



Tournament Organisation & Arrangements

Maldives Game Fishing Association (MGFA) is a non profit association, with the tournament being a vehicle to achieve the below listed goals.

The aims of holding this tournament event are to:

- a) Bring Maldives game fishing operators & resorts on to an international stage, where they can gain further exposure through international media , highlighting the great fishing opportunities & genuine friendliness that is on offer.**
- b) To unite the Maldives game fishing operators, and introduce sustainable & professional practises of the likes seen internationally.**
- c) To be a central body at local & international levels**

1. Tournament Dates: 9th – 12th November 2011

These dates have been selected due to shoulder season on resorts & to coincide with the Maldivian fisherman's calendar giving the best fishing periods. In the inaugural event, we can assess the catch rates & maybe adjust dates for the future, should it be required.

2. Location of the Event

The inaugural event will be hosted by Bandos Island , due to it's proximity to Male & facilities on offer.

3. How will it work:

Your boat will host a team of Anglers (number of Anglers per team is determined by you). Minimum number will be one person. That team will enter the tournament and fish for the awards & prizes on offer.

Your boat will start fishing on the 2nd & 3rd morning anywhere within the tournament area (see separate area map).

Anglers stay at the resort from where your boat is based i.e. your resort (so anglers are your resorts clients) . If the boat is based in Male, anglers can stay anywhere , including at Bandos, where special rates are being arranged. Accommodation & your charter rates are to be arranged with the angler.

4. How do I find Anglers?

You can find Anglers one of three ways:

- a) Through your repeat guests , sending a news letter or email informing them of this event.
- b) Through the links & enquiries we get from international anglers, to the MGFA (Maldives Game Fishing Association) website , which will also linked to your website.
- c) Direct bookings to you.

5. How much does it cost me?

The tournament is to facilitate the exposure of fishing in Maldives & the operators that offer services here. There is no fee for a boat to enter the tournament, only the Angler or team pays a fee to participate in the tournament. These fees go to run the tournament.

6. How much does it cost to enter the tournament?

We have yet to finalise the entry fee , but are anticipating that it will be US\$650 per each angler in a team, with a minimum of \$1000 for a team, if only 1 angler.

7. How much can I charge the Angler for boat charter?

You can charge the guests/ anglers any amount you wish for the event, but it is recommended that you charge similar to your normal daily rate. We will list your rates that you give to us on our website, so that guests can choose your boat from among the others based on the facilities, boat size & price. As the tournament is not a normal day charter, you may need to consider extra travel to & from Bandos island to attend briefings & presentation events.

8. What is MGFA doing to promote the Tournament?

a) This Tournament will be listed on the tournament page of the IGFA (International Game Fishing Association).

b) We are looking at placing ads in Fishing magazines promoting the tournament, and arranging editorials on fishing in Maldives.

c) Through MM&PRC (formerly MTPB), the tournament will be promoted at Trade fairs & through press releases to international media, as part of the Maldives event calendar.

9. Registration & Briefing:

You will be required to bring the Anglers, & with the captain attend the registration & briefing session , which is to be held at Bandos Island on Wednesday 9th November from 1700hrs. This will allow teams & crew to participate in the tournament briefing & an opportunity to socialise & enjoy with the other teams. This is an important part of the event, and good social activities are the highlight of any tournament.

10. Sail past of Tournament Vessels:

We are holding a compulsory Sail past of all entered vessels at 0730 on Thursday, 10th November 2011 at Male' prior to 'start fishing'.

This is to bring awareness of the event to Male & the citizens , plus also makes for good photo opportunity for future promotions.

11. Do I need to come to Bandos each day?

If a fish of required size is caught, it needs to be weighed, so then you will need to bring the fish to the weigh station prior to it closing each day. Also if you have tagged & released any billfish, you will need to bring the 'daily boat result sheet' to the judge, prior to the weigh station closing, or you will be scored with no catches.

Each strike, hook up & tag will be reported via sms to the judge, but the 'daily boat result sheet' is still required to be submitted for points to go towards individual anglers & teams.

12. Weigh Station:

The Tournament Weigh Station and Judging table will be located on Bandos Island Resort. The Sundowner bar at Bandos Island, which overlooks the weigh station, will be open to participants to meet & talk about their day, prior to returning to the resorts, ready for the next day fishing. A daily results board will also be displayed at the same location, so teams can see their current placement.

13. IGFA Fishing Rules:

The Maldives Game Fishing Challenge will follow the IGFA rules, which will be explained in an educational seminar & training session we are planning for July. A copy of the IGFA rules will be provided to all Anglers and Boat Captains at the Tournament Briefing.

14. Tournament Fishing Zone:

The northern end of Gaafaru Falhu on Male' Atoll at latitude 4 degrees 50' North to the southern end of Vattarurah on Felidhe Atoll at latitude 3 degrees 10' North and bounded on the eastern sides of Male', South Male' and Felidhe Atolls at longitude 73 degrees 55' and on the western side of the above Atolls at longitude 73 degrees 10'. See separate map.

15. Eligible Species:

We are looking to only catch & recognise the following species. Marlin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Yellowfin, Big Eye and Dog Tooth Tuna. Billfish can be tagged & released or weighed, while all tuna & wahoo are to be brought to the weigh station, as long as they meet minimum weights. Points will be earned based on varying factors, which are explained in the tournament rules.

16. Tags

Tags will be provided in the team registration packs to be used for billfish only. The Tags to be used are from Australia, as they have a more valid science benefit than other tags available on the market. Fish tagged off the west coast of Australia have been recently recaptured in Sri Lanka & India. In future we want all operators to look into Tag & Release practises for billfish.

17. Line Classes:

In the tournament we want to reward the cooperation of the Angler & Captain team, along with giving the fishing a sporting chance, so by using a line class system it enables skill over chance to succeed. The explanation of how this works will be explained during the training session in July, which will allow boats to prepare in time for the tournament.

18. Presentation Dinner:

Anglers & crew will need to join the presentation dinner on Saturday, 12th November 2011 at Bandos Island Resort to be eligible to receive trophies. Again this is to enjoy the company of like minded people, tell some tales & general have some fun , prior to returning to the respective resorts.

19. Judges:

We are following an honour system on the boats, to fish in good faith , and to self disqualify due to non compliance of IGFA rules. But the tournament judge's decision will be final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into, should any decisions be made by the Judge (including disqualification).

20. Progressive Capture and Tag & Release Reporting:

All fish tagged and/or boated must be immediately reported by mobile 'phone to the Tournament Base mobile phone number. As reports come in to Tournament Base, the Tournament Committee will relay to all Boats and Angler mobile 'phones by group SMS, so that everyone is kept updated.

21. Daily "Boat Result Sheets":

Daily "Boat Result Sheets" will be provided to all Teams at the Briefing and **must** be completed and handed in to the weigh station when presenting captured fish or tag cards for judging. A non return or late return will mean no points scored for those anglers or teams for that day.

22. Boat Safety:

It is your responsibility to ensure that all safety certificates & public insurance is current on the boat prior to the tournament. It is also the Boat Captains responsibility & final decision on whether to fish or continue fishing, due to safety or weather concerns.

23. Prizes & Awards

The tournament is a non cash tournament, so prizes & awards will be in trophies & gifts i.e. fishing equipment & holidays. A list of prizes & awards will be finalised closer to the tournament, and is dependent on sponsorship received.

24. Fish Caught

Fish caught & weighed will belong to the tournament, and if sold , proceeds will go towards a suitable local charity.

Should you have any further questions , please contact contact@mgfa.org.mv

You will soon be receiving an invite for yourself & your crew to participate in a training session in July. The agenda, location & date are yet to be finalised, but you will be notified in advance.

We are planning to bring a reputed Captain, angler & tournament organiser from Australia, who has fished for the last 50 years throughout the world, so he has a wealth of knowledge to share. Not only will it be a fun day, but a very good learning experience for all.

We would ask that you send more than one crew, if feasible, as we are fully aware of the frequent crew changes. We would like as many people to benefit & be prepared for the tournament as possible.

The Tournaments success is dependent on everyone working towards the same goals, so your participation & support is paramount.

Thank you

Tournament Committee

