TUNA MASTERS TEOS- SPORTFISHING TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES – 2019

As most Tournaments are, this Sportfishing Tournament is for Recreational Anglers to prove themselves in a civilized and environmentally conscious way; therefore, it is all about "angling skills" and "competition ethics", and certainly not about "bagging as many as possible".

The 2007 Alaçatı Tournament was the first ever event of its kind and category in Turkey, and this fourth Tuna Masters Teos Tournament continues to be conducted on the base of both TMT and IGFA (International Game Fish Association) Saltwater Rules. The following Tournament Specific Rules have also been additionally thought and implemented so as to maintain that particular sportsmanship spirit. Local Regulations remain in vigor.

All the aforestated rules and regulations are thought and applied with the idea that all anglers are behaving as gentlemen within good sportsmanship ethics. In case they are not, those participants will be the sole responsible of those actions and might bear the effects and consequences!

- Only and strictly "**line**" fishing is allowed: hand line and/or rod & reel.
- Besides Trolling, angling techniques such as Jigging, Popping, Drifting, Chumming, are permitted and even advised during the tournament, provided they comply with the rest of the rules, line class (especially) included.
- Main line class of 80 lbs. (38 kg) and below for both PE, Braid, Monofilament, and Dacron is the main limitation. Use of lines above that limit (*0.90mm for mono nylon, 0.60mm for Dacron, 0.38mm for Braid*) is not allowed and constitutes a cause for penalty. Leader aside, the heaviest line on the reel determines the line class. Heavier line or wire-based materials are allowed only for leader purposes, and are not to exceed 12m (3m for wire) in length. So-called "Top-Shots" are considered as main line and shall not exceed 50m in length. Heavy "irregular" line at the bottom of the reel topped with "regular" line is subject to penalty as well as seizure of the gear for the duration of the tournament.
- Large Reels (above 80lbs) are not allowed on the boat, even if totally loaded with conformity (0,85/0,60/0,38mm) line.
- Multiple hook lines are permitted only for bottom fishing and only if number of hooks per line/gear is not greater than three (3). Multiple hooks on ready artificial lures (i.e. Rapala, Yo-zuri plugs etc…) are allowed for trolling.
- Any use of FADs (Fish Aggregating/Attracting Devices) of any electrical/electronic/chemical kind, other than chumming with "natural" baits or materials, is not permitted and will be penalized.
- The use of "live" bait is only permitted if fished and caught during the competition hours.
- Any use of mechanical, electric, electronic, hydraulic devices, other than regular "conventional" manual reels, to help retrieving the fish, is not allowed, and subject to penalty.
- Spreader Bars are allowed as per IGFA Rules, i.e. single hooked, or as teasers only.
- Rubber, air or spring-loaded Spear-guns and similar mechanically and/or electrically projectable Javelins are strictly forbidden, pending disqualification for both the catch and the day. Handheld harpoons can be used, provided they are not longer than 10ft (3m) overall.
- Any use of non-regular or legally not allowed means and devices such as: nets, longlines, pots, cages, umbrellas, arrows, explosives, chemicals, etc… is not permitted and will be penalized. The use of handled dip-nets and gaffs is allowed though, together with regulatory harpoons, to collect or retrieve the otherwise caught fish.
- Independently of the tackle used, and especially for hand line, the use of floating devices such as drift anchors, buoys, balloons, foam blocks, and/or sealed containers, prior or post hook-up, is strictly not permitted and will be penalized.
- Systems such as the so-called "deep drops" and consisting of dropping a bait prior to the fishing time and dates for further retrieval, are not allowed and will be penalized.
- Fishing is strictly allowed only within the previously announced, published and handed-out boundaries.
- Due to both Recreational Fishing 4/2 and Harbor Regulations, as well as Foreign Flag Legislations, and despite special permission is obtained, fishing close to shore waters is still limited. Any situation arising from conflicts with local authorities such as the Coast Guard will be at every boat's sole responsibility.
- Fishing after "lines-out" and "off-tournament" hours is strictly forbidden, including slow vessels, and definitely constitutes a reason for disqualification. Delayed arrival will be penalized by disqualification for that day only.
- **Warning**: Lines-out time is defined according to a detailed time schedule that will be distributed before the competition. If the fish is on line and tiring it will predictably not be finished before the time determined for lines out for that day, fish must be pulled on boat within **45 (forty-five) minutes** extension, and adequately weighted later. Last weighing deadline can be accordingly extended for that boat.

- This so-called **"late hook-up"** must be obligatorily reported, by radio or mobile phone, together with the boat's location, to one of the judging boats (judges) at least ½ (half) hour before the end of fishing time for that day. One of the "stand by" judges-boats will monitor the late hooking! No other fish shall be caught during that fight.
- In the event that a fish is presented to the Weight-Master as legitimate catch and is subsequently proven by the judges as not complying with the T. Rules, boat, crew, and team will be subject to disqualification from the whole tournament.
- Heavy consumption of alcohol during boating/fishing hours is not allowed and is subject to penalty. The whole team/crew can be disqualified in case of evidence.
- **Boat's responsibilities and duties**.
- ***Communication Equipment*** – All boats are to be equipped with regulatory/mandatory safety equipment. Every boat must carry a **fully operational** Marine VHF radio, as they will be expected to report to the tournament control at the appropriate call time. No excuses accepted! Technical failure must be reported to Committee a.s.a.p. Any boat with non-functioning VHF equipment will be disqualified. Communication equipment shall be operative one hour before start and will be call-tested for operation. Additionally, an optional mobile phone number will be required. Channel 11 and a mobile phone. Boats shall communicate between themselves on Ch 12 after appointment on Ch 11. Channel 11 will be dedicated to Organization, catches and emergencies only. Call-up will be at the judges' discretion and at random, starting at 07:30 hrs. Answering the calls is mandatory. Not answering the calls more than once will be considered as non-function fault and will generate a cause for penalty. In case a boat notices such an unanswered call by a neighboring boat due to technical reasons, it is requested to act as intermediary. A boat not receiving or not returning a call for over 2 hours must notify his whereabouts to the referee boat by cell phone or any other means. It is obligatory to notify a catch by providing position by area, species, and estimated weight.
- ***Boat Trackability*** is obligatory, pending disqualification. Technical failure must be reported to Committee a.s.a.p.
- ***Fishing Grounds Map and its use -*** The Fishing grounds map is a document handed to competing anglers as an indication of the area. When defining the said area, the boundaries are established based on the criteria required by the tracking system. The use of such delimited area on the chart is second to the Tournament Specific Rules. In other words, the proximity to any land, fish farm and/or coastal facility, is limited to 300m. Even if you remain within such drafted area, the said active Rules are the dominant and final ruling argument. Referees will judge any boundaries infringement of such on the basis of those Rules.
- ***All catches*** shall be communicated to the judges on the dot. If the total daily catch number exceeds or is in default of the communicated number, the exceeding and/or default numbers will not be taken into account.
- ***People on board*** – no more than 5 people, including skipper and/or captain, on boats smaller than 36 feet or 11m, no more than 4 on boats smaller than 25 feet or 7.5m. Larger boats may have extra crew on board, but with no more than 6 anglers to compete.
- ***Boat clearance*** – No fishing boat may approach closer than 250 meters to any other fishing boat, which is obviously playing a fish and is flying a large red flag. Flying the Red Fight Flag is compulsory. Fighting boat may request neighboring boat(s) to further increase such distance. A boat receiving such request is obliged to immediately comply by moving away to a good 500m; not complying will generate cause for penalty.
- ***During all competition hours,*** anchoring is strictly forbidden, except for security reasons. In case of emergency, fishing whilst anchored is not allowed. It is every boat's responsibility to otherwise maintain its position during the fishing action.
- ***During the fight***, as the possibility of the fish pulling the boat outside the allowed boundaries do exist, temporary permission might be given, provided both the referee committee as well as the other competitors are duly informed. Such situation shall be continuously monitored.
- ***Boats docking next to each other*** - Boats (except the inspecting/supervising ones) are not allowed to come closer than 200m, dock next to each other, or to go ashore on land or an island during fishing hours. Cases of emergency shall be notified to a judge prior action.
- ***Spending the night*** on the ship outside the determined harbor before and after the first AND/OR second fishing day is not allowed. In order to do so, verification of the "weighing list" in the morning of each fishing day is needed!!
- ***Paperwork*** – fishing licenses, boat papers, boat insurances, people insurances, are all the boat's owner and/or skipper's responsibilities and will all need to be in due order before and during the tournament. Marina entrance and accommodation formalities are to be done directly with the Marina administration. Nevertheless, Final and Official Registration will be effective only upon presentation of Marina Entry Registration documents.
- ***Tackle Limit*** – During the competition:
    - ***In case of Trolling:*** no more than 7 (seven) lines at the same time in the water during fishing will be allowed. Hook-less so-called "teasers" are not accounted for in that respect.
    - ***In case of chumming***, only 3 (three) rigged and baited rods are allowed to be in the water at the same time. No other tackle shall be kept on the gunwales. Nevertheless, it is permitted to simultaneously fish by jigging or popping, though with one single "other" rod only.
    - ***In case of strictly Jigging and Popping,*** 2 jigging + 2 popping for a total of 4 rods (max) are allowed. No "baited" heavier tackle is contemporarily allowed in the water during such fishing style.
- ***Boats registered for commercial fishing*** are definitely not accepted for registration.

- ***Harbor and Marina channel transiting behavior*** – Care should be taken during exit and entry from and to the marina through the harbor channel. A transiting speed of max 6 and preferably 4 kts is mandatory and will be penalized if not observed.
- ***Security*** – During the competition, health and safety at sea holds first priority. In case of any emergency, every boat bears the natural responsibility of help within its capabilities.

Angler's responsibilities and duties.

- **Attention!** All the fish from "Tuna" family must be "BLED OUT" and kept in good icy condition – otherwise they will be neither weighed nor will points be awarded for them!
- The changing of hands of the line and/or rod & reel equipment during hooking, fighting and landing of a fish, for whatsoever reason, is forbidden. After a fish is hooked, only one fisherman either in a "fighting chair" or in "stand up" style, (with or without belt) must tire the fish without assistance from others, until the leader line comes within hand reach of the assistant (member of the fishing team with four members maximum), because only then assistance is allowed!
- Gunwale fighting ("Wicked Tuna" and/or "Tuna Titans" style) is strictly forbidden and will be a cause for catch disqualification.
- Every angler is obliged to know the types of fish he catches. Presenting an unknown fish for weighing, can be subject to point penalty, besides not being counted, if proven different than claimed and/or below minimum weight.
- Competitors must, without special warning, release "alive" rare, accidentally caught amphibians, for instance, dolphins, sea rays, sea turtles, seagulls – in the case of a dilemma on a fish species, judging ship or land referee personnel must be consulted as quickly as possible to allow for eventual release!!
- **Try your utmost to release smaller Bluefin, Swordfish and Med. Spearfish, and possibly other Gamefish estimated much smaller than allowed size, "alive and unharmed", by all means!!!**

Eligible Species.

- The following species will be fished and accounted for:

	Minimum weight (over)	Points per kg
- Bluefin Tuna	28 kg	6
- Albacore Tuna	7 kg	6
- Skipjack and False Albacore	5 kg	6
- Swordfish	24 kg	10
- Mediterranean Spearfish	10 kg	12
- Dorado / Mahi-mahi	4 kg	10
- Amberjack, Leerfish	4 kg	10
- Dentex, Seabream	4 kg	10
- OTHER fish species	4 kg	10

From previous experience, the most commonly caught "other" offshore fish species are: Little Tunny, Bonito, Bullet & Frigate Tunas, Barracudas.

- IMPORTANT! In case of Bluefin Tuna, only "one fish per registered angler per day" will be allowed. Anglers may aim at larger fish and decide to release a fish if judged too small for keeping in that respect. In such a case, each "properly" released catch will be awarded points by the referee committee, based on the estimated weight derived from its tape-measured length, and if supported by proper video proof. Once all catches are duly declared and landed for submitting, no further releases will be accepted. Fishing for other species is allowed.
- The same specific criteria apply for Spearfish and Swordfish species Releases.
- All sharks, especially "Blue shark"**, will not be assigned points;** they must be released with careful taking off the hook!
- Fish submitted for weighing and resulting to weigh more than 10% below minimum allowed limit(s) will not be accepted and will be furthermore penalized by 50 points per fish. Bluefin Tuna remains at the a.m. listed limit.
- ORGANIZERS ARE SUPPORTING "CATCH & RELEASE" PRACTICES:

  Such a practice is applicable for all considered species, and a well-documented released catch (crew or certified observer/third party testimony must be supported with video, all unequivocally with date and time recorded) will be awarded extra value based on the referee committee's evaluation and decision. The use of the Official Tape Measure is mandatory in the relative recordings. Video recordings shall also be consistent as far as Reporting and Recording times are considered. Recordings shall be submitted to the judges no later than ½ hour before last weighing time. Evaluation is solely at organizer's and judges' discretion.

- ***Basic Regulation for Prizes Configuration***

- ***Regular Awards*** – First, Second and Third Prizes will go to the overall weight classifications, and to include all species, except the one specimen that will go for the largest catch category.
- The "largest" single fish of any species to be presented for the "***largest catch***" category will be accounted only once in one prize and point category only. That fish will therefore not be accounted for in the overall category.
- ***Committee Special Awards*** – If any, it is at the committee's discretion and responsibility to decide for any other awards; the main scope being to encourage, promote, and award release practices.

- Documented (date, hour, etc…) **360° Video Recording** of Catch is mandatory, from beginning through end of action, and to include angler, tackle, and fish. Catches not supported by such videos will not qualify for prizes.
- All teams are obliged to be present and participate at both the post-registration briefing and the prize ceremony, at maximum number. Participating Boats must have the Captain/Skipper and at least one angler present at the Captain's Brief/Skipper's Meeting. The whole team of the winning boats must be present at the Awards Ceremony. Lack of participation without notice can lead to point penalty or prize cancellation.
- Winning Team members are kindly requested to attend the prize ceremony wearing the Official Tournament uniform.
- Tournament duration is intended as starting from the moment the competing boats enter the marina, to the moment they leave it after the competition; and any controversial behavior and situation can constitute a cause for points cut or even disqualification.
- All fish caught during navigation to the marina or training prior the opening of the Tournament will need to be reported to the Organizing Committee but will not be honored as "tournament catch".
- Any infringement of one or more of the above Rules can result in disqualification: If fishermen from one boat break these rules, they can all be **disqualified** from the competition by the judges, **without any possibility of reclamation**, which is obligatorily accepted as a rule by all skippers and/or anglers when they sign the final registration!! A Disqualified boat will also be strictly requested to abandon the tournament mooring/docking area.
- Disqualification Clarification: Such a case is within the Committee's initiative and is usually applied if there is a catch; though in special cases (i.e. misbehavior) it can also be applied independently of a catch.
- The fish caught will not be sold and will be at competition organizer's disposal for consumption only.
- **Claims & Objections** – All eventual claims and objections are to be obligatorily accompanied with visual proof or additional witnesses. All claims shall be submitted, verbally and in written form, within and not later than half hour from the possible event. Eventual claims made at sea shall be reported immediately in verbal mode, and submitted in written form upon arrival. Claims regarding a weighing issue shall be made under the same conditions, both at catch submission as well as during the weighing. Claims made outside these conditions shall not be neither accepted nor taken into consideration.
- **Cancellation –** The dates of the Competition as well as the number of days fishing may be altered in case of bad weather or unforeseen "force majeure" circumstances:

The Tournament Committee reserves itself the right to modify, following announcement, the rules and regulations at any time; all participants are responsible for following-up such changes and updates. The Committee, at their discretion, may change the Tournament to 1 day if weather dictates, or cancel Tournament fishing days altogether. There will be no additional make-up weather days for this event as well as no refund of participation fees. If the Tournament fishing can not be conducted as planned due to inclement weather, the Dinner and Entertainment for Saturday or Sunday night will proceed regardless of whether Tournament fishing takes place or not.

In case of seriously unsuitable and risky weather conditions, the organization committee reserves itself the right, without objection, to impede the outing of boats they judge inapt and liable to create a danger risk due to their sizes, type, gear, and/or construction. No refunds of any sort will be considered. Participants with small and/or limited capability boats accept such clause with full responsibility and right from the beginning.

Competing boats shall not evidently and visibly bear any advertorial signs, brands, or logos of any kind on any topsides, gunnel, cabin, flag, banner, sail, etc…, even if sponsoring the event, and will constitute cause for disqualification as well as request to abandon the Tournament area.