



INTERCLUB BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

SECTION A. PARTICIPANTS

1. Rules and regulations are established by the Board of Directors of the Interclub Bluefish Tournament, Inc.
2. A representative from each club must attend at least three (3) meetings during the twelve months prior to the tournament and at least three (3) meetings during the twelve months prior to the banquet. Failure to comply with this rule disqualifies the club from the current years' tournament).
3. For identification of clubs, competing boats shall fly ribbons at least on (1) inch wide by (24) inches long attached to the boat at a point where it shall be clearly visible from all points of the compass. Failure to fly ribbon during tournament hours will disqualify that boat. Colors established are as follows: Bridgeport Boat - Red, East End - Blue, Fairfield Boat – Silver, Fayerweather - Gold, Harbor Valley - Pink, Miamogue - Yellow, Milford Striped Bass - Brown, Port 5 - Green, Pequonnock – Orange, Pootatuck - White, Stratford Boat – Purple, Valley Yacht Club – Tan.
4. Each club shall pay an entrance fee of \$50.00 presented with entry forms plus a \$20.00 fee for each entrant.
5. All personnel on participating boats must be members, as defined in accordance with their club by-laws, of participating clubs or sponsors of the tournament. Valid participants may fish for any of the Interclub Tournament participating clubs, and are not restricted to only fish for the club of which they are a member. However, all fishermen on a boat must be fishing for the same club. The Captain of the boat must fish for a club of which he/she is a member in good standing.
6. The manpower fishing fleet list for each club and the club entry fee shall be in the hands of the judges at the July general meeting of the Board of Directors. Violation of this rule disqualifies the entire club.

SECTION B. JUDGING

1. At least one judge shall be appointed from each participating club, plus 1 non-biased Chief Judge and two Assistant Judges authorized by the Board of Directors. Each judge will wear a tee shirt signifying his/her office. The Chief Judge on tournament shall assign all judges from each club duties Sunday. Judges are not allowed to fish the tournament.
2. The names of all judges must be submitted with entry forms at the July meeting.
3. All judges must be available at 11:00 am on the tournament day.
4. *At weigh-in*, no foreign material will be allowed on or in the fish & judges will clip tails of all fish.
5. The "Unofficial" Tournament results will be announced on the day of the tournament. The Official results will be posted on the Interclub Bluefish Tournament website within 24 hours of the tournament's end. Awards will be presented at the banquet announced by the Board of directors.
6. The Chief Judge, Interclub President, and a minimum of three (3) available Directors shall handle all fishing rule questions and/or disputes/protests, which must be submitted in writing no later than one (1) hour after the printed official results are distributed to each club Director.
7. The Chief Judge, Interclub President and a minimum of three (3) available Directors, will determine any weigh-in changes.
8. Any Captain will have a last opportunity to notify the Chief Judge or their club Director who shall notify the Chief Judge of any boat or crew change on tournament Sunday, prior to weigh-in times.

SECTION C. ANGLING

1. The tournament time will be from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **No chumming, snagging, netting or fishing of any kind will be allowed for a 12-hour period prior to the tournament starting time.** Boundaries: East: Faulkner's Island Light (41° 12.732' N, 072° 39.169' W) to Roanoke Point Shoal G-C"5" (41° 00.209' N, 072° 42.255' W). West: Greenwich Point N"34" (40° 59.913' N, 073° 33.883' W) (Stamford Harbor) to Rocky Point G"17" (40° 56.313' N, 073° 31.958' W) Centre Island, L.I., N.Y. Boundaries are also clarified to extend North (upstream) in the Housatonic River and upstream for all other rivers, streams and tributaries within our boundaries.
2. All participants are to return to the weighing station at Captain's Cove, by car or boat, and **be in line no earlier than noon and no later than 1:00 p.m.**
3. All fish must be caught by jigging, spincasting, trolling, bait or fly-fishing



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4. Boats may have as many personnel on board as deemed safe; however, a maximum of four lines may be actively fished at any one time.
5. No fish may be transferred between boats during the tournament on the water or at the dock, except in the case of a breakdown. Any breakdown shall be reported to the Chief Judge or any Director. There shall be no transfer to or from any non-participating boat. Violation of this rule will disqualify any and all boats involved.
6. Any personnel transferring to another boat, prior to the start of the tournament, become part of the transferred-to boat.
7. A club must enter the weigh-in with a minimum of five (5) boats to qualify for the tournament or any tournament awards, whether club, boat (skipper) or individual participant awards. The top five (5) boats from each club count for determination of the winner of the "Interclub Invitational Tournament Club Award.
8. The top three fish for each boat will be presented for weigh-in. All fish in excess of the top three are the responsibility of each captain for disposal – the Interclub Tournament will not accept any more than the top three fish.
9. All fish presented for weigh-in must have been kept as fresh as possible. Frozen fish will not be accepted at weigh-in. Any fish, determined to be frozen, will cause that boat to be subject to disqualification.
- 10. In the event there is no external outlet for the fish, all fishermen are required to take their entire catch, including the three fish weighed in for the tournament, home, or away from Captain's Cove. Any fisherman leaving, filleting or dumping fish at Captain's Cove will be banned from the Interclub Bluefish Tournament for three years. If three or more fisherman from one club leave, fillet or dump fish at Captain's Cove, their club will be banned from the Interclub Bluefish Tournaments for three years**
11. Failure of a boat to comply with the attached Weigh-In Rules, could lead to the disqualification of the boat as determined by the Interclub Board of directors.
12. Any violation of any of the rules set forth here will disqualify boat skipper & crew immediately

SECTION D. AWARDS

1. There will be six (6) awards presented as follows:
 - a. "Al Bennett Award" Overall *Heaviest Bluefish* (awarded to participant).
 - b. Second place Overall *Heaviest Bluefish* (awarded to participant).
 - c. "Skipper's Award" Overall *Largest three fish for most poundage per boat* presented to the Skipper of the winning boat along with a Mate's award.
 - d. Second place Overall *Largest three fish for the second most poundage per boat*.
 - e. "Interclub Invitational Tournament Club Award" Overall *Largest three fish for most poundage of the top five boats per club*. (A replica trophy awarded to the club.)
 - f. "Best Skipper in Club Award" for the skipper of the club boat with the *most poundage for the three largest fish per boat*. The Mate to the top boat for each club will also receive an award.

SECTION E. MISCELLANEOUS

1. A Weather Cancellation Committee will consist of representatives from three clubs placing: 1st, 7th & 13th (club names). Entrants must check-in every 2 hours between 4:30 a.m. & 7:00 a.m. on VHF 68. The inclement weather date shall be the following Sunday.
2. The club winning the InterClub Bluefish Tournament Trophy shall have the option of running the following year's tournament under the directions of the Interclub Board of Directors.
3. Seating for the Interclub banquet will be determined by order of finish in the Tournament.
4. Any Connecticut State or Federal law supersedes any rule or regulation contained herein.