

THE HOPKINS CARTER
SAIL & SLAY FISHING TOURNAMENT
2013 Tournament Rules



- I. Applicable laws and IGFA rules apply throughout the Hopkins Carter Sail & Slay Tournament ("HCSST")** except where they are inconsistent with these "HCSST" rules that follow, in which case these "HCSST" rules shall apply. All registered anglers must also comply with all applicable federal and Florida laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits, speed limits, etc. Any infractions of the applicable rules will disqualify the registered angler(s) and boat from the entire tournament, and any disqualified angler(s) will not be entitled to any refund. Rules of the road are to be followed at all times and are the boat captain's responsibility. All boats, anglers, crews and guests will fish at their own risk.
- II. Bait & Tackle:** Fishing with live bait is permitted. No live chumming. The use of cut fish or ground chum will be permitted. For purposes of this "HCSST", the leader shall not exceed a maximum length of fifteen (15) feet. Competing anglers are **required to fish exclusively with "HCSST" endorsed circle hooks** when fishing with live or dead bait. The use of traditional "J" hooks is only permitted when fishing with unbaited artificial lures. Hooks must have no offset. Hooks must not be altered in any matter whatsoever. *The only eligible circle hooks are tournament-approved, non-offset circle hooks.*
- III. Anglers & Lines:** This is an angler's tournament. Only registered anglers may fish in this tournament. Registration for the tournament closes at the end of the captain's meeting on October 25, 2013. No boat shall fish more than eight (8) lines in the water during the official fishing time regardless of the number of registered anglers on board. The catch must be entered for official weigh-in by the angler who caught it.
- IV. Eligible Species:** The eligible billfish species in this "HCSST" (Sail division) are sailfish, white marlin, blue marlin, broadbill swordfish, and spearfish. The eligible funfish in this "HCSST" (Slay division) are dolphinfish (mahi-mahi), tuna (yellowfin, bluefin, & blackfin), kingfish, wahoo, & mutton. Those are the only species of fish eligible for prizes and must be a minimum of 5 lbs. All boats are required to have a current Federal Tuna Permit, or the newly required Highly Migratory Species Permit (HMSP). (See Rule #1). Permits can be obtained through the NMFS at 888-872-8862 or www.nmfspermits.com. All fish presented for weigh-in must be in fresh, edible condition and caught on the tournament fishing day. Any fish over 25 lbs. may be cut open and inspected. Fish may be delivered to the weigh station by land (car or walk-up). All tournament winners may be subject to a polygraph test and must be present at 6:30pm Saturday. No mutilated fish will be accepted. If there is any question regarding mutilation, a determination will be made by the tournament rules committee. The tournament directors and committee members urge all participating anglers to release those fish not to be entered into the tournament. The release of fish should be in keeping with the best conservation methods to ensure continued life.
- V. Fishing License:** All participating anglers must possess a Florida Saltwater Fishing License valid on the day of fishing. The only exception to this rule is for those anglers fishing on a commercial charter boat where the charter boat's license covers its paying anglers. Anglers shall confirm licensing requirements with the charter boat captain. Proper state registration of the boat is the responsibility of the boat captain/owner.

- VI. Hooking Fish:** Each eligible fish entered in this "HCSST" must be hooked and caught by a single registered angler only. No person may hook a fish, or assist in hooking a fish in any manner, and then turn the rod with the hooked fish over to the registered angler who ultimately enters the fish. The use of a rod holder to hook a fish is permitted provided that no person other than the registered angler who ultimately enters the fish touches the rod or reel once the fish is hooked. For purposes of this "HCSST", a fish shall be considered "hooked" at the time the fish strikes, runs with, or eats the bait, regardless of whether the reel is engaged or in free spool mode and regardless of whether the rod is being held or is in a rod holder.
- VII. Date/Time of Tournament:** Fishing day is Saturday, October 26, 2013. Fishing will begin with lines in the water at 7:00am. The fishing day will end with lines out of the water at 4:00pm. The tournament committee will monitor the tournament on VHF channel 72 during fishing hours. Official times and any special notifications will be announced during the tournament on this channel.
- VIII. Fishing Boundaries:** All fishing must be done in US waters. DO NOT FISH BAHAMIAN WATERS. There are no North or South boundaries. No more than 25 miles offshore. Fishing outside of these boundaries is grounds for disqualification of all catches.
- IX. Weigh-In:** The weigh station will be at Hopkins Carter Marine – 3300 NW 21st Street, Miami, FL 33142. All teams with fish to be weighed or with release cards to be turned in must be in the parking lot no later than 6:30pm. The weigh station closes at 6:30pm. No fish will be accepted after the weigh station closes. In the event there are time constraints and the weigh-in is not completed by 6:30pm, an angler must be standing in line and acknowledged by either the weigh master or a judge prior to the 6:30pm cut-off in order to have a fish weighed. Any fish brought to the scale after the close of the weigh-in will not be eligible for a prize.
- X. Weather:** "HCSST" officials may postpone or cancel the tournament day if, in their best judgment, unsafe conditions exist at sea for the average boat entered. A determination permitting fishing by "HCSST" officials should not be interpreted to mean that the "HCSST" ensures the safety of any registered angler or occupant of any boat. Any portion of the day's fishing will constitute the tournament. Registered anglers must make their own judgments whether to fish under the prevailing weather conditions based on the size and seaworthiness of their boat, their seamanship skills and any other relevant factors. Fish at your own risk.
- XI. Captain/Angler Meeting:** Final registration and Captain's Meeting will be held on Friday, October 25th at 6:30pm at Hopkins Carter Marine; 3300 NW 21st Street, Miami, FL 33142. The rules will be read and reviewed at 7:30pm. A representative from each registered team must be present. The tournament committee reserves the right to make changes to the rules and/or the terms and conditions of this tournament verbally or in writing at the time of the meeting. Anglers and boat captains are responsible for being properly informed of all rules of the tournament.
- XII. Etiquette:** "HCSST" officials encourage all registered anglers and crew members to behave in a professional manner at all times before, during, and after official fishing time so as to not tarnish the valuable reputation of this "HCSST" or any of its sponsors. Any or all registered anglers on any boat may be disqualified from this "HCSST" if, in the sole discretion of "HCSST" officials, unprofessional fishing conduct has occurred, including but not limited to: (a) deliberately fouling or cutting another boat's fishing gear, such as lines in the water or kites in the air; or (b)

interfering with or impeding another boat's drift, position, or ability to hook and/or fight fish, such as setting up a drift or casting too close to the other boat's spread.

XIII. BILLFISHING RULES:

- i. **Releasing Billfish:** All billfish (except for swordfish) are to be released. Swordfish can be kept so long as they are of legal size. Swordfish will be scored the same as all other billfish. A billfish shall be considered a "release" only when the leader or swivel attaching the fishing line to the leader touches the rod tip or when the mate touches the leader, provided the angler's intent is to release the fish.
- ii. **Photographic verification:** Yes, all billfish releases need to be photographed.
- iii. **Scoring:** Registered anglers will receive 100 points for each release of an eligible billfish. Each boat will be provided with release cards which must be completely filled out, signed by the entire crew aboard the boat, and delivered to the weigh station for releases to count. The species of billfish, time of release, boat name on the card. In the event of an exact tie, the registered boat accumulating the most points first, as determined by the "HCSST" release card time entries for each release confirmation number, will be the winner.

XIV. FUNFUSH RULES:

- iv. Scoring prizes will be awarded to the heaviest overall "Slay" catch, top aggregate weight (the combined weight of the team's three heaviest catches measured to the nearest ¼ pound), as well as the Top Junior Angler (boy or girl 16 & under). An additional prize "Dave's Dinner" will be awarded for the heaviest Mutton caught during the tournament. If the mutton is weighed, it will be filleted, the catch will be kept by Dave and served as his dinner in exchange for an award. The same fish cannot be entered into multiple categories. You must decide in which category you will enter each fish weighed. The Tournament Rules Committee has full discretion to disqualify any fish believed not to meet the rules of this tournament. All decisions made by this Committee as to eligibility of a fish for weigh-in is final. The Committee has the right to inspect and mark all fish presented for weigh-in and inspection may be done by any means necessary.
- v. Any protest concerning conduct or rules violation must be filed in writing with the rules committee prior to the close of the weigh station. All anglers posted on the leader board must be present on the tournament premises at 6:30pm for a possible polygraph test. All decisions of the Rules Committee on rules in question are final. In the event of a tie in weight, the winner will be determined by the earliest weigh-in time.

Release of Liability: It is expressly understood that all participants, registered anglers, and non registered occupants of their boats in the HOPKINS CARTER SAIL & SLAY FISHING TOURNAMENT participate voluntarily, enter at their own risk and that the tournament, BETTER FLORIDA FOUNDATION, their officers and directors and all persons connected directly or indirectly with the operations of the tournament, or any sponsor of the tournament, shall be exempt from any liability for slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death or dismemberment suffered by any participant, entrant, sport-fisherman, or their companions, boat captains, mates, crew members, guests, vessels and equipment which may occur during the tournament. In consideration for the "HCSST's" acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler, for his or her heirs, executors, and administrators, agrees to release, hold harmless and indemnify the "HCSST", its officers, managers, directors, agents, sponsors, donors, the city and country where the event is held, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournament, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, fees

or expenses which he or she may have against any above-described party, or which his or her captains, crew members, family members, companions or nonregistered occupants of their boat may have, arising out of or in any way connected with his or her participation in this "HCSST", including any damage to vessels and equipment, which occurs during or in conjunction with the event. By signing the entry form, the angler agrees to follow the tournament rules and that the tournament and/or its sponsors may use, without payment or permission, restriction, any photographs or video in which he or she appears for any purpose whatsoever, but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material. All anglers are required to sign the entry form as certification that they have read and agreed to abide by all rules and the above liability release. No entry will be accepted unsigned. The tournament committee reserves the right to make changes.

