

RTUSA'S Un-Official Rules revised 3.3.25

- 1) Registration is by boat not by angler. Max 6 anglers per boat. You may have others onboard for filming or just passengers but you are only allowed to have 6 registered Anglers to compete. (Further explained at Captains' meeting). Captain and mate(s) are eligible anglers. Basic Entry Fee entitles teams to compete for Gift prizes (Total value: Over \$5,000) Top 5 places (Blackfin Tuna) will be awarded gift prizes. Registration is completed online at: www.reeltimeusa.com or at Captains' meeting, Thursday (March 13th) JD Outdoor Adventures in Key Largo FL.
- 2) **Optional:** Added Skill Level Entry Fee for **CASH PRIZES** are available at Captains' meeting. You must register online or at Captains' meeting for the Basic Boat Entry & pay the fee in order to enter the optional added skill levels.
- 3) The captain or team member on each boat should attend the captains' meeting, Thursday, 3.13.25, at 7:45pm SHARP & be responsible for relaying any last-minute changes to their team. A captain's bucket will be given to a member of each team & include a validation card for photo verification of every eligible species caught & a team challenge # card for your group photo before departure of your day of fishing. (Further explained at captains' meeting).
- 4) All anglers must possess a valid fishing license and follow all Federal and local laws.
- 5) Species eligible for the Blackfin Tuna challenge is the Blackfin Tuna ONLY. Species eligible for the Optional Added Skill Level Entries are: Blackfin Tuna, Mahi-Mahi, Wahoo, Kingfish & Cero Mackerel ONLY.
- 6) Each team's captain chooses 1 of 4 available fishing days: (Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday (March 14-17) to compete.
 - A) The captain representing each team must text the Director (Lenny) 609.377.0529 the morning of their 1 chosen fishing day & send a photo of entire crew displaying their "Orange Team Number Card". **To clarify:** Text before you leave your slip or before boat leaves boat ramp the day you commit to compete. You will receive a confirmation text or call from Lenny (Director).
 - B) A designated member on each team should use their cell phone to take a photo of every Blackfin Tuna, Mahi, Wahoo, Cero Mackerel or Kingfish immediately after fish has been boated with the angler holding validation card next to their fish. All photos of every fish must be texted to Lenny (Director) before weigh in.

OPTIONAL: "BUY BACK IN" ENTRY: You can register 1 additional day to compete after you have completed your 1st day of the challenge. To buy back in, you must pay another Basic Boat Entry Fee & any added skill level entries. This option is a new entry and will not be combined with any catch report from your original 1st day of challenge. This is a new entry, so you can have different anglers and a different team name.

- 7) **Lines in** 6:30 am, **Lines out** 3:30 pm. You do not have to fish the entire time frame. Any fish hooked up prior to 3:30pm deadline may be fought until caught or lost and must have a continual video from a team's cell phone filming before 3:30 pm: the "hook up," the angler fighting the fish and the fish secured in boat or lost. Fish will not qualify if video is not submitted to Lenny (Director) before your weigh-in. **Make sure you have phone charged.**
- 8) **Boundaries for fishing:** **North boundary: Ajax reef to South boundary: 490 Hump** (No crossing the EEZ to fish Bahamas, however you may fish in the Gulf Stream as long as you do not fish on the other side of the stream (east side of stream). Boats may be trailered but need to be launched between Ocean Reef & Islamorada. (Further explained at Captain's meeting)
- 9) A maximum of 6 lines may be fished at one time, Electric reels are allowed, planers & wire lines are permitted, trolling, kite fishing, chumming, jigging and live baiting are allowed. **NO SPEAR FISHING.**
- 10) Tournament channel is VHF 71, alternate 69.
- 11) Hook & hand is permitted with one pass as soon as possible.
- 12) Be sure to remove all Blackfin Tuna, Mahi-Mahi, Wahoo, Kingfish & Cero Mackerel from day(s) prior to your competition day or you will be disqualified. Your boat may be subject to a visual inspection via FaceTime or the presence of committee.
- 13) Scales open at 3:00 pm each day. Each team captain chooses a maximum of 2 Blackfin Tuna, 2 Mahi, 2 Wahoo, 2 Kingfish & 2 Cero Mackerel to bring to scales for weigh-in. A team member on each boat chooses 1 vehicle to transport all eligible species to **JD Outdoor Adventures (Key Largo) weigh-in area** no later than 6pm that same day. A staff member will confirm arrival of vehicle with fish to weigh at designated area. (Further explained at Captains' meeting.) If vehicle with fish is not at drop off area by 6pm that day, all fish will be disqualified.
- 14) In case of a tie in weight, winner will be decided by the first to weigh. Order of weigh in will be based on time of arrival **at JD Outdoor Adventures (Key Largo)**. For example, an arrival time of 5:15 pm on day 2 would beat an arrival time of 5:40 pm on day 1 assuming a tie in weight.
- 15) Only participants of tournament may submit a dispute or protest with a signed document and a \$200 fee paid to director the day of the alleged infraction. All disputes will be settled at the discretion of the committee. All decisions of the committee are final.
- 16) Rules are subjected to change & will be made official at Captains' Meeting.
- 17) Participants of this tournament enter at their own risk. Officials, committee members, sponsors and ALL persons connected directly or indirectly with the operations of this Blackfin Tuna Challenge, shall be exempt from any & all liability for loss, damage or negligence, harm or injury suffered by any participant, entrants, sportfishing vessel and equipment which may occur during the tournament. By checking box in registration, you agree to adhere to all tournament rules. The tournament director has the right to cancel the fishing challenge and reschedule if need be. The Tournament director may also decline any angler, team member or boat from competing in the event. Tournament director decision is final.
- 18) You may not compete in another tournament on the same day. (Further explained at captains' meeting)