \$2,850 for a team of 4 anglers. However, we will be offering an **Early Bird Discount** to those who pay the entry fee by Feb. 15th, 2005 \$1,800 for a team of 2 - \$2,100 for a team of 3 - \$2,450 for a team of 4. Non-angler fee for guests, crew and companions is \$150. This fee entitles the non-angler to attend all social functions during the event. Online registration visit www.intlbillfishtourns.com.

Hotel Package

In addition to the registration fees, we will be offering a hotel package to the tournament anglers and their companions which includes, airport reception and round trip airport/hotel transfers, plus **SIX (6) NIGHTS** at the host hotels. Ask about package prices and Special Airfares from your hometown to Venezuela so we may point you in the right direction.

Boats

Unless you're among those bringing their boats to La Guaira for the event (many anglers from the U.S. and the Caribbean do so ask about dockage), you will also need to charter a boat for the three (3) days of competition. We can offer you the top charter boats available in Venezuela for the tournament.



Program of Events

Mon.
APR 25th

- Arrival of visiting boats, observers and anglers.
- 7:30PM** - Mandatory captains & crews meeting at Marina Portofino (Caraballeda).

Tue.
APR 26th

- Arrival of visiting anglers and observers.
- 1:00PM to 7:00PM** - Angler and observer registration on the mezzanine level at Eduard's **Hotel**.
- 5:30PM** - **Mandatory Observer Meeting** at assigned meeting room.
- 7:30PM** - **Mandatory Angler Rules Meeting**. Will be immediately followed **Kick-Off Cocktail Party & Calcutta/Boat Pool** meeting. (tickets required).

Wed.
APR 27th

- 6:30AM** - Dock Shuttles from hotel to marinas begin for those who need them.
- 7:30AM** - Boats begin to depart from the docks.
- 9:00AM** - Lines in the water.
- 5:00PM** - Fishing ends.
- 5:45PM** - Return Shuttles to hotels begin for those who need them.
- 8:00PM** - Dinner & Auction/Raffle to benefit **IGFA's Certified Observer Program** & The Billfish Tourndation at Marina Portofino (tickets required).

Thu.
APR 28th

- 6:30AM** - Dock Shuttles from hotels to marinas begin for those who need them.
- 7:30AM** - Boats begin to depart from the docks.
- 9:00AM** - Lines in the water.
- 5:00PM** - Fishing ends.
- 5:45PM** - Return Shuttles to hotels begin for those who need them.
- 8:00PM** - **Caribbean Rum Bash** Cocktail Party at the Eduard's Hotel hosted by Ron Santa Teresa. Live Music and raffles (tickets required).

Fri.
APR 29th

- LAY-DAY** - Afternoon Barbecue Picnic and Venezuela vs The World Softball Game hosted by Polar Beer and Pepsi. Evening free.

Sat.
APR 30th

- 6:30AM** - Dock Shuttles from hotels to marinas begin for those who need them.
- 7:30AM** - Boats begin to depart from the docks.
- 9:00AM** - Lines in the water.
- 4:30PM** - Fishing ends.
- 5:00PM** - Return shuttles to hotels begin for those who need them.
- 7:30PM** - Cocktails followed by **Gala Awards Banquet** place to be advised (tickets required).

Sun.
MAY 1ST

- Anglers and observers depart for home or on post tournament sightseeing and/or fishing extensions.



R U L E S

11th ANNUAL SOLERA OPEN INTERNATIONAL LA GUAIRA BILLFISH SHOOTOUT April 26th to May 1st , 2005

The intent of these rules is to afford anglers and crews the opportunity to compete on an equal basis. **IGFA apply**. In the event that the written rules do not specifically apply, the judges' decisions will be final.

Any angler, captain, or mate who deliberately breaks these rules will be immediately expelled from competition.

I - RODS, ANGLERS, LINE & TEASERS

Four (4) rods allowed per boat spooled with 30 lb. test. Anglers will rotate places every hour, thus allowing anglers in teams of 3 to fish part of the day with one rod and part of the day with two rods. In the case of teams consisting of 3 anglers, there will be 1 angler controlling two (2) rods during every hour, while the other 2 anglers control one (1) rod each. At the end of each hour, one of the anglers who was fishing with only one (1) rod will rotate to the side with the two (2) rods and the angler who had been fishing with (2) rods will rotate to a single rod. This procedure will continue with each hourly rotation, allowing all 3 anglers to control two (2) rods an equal part of the time. All reels used in the tournament **MUST** be spooled with the tournament's official line, **SUFIX Supreme**, provided by the manufacturer to the tournament. The line will be available at **Potofino Marina** as of Sunday, Apr 24th and it will be the responsibility of anglers and/or crews to come by and fill their reels. The line will be distributed at **other locations later** in the week so all boats can fish with the mandatory official tournament line. **No exception to this rule will be allowed** No limit on the number hookless teasers per boat, which can be a *daisy chains* or "drudges" will be enforced during fishing times.

II – LEADERS

Length of leader and double line will be in accordance with **IGFA** specifications found in their "Rule Book", a copy of which will be distributed to each angler at registration or rules meeting.

III – TIMES

Baits and teasers may be officially placed in the water at 9:00A.M. Fishing will end at 5:30P.M., except on the last day when it will end at 4:30P.M. A maximum fight time of two and a half (2:30) hours is permitted on a billfish. Unless an extended battle with a fish hooked within tournament hours prevents it, observers **must** turn in the official daily catch report to the scorekeeper by 7:30P.M. on the first two days of competition. On the last day all catch reports, **WITHOUT EXCEPTION, must** be turned in by 7:00P.M.

IV – RELEASES



A.- **Swivel Rig:** In the case of a fish hooked, for example, on the type of rig normally used with an artificial lure (also used sometimes on natural dead bait rigs), the swivel must touch the rod tip at least one (1) time. After the catch has been “officially tipped”, the mate may grab the leader whenever it is within reach.

B.- **Wind-On Leader:** In the case of a fish hooked, for example, on the type of rig sometimes used for trolled natural dead bait, the “wind-on” leader (Venezuela-rig), must penetrate and clear at least the rod tip guide for the catch to be “officially registered”. The mate may then grab the leader whenever it is within reach.

V – TAGGING

To qualify for “The Tag Award”, tags must be properly applied to billfish within the ‘target area’ in accordance to The Billfish Foundation (see flyer). Tags applied to a fish in areas outside the ‘target area’ will be disqualified. Billfish Foundation or NMMA tags are permitted. A “Tag Award” will be given to the **crew** with the most **properly** tagged billfish.

VI – BOATING A BILLFISH

No billfish can be killed in this tournament. It is against Venezuelan law to kill a billfish hooked in the “protected area” around the La Guaira Bank. Therefore, all fish **must** be released.

VII – POINTS SCORING

Billfish killed or mutilated **will not** count for tournament points. Released blue marlin count for 500 (five hundred) points regardless of the estimated weight. Released white marlin, sailfish or spearfish count for 200 points.

In the event of a tie, the angler or team that reaches the high score first, wins.

VIII – COMMUNICATIONS

A “hooked-up”, “released”, or “lost fish” must be reported to the committee boat (tournament control), as soon as possible. Tournament channel will be advised at rules meeting on 4/25/05.

IX – MISCELLANEOUS

In the event of a multiple hook-up, the angler hooked-up first controls the boat. Team mates and crew must remove the remaining baits and teasers from the water within sixty (60) seconds after a fellow team member’s hook-up. If an angler controlling more than one rod hooks a fish on one of his rods, and a second fish hooks itself on his second rod within 60 seconds of the first hook-up, he/she must complete his battle with the first fish till it’s officially released or lost, before he can touch, or pick up the second rod to fight the second fish.

A different **Qualified Official Tournament Observer** will be assigned to every tournament boat during each day of competition. It will be the observer’s responsibility to ensure that all rules are followed aboard each boat and to keep score of his/her assigned team’s catches. Each team must



register a captain and at least one (1) mate, and neither will be allowed to substitute as an angler during the event.

NOTE: All rules are subject to revision during the mandatory rules meeting scheduled for 7:00P.M. on April 26th, 2005. **All anglers must attend.**

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