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Rules of the Tri-State Canyon Shootout

The Tri-State Canyon Shootout (the "Tournament"), hosted by Tri-State Tournaments, LLC ("Tri-State"), shall be governed by these rules (the "Rules"). By registering for the Tournament, participants agree to be bound by the Rules, the interpretation and enforcement of which are left exclusively for the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director is final in all matters. The violation of the Rules may result in, but is not limited to, disqualification from the Tournament and/or ineligibility to participate in future tournaments hosted by Tri-State

Tackle Specification:

1. The TSCS 130lb maximum line test tournament. Line test should not exceed 130lb test as marked on the spool of line purchase or spooled on reels for competition in this event. Fish shall not be landed with more than 130 lb test.
    a. Equipment may be subject to line tests.
    b. Backing is permitted and may exceed 130lb test as long as 15ft of 130lb breaking leader is between the backing and the hook.
    c. Leader is allowed and will include any double line, wind on or other leader exceeding 130 lb test.
    d. Leaders may not exceed 30 feet or 40 feet if including double lines.
        i. Leader length measures from the knot or connection of the leader to the bottom of the bend in the hook.
2. Spreader Bars, Birds and Daisy Chains are allowed in the TSCS, but must only contain one hook.
3. Any lure, live or dead bait may only contain one hook, with the exception of trolling and casting plugs with treble or double hooks, Marlin lures with inline double rigged hooks sets, and jigs containing more than one assist hook
    a. Inline hooks sets may not be built with overlapping hooks. The bend of the first hook may not overlap the second hook.
4. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods and will be at the discretion of the Tournament Directors.
5. Harpoons are prohibited, Gaffs and Flying Gaffs are allowed. Gaffs should not exceed 9 ft and Gaff lines should not exceed 25ft
6. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs of the sportfishing industry. Commercial fishing reels, i.e. bandit reels are not permitted.
    a. Electric reels with a handle are permitted in the TSCS. The electric portion of the reel may only be used to check or retrieve baits and lures. Once a hookup

becomes evident either visually, through the bend in the rod, or drag being taken the angler must use the manual retrieve.
   b. Electric reels without a handle may only be used for the purposes of setting and retrieving teasers/dredges which do not contain any baits with hooks.
7. Greensticks may not be used/nor deployed for any reason during the fishing hours of the TSCS.
   a. Greenstick must be declared to the Tournament Committee.
   b. A tournament representative must secure any greenstick prior to the vessel leaving the breakwater for offshore fishing.
   c. Boats with green sticks that qualify for the polygraph, under the polygraph section of these rules, will be asked if they deployed their stick from its tournament secured position.

General Fishing Rules:

1. The Boundaries are from Welker Canyon to the East of Block Island, to Toms Canyon to the West of Block Island, not to exceed 165 miles from the Southwest Ledge Lighted Whistle Buoy #2 (41 6.491'N and 71 40.171' W) (the "Tournament Boundaries").
   a. It is the Captain of the vessel's responsibility to have continual knowledge of the vessel's position. If not on watch the Captain needs to be able to review the vessel's track.
2. A fish may be hooked by anyone other than the angler (Captain, mate or other registered angler) however the fishing rod must be transferred immediately to the angler after hookup. The angler, from that time on, shall fight the fish alone until boated or released.
   a. The TSCS is not a designated angler tournament. Any member of the crew can be an angler.
   b. Only the angler should advance the reel once the fish is confirmed to be hooked i.e. takes drag, bends the rod or can reasonably be assumed hooked up.
3. This is a rod and reel, hook and line tournament. The use of hand lines, rope, nets, harpoons, and any other means of fish capture other than rod and reel are strictly prohibited.
   a. Fish must be hooked, fought and landed or tagged from the same boat with no outside help.
4. All fish must be hooked during designated fishing hours.
5. The fishing of non-government (permitted) FAD or fish attracting devices is prohibited if prior knowledge of such deployed devices exists.
6. There shall be no use of aircraft of any kind, for spotting or baiting fish. Including the use of drones. Drones may only be operated within 100 yards of your vessel for the purposes of filming the vessel and its fishing spread.
7. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh would cause a fish to be disqualified. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries. Any mutilation on a fish qualifying for release points must be shown in a photograph or video.

8. Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals is not allowed.
9. Touching the main line prior to the leader in a way that aids the angler, or reduces the risk of the fish or an object breaking, chafing or harming the line is not allowed. i.e. pushing the line away from the boat, pulling the line to aid the angler. If lines are tangled they should be untangled without aiding in the advancement of the fish's mainline.
10. Once a reel is advanced or removed from the rod holder on a hooked fish the rod may not be allowed to come to rest on any object.
    a. Rods should not come to rest on the gunwale of the boat.
    b. Rods should not come to rest or be fought from a rod holder.
    c. Rods should not come to rest in any type of fighting station or battle station.
    d. Fighting Harnesses, Floating Gimbals, and Chairs with floating gimbals are all acceptable means of fighting a fish.
11. Bluefin are excluded from all largest tuna categories. Bluefin must be under 73" Curved Fork Length and qualify if caught during canyon hours as well as lay day hours.

12. All fish must be hooked and fought from a main line that is connected to the Rod/Reel and boat at all times. Methods of deep drop buoy fishing for Swordfish and Tuna do not qualify if from the bend in the hook to the mainline are not connected to the Rod/Reel and boat at all times.
13. Sonar vs Non-Sonar Categories will be defined for purposes of the Tri-State Canyon Shootout as: Sonars are built with a tube, commonly referred to as Omni sonars. The sonar deploys from the tube vs traditional sonars which have a hard mounted transducer. Hard mounted transducers are mounted in a pocket or on the hulls surface. Traditional transducers with down scanning and side scanning capabilities are permissible in the Non-Sonar Categories.

General Tournament Conduct:

1. All registered boats are responsible for state, and federal fishing regulations. Tri-State Tournaments, LLC is not responsible for checking, enforcing or disqualifying fish based on state and federal regulations with the exception of size limits. All fish that are brought to the scales must meet the state and federal regulations for retention. Any fish not meeting minimum requirements will not be eligible for competition.
2. All registered boats are presumed to have a representative at the Captains meeting. In the case they are not present it is the responsibility of the entered boat to attain any information or updates given. All entrants are held responsible for all rules and changes regardless of attendance.
3. **New For 2026:** A member of the boat's crew must declare the boat's trip by checking in and starting the overnight as a trip on ReelTime Apps. Any boat who doesn't start a trip by 9am of any fishing day will be marked as taking a Lay Day. Any issues declaring a fishing day should be reported to Kyle no later than 9am on the boats overnight day 1.
    a. Texting Kyle (Tournament Director) 860-287-2349 (Primary)
    b. Texting Kerry (Tournament Director) 860-287-2306 (Backup)

4. The official clock of the Tournament will be kept on continuous GPS time.
5. Boats are to respect fellow competitors, at all times. Reasonable distance should be kept from all boats fighting fish.
6. Tackle inspection may be required at the time of weigh-in.
7. Official radio announcements will be made over **Channel 69**.
8. Tri-State assumes no responsibility for the conduct or safety of any boats or entrants. All participants enter at their own risk.
9. Any participant whose action causes Tri-State, its officers, directors, sponsors, employees, or Tournament participants to incur legal fees, costs, or expenses shall reimburse said persons or entities for such legal fees, costs, or expenses.
10. All boats are responsible for making decisions regarding weather, and do so at their own risk.
11. If the Tournament is canceled due to any circumstance or in the instance that no qualifying fish are caught, prize money will be returned or raffled accordingly. 50% of the entry is non refundable after July 1st, 75% is non refundable after July 15th.

Fishing Hours:

1. The 2026 Tri-State Tournament July 19th through July 23rd (Fishing: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) you can choose two out of four days. You have the option of picking two consecutive days. or two separate day trips. Day trip hours are Monday 5am–10:30pm, Tuesday 5am–10:30pm, and Wednesday 5am–10:30pm Thursday 5am-4pm. If you decide to fish two consecutive days, you will be able to do it overnight. Hours of an overnight trip will be from 5 am on the first day until 4 pm on the second day. If you come in after the scales close you will be able to weigh your fish the next day.
    a. All fishing hours are based on leaving and returning to the breakwater (Sea Buoy) at New Harbor, Block Island.
    b. All** boats must leave from the breakwater of New Harbor Block Island. (**Exceptions will be made for boats leaving Old Harbor, Block Island)
2. Returning Day Trip Boats must be checked at their dock or at the Payne's Weight Station by 10:30 in New Harbor, Block Island by the end of their fishing day. Except on Thursday when Breakwater (4pm) timing applies.

Monday fishing: checked by 10:30
Tuesday fishing: checked by 10:30
Wednesday fishing: checked by 10:30
Thursday fishing: be inside breakwater by 4 PM on Thursday

Special Billfish Release & Points System Section:

1. Billfish Releases: To qualify as a caught fish, the leader must be brought to within the grasp of the mate or the end of the leader must be wound onto the rod tip. A catch report and accompanying media must be submitted for all released billfish and presented to the weighmaster during scale hours on or before the end of the boat's two designated fishing days for verification.
2. National Marine fisheries require all natural baits for Billfish be rigged with a non offset circle hook. If targeting Billfish with natural baits non offset circle hooks should be used.
3. In order to validate the integrity of video footage, video must be continuous starting with an image of a phone or GPS unit giving GPS time.

a. If a break in continuous video occurs video must be reestablished in the same manner as the original.
b. The time stamp of the digital image is the official release time and will be used to determine the winner in the event of a tie. In the event of a points tie, the first released marlin will add an additional 50 points to the tied boat's total, making them the winner. It is the first released from the 5am start on the boats fishing days
c. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to collect Billfish release video and catch report following the conclusion of weigh-in as long as the releases were declared during scale hours.
    i. ReelTime Apps points standings may be updated as video confirmation of billfish releases are confirmed.
d. Video which can't clearly identify the marlin species being released will default to 125pts

4. Anyone who submits a billfish catch report that is false will be committing a violation of tournament rules, as well as an act of fraud and will not be eligible for any tournament winnings. The Tri-State Canyon Shootout Tournament Directors have the right to use the polygraph to validate any billfish release video footage needed. This will be conducted at the Directors discretion.

Blue Marlin (Release Only) 350 pts
White Marlin (Release Only) 125 pts
Spearfish (Release Only) 125 pts
Swordfish 2 Points Per LB for 1st fish weighed or 75pts for released
2 Additional Swordfish 75 releases may be counted for released or kept fish
Big Eye Tuna 1 Point per LB, may weight 2 Fish
Yellowfin Tuna 2 Points per LB, may weigh 3 Fish
Boats may Weigh 1 of each
Albacore, Mahi, & Wahoo @ 3 Points per LB

Minimum weights to qualify for the Tri-State Canyon Shootout Trophies and Calcutta are:
Swordfish 100 lbs minimum weight to qualify
Tuna · Mahi · Wahoo have no minimum weight
(Must meet state/federal minimum size requirements)

Weigh-in:

1. All Tournament Boats must weigh fish in at the official weigh station. (**Paynes Marina**) End of the main dock.
2. **NEW for 2026:** Tri-State Tournaments will have a representative on the breakwater as boats enter New Harbor, Block Island. We will be taking pictures of the boats as they enter and we will be corresponding with the weight station. Each boat will get a number assigned for your weigh-in slot. It is important that all boats monitor CH69 so that we can confirm you have fish to weigh and we will give you your number.
3. The official weigh in hours for 2026 are 6-7 am and 12-4 pm.
4. Each boat will be allowed to pick the largest fish in each category and have that fish weighed. Should the crew not be able to determine the largest fish in a species/category, the decision will be made by the weigh master. The weigh master

reserves the right to weigh multiple fish to determine the largest. (Multiple fish may be weighed for boats entered in the most points category)

5. The weighmaster is responsible for determining the species and authenticity of fish brought to the scale. The determination of the weighmaster is final and may not be disputed.
6. All boats should receive a copy of your weight slip upon departing the weight station. The Captain of the boat is responsible for obtaining this document prior to leaving the scales.
7. After the weighmaster releases the fish, its disposal is at the discretion of the participant. Fish remains are not to be dumped inside New Harbor. Please take any remains outside the Harbor or dispose of them properly in your marina's dumpster.
8. To have a fish re-weighed, it must be done while the fish is still hanging. If a fish has been removed from the weigh station, the weight stands.
9. Determining the validity of any catch for tournament categories is at the sole discretion of the weigh master. This includes species, mutilation or other disqualifying characteristics. Weigh masters' decisions are final.
10. The weighmaster reserves the right to retain any fish that is deemed questionable. If retention is refused, the fish is automatically disqualified.
11. The weighmaster and the committee reserve the right to cut open any fish for inspection of any suspected weight altering. Insertion of weights, ice, water, etc. is not permitted.
12. Any angler or crew aboard winning boats may be subject to a lie detector test as a top money winner or in the event of a protest.

Protests:

1. Protests apply to registered tournament boats, and their crews. Protests do not apply to Tri-State Tournaments, LLC, its directors, committee or sponsors.
2. Any protests must be filed in writing and signed by the protester, and filed; with the Tournament Director by 9am on, the morning following the incident, except on the last day when the protest must be filed within 1 hour after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
3. Protests will only be accepted that pertain to boats that have competing fish.
4. Protests must include the protesting boat, the boat being protested, details of the event including time and location of the protested event.
5. Protests must be brought on specific rule violations and not personal beliefs and will be vetted based on current rules in place.
6. Members of the protesting boat, protest boat, and any witnesses providing statements may be subject to a polygraph test to determine the validity of the claims put forth.
7. Prize money may be withheld to allow for all information to be collected regarding protested events.

Polygraph Testing:

1. The top three cash prize winners will be decided and announced by the Tournament Committee.
2. The Captain of the top three cash prize winning boats agrees to submit to a polygraph examination and to abide by the conclusion thereof. Failure to pass a polygraph examination will result in disqualification. The determination of the meaning of the polygraph results will be made solely by the Tournament Director.

3. The Captain will be tested and he/she must have knowledge of the vessel position and the Rules, and have been present during the fight of the winning fish.
4. No Cash Prizes will be awarded until the Polygraph tests are completed.
5. **The polygraph examinations will be conducted by James Curtis of Liberty Hill Investigations, LLC (the "Examiner"), 197B Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, CT 06249 (860-468-0188) and the Captain is responsible for scheduling a polygraph examination to be conducted within 10 days of the conclusion of the Tournament.**
6. Prize money will be withheld until testing is completed

Prizes & Calcutta:

1. In the event of a failed polygraph examination or a protest, the Tournament Directors have the sole and exclusive responsibility to take action on the incident and rule whether any violation materially aided the angler, crew, or vessel or otherwise affected the outcome of the Tournament. Any subsequent penalty will be solely at the discretion of the Tournament Directors and shall be final.
2. Participants are responsible for obtaining and checking their Calcutta receipts any discrepancies need to be brought to the Tournament Director's attention by 9am on the first fishing day of the Tournament.
3. Prize money checks will be made payable to the person indicated on the entry form any changes in the payee or multiple payees must be authorized by the Tournament Directors.
4. All prize money will be paid in check within 30 days of the event once a completed W9 has been submitted.
5. The Reel Time Apps online scoring platform is only for entertainment purposes and does not replace official tournament records.
    a. Reel Time Apps is a third party application that is constantly updating product and service offerings. They may experience delays in updating information on the service and in our content on theirs and other web sites. The information found on the service may contain errors or inaccuracies and may not be complete or current. Products or services may be mispriced, described inaccurately, or unavailable on the service and TSCS cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information found on the service. We therefore reserve the right to change or update information and to correct errors, inaccuracies, or omissions at any time without prior notice.
6. With the expectation of the top three money winners, all tournament prizes are final after 10pm on Thursday July 23rd 2026. Following the awards ceremony any discrepancies in weights, prize calculations or tournament winnings must be brought forward prior to 10pm. No prizes are final until that time.
    a. Cash prizes and awards for the top three money winners will not be awarded or considered final until supportive polygraph tests are received from the polygraph examiner. Only at that time will the winnings be paid. In the event of a non-supportive polygraph test, prize monies will be held in escrow until the directors allow the release of the funds.
7. All Calcutta's are a 94% payout. All Tournament winnings are subject to 1099 Reporting.

Dispute Resolution:

1. Any dispute, claim or controversy arising out of or relating to the Tournament or these Rules or the breach, termination, enforcement, interpretation or validity thereof, including the determination of the scope or applicability of this agreement to arbitrate, shall be determined by arbitration in New London, CT before one arbitrator. The arbitration shall be administered by JAMS pursuant to its Streamlined Arbitration Rules and Procedures. Judgment on the Award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. This clause shall not preclude parties from seeking provisional remedies in aid of arbitration from a court of appropriate jurisdiction.
2. In any arbitration arising out of or related to the Tournament or these Rules, the arbitrator may not award any incidental, indirect or consequential damages, including damages for lost profits.
3. In any arbitration arising out of or related to the Tournament or these Rules, the arbitrator shall award to the prevailing party, if any, the costs and attorneys' fees reasonably incurred by the prevailing party in connection with the arbitration. If the arbitrator determines a party to be the prevailing party under circumstances where the prevailing party won on some but not all of the claims and counterclaims, the arbitrator may award the prevailing party an appropriate percentage of the costs and attorneys' fees reasonably incurred by the prevailing party in connection with the arbitration.
4. These Rules and the rights of those bound thereby shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Connecticut, exclusive of conflict or choice of law rules.

Indemnification:

Participants in the Tournament, on their own behalf and on behalf of their heirs, executives, administrators, assigns, and personal representatives, agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Tri-State and its affiliates, managers, directors, officers, members, employees, agents, attorneys, related entities, successors and assigns (the "Tri-State Indemnified Parties"), from and against all liabilities, claims, damages, actions, suits, demands, proceedings, costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees, and all and all associated losses, liabilities, damages, taxes, penalties or interest, suffered or incurred by any of them, arising from or related to the Tournament, except to the extent that any claims are based upon the gross negligence, willful misconduct or criminal conduct of any of the Tri-State Indemnified Parties.

Photo Release Statement:

By signing up for the Tournament It is expressly understood that all participants give permission to use photographs of themselves and their crew. I understand that these photographs may be used in print, advertising, on the internet, or in any other media that Tri-State may choose for promotional purposes.

Cash Prizes and Trophies will be paid for the following categories

First Place Largest Tuna by Weight
Second Place Tuna by Weight
Third Place Tuna by Weight

First Place Most Points Overall
Second Place Most Points Overall

First Place Largest Yellowfin by Weight
Second Place Largest Yellowfin by Weight

First Place Wahoo by Weight
Second Place Wahoo by Weight

First Place Mahi Mahi by Weight
Second Place Mahi Mahi by Weight
Third Place Mahi Mahi by Weight

First Place Albacore by Weight
Second Place Albacore by Weight
Third Place Albacore by Weight

Tri-Fish-ecta First Place by Weight
Tri-Fish-ecta Second Place by Weight
Tri-Fish-ecta Third Place by Weight