

ATTACHMENT "D" TO BY-LAWS OF
INTERNATIONAL LIGHT TACKLE TOURNAMENT
ASSOCIATION

Revised March 2025

INTERNATIONAL LIGHT TACKLE TOURNAMENT RULES

1. ILTTA tournaments are for billfish and **all species** will be scored with **the same point value**.

2. Where facilities restrict number of participants, the following Priority System shall prevail:
 - A. Clubs having attended the last three consecutive tournaments shall have priority in the event it becomes necessary to limit the number of clubs because of boat availability, etc.

 - B. A second team (Team B) from a member club will be permitted on a stand-by basis depending upon the availability of boats and accommodations.

 - C. Other than the above, club teams shall be entered on a first-come, first- served basis. This is to be based upon fully completed website team and individual entry forms and entry fees have been received by the ILTTA Executive Secretary.

 - D. Executive Secretary shall maintain an on-going tournament member club attendance record.

3. All tournaments are team tournaments, with each team to be composed of three (3) anglers. There will be three (3) anglers fishing in each boat. Boats and fishing partners will be chosen in a draw conducted by the tournament committee. Drawing will be conducted at the opening meeting. No team members will be permitted to fish together during the tournament. Visiting teams may provide one (1) boat per team to the tournament. Should a visiting team elect to do this, all three (3) members of the team must fish on the boat at least one (1) day during the tournament. Notice of anglers scheduled on this boat must be provided to the tournament chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled boat drawing. Once the boat draw has been completed, no angler changes may be made unless as deemed necessary by

the Rules Committee. Team anglers will be placed in the regular boat draw for days not on the "team boat". Boats supplied to the tournament by visiting teams will be eligible for the same tips, crew rewards, fuel and other expenses as other local owner boats and boats chartered by the tournament committee. These rules apply as well to local boats participating in the Tournament with multiple owners. Local boats with a single owner may fish their boat each Tournament day.

4. The minimum age for participation, as set by the By-Laws, is twenty-one (21) years of age for male or female anglers unless an exception is requested by the Host Club to the ILTTA Board and approved by the Board prior to the tournament.
5. There shall always be three (3) anglers fishing on each boat. If any team should lack an angler, one will be provided from the "Alternate Reserve Pool". In the event an alternate is not available, one of the crew must fish the vacant place so that there will always be three (3) baited lines in the water, in their proper positions. Any catch made by an alternate angler or crew member will count for the boat, not for a team.
6. Each boat shall have a captain and at least one mate.
7. All boats will depart the dock at a time set by the Host Committee, in accordance with local conditions. Anglers and alternates must be at the dock, ready to board their boats prior to departure time. Fishing times will be set by the Host Committee in accordance with local conditions and time required to get to the fishing grounds. Neither **LINES** nor **TEASERS** may be put into the water before the official daily starting time of the tournament.
8. Each morning anglers on each boat will flip coins or use some other appropriate means to determine starting positions (starboard, port or flat line) and anglers will then exchange positions every hour.
9. The Host Club shall be responsible for having an adequate supply of bait on each boat daily. Only bait supplied by the tournament may be used. Any bait remaining at the end of the day must be discarded. Only supplied circle hooks may be used with natural baits. All bait shall be considered community property of the three anglers and each angler, as he needs bait, will use the best available on the boat until this supply is exhausted. If the boat runs out of bait, an artificial lure or strip bait with a single hook may be used. Any billfish caught on such bait is a qualified fish. Non-entangling devices, such as leads, skirts, birds, sea witches, or jigs

may be used with tournament bait, at the choice of each angler. The Host Committee shall advise prior to the tournament what devices are best in their area and it is the responsibility of each angler to supply their own.

10. All anglers shall furnish their own rods and reels, and equipment as they find necessary. It is suggested that each angler have at least two rigs in case of tackle failure.
11. The Host Committee will supply an adequate supply of line and hooks to each angler prior to the tournament. **ONLY** the official tournament line and circle hooks issued may be used. All anglers must arrive at the Tournament site with **EMPTY** reels
12. All ILLTA tournaments are **RELEASE** tournaments and all fish must be **RELEASED. NO EXCEPTIONS**
13. The Host Committee will arrange a Captain's and crew meeting, prior to the anglers' meeting to assure that all boat crews are familiar with the tournament rules and scoring. An extract of the rules relating to the boats and their responsibilities during the tournaments will be provided to each boat captain. A member of the ILTTA Board must be present at this meeting.
14. All tipping of crews will be done by the Tournament Committee. It is suggested that an incentive method be used. A cash award should be given to the boat catching the last fish of each day. Any angler who tips his crew will be penalized by loss of his points for the day. The boat will also lose all points scored for the day. If the other two anglers on this boat are aware of this infraction and do not report it to the Judging Committee, they will also lose all scores for the day. A second offense of this rule will result in permanent disqualification from ILTTA participation.
15. No changes to the boat draw will be permitted unless an error in the program has occurred during the actual boat draw and these changes or corrections must be made at that time. Any issues with the boat draw must be immediately reported to the Rules Committee. Anglers may only change boats due to mechanical issues which occur during the event and these changes may only be determined by the Rules Committee. Any angler who changes boats without direction from the Rules Committee will lose all points for the day for him or herself and their team. If the other two anglers on this boat are aware of this infraction and do not report it to the Judging Committee, they will also lose all scores for the day. A second offense of this rule will result in permanent disqualification from ILTTA participation.

16. Daily fish reports duly signed by all three anglers on each boat and the boat captain must be submitted by each angler at the end of each day of fishing. These reports must be submitted whether the angler has a catch or not and must be delivered to the Committeeman on the dock when the angler disembarks. Depending on the venue, fully completed and signed fishing reports may be photographed and submitted electronically.

17. There shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a Judging Committee constituted as follows:

The President of the International Light Tackle Tournament Association, or his delegate, one other member of the Board of Directors, two members of the Host Club, and a fifth committee member who shall be chosen by the four previously named members.

Any three members of this committee shall constitute a quorum. This Judging Committee shall have the sole power to decide upon all written protests related to points earned each day by anglers and shall meet each tournament day immediately after the last boat arrives at the dock to act upon any protests which may be presented for that day. Action regarding protests may not be considered unless filed in writing with the Judging Committee immediately upon arrival at the dock. Any decision of the Judging Committee shall be final. Any boat infraction of the rules, written or otherwise reported, shall be investigated and appropriate action taken by the Judging Committee.

18. In the event of a protest concerning the report of a fishing companion, the protesting angler shall refuse to sign the questioned daily report and immediately upon arrival shall report to the Judging Committee. The individuals involved in such a protest shall not leave the dock until the matter is resolved by the Judging Committee. The protest must be explained in writing on the daily report of the protesting angler.

19. The Board approved waiver and release form must be provided and signed by all anglers and guests.

20. For the understanding and enjoyment of all participants, pre-tournament meetings and the awards dinner shall be presented in English, Spanish, and any other language as is required.

21. I.G.F.A. rules will apply to the tournament, with the following exceptions:

Circle hooks only will be permitted.
Stainless steel hooks are prohibited.
No spinning tackle will be allowed.

All other rules relating to rods, reels, line up to 30# test will apply, including terminal tackle.

22. If teasers are used, the distance back of the boat shall be determined by sea conditions and type of teaser used, but in no case shall this distance exceed fifty (50) feet. The center or flat line angler must fish his bait sufficiently shorter than the other two anglers so that there will be no fouling on turns of the boat. The center angler is in control of the teaser or both teasers, if two are used.
23. It shall be the responsibility of the Host Club to supply participants with a description of the type of terminal tackle and skirts best suited to local conditions, with a drawing and clear explanation of terminal tackle suggested.
24. To be counted as a release, the swivel must touch the rod tip, or if no swivel is used, the leader must touch the rod tip. Should either of these events occur, the fish is scored irrespective of subsequent events.
25. To release the fish, the person holding the leader shall try to disengage the hook from the fish or shall cut the leader as close to the fish as possible. **No jerking** of the leader to break it or pull the hook free shall be permitted.
26. No one except the angler may touch his rod, reel, or line during the fight without disqualifying the catch.
27. Any fish mutilated so as to impair its fighting ability is disqualified and any fish hooked by more than one angler is disqualified.
28. When an angler has a fish approaching his bait or has a strike, the other two anglers time as the first **may not** attempt to bait that fish. They **may not** pull out of the outriggers or **drop back** from the flat line until such angler loses his bait or stops trying to catch his fish. If

the fish goes to the bait of another angler, the same rules apply to the second angler or the third angler. Immediately upon a hook-up, the boat must stop, and the other anglers must remove their baits from the water.

29. If an angler stops trying to catch a fish on the flat line because of loss of bait, etc., and a fish remains on the teaser, the right outrigger angler then has the right to bait a fish on the right teaser, and vice versa. If the boat is using only one teaser, either outrigger angler has the option to bait the fish, with no priority as to which shall bait first.
30. Appropriate time limits for fighting a fish after hook-up will be set by the Host Club depending on local conditions and expected species. All other fish, except billfish, must be broken off as soon as identified.
31. In the case of double or triple hook-ups, meaning two or three anglers each with a different fish, the angler with the first hook-up will control the boat until his fish is released or lost. The second angler hooked-up then takes control of the boat for allowed amount of time, then the third angler takes control of the boat. Each angler's time allowance starts when he takes control of the boat.
32. All billfish strikes must be reported immediately to Tournament Control. An immediate report must also be made when the fish is either lost or released
33. In case of a tie between boats, teams, or anglers on points, the one who reaches the point total first will be considered the winner. A fish caught on the first day of the tournament beats a fish caught on the second day; a fish caught at 10:00 AM beats a fish caught at 10:05 AM.
34. Any angler or anglers who intentionally violate these rules may be barred, by the Board of Directors, from further participation in ILTTA.
35. Any of the above rules may be modified by the Host Club to suit local conditions and circumstances, only if such modifications are submitted and approved by the Board of Directors of ILTTA prior to the tournament.

These rules have been developed by ILTTA over three quarters of a century of release tournaments. They are designed to give all participants an equal opportunity, foster the highest standards of marine conservation, and to encourage cooperation and friendship between the anglers of our worldwide membership.