



WELCOME

The San Carlos Fishing Tournaments invites you to the *International Billfish Tournament* on October 16th thru October 18th, 2026.

We would like to say “Thank You” to our community and all of our sponsors for their participation in the San Carlos Tournaments to support our local charities. We also extend our appreciation to our host nation, Mexico, to the Mexican Navy and Port Captain for their gracious assistance in making this tournament a success.

The International Billfish Tournament was founded by Ernesto Zaragoza 80 years ago as the Zaragoza Tournament. It is the first tournament to be held in San Carlos and possibly the first in all of Mexico. It continues today as the International Billfish Tournament. San Carlos Fishing Tournaments would like to express their appreciation to Ernesto for his early interest in the sport and organization of this Tournament.

REGISTRATION AND AWARDS DINNER

REGISTRATON - There will be a "No Host" Cocktail Party Friday October 16th from 5:00pm to 8pm at the San Carlos Yacht Club. Register for the Tournament, Enter Jackpots, purchase your fishing license and certify your video camera. All video cameras must be checked at registration.

- Registration is \$250.00 USD per Angler – Includes the following:
 - Registration Night - Hamburger and Fries
 - Awards Dinner Ticket
 - Swag Bag, Tournament Shirt and Cap
- Captain’s Package (Must be a Mexican Citizen) is \$85.00 USD - Includes the following:
 - Awards Dinner
 - Tournament Shirt
 - Captain Award Entry
- Extra Dinner Tickets are \$35.00 USD

AWARDS DINNER - The Awards Dinner be held Sunday October 18th at the San Carlos Yacht Club at 6:00pm, bar will open at 5pm. The Awards Dinner is not open to the public. Team family and guests are welcome. You are encouraged to bring your Captain and guests to both events. Extra Award Dinner tickets are available for sale during registration on Friday night.

EARLY REGISTRATION

Skip the lines on registration night and Pre-Register On-Line.
You can Pre-register at: www.sancarlosfishingtournaments.com

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

TROPHIES – Overall Winner will be awarded to the Boat/Team that accumulates the most overall points. Individual awards will be based on the most overall points per person. In case of a tie, it will be awarded to the Boat/Team that accumulates the points first.

- BEST CAPTAIN
- BEST FEMALE ANGLER
- BEST JUNIOR ANGLER

SPECIAL AWARDS – These prizes will be awarded to the Boat/Team according to their Overall Scoring obtained by the catches as follows:

- 1st Place - \$1500 US Dollars
- 2nd Place - \$1000 US Dollars
- 3rd Place - \$500 US Dollars
- Heaviest Dorado - \$500 US Dollars

CAPTAIN AWARDS

The Captain's Package must be purchased to be eligible and the captain must be a Mexican Citizen. The captain of the boat with the most overall points shall be awarded as follows:

- 1st Place - \$200 USD
- 2nd Place - \$100 USD
- 3rd Place - \$50 USD

JACKPOTS

JACKPOT RULES AND REGULATIONS – All jackpot entries shall take place Friday Evening at registration. All entries shall be paid in cash only. NO CREDIT CARDS. Entry can be in any or all categories. In case of a tie, the tie breaker will be awarded to the team that accumulates the points first.

- The Jackpots pay out 85%, 15% withheld in its entirety going to local charities.
- If we have only 1 entry in a category the money will be refunded.
- If we have 5 or less entries in a category the winner will take all.
- If we have 6 or more entries in a category the monies will be distributed as follows:

1st Place – 50%, 2nd Place – 30%, 3rd Place – 20%

FUN FISH – HEAVIEST - SATURDAY

\$300 USD entry fee per boat for Heaviest Tuna, Bull Dorado or Wahoo. Minimum weight is 15 pounds. This will be for Saturday Only.

FUN FISH – HEAVIEST - SUNDAY

\$300 USD entry fee per boat for Heaviest Tuna, Bull Dorado or Wahoo. Minimum weight is 15 pounds. This will be for Sunday Only.

FUN FISH – BOAT/TEAM MOST POINTS

\$300 USD entry fee per boat. Overall points are for the combined weight of all Tuna, Wahoo and a maximum of 4 Bull Dorado per boat per day. Qualifying weight minimum is 15 pounds per Fish.

BILLFISH – FIRST - SATURDAY

\$300 USD entry fee per boat for first Billfish caught and released. This will be for Saturday Only.

BILLFISH – FIRST - SUNDAY

\$300 USD entry fee per boat for first Billfish caught and released. This will be for Sunday Only.

INDIVIDUAL ANGLER TOTAL POINTS

\$150 USD entry fee per angler. The awards will be based upon **TOTAL POINTS**. A maximum of 2 Bull Dorado per Angler per day are allowed for weight (minimum 15 pounds each)

OVERALL BOAT/TEAM TOTAL POINTS

\$300, \$500 and \$1000 USD entry fee per boat. Each boat will be considered a team. The awards will be based upon **TOTAL POINTS**. A maximum of 4 Bull Dorado per boat per day are allowed for weight (minimum 15 pounds each)

GENERAL RULES

We have four categories: Billfish (Marlin and Sailfish), Dorado, Yellow Fin Tuna and Wahoo.

Mexican law requires a valid fishing permit for each angler. It is mandatory to have this at registration. Licenses will be available to purchase. We reserve the right to deny entry to any team or person at our sole discretion.

Rules as contained in this booklet shall guide the tournament.

FISHING HOURS

- Saturday - Starting Time 7:00am, All Lines In 3:00pm
 - Sunday - Starting time 7:00am, All Lines In 3:00pm
 - Roll Call will be at 10:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm
 - Call for All Lines In will be at the last Roll Call promptly at 3:00pm
 - Scales will open at 2:00pm and close at 5:00pm
 - Days may be dropped or hours modified if weather conditions warrant.
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1. Starting times relate to leaving Marina San Carlos outer harbor or Marina Real, behind the “Start” boat at each location. Any boat leaving ahead of the official start boat will be disqualified from the Tournament.
 2. Closing hours relate to bringing **ALL LINES IN** unless you are fighting a fish. Any fish that is hooked up and reported prior to closing time may be counted if it is successfully released or caught. This event must be reported to tournament control as soon as possible.
 3. The Tournament Control radio will keep the official time.
 4. You must check in at the official weigh station in Marina San Carlos for weighing or to report “released” fish. You are responsible for checking in. If you do not have any fish to report you may check-in by radio. However, all fish caught reports must be signed at the weigh station at Marina San Carlos. Failure to sign these reports will result in a disqualification of those fish. The weigh station closes 5:00pm. Any boat arriving at the weigh station after 5:00pm will be disqualified for that day.
 5. Report all fish to Tournament Control Channel VHF 65A USA.
(Subject to change)

6. Each angler is allowed 2 Bull Dorado per day but only 4 Bull Dorado per boat per day will be considered for Jackpots. **ABSOLUTELY NO FEMALE DORADO** are allowed to be caught in this tournament. Yellow Fin Tuna and Wahoo are limited to 4 per Boat/Team per day. There is no limit on released Marlin or Sailfish.
7. All eligible fish weighed in will count 1 point per pound. Dorado, Tuna, and Wahoo have a minimum weight to qualify of 15 pounds per fish. Fish under 15 pounds will not qualify. As a bonus, any fun fish that weighs in at 50 pounds or more will receive an additional 100 points.
8. Released Billfish (Marlin and Sailfish) will count as 150 points based on verification of the videos upon review by the committee. This Tournament is Catch and Release Only.
9. Chumming is not allowed.
10. Anglers cannot serve as captains or captains cannot serve as anglers (you cannot be registered in both positions). To be eligible for the Captain's Award, it is necessary to be registered in that position and be a Mexican Citizen.
11. IGFA rules will apply, unless otherwise noted.

VIDEO CAMERAS

1. Each registered boat must have an approved digital date and time stamped video camera with the ability to transfer videos to a computer.
2. All teams must provide their own video camera(s) and know how to operate them to verify releases. Accepted video formats - MP4, MOV, MPEG, QT, 1080FHD, 4k video resolution is not allowed. We recommend Go-Pro, Sony or similar action cameras for best results. Cell Phones and Dash cameras are not allowed.
3. All video recording equipment must be synchronized to the official tournament time and checked in by the tournament organizers during Registration. **** Organizers will NOT adjust for you****

CATCH AND RELEASE RULES

1. All teams must take a picture of the stern of the boat (will all cameras to be used) each day before leaving the dock.
2. All cameras must show Time and Date.
3. When a billfish is hooked you must call Tournament Control with the Boat and Angler name to get a control number to be used in the video.
4. The video must clearly identify the species.
5. The video must show a team member, angler or crew touching the leader while the fish is still on with the control number.
6. The video must show the release of a healthy billfish with the angler and rod no longer connected.
7. A boated billfish is not allowed. A boated billfish is one that has been partially or totally pulled onto the boat or swim deck. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the fish.
8. The video must be continuous, with no breaks in recording. Do not delete any video, even if it is not applicable.
9. Immediately after the fish is released and the video is complete, call tournament control with the angler name and species to time stamp the release.
10. The camera or SD card must be presented to the Weigh Station before closing each day.
11. All anglers with fish caught must sign a fish caught report before the Weigh Station closes each day.
12. All video content will become the property of the tournament. The tournament may use these for any purpose, in any format, including but not limited to television, social media, print, advertisement or future marketing campaigns.

DISPUTES

Any disputes, complaints or deviations must be submitted in writing to a member of the Rules Committee prior to the next day's start or close of weigh station on Sunday, whichever is applicable. If a member of the Rules Committee is involved in the incident, he/she will not participate in the final decision of that incident. The Chairman of this committee will not vote except in the case of a tie. "The Rules Committee" will act as Judge and their rulings will be final. Any protest from a duly registered participant related to this competition must be submitted by the team Captain in writing and signed by the Judge by 5:00PM. The mere fact of registering and participating in this fishing tournament obliges the participant to read, know and comply with the rules of this tournament.

EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

LINE AND BACKING

1. Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used.
2. Wire lines are prohibited.
3. Backing is permitted.
4. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 5 meters (16.5 feet) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line and may not exceed 60 kilogram (130 pound) line class.

DOUBLE LINE

If a double line 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, roll or splice making the double line to the farther most end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

Saltwater Species: In all line classes up to and including 10kg (20 pounds), the double line shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet). The double line on all classes of tackle over 10kg (20 pounds) shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 12.19 meters (40 feet).

LEADERS

If a leader is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device, and is measured to the bend of the last hook.
2. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited.
3. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader.

Saltwater Species: In all line classes up to and including 10kg (20 pounds), the leader shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet). The leader on all classes of tackle over 10kg (20 pounds) shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 12.19 meters (40 feet).

RODS

1. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods.
2. The rod tip must be a minimum of 101.6 centimeters (40 inches) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 68.58 centimeters (27 inches) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. When the rod butt is placed in a gimbal, the measurement from the center of the reel seat to the pivot point of the gimbal can be no more than 68.58 centimeters (27 inches). (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

REELS

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.
2. Power- driven reels are acceptable under the following situation and configuration.
 - a) Reels that have power accessories (e.g., electric drill attachments, motors, or other power accessories specifically designed for a reel) that can be physically removed from the reel may be used strictly for the purpose of retrieving a deployed bait or lure at depth all the way to the boat.
 - b) Power accessories may only be used to retrieve a bait or lure completely to the boat and are not permitted for adjusting the

position of a bait or lure in the water column. Once a power accessory is attached to the reel, the bait or lure may no longer be legally used to catch a fish and the bait or lure must be retrieved all the way to the boat for manual redeployment before it may be legally used to hook or catch a fish. Power accessories may not be attached to the reel during the deployment of a bait or lure.

- c) Power accessories must be physically removed from the reel before the act of or hooking or fighting a fish. Any fish that strikes a bait or lure being fished with a reel with power accessories still attached- whether or not under electric operation- will not be eligible for record consideration.
 - d) Electric reels that do not have removable electronic components that allow them to be completely manually driven are prohibited.
- 3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.
 - 4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

HOOKS AND BAIT FISHING

- 1. For dead bait fishing, no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly imbedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hook's length (the length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length.
- 2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.
- 3. A two hook rig for bottom fishing is acceptable if it consists of two single hooks on separate leaders or drops. Both hooks must be imbedded in the respective baits and separated sufficiently so that a fish caught on one hook cannot be foul hooked by the other.
- 4. A photograph or sketch of the hook arrangement must accompany all record applications made for fish caught on two-hook tackle.

HOOKS AND LURES

1. When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 30.48 centimeters (12 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length. A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.
2. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). It is permissible to imbed or securely attach a gang hook to a lure provided that the hook becomes free swinging once the fish takes the lure. Gang hooks may not be used with live or dead baits. A photograph or sketch of the plug or lure should be submitted with record applications. The IGFA defines gang hooks to be any hook other than a single hook and are limited to double or treble hooks only. Hooks with more than three points are not permitted.
3. Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1½ hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 10.1 centimeters (4 inches), whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.
4. Only one lure containing hooks may be used at a time.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

1. **Fighting chairs** may not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting a fish.
2. **Gimbals** must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.
3. **Gaffs (including flying gaffs), tail snares and nets** used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. In the case of tail snares, overall length is defined as the distance from the beginning of the handle to the apex of the snare when loaded. In using a flying or detachable gaff, the rope may not exceed 9.14 meters (30 feet). The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoons or lances are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). When fishing from a bridge, pier, or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply.
4. **Entangling devices** with or without a hook, are prohibited and may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting, or landing the fish.
5. **Outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars and kites** are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device. Spreader bars are also acceptable when used strictly as a teaser.
6. **Daisy chains, birds, floats and similar devices** may only be used if they do not unfairly hamper or inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler or crew an unfair advantage in fighting, landing or boating the fish.
7. **A safety line** may be attached to the rod, reel or harness provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish

ANGLING REGULATIONS

1. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight, and land or boat the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations.
2. If a rod holder is used, once the fish is hooked, the angler must remove the rod from the rod holder as quickly as possible.
3. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish fought by the angler will be considered for a world record.
4. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.
5. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.
6. When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader. Anyone assisting a shore- bound or wading angler must be within a rods length of the angler before touching the leader or netting or gaffing the fish.
7. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.
8. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

THE FOLLOWING WILL DISQUALIFY A CATCH

1. Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.
2. The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, float line, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.
3. Resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish.

4. Hand lining or using a hand line or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
5. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks and halibuts) at any stage of the catch.
6. Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.
7. Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.
8. Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.
9. Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.
10. Intentionally foul-hooking a fish.
11. Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.
12. Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.
13. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
14. If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.
15. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off of the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.
16. When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.
17. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries. Any mutilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a separate report accompanying the record application.
18. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.
19. When a catch violates laws or regulations governing the species or the waters where it was caught.