

# POOR GIRLS OPEN

## I. GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

### A. Boat Entry Guidelines

1. The Basic Entry Fee must be paid on or before August 16, 2023. There are no refunds for added entry fees (ie: there are no refunds for calcuttas).
2. There is no minimum or maximum boat size.
3. Up to six (6) anglers are allowed per boat.
4. Any person listed on the Official Poor Girls Open entry form will be considered an angler. Anglers may also be registered by calling 410-289-7438 or email at [info@poorgirlsopen.com](mailto:info@poorgirlsopen.com). All anglers must be registered prior to fishing.
5. In the event of a boat disability, before beginning to fish on any particular day, contestants may transfer to a second boat and assume the original boat's number without paying an additional entry fee.
6. Only one (1) day needs to be fished by at least two (2) boats to make the tournament official and for prizes to be awarded.
7. The Poor Girls Open reserves the right to cancel the tournament at any time.
8. It is expressly understood that all registered anglers and their companions, crew members and observers (the "Participants") participate in the Poor Girls Open (the "Tournament") at their own risk. The Participants hereby indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Tournament, Poor Girls Open, and its respective officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, partners, members, and/or attorneys (collectively the "Tournament Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties. All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Poor Girls Open whether an individual, a corporation or other type of entity, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including, without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any boat, team or person. Participants specifically agree and consent to the use of any photograph or video in which they appear, and/or audio recordings of such participants, by the Tournament for any purpose whatsoever including, but not limited to, resale, advertising and promotional material without compensation or restriction of any kind. The Liability Release shall be binding upon the Participants and their respective heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns.
9. By registering in the Poor Girls Open and paying the entry fee, Participants acknowledge that they have read these Rules and the Liability Release. As a condition for the entry into the Poor Girls Open, all Participants hereby agree to be bound by all the Rules, and by the Liability Release.

### B. Federal Legislation and IGFA Rules Apply

1. All-tackle I.G.F.A. rules apply unless otherwise noted. In the event of any conflict between the Poor Girls Open Rules and the I.G.F.A. Rules the Poor Girls Open Rules apply.
2. All Anglers are required to follow Federal Law relating to fishing.
3. Federal Law mandates that all Anglers participating in a tournament which bestows points, prizes, or awards for Atlantic billfish (blue and white marlin, sailfish, spearfish, or swordfish) must deploy only non-offset circle hooks when using natural bait and/or natural/artificial lure combinations. Anglers in these tournaments may use J-hooks only in artificial lures.
4. Participants are assumed to have all necessary permits, licenses and/or registrations required by law. However, it is not the responsibility of the tournament officials or directors to verify that all required permits, licenses and/or

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registrations are acquired by anglers participating in the tournament. Failure of a winning angler to have obtained any or all required permits, licenses and or registrations shall not be the basis for a protest to be filed under the General Tournament Rules, or a fish to be disqualified.

5. With the intention of preserving sportsmanship, rewarding angling skills and billfish conservation, the intentional use of live bait and/or live bait teasers in the attempt to catch billfish is not allowed.
6. The use of Green Sticks is not permitted.
7. The use of drones in any capacity is not permitted.
8. Line class shall be limited to the manufacturer's stated rating of no greater than 130 lbs. The use of Tournament Grade Line is not required. The use of any pound test backing is permitted.
9. The use of dart gaffs, harpoons, and/or lance gaffs is prohibited.
10. Any last minute changes will be announced at the Captain's meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

## **C. Fishing Days, Fishing Times, and Distance Parameters**

1. Each team is allowed to fish one of the three (3) days of the Tournament. Boats can fish each day with different teams.
  - a. Fun fishing on lay days is permitted. Fun fishing days must be reported by 8:00 AM each day the boat is not fishing.
  - b. Participants cannot be registered as an angler on more than one boat.
2. Fishing hours are 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM each day. No boat may place lines or teasers in the water or deploy sonar prior to 8:00 AM. All lines and teasers must be removed from the water at 3:30 PM Fun fishing before or after tournament hours is prohibited.
3. Any fish hooked prior to 3:30 PM may be played until boated or released, but it must be made available for weigh-ins by 9:00 PM that day.
4. No boat may pass the sea buoy of any Inlet prior to 3:00 AM on any fishing day.
5. There is a fishing distance limit of 100 nautical miles from the Ocean City Inlet sea buoy. Boats must fish within this limit regardless of the Inlet departure. Boats are not permitted to cross the 100 mile boundary line at any time for any reason.
6. The decision as to which day to fish rests entirely with the angler and crew.
7. A woman may fish only one day of the three (3) day tournament.
8. Teams may declare their fishing day at sign-up or they must inform tournament officials by phone at 410-289-7438 or VHF Channel (TBA), between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM of the day that they plan to fish.
9. Teams wishing to change a declared fishing day must notify tournament officials of their change by 8:00 AM of the day being canceled or fished, whichever is earlier.
10. If a boat breaks down on the way out before line in (8:00 AM), you must alert a committee boat. If you break down after lines in (8:00 AM), you will be declared as FISHING.

## **D. Reporting and Weigh-In Procedures**

1. All fish that are to be weighed in must be counted for points and must be called into a committee boat when boated or released.
2. All fish must be made available for weighing on the official scale at Bahia Marina between the hours of 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM on the day the boat leaves the inlet to go fishing. Any fish not available for weighing by 9:00 PM for any reason other than a documented drawbridge malfunction will be disqualified. All fish checked in at the official scorer's table by 9:00 PM will be weighed. To be eligible for prizes, all fish must be weighed on the official scale at Bahia Marina.
3. In the event of a malfunction in the primary weighing system, the tournament shall switch to a calibrated backup system.

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4. All weights registered on either system will be considered official.
5. All fish must be accompanied by a signed catch report. Signed catch and release reports must be turned in to the scorer's table at Bahia Marina by 9:00 PM the day that fish were caught. No catch reports will be accepted after 9:00 PM. Any catch report received after the 9:00 PM deadline will be disqualified.
6. Once a fish is caught, an angler may use any means to make her fish available for weighing. This includes, but is not limited to switching her fish to another boat, being towed by another boat, or trucking the fish to the scale.
7. The Tournament Directors reserve the right, in their sole and absolute discretion, to reject any fish that does not meet the requirements of the Tournament. Any decision of the Tournament Directors to reject a fish is final.

## **E. Fishing Guidelines**

1. For the purpose of identification and prize money eligibility during the Poor Girls Open, a hatchet marlin/roundscale spearfish will be considered a white marlin.
2. A fish may be hooked by anyone other than the angler (Captain, mate or other registered angler) however the fishing rod must be transferred immediately to the angler after hookup. The angler, from that time on, shall fight the fish alone until boated or released. Once the fishing rod has been transferred to the angler, the act of a person other than the angler touching the rod, reel or line either bodily or with a device is prohibited. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off the angler is prohibited.
3. Assistance in fighting, boating or releasing any fish by any other boat or by anglers from any other boat for any reason, including boat break down or malfunction, is strictly prohibited or equipment can be given by another boat nor can anglers from another boat help in any aspect of fighting, boating or releasing the fish.

## **F. Protest**

1. A protest may only be filed by a registered angler, registered crew member, or Tournament Director.
2. The Poor Girls Open must be notified immediately (by calling 410-289-7438 or speaking directly with a Tournament Director) that a protest is being filed.
3. All protests must be put in writing and include the registered angler(s) name(s), a local contact phone number and \$500 in cash or check made payable to the Poor Girls Open. It must contain a detailed description of the protested matter and include any supporting evidence available. It must be signed by the protesting angler(s) or crew member(s) and be delivered to the Tournament Directors as soon as possible from the time the protest action occurs. If no Tournament Official is available at Bahia Marina, turn in the written report to a Tournament Director and call 410-289-7438 to report the written protest has been delivered there.
4. All protests in compliance with these procedures will be given to the judges. That decision is final. If the judges rule in favor of the person(s) that filed a protest, the \$500 protest fee will be refunded.
5. No protest will be accepted after Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 9PM.
6. Protests should be carefully considered by contestants as they delay or interfere with the awarding of prizes to the tournament winners. Unjustified protests in recent tournaments have caused expense, turmoil and unfavorable and unacceptable conditions with respect to the bona fide winners of prizes receiving their awards. Any person filing an unsuccessful protest shall reimburse the Poor Girl Open for all costs and fees incurred by the Poor Girls Open, including reasonable attorneys' fees, relating to the protest and/or any litigation involving the same subject matter as the protest. In the event of a successful protest, the person who was the subject of the protest shall pay the Poor Girls Open \$500 and reimburse the Poor Girls Open for all costs and fees relating to the protest and/or any litigation involving the same subject matter as the protest. Reasonable attorney's fees include, but are not limited to, providing

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legal advice, and investigation of legal matters in conjunction with any protest as well as legal fees for any litigation which results.

## **G. Prize Money Payout Procedures**

1. If no second or third place fish is weighed, that guaranteed prize money will be divided equally among all winners in that specific category.
2. If no fish qualifies for a category, the prize money for that category will be equally divided among the other winning categories.
3. Prize money will be awarded to the registered angler catching the winning fish unless a different disbursement is requested in writing (on the Prize Money Distribution Form) by the winning angler.
4. Each winning angler must complete a Prize Money Distribution Form before any award check will be issued. Prize money checks will be mailed within seven (7) business days of the awards ceremony.
5. All anglers winning \$10,000 or more may be required, at the discretion of the Tournament Directors, to take and pass, at the determination of the polygraph examiner, a polygraph examination prior to the distribution of any awards.
  - a. The Tournament Directors may, at their discretion, also request that a polygraph examination be taken by any other angler or crew member registered to that boat. The Tournament Directors may, at their discretion, also request that any angler or crew member take additional polygraph examinations. All anglers and crew members requested to take polygraph examinations are encouraged to provide the polygraph examiner(s) and/or Tournament Directors with any information the angler and/or crew member may consider relevant to the issues that are the subject of the polygraph examination(s).
  - b. If a polygraph examination is required, the angler, Captain or other crew member will be notified by a Tournament Director after the scale closes at 9:00 PM on Saturday, August 19, 2023 with the time and location of the examination.
  - c. In the event that an examination cannot be taken at a scheduled time, the Tournament Directors reserve the right to reschedule the examination within 30 days of the date on which the fish was caught. The rescheduled examination must be administered by a Poor Girls Open approved examiner who is a member in good standing of the American Polygraph Association, and the examination will be at the angler's expense.
  - d. If an angler (or crew member on an angler's boat) fails to take any polygraph at the time requested by the Tournament Directors, that angler will be disqualified unless the Tournament Directors agree to reschedule the examination as provided above. If an angler (or crew member on an angler's boat) is, in the opinion of the polygraph examiner, not in a condition suitable to take the polygraph at the time requested by the Poor Girls Open, that angler may be disqualified, at the discretion of the Tournament Directors.
  - e. If an angler wishes to dispute an unfavorable polygraph result, the angler may have a second polygraph conducted within ten (10) days by a qualified polygraph examiner at the angler's expense. This polygraph must be administered by an examiner who is a member in good standing of the American Polygraph Association.
  - f. The Tournament Directors will decide, based on the polygraph examination(s), whether the angler is eligible for prize money. The decision of the Tournament Directors is final.
6. In the event of any dispute concerning prize money, Poor Girls Open reserves the right to file an interpleader and/or declaratory judgment action in court, seeking the court's determination of the dispute.
7. In the event of any litigation regarding prize money, these Rules and Regulations or any other matter associated with the Poor Girls Open Tournament, whether filed by Poor Girls Open or by a Participant, Poor Girls Open shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, to be paid out of the prize money in dispute. If the prize money in dispute is insufficient to pay Poor Girls Open's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, each Participant in the litigation shall be

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jointly and severally liable to pay Poor Girls Open's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. In no event shall Poor Girls Open be liable to any Participant for any attorney's fees or costs incurred by the Participant or any other person or entity involved in such litigation.

8. 90% of added entry fees are paid out unless otherwise noted.
9. Jr. Angler Division is open to any female angler who is 16 years old or less.

## **H. Tournament Directors' Decisions are Final**

1. Any Participant in violation of any Tournament Rule may be disqualified. By participating in the Tournament, all Participants acknowledge that all Tournament Rules are material and that disqualification is permitted and an appropriate sanction for any violation of any Tournament Rule(s).
2. The Poor Girls Open Rules have been established for the best interest of all concerned. In the event of necessity, any rule may be altered at the discretion of the Tournament Directors.
3. Decisions regarding the interpretation of the Rules, violation of the Rules, penalties, the suspension of any Rules or penalties, and the calculation of prize money will be made by the Tournament Directors in their sole and absolute discretion. All decisions by the Tournament Directors are final.
4. Tournament officials have the right to disqualify any angler and/or team from the tournament for any unsportsmanlike conduct or rule infraction with no monetary return.

## **II. BILLFISH RULES AND POINTS**

**A.** Short Bill, Long Bill and Mediterranean Spearfish are not eligible for scoring. However, for the purpose of identification and prize money eligibility during the Poor Girls Open, a hatchet marlin/roundscale spearfish will be considered a white marlin.

**B.** A billfish will be considered released when the swivel touches the rod tip, when the mate grabs the leader material, or when the leader goes through the rod tip.

**C.** In case of a tie (i.e., 2 anglers with 2 white marlin released) the anglers scoring the tying points earliest in the respective day of fishing is the winner, regardless of what day in the Tournament the points were scored.

**D.** All fish must be accompanied by a signed catch report. Signed catch and release reports must be turned in to the scorer's table by 9:00 PM on the day the fish were caught. No catch report will be accepted after 9:00 PM. The scorer's table will be located in the weigh-in area at Bahia Marina.

**E.** All general tournament rules apply.

**F.** Billfish Points:

1. White Marlin/Sailfish released - 100 points each
2. Blue Marlin/Swordfish released - 110 points each