

# Burunu Boma International Sports Fishing Tournament - Rules and Regulations

## 1. Eligibility:

- The tournament is open to both amateur and professional anglers.
- Participants below 18 years of age must provide a consent letter and a copy of their identification card from their guardian.
- All participants must register before the registration deadline.
- A valid identification document is required for all competitors.

## 2. Registration & Fees:

- All participants must complete the registration process through the Burunu Boma website ([www.burunuboma.com](http://www.burunuboma.com)).
- The registration process must be completed as per the following details:

Details	Fee (USD)	Deadline
Early Bird Registration	1,350.00	15th February 2025
Normal Registration	1,500.00	01st April 2025
Late Registration	1,750.00	09th April 2025

- A registration fee is required to confirm participation.
- Each team or individual must provide a list of crew members with designation on or before **15th April 2025** along with following documentation.
- Captains documentation
- Sea worthiness/registration

## 3. Payment Terms:

- All payments must be completed before the respective registration deadline.
- Payment should be made via bank transfer to the following details:

### Bank Details:

**Bank Name:** Bank of Maldives

**Account Name:** Visit Maldives Club

**Account Number (USD):** 7730 000704 238

**Account Number (MVR):** 7730 000704 237

**SWIFT Code:** MALBMVMV

**Branch:** BML BUILDING, 11 BODUTHAKURUFAANU MAGU

- Proof of payment must be uploaded to the website during the registration process.
- Upon submission, participants will receive an acknowledgment of their application.
- Participation confirmation will be sent once payment is verified.
- Registration is non-refundable unless the tournament is canceled by the organizers, except in cases covered under **Force Majeure**.
- If payment is not received before the deadline, the organizers reserve the right to cancel participation.

#### **4. Force Majeure:**

- Visit Maldives Club shall not be held liable for any failure or delay in performance due to circumstances beyond reasonable control, including but not limited to natural disasters, wars, pandemics, strikes, civil unrest, government regulations, or any other unforeseeable event that significantly hinders the ability to execute the tournament.

#### **5. Tournament Dates and Duration:**

- Tournament will be held from 02nd May 2025 to 04th May 2025
- Fishing will begin (line drop) at 05:00 hours on 02nd May 2025 and end at 18:00 hours on 04th May 2025
- Fishing outside of these hours is strictly prohibited.

#### **6. Fishing Areas:**

- Fishing will take place exclusively in **Maldives fishing zone**.
- Participants must remain within the designated zone and should provide coordinates at all times.
- Fishing within a restricted area is strictly prohibited.

#### **7. Equipment:**

- Only sport fishing gear is permitted.
- The use of nets, traps, or any form of illegal fishing gear is strictly prohibited.
- Motorized boats are allowed, but participants must comply with local marine regulations.

#### **8. Target Species and Scoring:**

- Only the species specified by the tournament will count towards the competition score.
- A list of eligible species will be provided to participants before the tournament.
- Fish will be measured by **length**.

## 9. Catch and Release:

- Participants are encouraged to practice **catch and release** to support marine conservation.

## 10. Tournament Conduct:

- All participants must uphold the highest standards of **sportsmanship and respect** for fellow competitors.
- Any form of **cheating, prohibited substances, or unsportsmanlike behavior** will result in immediate disqualification.
- Participants must comply with the directives of tournament officials at all times.

## 11. Safety:

- All boats **must be equipped with flotation devices (life jackets)** for all participants.
- Boats must be in **good condition**, with all required safety equipment available and functioning.
- Participants are responsible for their own safety and that of their crew members.

## 12. Prizes and Awards:

- A cash prize of USD 25,000.00 or equivalent to MVR will be awarded to the **top team** based on total score.
- Additional prizes will be awarded (individual award)
- Winners will be announced during the **award ceremony on 6th May 2025**.

## 13. Disqualification:

- Violations of tournament rules, including **dishonest reporting, use of illegal equipment, or unsportsmanlike conduct**, may lead to disqualification. The tournament organizers reserve the right to disqualify participants at their sole discretion.

## 14. Liability:

- Participants are solely responsible for their **health, safety, and well-being** throughout the tournament.

- The organizers and sponsors **are not liable** for any accidents, injuries, loss of property, or other incidents during the event.

## 15. Changes to the Rules:

- The organizers reserve the right to make changes to the tournament rules and regulations.
- Any amendments will be communicated to participants in advance via Website and Email.

## 16. Environmental Considerations:

- Participants must adhere to all **environmental guidelines** set by local authorities.
- **Littering, pollution, or damage to marine habitats** will not be tolerated.

## 17. Event Schedule:

- A detailed event schedule, including **briefing sessions, rules meetings, and the award ceremony**, will be provided before the tournament begins.

## 18. Technical Terms and Conditions:

- Participants must ensure compliance with **all tournament guidelines and local laws**.
- Disputes regarding scoring or any tournament decision will be addressed by the **tournament committee**, whose decision shall be final.
- The tournament officials have the authority to enforce rules, adjust schedules, and manage unforeseen circumstances in the best interest of the event.

For any inquiries, participants may contact the tournament organizers via the Burunu Boma website or designated contact channels.

## 19. EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

### 19.1 LINE AND BACKING

- Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines can be used.
- Wire lines are prohibited.
- Backing is permitted.

- The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 5 meters (16.5 feet) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line and may not exceed 60-kilogram (130 pound) line class.

## 19.2 DOUBLE LINE

- A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.
- Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double line to the farthest end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.
- The double line shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet)

## 19.3 LEADER

- The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device, and is measured to the bend of the last hook. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited.
- The leader shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet).

## 19.4 ROD

- 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.
- The rod tip must be a minimum of 101.6 centimeters (40 inches) in length. The rod but cannot exceed 68.58 centimeters (27 inches) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved but is measured in a straight line. When the rod but is placed in a gimbal, the measurement from the center of the reel seat to the pivot point of the gimbal can be no more than 68.58 centimeters (27 inches). (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

## 19.5 REEL

- Power- driven reels are acceptable under the following situation and configuration.

a. Reels that have power accessories (e.g., electric drill attachments, motors, or other power accessories specifically designed for a reel) that can be physically removed from the reel may be used strictly for the purpose of retrieving a deployed bait or lure at depth all the way to the boat.

b. Power accessories may only be used to retrieve a bait or lure completely to the boat and are not permitted for adjusting the position of a bait or lure in the water column. Once a power accessory is attached to the reel, the bait or lure may no longer be legally used to catch a fish and the bait or lure must be retrieved all the way to the boat for manual redeployment before it may be legally used to hook or catch a fish. Power accessories may not be attached to the reel during the deployment of a bait or lure.

c. Power accessories must be physically removed from the reel before the act of or hooking or fighting a fish. Any fish that strikes a bait or lure being fished with a reel with power accessories still attached- whether or not under electric operation- will not be eligible for record consideration.

d. Electric reels that do not have removable electronic components that allow them to be completely manually driven are prohibited

- Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.
- Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time is prohibited.

## 19.6 HOOKS AND LURES

- When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 30.48 centimeters (12 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length. A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.
- Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). It is permissible to imbed or securely attach a gang hook to a lure provided that the hook becomes free swinging once the fish takes the lure. Gang hooks may not be used with live or dead baits. A photograph or sketch of the plug or lure should be submitted with record applications.
- Only one lure containing hooks may be used on a single line

## 19.7 OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Fighting chairs may not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting a fish.

- Gimbals must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.
- Gaffs (including flying gaffs), tail snares and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. In the case of tail snares, overall length is defined as the distance from the beginning of the handle to the apex of the snare when loaded. In using a flying or detachable gaff, the rope may not exceed 9.14 meters (30 feet). The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff.
- Harpoons or lances are prohibited.
- Tail ropes are limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). When fishing from a bridge, pier, or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply.
- Entangling devices, either with or without a hook, are prohibited and may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting, or landing the fish.
- Outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars and kites are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device. Spreader bars are also acceptable when used strictly as a teaser.
- Daisy chains, birds, floats and similar devices are prohibited. (teasers not included)
- A safety line may be attached to the rod, reel or harness provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

## **20. ANGLING REGULATIONS**

- From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight, and land or boat the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations.
- If a rod holder is used, once the fish is hooked, the angler must remove the rod from the rod holder as quickly as possible.
- If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.
- Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.
- When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader.
- One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.
- The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

## **21. DISQUALIFICATION ACTS**

- Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.

- The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.
- Resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish.
- Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
- Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks and halibuts) at any stage of the catch. (Chumming with or using as bait)
- Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.
- Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.
- Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.
- Intentionally foul hooking a fish.
- Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.
- Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.
- If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.
- Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off of the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.

## **22. DISQUALIFICATION SITUATIONS**

- When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.
- 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. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries. Any mutilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a report accompanying the record application.
- When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.
- When a catch violates laws or regulations governing the species or the waters where it was caught.

## **23. RELEASING GUIDELINE**

- A catch is considered officially released when:



- a) the swivel between the main line or double line hits the rod tip
  - b) the mate grabs the leader or
  - c) the wind-on leader goes through the rod tip.
- If a gaff breaks the horizontal plane of the cockpit covering boards or if the catch is removed from the water, the team has committed to a capture and the catch will not earn release points, even if it is subsequently released. To qualify as a release, the specimen must remain in the water.
  - All catches released in the tournament must be verified by video footage that clearly shows the angler, species, and release. Each team is responsible for providing their own video device and the appropriate video memory cards to record video footage that documents the releases on their boat. Video footage may be recorded on mobile phones or tablets. Each team is required to initialize their video device by showing the date and time on their GPS prior to lines in for each day of fishing. Color-coded cards will be provided for each team and must be displayed during the video of each billfish release. The color-coded card will be designated for each fishing day the night before.
  - Video documentation must clearly show the following:
    - a) The angler fighting the fish – Clear video evidence showing the angler fighting the fish.
    - b) Species verification – Clear video evidence clearly showing the fish for identification purposes.
    - c) Release verification – Clear video evidence showing on release as listed in the Catch & Release section of the tournament rules.
    - d) Day confirmation – Clear video evidence of the color-coded card for that day of fishing.

## 24. Scoring Factor

This document outlines the scoring system and proper conduct for the sportfishing tournament. The emphasis is on conservation and responsible angling practices.

## 25. Scoring System:

Points are awarded for both caught and released fish, encouraging catch and release. Catches must be documented via video evidence, including provided colored markers for verification. Measurement tapes/devices will be provided by the tournament organizers. Only fish caught within the designated tournament area and during tournament hours are eligible for scoring.

Species	Catch Limit	Score Factor	Release Point	Keep Limit	Size Limit	Notes
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Blue/Black Marlin ( <i>Makaira nigricans/Istiompax indica</i> )	No Limit	1200	250 points	2	N/A	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers.
Swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )	No Limit	1200	300 points	1	N/A	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers.
Sail Fish (Istiophorus platypterus)	3	350	0	N/A	N/A	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers.
Bigeye Tuna ( <i>Thunnus obesus</i> )	5	180	0	N/A	> 1.2m (4ft)	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers.
Yellowfin Tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )	5	150	0	N/A	> 1.2m (4ft)	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers and measurement.
Mahi-Mahi ( <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i> )	3	250	0	N/A	> 1.2m (4ft)	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers and measurement.
Wahoo ( <i>Acanthocybium solandri</i> )	3	150	0	N/A	> 1.2m (4ft)	Video evidence is mandatory, including colored markers and measurement.

**Keep Limit size = size limit**

## 26. Proper Conduct:

- Adherence to Rules:** All participants must adhere to all tournament rules and regulations.
- Sportsmanship:** Maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethical fishing practices. Respect fellow anglers and tournament officials.
- Conservation:** Practice catch and release whenever possible, especially for billfish and species with release points. Handle all fish with care to maximize survival chances.
- Video Evidence:** All catches must be documented via video, clearly showing the fish, the provided colored marker (at the beginning of the video), and the measurement (where applicable). Ensure the video is of sufficient quality for verification.
- Proper Handling:** Handle fish with care, minimizing air exposure and using wet hands or gloves. Use appropriate de-hooking tools.
- Measurement:** Accurate measurement is crucial. Use the provided measuring devices and ensure they are clearly visible in the video. For length measurements, measure from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.
- Catch and Release Procedures:** Employ best practices for catch and release: use appropriate tackle, minimize fight time, and revive fish at the side of the boat before release.
- Environmental Awareness:** Be mindful of the marine environment. Do not litter or pollute. Respect protected areas and marine life.
- Safety:** Prioritize safety. Wear appropriate gear and follow safe boating practices.
- Reporting:** Report all catches and releases to tournament officials promptly and accurately, submitting the video evidence.

11. **Disputes:** Any disputes will be resolved by the tournament committee, whose decision is final.
12. **Keep/Size Limits:** Adhere strictly to keep and size limits. Fish outside these limits will not be scored.

**Note:** These rules and scoring system are subject to change at the tournament organizer's discretion. Participants will be notified of any changes.