



2026 TAITTINGER AND TAILS UNOFFICIAL TEAM RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The Taittinger and Tails tournament committee reserves the right to update or change these rules at any time. By entering the Taittinger and Tails tournament and paying the entry fees, all participants agree to abide by the tournament rules and accept all decisions made by the Tournament Committee as final.

THE TOURNAMENT

The Taittinger & Tails Ladies Only Tournament is a one-day billfish release tournament open to female anglers aged 18 and older. This is a team-based competition, with payouts awarded to the top three teams. The highest-scoring female angler will receive a trophy and prize package.

ENTRY

The entry fee is \$1,500 per boat. From each entry, \$250 will be donated to P.A.L.S. Cancer Care Bermuda. 85% of the remaining \$1,250 will be split as follows: 50 / 30 / 20. Each team entry includes:

- Registration for up to six (6) lady anglers.
- Six (6) total tickets to the Awards Banquet at The Cloud.
- One (1) tournament hat, one (1) tournament shirt, and one (1) gift bag for each registered lady angler.

A limited number of additional guest passes will be available for \$100 (**cash only**) and must be reserved by Wednesday, July 8, at 9:00 AM.

OPTIONAL JACKPOT

All optional jackpot divisions are 85% payback. Only teams entered in the base entry may enter the optional jackpots. The tournament rules apply to all optional jackpots.

WINNER-TAKE-ALL BILLFISH RELEASE JACKPOT - \$1,500

Entry in the Winner-Take-All Release Points Jackpot is optional. The jackpot will be awarded to the team with the most overall billfish release points of the tournament. In the event of a tie, the team reaching the highest score first wins, based on the official time of release. Only teams registered in the Winner-Take-All Release Jackpot are eligible for this cash award.

REGISTRATION

In-person registration will be available July 3, 2026, during the Bermuda Billfish Blast registration event and again on July 7, 2026, at the Bermuda Billfish Blast Awards Banquet.

Online registration via CatchStat will remain open through 8:00 p.m. on July 7, 2026. No registrations will be accepted after that time.

Teams registering online are responsible for coordinating with tournament officials to obtain team packets, gift bags, and release verification cards.

No rules meeting will be held. By registering, all teams agree to abide by the Final Rules posted on taittingerandtails.com at 8:00 p.m. on July 7, 2026.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In an effort to receive early registrations, the tournament will allow participants to cancel pre-registration until 8pm on July 3. After that time, no refunds will be given.

BOAT AND CREW REQUIREMENTS

Each team must designate a Primary Contact who is able to make decisions for the team. The representative must provide a cell phone number and email address. All correspondence will be sent to the Primary Contact.

Without exception, each boat must have one designated boat captain and at least one designated mate aboard. Designated captains and mates can also be registered anglers. Boats may receive aid from other boats due to mechanical failure. Teams and boats are NOT allowed to receive assistance in landing or releasing fish.

FISHING RULES

ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Blue marlin, white marlin, spearfish, and sailfish.

ANGLING RULES

IGFA tackle rules apply in this tournament unless otherwise stated (see release rules for scoring points). This is a hook and hand tournament; if necessary, anglers are allowed to pass the rod or receive assistance when fighting fish.

BILLFISH SCORING SYSTEM

Five-hundred (500) points rewarded for every blue marlin officially released. One hundred (100) points for every white marlin, spearfish or sailfish officially released. In the event of a rod pass between anglers, the angler fighting the fish at the time of release will receive the points.

BILLFISH RELEASE RULES

All teams are responsible for providing and operating their own video equipment to verify billfish releases. Video recording devices must be set to the correct Bermuda date and time and synchronized with official tournament time.

Teams will be informed prior to the start of fishing of the specific release card to be used. Release cards are included in each team packet, and teams are asked to ensure they are on board.

To score an official release, a single continuous video must include:

1. Clear identification of the species
2. Leader/mainline connection clearly visible inside the rod tip, swivel reeled all the way to the rod tip, OR a team member touching the leader while the fish is still hooked
3. Display the catch control card of the tournament
4. Full release of the fish, showing the line being cut, hook removed, or fish swimming away freely
5. Identify the time and date of the catch;

CATCH REPORT AFFIDAVIT

All releases to be considered for points must be recorded on the official catch-report affidavit sheet provided. The official time, species, release number, and angler's name must be clearly noted on the affidavit. Each angler and the boat captain are required to sign the completed form.

Catch-report affidavit sheets must be submitted at the Hamilton Princess by 5:00 p.m. on July 8. In the event of a tie, the team that reaches the highest score first will be declared the winner.

SONAR

Sonars are not permitted to be deployed prior to lines in at 8:30 AM.

LINE

For the Taittinger & Tails Ladies Only Tournament, fishing line is 130-pound-test maximum; tournament or non-tournament lines are eligible. If the stated line test is 130-pound or less on the label, it is allowed in the tournament. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first five meters of line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook. This section must consist of a single, homogenous piece of line.

LEADERS

The length of the leader is the overall length, including any lure or hook arrangement. In all line classes exceeding 20-pound (10 kg), the leader shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and the leader shall not exceed 40 feet (12.19 meters) total.

The tournament committee holds the right to examine any hook-sets, line and/or leaders at any time during the event. Refusal to allow the committee to examine any hook-sets, line and/or leaders will result in immediate disqualification from the event without a refund of any jackpot or registration fees.

RODS

Unlimited in use or numbers.

TEASERS

Unlimited in use or numbers.

BAITS

Live bait, dead bait, lures and any combination thereof are permitted in this tournament.

HOOKS

All tournament participants must use non-offset circle hooks for all species whenever natural baits or natural-bait/artificial-lure combinations are used.

FISHING HOURS

Lines-In is 8:30 AM. Lines-Out is 3:30 PM. The Tournament Committee may adjust starting or ending times if necessary.

RADIO/COMMUNICATIONS

The official tournament channel is 7 International. The backup channel will be channel 62 International. Tournament control may also be reached by phone or WhatsApp at (813) 928-6266 or the official radio Whatsapp group. If out of radio range, all catches must be reported via radio or phone as soon as possible.

Tournament control's time will serve as the official time for all starts, hookups, and stops, without exception. All billfish releases and any boated blue marlin or meatfish intended for weigh-in must be reported to tournament control, along with the angler's name and species. All hookups must be reported during the final 15 minutes of fishing each day.

FIGHTING TIMES

In the event of a late hookup and fight that continues beyond Lines Out, teams will be allowed to continue the fight for one additional hour. No release points will be awarded after 4:30 pm, regardless of outcome.

RELEASE VIDEO CHECK-IN

The release video check in is at the Hamilton Princess, no later than 5:00 pm. Teams are responsible for providing all required documentation to tournament officials.

WEATHER

There is no weather committee. The tournament is conducted on a fish-at-your-own-risk basis. If any portion of the tournament is fished and a team(s) lands or releases fish that match the tournament's eligible species and minimum weight limits, then prizes will be awarded.

PROTESTS

Participants may lodge protests against any catch which they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. All protests must be stated in writing and accompanied by a \$500 nonrefundable fee. The tournament judges may call a protest hearing at their discretion; a protest hearing is not guaranteed. All protests will be settled on the day of the incident. All protests must be in the hands of the tournament's designated rules official by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the alleged incident.

The protest party, as well as the accused team members, captain and crew, must be present at any official protest hearing. The tournament committee may refuse to consider any protest evidence not submitted at the protest hearing in the presence of the protested team. If the protesting or protested team fails to show up for the protest hearing, that team forfeits its right to submit evidence. Decisions of the tournament organizers with regard to protests are final, nonappealable, and nonjusticiable.

SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

All participants are expected to maintain a reasonable and sportsmanlike demeanor at all times throughout the tournament. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct towards tournament organizers or other participants, or any other behavior which the tournament organizers deem inappropriate, in their sole discretion, will result in immediate disqualification of the entire team with no refund of entry fees.

FULL RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Every participant must accept the Tournament Participant Release before fishing. It confirms that offshore tournament fishing carries a real risk of serious injury or death, that you accept those risks, and that you give up the right to sue the tournament, its sponsors, The Marlin Group Network LLC, other participants, and vessel captains and crew – including for their own negligence. It also covers indemnification, authorization for emergency medical treatment, insurance you are expected to carry yourself, and use of photographs and video taken at the event.

You will be asked to accept it when you register. Please read it in full first – this summary is not a substitute for the release itself.

Read the **Tournament Participant Release** →

<https://www.marlinmag.com/tournament-participant-release/>

Registered anglers, crew and guests under 18 also require a completed Parent or Guardian Authorization → <https://www.marlinmag.com/minor-parent-guardian-participant-authorization/>

TOURNAMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

www.taittingerandtails.com

Michelle Gaylord, Tournament Director
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2026 Taittinger and Tails Entry and Optional Categories			
Category	Entry Fee	Payout	Payout Structure
Base Entry (Mandatory)	\$1,500	85% **	50/30/20
Winner Take All Billfish Release Jackpot	\$1,500	85%	Top Release Winner Take All
Across the Board Entry	\$3,000		
** \$250 of the Taittinger and Tails base entry will be donated to charity. 85% of the remaining amount will be distributed 50/30/20			

Updated 8.11.26