



## **OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Only vessels registered with the Federation Amateur 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 Federation Amateur 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. Vessel navigation lights must be as per Transport Malta regulations, in working order and switched on at all times during early morning. Failure to display a full set of NAV lights may lead to disqualification.
9. Channel 67 is the official Federation Amateur Tournament channel and must be kept clear and used only to communicate with support boats. For private conversation use other channels.
10. Mobile telephone contact is permitted at all times between participating vessels.
11. Each vessel will be designated an official Tournament number that will be used to Identify boats taking part in the Tournament.
12. Skippers and crew **MUST** wear the designated Tournament T-shirts.
13. Absolutely no boat to boat physical contact is allowed. A distance of at least 10 meters should be maintained.
14. Transshipment of catches from boat to boat is not allowed.
15. The use of **LIVE** and/or **DEAD** bait is strictly prohibited at all times; attractant sprays may be used on lures/hooks.
16. Chumming' or 'Chunking' with live or dead bait/fish is not allowed.
17. Long lines are **NOT PERMITTED** and cannot be carried on board.
18. Lures intended for use with **LIVE** or **DEAD** bait are not permitted and cannot be carried on board.
19. 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. Rapala style as per factory rigging. 2 sets of hooks, or 3 in the case of split body Rapala style lures with single, double or treble hooks.
20. One or more rods and/or lines can be used at any time. **TROLLING, IS THE ONLY FISHING METHOD PERMITTED.**



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21. Immediately inform a Tournament Official or Support boat when a Tuna or Swordfish (within allowed size and weight) is caught, preferably on hook-up.
22. All Blue fin Tuna below 115cm and Swordfish less than 10 kilos in weight, must be released immediately after measuring / weighing.
23. Having on board a Blue fin Tuna of less than 115cm or a swordfish less than 10 kilos in weight, leads to automatic disqualification of the vessel. All boats **MUST** have a measuring tape on board.
24. All boats must have from three to four fenders according to size of boat.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. The permissible catch is as follows:  
**BLUEFIN TUNA of not less than 115cm, until quota is exhausted. Notify the Tournament Director of the catch immediately.**  
**SWORDFISH above 10 Kilos - NOTIFY Tournament Director of the Catch a.s.a.p.**  
**SKIPJACK TUNA**  
**ALONGI**  
**PASTARDELLA**  
**LAMPUKA**
28. Any Tuna caught cannot be commercialised. The Federation suggests that any Tuna caught is given off for charity purposes preferably to St Peter Foundation in whose aid this Tournament is being held.
29. All catches must be landed on Birzebbuga Pier. In case of Tuna and swordfish a Fisheries Official will check that catch is within permitted size/weight.
30. All undersized fish should be released; please ensure you are familiar with the latest local regulations concerning minimum fish sizes.
31. The winner is the boat with the **HIGHEST NUMBER** of permissible fish. The order of merit for teams with the SAME number of valid fish will be judged based on the total overall weight.  
The other placings will be determined as per above mentioned system.  
There is a separate prize for the biggest Alonga and biggest other fish.
32. The competition will be filmed by Mister Fisherman and that signing the registration form you agree to participate in the filming of this program and waive any claim to the content produced.
33. Registration for new boats closes on the **15<sup>th</sup> June 2012**, the final crew list will be accepted on the **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012** at the briefing, after which no additional crew may be added.
34. **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. The wave height will also be considered.  
The backup days will have the same timings as the 8<sup>th</sup> July.
35. 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012** at the **Cospicua Sports Complex** at **19:00 hrs**
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. If registration is not completed in full, you cannot participate.
3. The fee is € 30 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, no refunds will be given.

## Tournament

1. The Federation Amateur Big Game Fishing Tournament is due on the **8th of July 2012**.
2. If weather conditions are unfavourable then the Tournament will be postponed to subsequent Sundays.
3. Wind Force 4 will result in a postponement and wave height will be considered.
4. The inspection sites are Birzebbuga port - Saint Georges Pier and Gnejna.
5. Inspection time will be as per issued inspection time. Inspection of boats and gear has to be carried out prior to departure.
6. Vessels on trailers should call at Saint George's slipway as early as possible. Following launching of vessel, proceed to the holding area. You will then be called in to your inspection point at the set time. Participants should follow the indications of the Tournament Official.
7. Participant skippers arriving by sea with their vessels should gather at a set point in Birzebbuga port which will be communicated by Tournament officials.
8. Within Birzebbuga Port the maximum speed of 5 knots must not be exceeded.
9. Following inspection, each vessel has to go to a set point indicated by Tournament official and wait for further instructions.
10. Vessels will be escorted by their respective support boat to the starting point outside Marsaxlokk Port.
11. At 5.30 am support boats will move forward with increasing speed followed by respective group of participant vessels until a 'START' call is given by Tournament Official. Then the competition is on.
12. 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.
13. **Return to port at St Georges Bay original gathering position by 15.00 hrs sharp. Arrivals after 15.00 hrs will disqualify the vessel.**
14. 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.



## **Tournament**

15. Do not call on the pier unless so ordered by Tournament Official.
16. 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.

**Dr. Joe Carabott Damato**  
**Tournament Director**