



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Section I: Billfish Championship Rules
2. Section II: Championship Fish Competition Rules

### SECTION I

#### **Sport Fishing Championship | Billfish Championship Rules**

##### **1. Composition of Team.**

- (a) A “Team” is defined as at least three teammates (“Teammates”), comprised of any combination of Captain, Mates, and Anglers, and includes all anglers on a boat. Each boat is limited to a single Team in each SFC Qualifying Event regardless of the number of persons on the boat. Teams may be comprised of male and female representatives (Sport Fishing Championship (“SFC”) does not have gender-specific competitions).
- (b) All Teammates must be on the boat at all times during an SFC Qualifying Event in order to for the Team to remain eligible to earn points in that SFC Qualifying Event.
- (c) Once a person declares themselves a Teammate of a Team, that person may not compete for any other Team in the same SFC Season.
- (d) SFC acknowledges that there are special circumstances where a Teammate may become injured, ill, or other special circumstances (such as bereavement) arise (“Special Circumstances”). In the event that a Team cannot meet the three Teammate qualification minimum for a SFC Qualifying Event due to Special Circumstances, the Team must submit a Tournament Qualification Special Request Waiver to the SFC Competition Chairperson for review, and in that Special Request Waiver identify a Teammate who has previously appeared on the Team’s SFC Roster Card during the current SFC Regular Season who may be permitted to compete as a Teammate in that SFC Qualifying Event under the sole discretion of the Sport Fishing Championship’s Competition Chairperson.

##### **2. Registering a Team, Roster, and Boat.**

- (a) All competitors above the age of 18 years old will be required to register and create a Competitor Profile at [SportFishingChampionship.com/registration](https://SportFishingChampionship.com/registration) and provide the minimum information requirements for registration in the Sport Fishing Championship. Minors (younger than 18 years of age prior to the first date of fishing for an SFC Qualifying Event) must have a parent or guardian complete a SFC Minor Competition Waiver prior to competing. Registration for a Qualifying Event will be available until 11:59pm local time on the day prior to the start of the tournament.
  - i. Registration for a Team to participate in the 2023 SFC Billfish Championship Season will be a one-time registration fee of \$1,750. To be clear, a Team will register one time for the SFC Billfish Championship competition and must also register and pay separately to participate in the Qualifying Event(s), as listed below in Section 3.
- (b) The three Teammates of each Team must check in with the SFC’s team registration table, typically located at the same registration location at each of the SFC Qualifying Events. All Teammates must check-in with the SFC representative and provide a government-issued ID. The Team will then fill out a SFC Team, Roster, and Boat registration card, either physically or digitally, where the SFC will collect the first names, last names, boat name (if applicable) and boat HIN.
- (c) Example of SFC Fishing Team, Roster, and Boat Registration Card:

##### **2023 Louisiana Gulf Coast Billfish Classic SFC Roster Card**

Team Name (Optional)	Orange Beach Marina
Boat Name	Lucky Number 7
Boat HIN	ABC12345D404
SFC Fishing Teammate #1	Johnathon Doe
SFC Fishing Teammate #2	Jane Smith



SFC Fishing Teammate #3	Walter Angler
Team Member #4	First Last 1
Team Member #5	First Last 2
Team Member #6	First Last 3
Team Member #7	First Last 4
Team Member #8	First Last 5
Team Member #9	First Last 6
Team Member #10	First Last 7

- i. In the example above, Johnathon Doe, Jane Smith, and Walter Angler have declared that they are competing for the “Orange Beach Marina” team in the SFC Regular Season.
  - ii. The three Teammates will be required to compete on the “Lucky Number 7” boat with HIN last four D404 at the 2023 Louisiana Gulf Coast Billfish Classic.
  - iii. The three Teammates that comprise the Orange Beach Marina Team (Doe, Smith, Angler) are permitted to compete as a Team on a different boat at future SFC Qualifying Events.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the Team to complete registration for a Qualifying Event prior to the start of the event. After registration for a Qualifying Event is closed - typically between 5-9pm in person at the Qualifying Event registration area, and 11:59pm local time online at sportfishingchampionship.com - Teams will not be permitted to register for the Event once registration has concluded. For teams experiencing technical difficulties registering online, please email contact@sportfishingchampionship.com prior to the start of the Qualifying Event competition and SFC Officials will work diligently to manually register participants, however, manual registrations through SFC staff are not guaranteed without taking the steps listed above. I

Registration deadlines for the following SFC Billfishing Championship are noted below and are subject to change at the sole discretion of SFC officials:

- i. SFC Gulf Division Championship: June 7, 2023, at 11:59pm ET (at Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic), Qualifying Event #3 of 5 in Gulf Division
  - ii. SFC Atlantic Division Championship: July 5, 2023, at 11:59pm ET (at South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown), Qualifying Event #3 of 5 Atlantic Division
  - iii. SFC Billfish Championship (Overall): July 23, 2023, at 11:59 ET(at Tri States Canyons Shootout), Qualifying Event #9 of 11 in SFC Billfish Championship
- (e) Teams are only permitted to change boats during any SFC Qualifying Event **only** if the vessel experiences a new mechanical issue to the motor, cabin, or hull that creates life safety issues to the Team and all other people on board and is subject to the Qualifying Event's official tournament rules and/ or Tournament Director approval. If a Team needs to change boats due to life safety issues, a Boat Change Request Form must be immediately submitted to the SFC Competition Chairperson before the new boat is entered into that SFC Qualifying Event.
- (f) SFC reserves the right to inspect any boat within 24 hours of competition at its sole discretion. If a Team does not allow the SFC Competition Chairperson or his/ her designee to inspect the boat, that Team will be disqualified from the SFC Qualifying Event.
- (g) These SFC rules and regulations are in addition to, and not a replacement for, the rules and regulations of each SFC Qualifying Event. Each Team and each Teammate must comply with all rules and regulations of SFC and each SFC Qualifying Event in which such Team participates; provided, that in the event of any conflict between the SFC rules and regulations and the rules and regulations of any SFC Qualifying Event, the SFC rules and regulations shall be controlling.
- (h) **"Ghost Team Member" Rule:** It is the sole responsibility of the three Teammates to make sure that all Team Members have been reported on the SFC Roster Card prior to the beginning of the tournament. All persons on-board the boat must be accounted for on the SFC Roster Card, even if they have not registered with the Sport Fishing Championship. If it is confirmed that a person is present on the boat without being reported by the Teammates on the SFC Roster Card in an effort to create a competitive advantage, that Team may be subject to disqualification from the SFC Qualifying Event and/ or the SFC's Billfish Championship at the sole discretion of Sport Fishing Championship Officials.



- (i) **"Working Charter Boat Exemption" Rule:** At the sole discretion of Sport Fishing Championship Officials, a working, licensed, fishing charter boat business may be permitted to provide services for multiple fishing Teams during the same SFC Billfish Championship Season, so long as a) the boat is providing support to the Qualifying Event by increasing the number of available vessels in the market, b) the charter boat captain and crew have secluded themselves from participating in the SFC's Billfish Championship and Championship Fish competitions, and c) it is determined that the supporting Charter Boat provides no competitive advantage to the fishing team utilizing the charter boat services. For clarity, the Team's opportunity to register points in a Qualifying Event and register Qualified Catch points is shall not be deemed a competitive advantage to the fishing team. It is the responsibility of the fishing Team to submit a "Working Charter Boat Exemption Request" to Sport Fishing Championship Officials prior to the start of the tournament, and, the request may be approved or denied at the sole discretion of SFC Officials.
- 3) **SFC Qualifying Events.** The following events will be recognized as SFC Qualifying Events in the 2023 SFC Regular Season with their regional division represented in quotations:
- (a) CNSD White Marlin Tournament, Punta Cana, DR (Caribbean)
  - (b) Louisiana Gulf Coast Billfish Classic (Gulf)
  - (c) NEFMA Bluewater Tournament, St. Augustine, FL (Atlantic)
  - (d) Gulf Coast Masters, Orange Beach, AL (Gulf)
  - (e) Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic, Biloxi, MS (Gulf)
  - (f) Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Championship, Miramar Beach, FL (Gulf)
  - (g) South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown, Cape May, NJ (Atlantic)
  - (h) Oak Bluffs Bluewater Classic, Martha's Vineyard, MA (Atlantic)
  - (i) Tri States Canyons Shootout, Block Island, RI (Atlantic)
  - (j) Texas International Fishing Tournament, South Padre Island, TX (Gulf Division Championship)
  - (k) Blue Haven White Marlin Invitational, Blue Haven, NJ (Atlantic Division Championship)
  - (l) International Billfish Tournament, San Juan, PR (Overall SFC Championship)
- 4) **Qualified Catch.**
- (a) A "**Qualified Catch**" is defined, for each SFC Qualifying Event, as:
    - i. Any blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, spearfish, or swordfish catch-and-release recorded by any Teammate or Team Member submitted on the SFC Roster Card at an SFC Qualifying Event that is recognized by the official rules of the SFC Qualifying Event during tournament competition; and
    - ii. During Tournament competition, if an SFC Qualifying Event permits the boat or angler to return to the docks with one blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, spearfish or swordfish to be weighed, the Fishing Team may record one fish per SFC Qualifying Event as a Qualified Catch.
  - (b) The SFC awards Qualified Catch points using the following scoring system:
    - i. \*\* First Catch Blue Marlin: 450 Points
    - ii. Blue Marlin: 350 points
    - iii. White Marlin: 125 points
    - iv. Spearfish: 125 points
    - v. Sailfish: 75 points
    - vi. Swordfish: 75 points
- \*\* SFC only recognizes the first blue marlin Qualified Catch during an SFC Qualifying Event's tournament competition hours and will not recognize the first catch for each day of fishing. The first Qualified Catch in the blue marlin category is the only fish that will receive 450 points per tournament.**



- (c) The SFC will take the official catch data from each SFC Qualifying Event and apply its scoring system to the data, and then publish the final SFC’s tournament results. For clarity, if there is a “Billfish Competition” in an SFC Qualifying Event, then SFC’s tournament results may not be equal to the tournament’s final results (due to individual tournament multipliers, “first catch bonuses,” and other scoring inconsistencies across the tournament circuit).
- (d) SFC reserves the right to enforce independent video verification reviewed by the SFC Competition Chairperson and polygraph test examination of any Teammates and Team Members in order to preserve the integrity of the competition. SFC at its sole discretion may verify Qualified Catches or disqualify the Qualified Catch or Fishing Team based on the results video verification and/ or polygraph examination.

**5) SFC Regular Season Tournament Scoring System.**

- (a) Registered Teams that finish in the top twenty of all registered Teams at each SFC Qualifying Event will earn SFC Season points based on the following tiered system:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>		<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	3,500		11 <sup>th</sup>	1,200
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3,000		12 <sup>th</sup>	1,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2,800		13 <sup>th</sup>	900
4 <sup>th</sup>	2,600		14 <sup>th</sup>	800
5 <sup>th</sup>	2,400		15 <sup>th</sup>	700
6 <sup>th</sup>	2,200		16 <sup>th</sup>	600
7 <sup>th</sup>	2,000		17 <sup>th</sup>	500
8 <sup>th</sup>	1,800		18 <sup>th</sup>	400
9 <sup>th</sup>	1,600		19 <sup>th</sup>	300
10 <sup>th</sup>	1,400		20 <sup>th</sup>	200

- (b) In the event that multiple teams “tie” for placement in a tournament by recording identical scores, each of the Teams that tie will receive the number of points equal to their “place” in the tournament. As an example, if three Teams tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at an SFC Qualifying Event, each Team will be rewarded 2,800 points.
  - i. The team or teams that register the next-highest score would then be awarded the "Place" that equally represents their placement in the Qualifying Event after all previous teams have been taken into account. As an example, if one team finishes in 1st Place, one team finishes in 2nd Place, and three teams tie for 3rd Place, the team or teams that received the next-highest score would finish in 6th Place (because five teams scored higher).
  - ii. The SFC will determine one winning team per Qualifying Event. There will not be a "tie" for First Place (1st). In the event that two or more teams conclude the tournament tied for First Place, the following tiebreakers shall go into effect:
    1. Tiebreaker 1: First blue marlin caught in the Qualifying Event.
    2. Tiebreaker 2: First white marlin caught in the Qualifying Event.
    3. Tiebreaker 3: First sailfish caught in the Qualifying Event.
    4. Tiebreaker 4: First swordfish caught in the Qualifying Event.
    5. Tiebreaker 5: First Qualified Catch (any species) caught in the Qualifying Event.
- (c) In the event of an event cancellation, the event will be removed from the SFC Regular Season and will not be considered an SFC Qualifying Event for the current SFC Regular Season. SFC has the sole right to add or remove SFC Qualifying Events to the SFC Regular Season at any time at its own discretion.

**6) Awarding A Winner:**

- (a) In order to qualify for the SFC's Billfish Championship, Atlantic Division Championship or Gulf Division Championship, the Team must compete in a minimum of three SFC Qualifying Events.



- i. A minimum of ten (10) Teams must participate in the SFC's Billfish Championship Atlantic Division Championship and Gulf Division Championship, per Division competition, in order for SFC to recognize a winner from each of the three competitions (two division championships and one overall championship). If ten (10) teams do not qualify for either a division championship or the overall SFC Billfish Championship, it is at the SFC's sole discretion whether or not to award a winner or the competition may be deemed null and void. SFC will make best efforts to award a champion in each of the two division championships and the SFC Billfish Championship in the event of an act of God or multiple postponements or cancellations of events.
- (b) The SFC's Billfish Division Championship scoring system is based on the aggregate of Fishing Team's top three Qualifying Event ("tournament") scores.
  - i. In general terms, the SFC will combine the team's three best SFC Season "Qualifying Event" tournament scores, and all other Qualifying Event scores will be dropped.
- (c) The SFC will also award regional Division Championships in the Atlantic Division and Gulf Division with division-specific Qualifying Events noted above in Section 3. The SFC will award one Division Champion for the Atlantic Division and one Division Champion for the Gulf Division based on the aggregate of Fishing Team's top three regional division-specific Qualifying Event ("tournament") scores.
  - i. In general terms, the SFC will combine the team's three best regional-division-specific tournament scores, and all other division-specific Qualifying Event scores will be dropped.
  - ii. Division Championships are awarded at the final Regular Season event in each respective regional division, not at the final event of the SFC's Regular Season (Puerto Rico). The Gulf Division Champion will be awarded at the Texas International Fishing Tournament (TX) and the Atlantic Division Champion will be awarded at the Blue Haven White Marlin Invitational (NJ).
- (d) The SFC will award its prizes in the Billfish Division (including Atlantic and Gulf Divisions) in equal distributions to the three teammates listed on the team's final Qualifying Event Roster Card, unless otherwise requested and coordinated between the three teammates and the SFC at the SFC's sole discretion.

(e) Scoring Examples:

**Team A:**

1 <sup>st</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	2 <sup>nd</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	3 <sup>rd</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	Total
3,000	2,800	500	6,300

**Team B: \* WINNER \***

1 <sup>st</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	2 <sup>nd</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	3 <sup>rd</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	Total
2,600	3,500	3,000	9,100

**Team C:**

1 <sup>st</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	2 <sup>nd</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	3 <sup>rd</sup> SFC Qualifying Event	Total
3,000	2,000	2,400	7,400

- (f) Tiebreakers: In the event that two or more Teams have equal scores at the conclusion of the SFC's Regular Season (or at the conclusion of a final regional division event for Division Championships), the following tie breakers will be implemented in order to crown one team the Champion:
  - i. Tiebreaker 1: Highest place finish in an SFC Qualifying event.
  - ii. Tiebreaker 2: Most blue marlin caught in the SFC Regular Season.



- iii. Tiebreaker 3: Most white marlin caught in the SFC Regular Season.
- iv. Tiebreaker 4: Most sailfish caught in the SFC Regular Season.
- v. Tiebreaker 5: Most swordfish caught in the SFC Regular Season.
- vi. Tiebreaker 6: First blue marlin caught in the SFC Regular Season.

***\*\*\*Tiebreakers for Division Championships would be based on the tiebreakers listed above but as of the date that the regional Division Championship is being awarded. Results following the conclusion of the Division Championship (ie in Puerto Rico) would not be considered after the Division Championship has been awarded already.***

- 7) **Recording of Qualified Catch Media.** Fishing Team, and its teammates and team members, explicitly acknowledge that Sport Fishing Championship prizes are funded and supported by corporate sponsors and media partners of the SFC, and that, in good faith, Fishing Team shall make best efforts to accommodate a single-person camera operator in order to support the competition's television and multimedia production. In particular, Fishing Teams that are considered "featured teams" – as defined solely by SFC officials – and Fishing Teams atop the Qualifying Event's leaderboard will have special emphasis on accommodating SFC's television and multimedia production efforts, by way of providing space and lodging for a camera operator to film on the boat during competition hours.
- 8) **Release of All Claims.** In consideration of being accepted for participation in the Sport Fishing Championship, each Teammate hereby releases, forever discharges, and agrees to hold harmless SFC and its officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, partners, members, and or attorneys (collectively the "Releasees") for any and all losses, claims, or demands of any kind or character whatsoever arising from the negligence or gross negligence of the Releasees or from any other cause connected with or occurring during any SFC Qualifying Event. Each Teammate expressly acknowledges that he/she has received reviewed and agrees to abide by the SFC rules and regulations and this release. Furthermore, each Teammate expressly acknowledges that activities relating to deep sea fishing are extremely dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury or death, and each Teammate hereby assumes full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury or death due to the negligence of the Releasees or any other cause connected with or occurring during any SFC Qualifying Event.





## **SECTION II**

### **Sport Fishing Championship | Championship Fish Competitions**

#### **1. Angler Competition.**

(a) An “Angler” is defined as an individual person competing in the Sport Fishing Championship's "Championship Fish Competition". An Angler is permitted to have any role on a competing boat, including Captain, Mate, Team Member, Teammate or Angler. An Angler may be male or female (the Sport Fishing Championship (“SFC”) does not have gender-specific competitions).

#### **2. Registering an Angler.**

(a) All competitors above the age of 18 years old will be required to register and create a Competitor Profile at **[SportFishingChampionship.com/register](https://SportFishingChampionship.com/register)** and provide the minimum information requirements for registration in the Sport Fishing Championship. Minors (younger than 18 years of age prior to the first date of fishing for an SFC Qualifying Event) must have a parent or guardian complete a SFC Minor Competition Waiver prior to competing. Registration for a Qualifying Event will be available until 11:59pm local time on the day prior to the start of the tournament.

- i. Registration for an Angler to participate in the 2023 SFC Championship Fish competitions will be a one-time registration fee of \$250. To be clear, an Angler will register one time for the SFC Championship Fish competitions and will remain eligible across all 2023 Qualifying Events.
- ii. Anglers that are also competing in the SFC's Billfish Championship must also register separately, and individually, to be eligible for SFC Championship Fish competitions. Team registration into the SFC Billfish Championship does not include participation in the SFC Championship Fish competitions.

#### **3. SFC Qualifying Events.** The following events will be recognized as SFC Qualifying Events in the 2023 SFC Regular Season:

- i. CNSD White Marlin Tournament, Punta Cana, DR (Caribbean)
- ii. Louisiana Gulf Coast Billfish Classic (Gulf)
- iii. NEFMA Bluewater Tournament, St. Augustine, FL (Atlantic)
- iv. Gulf Coast Masters, Orange Beach, AL (Gulf)
- v. Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic, Biloxi, MS (Gulf)
- vi. Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Championship, Miramar Beach, FL (Gulf)
- vii. South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown, Cape May, NJ (Atlantic)
- viii. Oak Bluffs Bluewater Classic, Martha's Vineyard, MA (Atlantic)
- ix. Tri States Canyons Shootout, Block Island, RI (Atlantic)
- x. Texas International Fishing Tournament, South Padre Island, TX (Gulf Division Championship)
- xi. Blue Haven White Marlin Invitational, Blue Haven, NJ (Atlantic Division Championship)
- xii. International Billfish Tournament, San Juan, PR (Overall SFC Championship)

(g) In the event of an event cancellation, the event will be removed from the SFC Regular Season and will not be considered an SFC Qualifying Event for the current SFC Regular Season. SFC has the sole right to add or remove SFC Qualifying Events to the SFC Regular Season at any time at its own discretion.

#### **4. Registering A Championship Fish Catch.**

(a) A “Championship Fish Catch” is defined as a Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Bigeye Tuna or Yellowfin Tuna catch recorded by a registered Angler at an SFC Qualifying Event, registered within the Tournament's Official Rules and recognized by the Tournament Director as a scoring fish. It is the Angler's responsibility to register with both the Qualifying Event and the Sport Fishing Championship in order to be eligible to compete in the Championship Fish Competitions.



- (b) A Championship Fish Catch must be weighed on a Qualifying Event's official scale, the time of catch must be logged with the Tournament and the fish measured for length from the lower jaw to the fork of the tail ("LJFL") in order to be eligible for the SFC's Championship Fish Competition.
- (c) It is the sole responsibility of the Angler to register their Championship Fish Catch with the Sport Fishing Championship's online scoring system or in-person at the SFC Registration Desk within (24) hours of the conclusion of the Qualifying Event's official tournament competition hours.
- (d) One Angler per Championship Fish Catch will be recognized by the Sport Fishing Championship.
- (e) Sport Fishing Championship Officials reserve the right to reject and Championship Fish Catch due to poor fish condition and/ or one that does not meet the scoring requirements of the Qualifying Event's official rules.

**5. Awarding A Winner:**

- (a) The Sport Fishing Championship will award one Angler the winner of the SFC's four Championship Fish Competitions in the categories of Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Bigeye Tuna and Yellowfin Tuna at the end of the SFC's Regular Season and the conclusion of the final Qualifying Event (Puerto Rico).
  - i. In general terms, the SFC will award one winner for the Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Bigeye Tuna and Yellowfin Tuna Championship Fish Competitions across all Qualifying Events.
  - ii. Tiebreakers: In the event that two or more Championship Fish Catches are registered with equal weight, the following tiebreakers will be applied:
    - 1. Tiebreaker 1: The longest fish shall win as outlined in section 3.b. above.
    - 2. Tiebreaker 2: The fish that was caught and registered earliest/ fastest in respect to the Qualifying Event's tournament competition hours. For clarity, Tiebreaker 2 takes into account the Qualifying Event's competition hours – if a tournament allows fishing to continue overnight, those hours will be considered competition hours and considered when determining the earliest/ fastest fish caught during competition. If a tournament requires lines out at a certain time of day, the hours between lines out and lines back in will not be considered competition hours.

(b) Below is an example of how a winner may be calculated using the two Tiebreakers above:

**Team A: \*WINNER\***

Fish Weight	Fish Length	Tournament Start Time	Time Fish Was Caught & Registered
55.5. lbs	40 1/8"	0800 Thursday	1200 Friday

**Team B:**

Fish Weight	Fish Length	Tournament Start Time	Time Fish Was Caught & Registered
55.5. lbs	40 1/8"	0800 Thursday	1400 Saturday

**6. Release of All Claims. In consideration of being accepted for participation in the Sport Fishing Championship, each Teammate hereby releases, forever discharges, and agrees to hold harmless SFC and its officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, partners, members, and or attorneys (collectively the "Releasees") for any and all losses, claims, or demands of any kind or character whatsoever arising from the negligence or gross negligence of the Releasees or from any other cause connected with or occurring during any SFC Qualifying Event. Each Teammate expressly acknowledges that he/she has received reviewed and agrees to abide by the SFC rules and regulations and this release. Furthermore, each Teammate expressly acknowledges that activities relating to deep sea fishing are extremely dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury or death, and each Teammate hereby assumes full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury or death due to the negligence of the Releasees or any other cause connected with or occurring during any SFC Qualifying Event.**