

International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo 2025 Rules & Regulations

Methods of fishing shall be casting, drift fishing, trolling, and still fishing with rod and reel only.

1. All participants must follow and adhere to State of Louisiana and Federal rules / regulations for the applicable fish species. These regulations supersede all notations below in the event of a conflict

All fish entered in rodeo competition must be registered and weighed at rodeo headquarters (**the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo (IGITR) pavilion**) or for Anglers competing at Hurricane Hole, at their official weigh-in location.. All fish entered are subject inspection / approval for entry by Weighmasters.

2. The registration fee is \$60 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. 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 (America)
4. Fishing competition during the rodeo shall begin at sunrise on Thursday, July 24th the first day of the rodeo and close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 26th, 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 Saturday (26th) the third day when they close at 6:00 p.m.**
5. For purposes of determining total length, measurement of fish shall be per the applicable State of Louisiana or Federal regulations
6. In the event of a tie, the first fish entered serves as the tie-breaker..
7. Decisions of the weighmasters are final.
8. **Any fish mutilated will not be eligible to be weighed.** 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).
9. The rules and regulations are posted to the official event website at www.tarponrodeo.org.
10. **Licenses 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 and born before June 1, 1940, and who has lived in Louisiana for at least 6 months, 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>.
11. 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.

Eligible fish:

Tarpon Division

- Tarpon Weighed-in Division and Release Division

Big Game Division

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackfin Tuna• Dolphin <i>(Note: over 5 pounds)</i>• Wahoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swordfish• Yellowfin Tuna <i>(Note: over 50 pounds)</i>
--	--

Shoreline Division

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barracuda• Bluefish• Bonito• Cobia• Warsaw Grouper• Misc. Grouper• Jack Crevalle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• King Mackerel• Spanish Mackerel• Mangrove Snapper• Red Snapper• Miscellaneous Snapper• Rainbow Runner• Spadefish• Tripletail
--	---

Inside Division

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Croaker• Gafftopsail Catfish• Black Drum• Flounder• Redfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redfish Stringer**• Sheepshead• Speckled Trout• Speckled Trout Stringer^^• White Trout
---	--

- **Redfish must be taken in state waters only.**
- ****Note: Maximum of 4 fish stringer weight.**
Redfish must be 18" minimum and less than 27 inches in total length
- **^^Note: Maximum of 5 fish stringer weight – 13" minimum length**
- **Stringers must be comprised of more than 1 fish.**

Kayak Division

- Redfish - **must be 18" minimum and less than 27 inches in total length**
Redfish Stringer: Maximum of 4 fish, **must be 18" minimum and less than 27 inches in total length**
- Speckled Trout

Fish must be caught from a kayak.

- Redfish may be taken in state waters only.
- **Stringers must be comprised of more than 1 fish**
- **Redfish and Speckled Trout entered into Kayak Division are not eligible for entry into the Inside Division.**

12. Awards:

- Awards will be given for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place fish in all categories of eligible fish **except for Tarpon and Big Game Release Division.**
- No limit on the number of legal fish an angler may enter in any category.
- Awards for Tarpon, which will have a total of 10 places: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Weighed-in Division and 1st - 7th place Release Division.
- **Awards will be given to Best All-Around Angler in the Big Game, Shoreline, Inside, and Kayak Divisions.**
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

Tarpon Release Division

Objectives:

The principle objectives of this division are twofold:

- To encourage the release of all Tarpons considered too small to be likely winners in the weighed-in division.
- To help fisheries scientists in ongoing research that will benefit all Tarpon fishermen, and assure the preservation of this species for generations to come.

Trophies and Awards:

There will be **three** (3) trophies awarded for tarpon in the Weighed-in Division and **seven** (7) 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.**

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.

Captain's Honor:

Only fish released in accordance with the regular rules of the IGITR 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.

Report Cards and Video Imagery:

An official IGITR Release Report Card or any Tag Report Card must be submitted to the weighmasters to receive release points. IGITR Rodeo tarpon release report cards may be downloaded and printed from the official IGITR website at www.tarponrodeo.org. Report cards will also be available from the weighmasters.

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

- The angler fighting the fish.
- Mate holding the leader in hand and showing the fish.
- Releasing of the fish in healthy condition.
- 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.

Point System:

A released tarpon scores 100 points. **The date/time of release will determine rankings in the event of ties. In the event of ties among boats with same number of releases, the earliest date/time of the last fish released shall determine rankings.**

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

Eligible Fish and Points Scored:

Blue Marlin	500 points
White Marlin	200 points
Sailfish	150 points

Only fish tagged or released in accordance with the regular rules of the IGITR Hook and Line Division will be accepted in this division.

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.

Report Cards and Video Imagery:

The date/time of release will determine rankings in the event of ties. An official IGITR 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 IGITR requires the following video imagery to receive Big Game Release points. IGITR release report cards may be downloaded and printed from the official IGITR website at www.tarponrodeo.org.

Report cards will also be available from the weighmasters and merchandise booth.

In addition to completed IGITR Release report cards, the following video imagery is required to receive Release points.

- The angler fighting the fish.
- Mate holding the leader in hand and showing the fish.
- Releasing of the fish in healthy condition.
- 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.

Awards:

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

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 IGITR pavilion.
3. Scales open **Thursday and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Saturday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Eligible fish:

Hardhead Catfish	Flounder
Gafftopsail Catfish	Rat Redfish must be 18" minimum and less than 27 inches in 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 **conclusion of Crab Races**

CRAB RACES

1. Free entry to children 1 through 12 years old.
2. Date and time – **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 2 pm.**
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.