



Tri-State Canyon Shootout 2018 (Draft 1) **Tournament Rules and Regulations**

Kyle's Cell# 860-287-2349 Kerry's Cell# 860-287-2306

Tournament Mission Statement: The Tri-State Canyon Shootout's mission is to provide its participants with a competitive, yet enjoyable, fishing tournament. The tournament will be focused around good sportsmanship and conservation. The Tournament committee vows to hold a classy, well-run Tournament.

Tournament Dates and Fishing Times: July 29th through August 2nd (Fishing: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) you can choose two out of four days. You also have the option of picking two consecutive days. If you decide to fish on two separate day trips the available hours are Monday 5am–10:30pm, Tuesday 5am–10:30pm, Wednesday 5am–10:30pm Thursday 5am-4pm. If you decide to fish two consecutive days, you will be able to do an overnight. Hours of an overnight trip will be from 5 am on the first day until 4 pm on the second day. If you come in after the scales close you will be able to weigh your fish the next day. **Note the new day trip hours!**

Captain's Meeting: The Captain's Meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on **Sunday**, under the tent, at Block Island Boat Basin. All forms must be completed and submitted prior to the start of the Captain's Meeting. At this meeting, participants will be informed of the tournament procedures, and receive their Captains' bags, T-Shirts and Rules. This will also be the opportunity for participants to raise questions regarding tournament procedures. All boats are presumed to have a representative at the Captains meeting in the case they are not present it is the responsibility of the entered boat to attain any information or updates given at the meeting. All entrants are held responsible for all rules and changes regardless of attendance.

Dockage: All boats entering the Tri-State Shootout are responsible for making their own dockage arrangements. The Tournament encourages that all boats make their accommodations with the Block Island Boat Basin. All boats must be docked at Block Island. Any boats arriving to Block Island after the 5am start on the first day must be approved by the Tournament Committee and checked in upon arriving.

Boats:

1. All boats must have the ability to fish without any outside help.
2. Any vessel that is equipped with a "green stick" commercial fishing tool must refer to the section on "green sticks" for additional guidelines.

Green Sticks:

1. Any vessel equipped with a “Green Stick” must declare the Green Stick to the Tournament Committee at or prior to the Captains meeting on Sunday night prior to the Tournament.
2. The use of Green Sticks and Bandit Reels during the Tournament for any reason/purpose is prohibited.
3. All vessels with Green Sticks must have them secured by a Tournament committee member prior to leaving the harbor on their designated offshore days or will not be allowed to weigh a competing fish.
4. Any tampering with or changing the Tournament approved security tag will cause any competing fish by the vessel to be disqualified.
5. LP Electric Reels, and other electric reels including bridge teaser reels may only be used to tow dredges and teasers. No hydraulic reels are allowed as teasers reels.

Tackle Specification:

1. The Tri-State Tournament will follow International Game Fish Association Rules and additional rules specified herein.
2. 130 lb Line class is the maximum allowed in this tournament.
3. Any member of the tournament committee reserves right to inspect tackle at their discretion.
4. Leaders are to be no longer than 40 ft in total. This 40 ft. shall include any double line, wind-on, or any other type of leader.
5. Line tests may be required at Judge’s discretion.
6. Spreader Bars will be allowed in the Tri-State Shootout, but must only contain one hook.
7. Double Hooks are allowed
8. Fish must be fought in a method that does not allow the rod to come to rest. i.e. stand up, chair or floating gimbal. **No fighting fish from swivel rod holders or fighting stations with pins inserted.**

Fishing Regulation

1. All fish must adhere to state and federal regulations to qualify for this tournament.
2. Billfish prizes and qualification must also adhere to the included Billfish division supplement. The min size for a Swordfish is 100lbs which can qualify for the Tournament without being in the Billfish division.
3. Bluefin only qualify for any yearly Bluefin only Calcutta’s
4. **The fishing territory is limited to a 135 Nautical mile radius from the Fairway buoy SE of Block Island. The Fairway buoy is the Narragansett-Buzzards Bay Approach lighted whistle buoy A (RWMO (A) W 8S 6M RN). GPS 41° 6.066’N and 71° 23.365’W The 135km radius should be taken from this buoy, no exceptions. The Canyons included in this area are from Hudson Canyon to the west and Hydrographers to the east.**
5. **The Captain of the vessel must have continual knowledge of the vessels position in regard to the boundary and the Captain of the vessel will be selected to take the polygraph should the boat qualify under the polygraph guidelines**
6. The angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to the gaff or tag stick unaided by any other person (excluding gaff and leader man).

7. This is a rod and reel, hook and line tournament. The use of hand lines, rope, nets, harpoons, and any other means of fish capture other than rod and reel are strictly prohibited.
8. Fish must be hooked, fought and landed or tagged from the same boat.
9. No Mutilated Fish will be eligible for competition.
10. There shall be no use of aircraft of any kind, for spotting or baiting fish. Including the use of drones. Drones may only be operated within a 100 yards of your vessel for the purposes of filming the vessel and its fishing spread.
11. There shall be no use of outside assistance for landing or acquiring fish.
12. No push poles shall be allowed

Polygraph Testing

1. There will be a MANDATORY polygraph test given to the TOP THREE cash prize winners of the tournament as well as the winner of the Billfish release division.
2. The Captain will be tested and he/she must have knowledge of the vessel position, IGFA rules and have been present during the fight of the winning fish. In the event that the Captain is deemed not able to take the polygraph, the Tournament Directors reserve the right to choose the next member of the registered crew to take the test.
3. The top three cash prize winners will be announced and decided by the Tri-State Tournament Committee
4. All Polygraph tests will take place on Wednesday, following the end of fishing times.
5. No Cash Prizes will be awarded until Polygraph test is completed.
6. Should there be a protest brought to the committee, the committee reserves the right to substitute the protested boat for one of the top three money winners in the polygraph test.

Protests

1. Any and all protests must be filed in writing and signed by the protestor; with the judges by 9am, the morning following the incident, except on the last day when protest must be filed within 1 hour after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
2. Protests will only be accepted that pertain to boats that have competing fish.
3. Protests must include the protesting boat, the boat being protested, details of the event including time and location the protested event took place.
4. Protests must be brought on specific rule violations and not personal beliefs and will be vetted based on current rules in place.
5. Hearsay protests will not be accepted without written statement from the witnessing party. Witnessing parties must be an entered boat or angler in the current years Tri-State Canyon Shootout.
6. Members of the protesting boat, protested boat, and any witnesses providing statements may be subject to a polygraph test to determine the validity of the claims put forth.
7. Prize money may be withheld up to 48 hours to allow for all information to be collected regarding protested events.
8. All decisions of the Tournament Directors are final.

Lay Day

1. A member of the boats crew must turn in a form declaring a lay day at the designated area of the tournament tent by 9 am on the day you have chosen as your lay day. (Lay day forms may be collected by the Tournament Directors prior to 9am as they make rounds)

General Tournament Conduct

1. The official clock of the tournament will be kept on continuous GPS time.
2. All fish must be hooked during designated fishing hours.
3. Boats are to respect fellow competitors, at all times. Reasonable distance should be kept from all boats fighting fish. If requested by a boat fighting a fish, other boats shall keep clear until the fight has concluded.
4. Tackle inspection may be required at the time of weigh-in.
5. Official radio announcements will be made over Channel 69.
6. All boats entering or leaving the harbor should adhere to the "NO WAKE" limit.
7. The Tri-State Canyon Shootout assumes no responsibility for the conduct or safety of any boats or entrants. All participants enter at their own risk
8. All participants and their crews, friends, and family shall be respectful of the tournament hosts, i.e. Block Island Boat Basin, as well as its staff and residents.
9. Any Participant whose action causes the Tri-State Shootout tournament's officer, directors, sponsors, employees, or participants to incur expenses shall be held responsible and shall be responsible to reimburse said persons or entities for financial damages.
10. All boats are responsible for making decisions regarding weather, and do so at their own risk.
11. If the Tournament is canceled due to any circumstance or in the instance that no qualifying fish are caught, prize money will be returned or raffled accordingly.
12. Overnight Boats must be inside the Breakwater at New Harbor, Block Island by the end of their fishing day.
 - M/T fishing: be inside Breakwater by 4 PM on Tuesday
 - T/W fishing: be inside Breakwater by 4 PM on Wednesday
 - W/Th fishing: be inside breakwater by 4 PM on Thursday
13. **Day Trip Boats** must be checked at their dock or Block Island Boat Basin by 10:30 in New Harbor, Block Island by the end of their fishing day except on Wednesday when Breakwater timing applies.
 - Monday fishing: checked by 10:30
 - Tuesday fishing: checked by 10:30
 - Wednesday fishing: checked by 10:30
 - Thursday fishing: be inside breakwater by 4 PM on Thursday**

Weigh-in:

1. All Tournament Boats must weigh fish in at the official weight station. (Block Island Boat Basin)
2. The official weigh in hours for 2018 are 6-7 am and 12-4 pm.
3. **Each boat will be allowed to pick the largest fish in each category and have that fish weighed. Should the crew not be able to determine the largest fish in a species/category, the decision will be made by the weigh master. The weigh master reserves the right to weigh multiple fish to determine the largest.**
4. All boats should receive a copy of your weigh slip upon departing the weight station. The Captain of the boat is responsible for obtaining this document prior to leaving the scales.

5. Any and all protests must be filed in writing with the judges by 9am, the morning following the incident, except on the last day when protest must be filed within 1 hour after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
6. After the weigh master releases the fish, its disposal is at the discretion of the participant. Fish remains are not to be dumped inside New Harbor. Please take any remains outside the Harbor or dispose of them properly in your marinas dumpster.
7. If anyone wants to have a fish re-weighed, it must be done while the fish is still hanging. After the fish has been removed from the weigh station, the weight stands.
8. No mutilated fish shall be eligible for competition. Mutilation shall be defined as damage which would impair the fighting ability of the fish.
9. The weigh master reserves the right to retain any fish that is deemed questionable. If retention is refused, the fish is automatically disqualified.
10. The Weigh Master and the committee reserve the right to cut open any fish for inspection of any suspected weight altering. Insertion of weights, ice, water, etc. is not permitted.
11. **All anglers and crew aboard winning boats may be subject to a lie detector test.**

Prizes & Calcutta

1. Participants are responsible for obtaining and checking their Calcutta receipts any discrepancies need to be brought to the Tournament Directors attention by 9am on the first fishing day of the Tournament.
2. Prize money checks will be made payable to the person indicated on the entry form any changes in the payee or multiple payees must be authorized by the Tournament Directors.
3. All prize money will be paid in check within 10 days of the event once a completed W9 has been submitted.
4. All prizes will be awarded to winning boats, not individual anglers.
5. An unverified Calcutta spreadsheet will be available at 5am prior to leaving the dock on Day 1. Verified Calcutta sheets will be available for viewing by 5pm on Day 1.
6. Calcutta and Standings will be available for viewing under the Tournament Tents for the duration of the tournament and at J&B Tackle for 30 days following the Tournament. Tri-State Tournaments does not hand out or send electronic copies of Calcutta details for the privacy of our participants.
7. All Tournament prizes are final after 10pm on Wednesday August 2nd following the awards ceremony any discrepancies in weights, prize calculations or tournament winnings must be brought forward prior to 10pm. **No prizes are final until that time.**
8. All Calcutta's are a 98% payout. All Tournament winnings are subject to 1099 Reporting.

By signing the entry form and/or paying the entry fee, my crew and I acknowledge that we have read the rules and release and are bound by the same.

Any breach of any of the above Tournament Rules will result in disqualification, except as previously stated. Decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.

