

Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament Official Rules

1. The entry fee shall be \$675 for the first angler fishing aboard a vessel, and \$600 for each additional angler, with up to four anglers per boat. After January 11, 2019, the entry fee for the first angler will be \$775; and \$700 for each additional angler. The initial angler charge includes angler entry fee, sales tax, gift bag and two social entries to each banquet. The additional angler charge includes angler fee, sales tax, gift bag and one social entry to each banquet. There is no provision for the return of entry fees unless a written request for such fee is received by the Tournament Director at least 14 days prior to the kick-off of the tournament.
2. Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament Rules will be strictly adhered to and all decisions of the Tournament Director will be final. Any angler(s), captain(s), or mate(s) found to be in violation of any tournament rule may be disqualified from this tournament.
3. This entry shall be nontransferable and there can be no substitutions of anglers unless approved by the tournament director. The Tournament Director reserves the right to refuse tournament application or entry to any prospective entrant with or without cause at its sole discretion.
4. This is a "BOAT" tournament. Although point scoring will be on both a cumulative and individual basis for trophy purposes, the angler(s) on the "BOAT" accumulating the most release points first will be judged the winner(s). All vessels and/or anglers must possess the proper licenses and permits.
5. This tournament is a tag and release format. Point scoring shall be as follows: Released fish -- one point. Tagging trophies will also be awarded. To receive a tagging trophy, tag cards must be turned in to the committee boat on the last day of fishing.
6. Only manufacturer's stated 20 lb. test line **or less** may be used. Only manufactures stated circle hooks that are NON-OFFSET may be used with live or dead bait. Hooks may not be altered.
7. Live bait, dead bait or artificials may be used. No entangling device or similar material may be used. Fish must be caught by hook and line in a conventional manner. Spin or conventional tackle may be used, and no more than six (6) lines can be in the water at any time. This restriction does not include teaser lines.
8. Live bait chumming is prohibited throughout the course of this tournament. Any bait that is replaced on a line or teaser line for any reason shall be retained within the vessel. In addition, any vessel participating in this tournament shall not permit any other vessel to chum in their behalf. This rule does not prohibit trolling or anchoring with a chum bag in the water to attract fish.
9. All boats must depart from and return to the same dock each day.
10. All sailfish hook-ups and releases must be reported immediately to and acknowledged by the committee boat to be considered valid. The exact number of sailfish hooked up must be reported, i.e., a single, a double, etc. The term "multiple" will not be acknowledged by the committee boat. In addition, the captain must report the final disposition of the hook-up(s) to the committee boat (released, boated, tagged, lost, etc.) Reports may be relayed by another boat, if the reporting vessel cannot reach the Committee Boat. The Tournament Channel is #78 (the alternate channel is #73)
11. No one except a registered angler can hook-up a fish and no one except the angler may touch the rod, reel or line while the fish is being fought. Crew members are permitted to cast baits. However, the rod and reel may not be passed directly to the angler. It must first be placed in neutral position (most commonly a rod holder) in free spool. If the fish is hooked up, even accidentally by the crew member, the fish is disqualified.
12. The double line shall be limited to 15 feet and the leader shall be limited to 15 feet. However, the combined length of the double line and the leader cannot exceed 20 feet. No more than 2 single hooks may be attached separately at least a hook's length apart and not more than 18 inches (both hooks must be embedded in the bait).

13. For the purpose of the tournament, a "Release" shall be considered to be accomplished when the captain, angler or mate touches the leader. It is recommended that the leader be cut as close to the fish as possible. If a fish is subsequently tagged after being released according to the above criteria, the time of tagging shall be considered to be the same time as a release.

14. If a fish should become hooked on more than one line or become entangled in another line, then the fouled line or lines must be cut immediately. It is the intent of this rule that the fish be fought the majority of the time on a single line. If the fish is not fought the majority of the time on a single line, the fish will not be scored.

15. The time limits are as follows: On the first day of fishing, no lines, teasers, or chumming (except in bait catching) before 8:30 a.m. and all lines out of the water by 4:00 p.m. A fish may be fought after this time, but must be reported to and acknowledged by the Committee Boat by 4:00 p.m. All boats must return to the dock no later than 5:30 p.m. on the first day. On the final day, no lines, teaser or chumming (except bait catching) is allowed before 8:30 a.m. and all lines out of the water by 3:00 p.m. A fish may be fought after this time, but must be reported to and acknowledged by the Committee Boat by 3:00 p.m. All boats must return to the dock no later than 4:30 p.m. If you have a tidal problem that may cause damage to your boat or fragile sea beds, please notify the Committee Boat, alternate arrangements can be made. Basically, you will be required to return as close as possible to your point of departure and anchor out.

16. Fishing boundaries are based on Loran c, GRI 7980 and GPS, Latitude and Longitude. The northerly boundary is the shoreline and the southerly boundary is the 100 fathom curve. The easterly boundary is 1410.0 or, 80.17.85 W and the westerly boundary is 14050.0 or 80.51.30W. All fishing, other than bait catching, must take place within these boundaries. Other than bait catching with the proper permits, no vessel will be allowed to engage in any fishing activity inside of a special preservation area. These SPA'S are marked by four yellow balls.

17. All protests must be made in writing and filed with the Tournament Director before 5:30 p.m. on the first day of fishing and 4:30 p.m. on the second day of fishing to be considered. The Tournament Rules Committee may rule immediately or reserve judgment until the end of the tournament. The final disposition on all protests where judgment has been withheld will be determined by the polygraph examination.

18. All captains of boats having a winning angler(s) in any division of this tournament may be subjected to a polygraph examination. In the event the polygraph examiner is unable to make an accurate determination from the captain's statements, the captain may at his option allow his angler(s) or mate(s) to be subjected to the examination. Any captain(s), angler(s), or mate(s) who fail or refuse to take this examination, in so doing, may be disqualified from winning any division of this tournament. By entering this tournament all anglers, captains and mates agree to abide by the results of the polygraph examination.

19. Participants in this tournament enter at their own risk. Officials, committee members and all persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered to any participant, entrant, sportfisherman, their companions, boat captains, crew members, vessels and equipment, which may occur during this tournament.