

# International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo

## Rules & Regulations

*Fishing contest fraud is a crime in the state of Louisiana. Please read and comply with these rules.*

### Rod and Reel Regulations

1. All fish entered in rodeo competition must be registered and weighed at rodeo headquarters at Grand Isle Marina on Grand Isle. All fish entered that qualify for 1<sup>st</sup> place at any time during rodeo competition become property of the rodeo. (Waiver of the rule permitted in case of Yellowfin Tuna only.) These fish are used for the highly popular public display and/or provided to fish cleaning volunteers representing local food banks for distribution to the disadvantaged.
2. The registration fee is \$55 per person. Anglers must be registered prior to entering fishing competition. Tickets or ticket numbers must be presented to the weighmasters each time a fish is brought in for entry. Tickets will not be accepted without the angler's name legibly printed. If the angler is not actually present, the fish must be tagged with the angler's name and ticket registration number.
3. Methods of fishing shall be casting, drift fishing, trolling, and still fishing with rod and reel only.
4. Rodeo eligible fishing waters extend from the Texas state line all the way to the Mississippi state line including all Louisiana inshore and offshore territorial waters south, including the Gulf of Mexico waters.
5. Fishing competition during the rodeo shall begin at sunrise on Thursday, July 27<sup>nd</sup> the first day of the rodeo and close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, the third day. The official weigh station will be open at 11:00 a.m. each day of the rodeo and will close at 8:00 p.m. each day except on the third day when they close at 6:00 p.m. and fishing competition officially ends.
6. For purposes of determining total length, measurement of fish shall be from the outer extremity of the tip of the snout, with the fish's mouth closed, to the extreme tip of the tail fin when squeezed or turned in a way to obtain the maximum overall length. Weights will be determined in pounds and ounces. Fish shall not be weighed except in the presence of the weighmaster and the owner's registration-ticket or ticket number must be presented or the fish will not be weighed.
7. In the event of a tie, the first fish entered places.
8. Decisions of the weighmasters are final.
9. The weighmaster, in ruling on the eligibility of mutilated fish, shall do so in accordance with the rules of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).
10. The rules and regulations are published in the official 2023 International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo booklet and posted to the website at [www.tarponrodeo.org](http://www.tarponrodeo.org). All participating anglers are urged to review these rules before competition. Tarpon under 6.0 feet (total length) are not eligible for entry in the weighed-in division.
11. Eligible fish:
  - a. **Tarpon Division**
    - Tarpon Weighed-in Division and Release Division
  - b. **Big Game Division**
    - Blackfin Tuna
    - Dolphin (*Note: over 20 pounds*)
    - Wahoo
    - Yellowfin Tuna (*Note: over 50 pounds*)
    - Swordfish
  - c. **Shoreline Division**
    - Barracuda
    - Bluefish
    - Bonito
    - Cobia

- Grouper
- Jack Crevalle
- King Mackerel
- Spanish Mackerel
- Mangrove Snapper
- Red Snapper
- Spadefish
- Tripletail

#### d. Inside Division

- Croaker
- Gafftopsail Catfish
- Black Drum
- Flounder
- Redfish
- Redfish Stringer\*\*
- Sheepshead
- Speckled Trout
- White Trout

**\*Note:** Redfish may be taken in state waters only. Tag and release or catch and release where possible.

**\*\*Note:** Maximum of 5 fish stringer weight. No redfish 27 inches or greater total length is eligible. Stringers comprised of 1 fish are ineligible.

#### e. Kayak Division

- Redfish\*
- Redfish Stringer\*\*
- Speckled Trout

Fish must be caught from a kayak and cannot be entered into Inside Division.

**\*Note:** Redfish may be taken in state waters only. Tag and release or catch and release where possible.

**\*\*Note:** Maximum of 5 fish stringer weight. No redfish 27 inches or greater total length is eligible. Stringers comprised of 1 fish are ineligible.

**\*\*\*Note:** Redfish and Speckled Trout entered into Kayak Division are not eligible for entry into the Inside Division.

#### 12. Awards:

a. Awards will be given for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place fish in all categories of eligible fish except for Tarpon and Big Game Release Division.

b. No limit on the number of legal fish an angler may enter in any category.

c. Awards for Tarpon, which will have a total of 10 places: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Weighed-in Division and 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> place Release Division.

d. Awards will be given to Best All-Around Angler in the Big Game and Shoreline Divisions, Inside Division and Kayak Division.

e. Winners of the Best All-Around Angler awards will be determined by the total number of points earned, not by the number of fish entered by the angler. In each eligible fish category, first place will count as 3 points; second place will count as 2 points; and third place will count as 1 point. In the event of a tie, the combined weight of point winning fish within the respective Division will determine the winner.

#### 13. License and Permits Required:

All participants in the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo must have a valid Louisiana basic and saltwater fishing license if required. Louisiana law provides that all persons using a rod and reel must have a fishing license if they have reached their 16th birthday. Residents who have reached the age of 60 years or older before June 1, 2000 are not required to possess a Louisiana fishing license, but must have proof of age in their possession whenever fishing. Licenses are not required of children under 16 years of age. All participants may be subject to polygraph testing. Louisiana regulations require that all anglers fishing for tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, snappers, hinds, cobia, wahoo and dolphin to obtain a recreational offshore landings permit available free of charge at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/rolp>.

**A federal Highly Migratory Species (HMS) vessel permit is required if fishing for any federally regulated highly migratory species: Atlantic tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack and albacore) and sharks, swordfish, white and blue marlin, sailfish and spearfish. This is a fee-based permit, anglers can apply and pay for the permit online at [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com) or by calling 888-872-8862.**

## Tarpon Release Division

### 1. Objectives:

The principle objectives of this division are twofold:

- a. To encourage the release of all tarpon considered too small to be likely winners in the weighed-in division.
- b. To help fisheries scientists in ongoing research that will benefit all tarpon fishermen around the world and assure the preservation of this non-edible species for generations to come.

### 2. Trophies and Awards

There will be five (5) trophies awarded for tarpon in the Weighed-in Division and five (5) trophies awarded in the Release Division. Additionally, there will be one (1) trophy presented as a special award for the first tarpon caught or released based on time stamped on camera and/or cell phone imagery.

### 3. Team Effort

Recognizing that Releasing of tarpon is a team effort, the president, officers and committee members have chosen to make awards in this division to the winning boats through their respective Captains.

### 4. Captain's Honor:

Only fish released in accordance with the regular rules of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo Rod and Reel Division will be accepted in this division. Fish must be released without boating and/or gaffing, as the release of unharmed fish is the priority consideration of this division.

### 5. Report Cards and Video Imagery:

An official IGIT Rodeo Release Report Card or any Tag Report Card must be submitted to the weighmasters to receive release points. IGIT Rodeo tarpon release report cards may be downloaded and printed from the official IGIT Rodeo website at [www.tarponrodeo.org](http://www.tarponrodeo.org). Report cards will also be available from the weighmasters and merchandise booth.

In addition to completed IGIT Rodeo Tarpon Release report cards, the IGIT Rodeo requires the following video imagery to receive Tarpon Release points.

- a. The angler fighting the fish.
- b. Mate holding the leader in hand and showing the fish.
- c. Releasing of the fish in healthy condition.
- d. Clear date and time stamp on the video imagery.

The angler must remain with the weighmasters while review of the camera and/or cell phone imagery is completed.

### 6. Point System:

A released tarpon scores 100 points. The boat scoring the most points will be the winner of the first place trophy in this division; the boat with the second highest total points will be the winner of the second place trophy in this division; the boat with the third highest total points will be the winner of the third place trophy in this division; the boat with the fourth highest total points will be the winner of the fourth place trophy in this division; the boat with the fifth highest total points will be the winner of the fifth place trophy in this division.

**IN THE EVENT OF TIE OR TIES, THE TIME OF RELEASE NOT THE TIME OF REPORT CARD SUBMISSION WILL DETERMINE WINNERS.**

### 7. Commendations:

The president, officers and committee members of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo wish to thank all who participated in the Tarpon Release Division. Your efforts not only promote conservation but demonstrate true sportsmanship.

## Release Division - Big Game

### 1. Eligible Fish and Points Scored:

Blue Marlin 500 points  
White Marlin 200 points  
Sailfish 150 points

2. Only fish tagged or released in accordance with the regular rules of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo Hook and Line Division will be accepted in this division.

3. In this division, fish must be released without boating and/or gaffing. The release of unharmed fish is the priority consideration of the Release Division.

### 4. Report Cards and Video Imagery:

An official IGIT Rodeo Release Report Card or any Tag Report Card must be submitted to the weighmaster to receive release points. In addition to completed Report Cards, the IGIT Rodeo requires the following video imagery to receive Big Game Release points. IGIT Rodeo release report cards may be downloaded and printed from the official IGIT Rodeo website at [www.tarponrodeo.org](http://www.tarponrodeo.org). Report cards will also be available from the weighmasters and merchandise booth.

In addition to completed IGIT Rodeo Release report cards, the IGIT Rodeo requires the following video imagery to receive Release points.

- a. The angler fighting the fish.
- b. Mate holding the leader in hand and showing the fish.

- c. Releasing of the fish in healthy condition.
- d. Clear date and time stamp on the video imagery.

The angler must remain with the weighmasters while review of the camera and/or cell phone imagery is completed.

**5. Awards:**

There will be five (5) trophies awarded to anglers in the Big Game Release Division on the basis of total accumulated points.

**IN THE EVENT OF TIE OR TIES, THE TIME OF RELEASE NOT THE TIME OF REPORT CARD SUBMISSION WILL DETERMINE WINNERS.**

**6. Objective:**

In keeping with the principal objectives of this division, big game anglers are encouraged to release all billfish considered to be too small to be likely winners in the trophy competition. The Release Division is in addition to the regular Big Game Division.

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

1. Competition open to all children 12 years and younger.
2. Registration is FREE but all children must register at the Registration Desk located in the Pavilion and present their registration ticket when weighing in fish. Scales are located at the Official Weigh Station at Grand Isle Marina.
3. Scales open Thursday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
4. Eligible fish:
  - Hardhead Catfish
  - Flounder
  - Gafftopsail Catfish
  - "Rat" Redfish (**less than 27" Total Length**)
  - Channel Mullet
  - Speckled Trout
  - Croaker
  - White Trout
5. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in each category.
6. Awards will be presented under the Pavilion at 4:00 p.m. Saturday.

## CRAB RACE

1. Free entry to children 1 through 12 years old.
2. Date and time – Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 2:00 p.m.
3. Registration will be at the Merchandise Booth daily from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
4. Entrants must bring their own LIVE crab. They may enter one crab in competition.
5. One Race per child per day.
6. First, second, and third place trophies will be awarded to entrants.