



Fishing contest fraud is a crime in the state of Louisiana.

Please read and comply with these rules.

Hook & Line Regulations

- 1) All fish entered in rodeo competition must be registered and weighed at rodeo headquarters at Sand Dollar Marina on Grand Isle. All fish entered which qualify for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at any time during rodeo competition become property of the rodeo. (Waiver of the rule permitted in case of Yellowfin Tuna only.)
- 2) The registration fee is determined annually. 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 his or her name and ticket registration number.
- 3) Methods of fishing shall be casting, drift fishing, trolling, and still fishing.
- 4) Fishing waters include all Louisiana inshore and offshore territorial waters and the Gulf of Mexico.
- 5) Fishing competition during the rodeo shall begin at sunrise on Thursday, July 28, the first day of the rodeo and close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, the third day. The official weigh stations shall be open at 8:00 a.m. each day of the rodeo and will close at 8:00 p.m. each day except on the third day when they close at 6:00 p.m. and the rodeo officially ends
- 6) For purposes of determining total length, measurement of fish shall be from the outer extremity of the tip of the snout, with the fish's mouth closed, to the extreme tip of the tail fin when squeezed in a way to obtain the maximum overall length. Weights will be determined in pounds and ounces. Fish shall not be weighed except in the presence of the weighmaster and the owners' registration ticket or ticket number must be presented or the
- 7) In the event of a tie, the first fish entered places.
- 8) The rodeo weighmasters are marine biologists with many years of experience as weighmasters.
- 9) Decisions of the weighmasters are final.

10) 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).

11) Tarpon under 4.5 feet (total length) are not eligible for entry.

12) Eligible fish:

a) Big Game Division

- Tarpon (Note: over 4.5 feet)
- Dolphin (Note: over 20 pounds)
- Blue Marlin
- Blackfin Tuna
- Wahoo
- Yellowfin Tuna (Note: over 50 pounds)

b) Shoreline Division

- Barracuda
- Bluefish
- Bonito
- Cobia
- Jack Crevalle
- Grouper
- King Mackerel
- Spanish Mackerel
- Mangrove Snapper
- Spadefish
- Tripletail

c) Inside Division

- Croaker
- Gafftopsail Catfish
- Black Drum
- Flounder
- White Trout
- Redfish*
- Redfish Stringer**
- Sheepshead
- Speckled Trout

*Note: Redfish may be taken in state waters only.

** Note: Maximum of 5 fish stringer weight. No redfish greater than 27 inches total length are eligible.

13.) Awards:

- a) Awards will be given for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place fish in all categories of eligible fish except Tarpon, Blue Marlin and Big Game Tag & Release Division.
- b) Awards for Tarpon will have a total of 10 places: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Hook & Line and 1st – 5th place Tag & Release.
- c) Awards for Blue Marlin brought to the scales will have a total of two places: 1st and 2nd.
- d) Awards for Big Game Tag & Release will have a total of 5 places: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th.
- e) Awards will be presented to the best All-Around Angler in the Inshore, Shoreline and Big Game Divisions.
- f) Winners of the best All-Around Angler awards will be determined by the total number of points earned, not the number of fish entered by the angler.
 - a. 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.

- b. In the event of a tie for best All-Around Angler, the combined weight of the point winning fish will decide the winner.

14) 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 before June 1, 2000 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 a polygraph test. Louisiana requires that all anglers fishing for billfish, tunas, 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>

Tarpon Tag & Release Division

1) Objectives: The principle objectives of this division are twofold:

- a) To encourage the tagging and releasing of all tarpon considered too small to be likely winners in the weigh-in competition.
- b) To assist fishery scientists in ongoing research that will benefit all tarpon fishermen and assure the preservation of this magnificent species for generations to come.

2) Trophies and Awards

There will be five (5) trophies awarded for tarpon that are weighed in and five (5) trophies awarded in the Tarpon Tag & Release Division. Additionally, there will be one (1) trophy awarded as a special award for the first eligible tarpon (4 and ½ feet or larger) brought to the scales.

3) Team Effort:

Recognizing that Tagging and 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.

4) Captain's Honor:

Only fish tagged and release in accordance with the regular rules of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo Hook and Line Division (Rules 1 through 11 and Rule 14) 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.

5) Report Cards:

An official National Marine Fisheries Service Report Card must be submitted to the weighmasters to receive tag and release credit. However, in recognition of the difficulty of obtaining tarpon tag and release kits and reports cards, the weighmasters will accept cards provided they list the following information: Species, Date of Capture, Tagging

Location, Boat Name, Angler's Name and Address, Captain's Name and Address, Fish condition at time of Release and Bait Type.

6) Point System:

A tagged and released tarpon scores 100 points. The boat scoring the most points will be the winner of the first place trophy in this division; the boat with the second highest total points will be the winner of the second place trophy in this division; the boat with the third highest total points will be the winner of the third place trophy in this division; the boat with the fourth highest total points will be the winner of the fourth place trophy in this division; the boat with the fifth highest total points will be the winner of the fifth place trophy in this division.

IN THE EVENT OF TIE OR TIES, THE FIRST REPORT CARD(S) SUBMITTED TO THE WEIGHMASTER WILL BE THE WINNER.

7) Commendations:

The president, officers and committee members of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo wish to thank all who participated in the Tarpon Tag & Release Division. Your efforts not only promote conservation but demonstrate true sportsmanship.

Big Game Tag & Release Division

1) Eligible Fish and Points Scored:

Blue Marlin.....	500 points
White Marlin.....	200 points
Sailfish.....	150 points
Yellowfin Tuna*.....	50 points

Note*: A maximum of any two yellowfin tuna will be counted in the Tag & Release Division per angler, per day of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo. No exceptions.

2) Only fish tagged and release in accordance with the regular rules of the International Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo Hook and Line Division (Rules 1 through 11 and Rule 14) will be accepted in this division.

3) In this division, fish must be released without boating and/or gaffing. The release of unharmed fish is the priority consideration of the Big Game Tag & Release Division.

4) An official tag and release Report Card must be submitted to the weighmaster to receive tag & release points.

For Tag & Release Kits, call or write to:

National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami FL 33194
(ask for Northern Gulf kit)

5) Awards:

The Tag & Release Champion, and second and third place runners-up will be selected on the basis of total accumulated points. Awards will be presented based upon the date and time of the tag and release and not upon the date and time report cards are submitted to the weighmaster. The Rodeo will also present a Best Boat Award to the boat accumulating the highest tag and release point total within this division.

6) Objective:

In keeping with the principal objectives of this division, big game anglers are encouraged to tag and release or catch and release all billfish and tuna considered to be too small to be likely winners in the trophy competition. The Tag & Release Division is in addition to the regular Big Game Division.

Children's Division

Fishing

- 1) Competition open to all children 12 years and younger.
- 2) Registration is Free.
- 3) Participants must register fish at Registration and Merchandise Booth located under Pavilion.
- 4) Scales open Thursday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sand Dollar Weight Station (at Official Weigh Station).
- 5) Eligible fish:
 - Gafftopsail Catfish
 - Croaker
 - Channel Mullet
 - Hard Head Catfish
 - White Trout
- 6) First, second and third place trophies will be awarded to each category.
- 7) Awards will be presented under the big tent at 3:00 p.m. Saturday.

Crab Race

- 1) Free entry to children 5 through 10 years.
- 2) Date and time – Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 2:00 p.m.
- 3) Entrants will be divided into two groups
 - a. Group I. 5 through 7 years of age.
 - b. Group II. 8 through 10 years of age.
- 4) Entrants must bring their own crab. They may enter one crab in competition.
- 5) First, second, and third place trophies will be awarded to entrants in both groups.