

# Palm Beach Tuna Tournament Rules:

## “All Tunas” Details:

1. Teams registered to fish for “All Tunas” are eligible to fish between April 25<sup>th</sup>- May 9<sup>th</sup>. At least one team member is required to attend the captains meeting on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Stormhouse Brewing in North Palm Beach.
2. **Species eligible for the 2026 Trophy Tuna Award of \$20,000 are: Yellowfin Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna and Blackfin Tuna. The minimum weight for a tuna that qualifies for this awards payout is 40 lbs.** The single heaviest eligible tuna wins the cash prize. Bluefin Tuna eligibility/retention limits may change throughout the season. State & federal recreational fishing rules governing bag limits and licensing must be observed.

**Weekly cash prizes are offered for the 3 heaviest blackfins. Week 1: April 25th – May 1st, Week 2: May 2nd – 8th.**

3. Teams must fish in the boat/vessel registered. A WPBFC member in good standing must be present on the water/vessel while fishing/boating eligible fish. Each WPBFC member can only register one team. Boat/vessel changes are permitted at the discretion of the tournament director, if notified prior to fishing.
4. **No mutilated fish will be weighed.** A fish that is “bit” is considered a mutilated fish.
5. Eastern boundary is 25 nautical miles. Fishing in the Bahamas is prohibited. Northern Boundary is Ft. Pierce Inlet: N 27.4744  
Southern Boundary is Hillsboro Inlet: N 26.2544  
Fish must be hooked and landed/boated within the boundary.
6. **Trophy Tuna catches must be verified on video** featuring the token of authentication (distributed at tournament captains meeting). It’s the

team's responsibility to capture footage/evidence of a live/freshly caught tuna being boated, featuring the required token of authentication, and verifying they are fishing within the tournament boundaries by showcasing their location on a navigation unit onboard. Teams need to record the location of the catch (dropping pin/creating waypoint will be helpful). Failure to provide video following these guidelines will disqualify a catch. Teams are encouraged to also film location when hooked up to a potential "trophy tuna", and provide additional evidence that the fish was caught/boated for the first time within the boundary. If a fish "comes up dead" while still on hook and line, teams need to record entire final boating sequence to provide sufficient evidence of the tuna being landed for the first time within tournament boundary, without any existing holes from being gaffed previously. The Tournament Directors reserve the right, in their sole and absolute discretion, to reject any fish that does not meet the requirements of the Tournament. Any decision of the Tournament Directors to reject a fish is final. Video evidence may be used for tournament promotion and/or social media.

Blackfins caught to be weighed for weekly cash prizes also need to be verified with token of authentication.

7. All fish must be caught on rod and reel (**no electric reels**). IGFA rules do not apply. Multiple anglers are allowed to fight the same fish. The use of a rod holder to hook or fight a fish is permitted. The use of dart gaffs, harpoons, and/or lance gaffs are permitted.
8. To weigh/report a "Trophy Tuna", contact Tom Bzura @ 561-309-1397. Anglers entering fish must return to the weigh station inside Palm Beach Inlet by water in the boat they fished from. Sailfish Marina is the primary weigh station. Weigh station available daily 8am – 9pm, and subject to availability of tournament weigh master.

Weekly blackfin tuna weigh-stations available/open at Fishing Headquarters in Jupiter, Lott Brothers in North Palm Beach, Fisherman's Center in Riviera Beach and Tuppen's Marine in Lake Worth during their normal listed business hours. Weigh Station available each Saturday

during the tournament at Sailfish Marina, noon – 2pm as well. Anglers must text Tom Bzura @ 561-309-1397 to report their catches and recorded weigh-ins at area tackle shops.

No fish or anglers can be transferred between boats. All fish weighed in must be accompanied to the scale by the WPBFC member in good standing, or official tournament sponsor and be weighed in the presence of the Tournament Weigh Master. In the event of a tie (identical weights), the fish weighed in first will win the award based upon time.

9. If a Trophy Tuna is being fought before the end of day it must be reported as hooked up, and if landed successfully the following day, will still be eligible. Blackfin Tunas caught for weekly prizes can be caught at last light/evening and weighed in the next day. They will be posted on the day they were caught, not weighed.

### **Blackfin Blitz Details:**

When: Saturday, May 9th, with “lines-out” at 12 pm.

Weigh-In: Scale is open at Sailfish Marina, Noon – 2pm.

10. Teams are only eligible for 1 cash prize (Top 3 Heaviest Daily blackfin), not including optional 2-tuna payout, junior angler awards (Top 3 heaviest blackfin caught by kids age 6-12 years old). Only “All Tunas” registrants are eligible for \$10,000 tuna.
11. Optional \$100 “2 Tuna” Buy-in is Winner-Take-All Payout. The team with the heaviest 2 blackfin Tuna aggregate weight wins. A maximum of 2 fish can be entered. Payout based on the # of boats entered. 10% of payout donated back to the WPBFC.
12. Boundary: No fishing in the Bahamas (25 nautical miles east). No mutilated fish will be weighed.

Northern Boundary is Ft. Pierce Inlet: N 27.4744

Southern Boundary is Hillsboro Inlet: N 26.2544

Fish must be hooked and landed/boated within the boundary.

**Rules/Details for “All Tunas” and Blackfin Blitz:**

13. Participants are assumed to have all necessary permits, licenses and/or registrations required by law. However, it is not the responsibility of the tournament officials or directors to verify that all required permits, licenses and/or registrations are acquired by anglers participating in the tournament. Failure of a winning angler/team to have obtained any or all required permits, licenses and or registrations shall not be the basis for a protest to be filed under the General Tournament Rules, or for a fish to be disqualified.
14. The WPBFC and tournament committee will use their discretion to make judgments on any decisions pertaining to the tournament rules, and scenarios that may fall outside the specified rules outline. All decisions made by the WPBFC and tournament committee are final and will be accepted by registered Tuna Tournament participants.
15. **Polygraph:** By entering the tournament all captains, anglers and occupants of their boats voluntarily consent to submit to a polygraph examination as deemed necessary by tournament officials. All decisions of the polygraph examiner will be final. Any captain, angler or occupant of a registered boat who refuses to take a polygraph or provides untruthful answers as determined by the examiner will be disqualified from the tournament. Such a disqualification will eliminate payment or provision of any prize money, awards and/or refund of entrance fees, disqualifying and catch/entry.
16. Awards will be made payable to the WPBFC member who registers the team (no exceptions). Individuals awarded more than \$600 will be required to provide a valid taxpayer identification number or social security number and will receive an IRS form 1099 at the end of the

calendar year; a copy of such will be filed with the IRS. If a category remains vacant the prize will not be awarded.

17. It is expressly understood that all registered anglers and their companions, crew members participate in the Palm Beach Tuna Tournament at their own risk. The Participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Tournament, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, and its respective directors, employees, volunteers, agents, partners, members, and/or attorneys (collectively the "Tournament Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties. All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Palm Beach Tuna Tournament whether an individual, a corporation or other type of entity, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including, without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any boat, team or person. By registering in the Palm Beach Tuna Tournament, Participants acknowledge that they have read these Rules and the Liability Release. As a condition for the entry into the tournament, all Participants hereby agree to be bound by all the Rules, and by the Liability Release. No entry refunds.
  
18. **Protests:** Rule violation protests must be filed with the Tournament Rules Committee on the day of the tournament. Protests must be submitted in writing & be accompanied by \$500 cash (non-refundable). All decisions made by the Rules Committee are final and official.