



## **The ORIS National Big Game Fishing Tournament 2011**

### **OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 1** Only vessels registered with the Oris National Big Game Fishing Tournament Director can participate in this event.
- 2** The skipper is responsible to observe all current health / safety regulations and other regulations including notices as issued by Transport Malta and the Department of Fisheries.
- 3** The Oris Big Game Tournament Organizing committee is not responsible for any third party damages or injuries. All participants take part at their own risk.
- 4** Children 12 years and under must wear lifejackets on board the vessels taking part in the Tournament
- 5** Everything on board can be inspected by Tournament Official prior to departure and can be inspected out at sea if need arises.  
Skippers are reminded that they cannot refuse boarding by Tournament officials for the purposes of inspection and control throughout the Tournament
- 6** Officials may ask participants to open bags or empty pockets for inspection.
- 7** All vessels must carry a working VHF and also a mobile phone which number has been registered in the application form.
- 8** Channel 67 is the official Oris Tournament channel and must be kept clear and used only to communicate with support boats. For private conversation use other channels.
- 9** Mobile telephone contact is permitted at all times between participating vessels.
- 10** Each vessel will be designated an official Tournament number that **MUST** be displayed on the boat and visible to other boats at all times during the Tournament
- 11** All vessels will be identified by the designated official number, and not by the vessel name or registration number

- 12 All vessels Must fly the Oris Flag at all times.
- 13 Skippers and crew MUST wear the designated Tournament T-shirts. Skippers are obliged to wear the official Oris Tournament Cap
- 14 Vessels will only be inspected once tournament number and ORIS flag are displayed, and all crew are wearing Tournament T-Shirts
- 15 Absolutely no boat to boat physical contact is allowed. A distance of at least 10 meters should be maintained.
- 16 Transhipment of catches from boat to boat is not allowed.
- 17 The use of LIVE and/or DEAD bait is strictly prohibited at all times; attractant sprays may be used on lures/hooks.
- 18 Chumming' or 'Chunking' with live or dead bait/fish is not allowed at any time during the tournament.
- 19 Long lines are NOT PERMITTED and cannot be carried on board.
- 20 Lures intended for use with LIVE or DEAD bait are not permitted and cannot be carried on board
- 21 Only one artificial lure with hooks per line and/ or rod is permitted. All lures must be displayed. Multiple lures are permitted as long as only one lure is rigged with a hook or double or treble hook.
- 22 One or more rods and/or lines can be used at any time.
- 23 Immediately inform a Tournament Official on support boat when a Tuna (within allowed size and weight) or swordfish is caught, preferably on hook-up.
- 24 All Blue fin Tuna below 115cm must be released immediately after measuring
- 25 Having on board a Bluefin Tuna of less than 115cm leads to automatic disqualification of the vessel. All boats **must** have a measuring tape on board.
- 26 All boats must have from three to four fenders according to size of boat.
- 27 If the skipper or crew member/s suffer any serious sickness or injury inform immediately the authorities on channel 16 and then the support boat or nearby vessels.
- 28 All skippers are bound to observe directives given by Tournament Officials on land as well at sea. Any uncalled breaches of directives will cause disqualification
- 29 All Skippers are obliged to follow these rules and any other directives as issued by the Tournament Director or Tournament officials. Failure to observe these rules will lead to immediate disqualification.
- 30 The Tournament Director's decision is final in all matters.

## **Pre Tournament Briefing**

- 1** A compulsory Briefing for all skippers is to be held on the 21st of June at Angiolina Bar Birzebbuga at 7.30 p.m.
- 2** Following the briefing, skippers or their representative (member of crew) should sign the application form and pay the fee according to the crew number.
- 3** The fee is € 35 per boat up to three persons. Every additional person carries a fee of € 20.
- 4** Children under 12 years and under are free.
- 5** Once the fee is paid money is not refundable.

## **Tournament**

- 1** The Oris Big Game Fishing Tournament is due on the 26th of June 2011.
- 2** If weather conditions are unfavourable then Tournament will be postponed to the 29th June, or subsequent Sundays.
- 3** The inspection sites are Msida between Pontoon A and 'Pontoons tad Diletanti and Birzebbuga - Saint Georges Pier.
- 4** Inspection time starts at 2.30 am, latest 4 am. Inspection of boats and gear has to be carried out prior to departure.
- 5** Vessels on trailers should call at Saint George's slipway as early as possible. Following launching of vessel, Tournament Officials will perform the inspection and lead the trailer to a reserved area. Participants should follow the indications of the Tournament Official.
- 6** Participant skippers arriving by sea with their vessels should gather at a set point in Birzebbuga port which will be communicated by Tournament officials.
- 7** Within Birzebbuga Port the maximum speed of 5 knots must not be exceeded.
- 8** Following inspection, each vessel has to go to a set point indicated by Tournament official and wait for further instructions.
- 9** Vessels will be escorted by their respective support boat to the starting point out side Marsaxlokk Port.

- 10 At 5.30 am support boats will move forward with increasing speed followed by respective group of participant vessels until a 'GO' call is given by Tournament Official. Then the competition is on.
- 11 Vessels have to follow the support boats at similar speed of respective support boat. Any skipper that pulls out at higher speed than support boats, overtakes and/or zigzags before the 'GO' sign will be disqualified. Reckless dangerous driving during the Tournament will automatically cause disqualification of the vessel concerned.
- 12 Return to port at St Georges Bay original gathering position by 15.00 sharp. Arrivals after 15.00 will disqualify the vessel.**
- 13 Call Tournament Director preferably via mobile on entering port giving Tournament number. Await confirmation that message has been received. Further instruction will then be delivered for weigh in etc.
- 14 Do not call on the pier unless so ordered by Tournament Official.
- 15 If no catch, vessels can continue to home base but must inform the Tournament Director giving Tournament no. Await confirmation that message has been received.

## Clarifications / Addendum to Rules

### a **TROLLING, IS THE ONLY FISHING METHOD PERMITTED**

### b **The permissible catch is as follows:**

BLUEFIN TUNA of not less than 115cm, until quota is exhausted, and  
SWORDFISH Notify the Tournament Director of the catch immediately.  
SKIPJACK TUNA, ALONGI, PASTARDELLA, LAMPUKA

### c The competition will be filmed by Mister Fisherman and by signing the registration form you agree to participate in the filming of this program and waive any claim to the content produced. The same applies to photography.

### d Rapala style hard body lures as per factory rigging are allowed. Eg. 2 sets of hooks, or 3 in the case of split body Rapala style lures with single, double or treble hooks on each factory mount point.

### e The winner is the vessel with the **MOST AMOUNT** of permissible fish. The order of merit for vessels with the SAME amount of valid fish will be judged based on upon the total weight of each vessel's catch

The other placing's will be determined as per the above mentioned system.  
There is a separate prize for the biggest fish and biggest Alonga.

### f Registration for new boats closed on the 10th June, the final crew list will be accepted on the 21st June at the briefing, after which no additional crew may be added. Your crew numbers on the day will be checked.

### g All undersized fish **MUST** be released; please ensure you are familiar with the latest local regulations concerning minimum fish sizes.

### h Each vessel will be given a tournament reference card that also shows the latest arrival time for Inspection at St. George's Jetty. You may arrive earlier and hold in the designated area, however if you arrive late for inspection, you will need to wait until the end. It is then up to the Tournament Director to decide whether to disqualify you or allow you to be inspected depending on the reasons presented concerning your late arrival.

### i Vessel navigation lights must be as per TM/MMA regulations, in working order and switched on at all times during the early morning until after the tournament start. Failure to display a full set of working NAV lights may lead to disqualification.

### j **Cancellation / Postponement Of The Tournament**

The tournament will only be postponed if a combination of weather forecasts, show the wind speed to be a constant 11 knots+ within the tournament fishing area. Check the Malta Fishing Forum website for updates or contact us via mobile phone. The backup days will have the same timings as the 26th June.

### k The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify a boat for not following instructions given by Tournament Officials.

**Tournament Director - Dr Joe Carabott Damato**