

2008 LTT Rules

1. **BOATS:** Minimum size is 31 ft. Boats must have facilities for women and enclosure to protect observers. (NO OPEN BOATS). Comfort and safety of observers must be considered, final determination of boats eligibility will be at the discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee.
2. **OBSERVERS:** Each boat must supply a qualified observer, and they will be assigned to boats fishing the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Observers must be checked in with the Observer Committee at Sailfish Marina no later than 6:00 AM. Boats may pick up observers from Sailfish Marina/Finest Kind Marina Docks NO EARLIER than 6:30 AM and NO LATER than 7:30 AM. Boats planning to fish each day MUST check in with the Committee Boat via VHF Channel 10 between 5:30 AM and 6:00 AM to coordinate placement of observers and make notification of any angler substitutions. Any boat not checking in with Committee Boat via VHF Channel 10 by 6:00 AM **WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CONSIDERED NOT FISHING.**

AFTER PICKING UP YOUR OBSERVER YOU MAY PROCEED DIRECTLY OFFSHORE – LINES IN THE WATER AT 8:30 AM

3. **FISHING:** Can be no more than three out of four days 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The anglers will select their own days to fish. There is no penalty for fishing less than 3 days. Picking up the line sample bag will constitute a fishing day for that team. Documented mechanical or electrical failure which would compromise the safety of the anglers and/or crew, if detected before the vessel clears the inlet breakwater, will allow the vessel to return the observer to the dock and not be considered a day of fishing, or obtain another vessel to continue the day of fishing. After clearing breakwater it will be considered a day of fishing for the vessel. In the event of mechanical failures the vessel may return to transfer crew to another vessel to finish that day of fishing.
4. Backing down is permitted.
5. Tournament fishing area: Northern boundary 27 .50.00 North - Southern boundary 26 .46.00 North. Eastern boundary is no more than 25 NM offshore.
 - A) Boats may leave and enter any inlet of their choice, but they must pick up their line sample bag and observer at Sailfish Marina/Finest Kind Marina and return them to the same Marina by the boat they are fishing on.
 - B) Boats inside Crossroads or Jetty/Breakwater by 5:30 PM will be considered on time.
 - C) Any late return will be penalized by deducting the day's catch.
 - D) **MECHANICAL OR ELECTRICAL** problems **WILL NOT** excuse a late return except by approval by the Rules Committee.
6. **NO MORE THAN FOUR LINES PER BOAT.** No spinning reels are allowed. Any fish hooked before 3:30 PM and **REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE BOAT** may be fought until caught; any fish hooked after 3:30 PM is ineligible.
7. Catches must be reported to the Committee Boat as released. **Give boat name, and name of angler.** Messages may be relayed if Captain cannot reach the Committee Boat.
8. **IGFA Rules apply.**
 - A.) **LINE: *Momoi Hi-Catch IGFA Fluorescent Yellow (20lb. test) is the only line permitted in this tournament. All tackle and line will be furnished by the angler or crew.***
 - B) **DOUBLE LINE:** The use of double line is not required. If one is used it must meet the following specifications:
 1. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.
 2. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, or splice, making the double to the furthestmost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel, or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure, or hook to the double line. The double line shall be limited to 15 feet. The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 20 ft., this includes the hook.
 - C) **LEADER:** The use of a leader is not required. If one is used it must meet the following specifications: The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader. The leader shall be limited to 15 ft. The combined length of double line and leader shall not exceed 20 ft, this includes the hook.
 - D) **SAMPLES:** A minimum of 10 feet of line **PLUS THE** Double line (if used) and leader all intact, including the hook without bait, will be requested for length and strength testing. **CREWS** are responsible for turning in proper lengths for testing purposes. Line samples must be taken from one of the rods

used that day for fishing, to be selected by the observer. **A violation of line or leader sample rules will result in disqualification of entire catch for that day.**

- E) **THE TOURNAMENT IS A SINGLE "CIRCLE" HOOK TOURNAMENT.** Only zero degree offset circle hooks may be used. Hooks must not be altered in any manner whatsoever.
- F) **BAIT:** Any natural dead bait or artificial lure may be used. Live bait is prohibited. Netting of bait is prohibited. Tossing of bait is prohibited. DOWNRIGGERS AND ELECTRIC REELS ON BENT BUTT RODS ARE PERMITTED FOR TEASER DREDGES ONLY.
- G) **TEASERS:** Two teaser lines without hooks are permitted. Live teasers are not permitted. Teasers deployed from rods are not permitted. Spinning reels and kites are not permitted. Downriggers are permitted for teaser dredges only.
- H) Neither teasers nor baits are allowed in the water until fishing starts at 8:30 AM.
- I) **Release is official when swivel or leader knot touches the rod tip or mate takes control of the leader. Leader must be cut as close to the fish as possible. Deliberately jerking or snatching of leaders by mate will disqualify fish.**
- *J) Angler must remove rod from holder, hook fish and fight the fish to the boat unaided by any other person. The intent of this rule is that the angler and no one else hooks and fights the fish. Acts of any person other than the angler in adjusting the drag or touching any part of the rod or reel will disqualify the catch. Observer is to make note of any infraction in the daily catch log.
- K) Only the chair and harness may be touched by a person other than the angler.
- L) In the event of a multiple hookup the angler may make use of the rod holder to hold the rod while fighting the other fish.

9. **WINNERS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH CAUGHT REGARDLESS OF NUMBER OF DAYS FISHED UP TO THREE.**

10. Scoring ties will be broken by angler or team first achieving winning status as determined by time recorded in daily Committee Boat catch logs. The numeric day of fishing for the boats in question will also be used to break scoring ties. The Committee Boat log is the official log for the tournament.

11. **ALL SAILFISH MUST BE RELEASED.**

12. *Any protest must be filed in writing by the angler by 6:00 PM the same day as the infraction. THIS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A \$100 DEPOSIT FEE. The rule's committee decision will be final.*

13. **INLET:** To maintain safety in a narrow channel, NO PASSING between markers 9 and 10, and the seaward side of the north/south breakwaters. A slower boat may at its discretion, via Channel 10 VHF, invite a faster boat to pass in that restricted area. Safe and gentlemanly conduct to and from the Sailfish Marina is expected.

14. For the safety of observers, idle speed in the area of the Sailfish Marina docks is mandatory. Increased throttle is allowed upon entering the main channel of the St. Lucie River.

15. **PENALTY:** Any boat disregarding either rule 13 or 14 which is reported to the Rules Committee will have the last two fish caught deducted. Anglers will not be penalized since this rule involves operators of boats only. Operators violating this rule may be penalized only if another operator files a protest in writing.

16. *Any angler substitutions or changes must be called in to the Committee Boat before 6:00 AM on the day the substitution is to occur. If not called in before 6:00AM the substitute angler is ineligible for that day.*

17. **ANGLER ELIGIBILITY:** *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. Eligibility to enter the tournament will be at the discretion of the Rules Committee and Tournament Chairmen.*

18. *If cancellation from the tournament is necessary, it must be made prior to 4:00 pm Monday, December 3, 2007 in order to receive a refund.*

19. Participants in the Stuart Sailfish Club Light Tackle Tournament enter at their own risk. Officials, Committee Members and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Stuart Sailfish Club Light Tackle Tournament shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered to any participant, entrant, sport fisherman, their companions, boat captains, crew members, vessels and equipment which may occur during the tournament.

20. **All boats must carry Liability Insurance.**

- PLEASE NOTE RULE #8 A, CHANGE IN REQUIRED TOURNAMENT LINE!! RULE #8E, CIRCLE HOOKS!!
- Rule J is for observers to pay special attention to.

