



## 2012 Guy Harvey Ultimate Shark Challenge Official Rules & Regulations

*Competitive rules, elements and prizes subject to change, prior to event. Disputes and grievances that may arise are subject to review by the competition committee, whose decisions are final. Any handling of sharks deemed to be unnecessarily hazardous or harmful could result in disqualification or point deduction.*

All inquiries regarding rules and regulations: Directors@UltimateSharkChallenge.com or 941-416-1788, 941-416-5073

### ***SECTION 1 of 2: Format, Safety and Sportsmanship***

#### **Entry Fee, Cancellations and Refunds**

Full entry fee is \$950 including state sales tax. For payments made using a credit card via the online PayPal option at UltimateSharkChallenge.com, merchant and transaction fees of \$27.85 must be added for a total entry fee of \$977.85. If personal payment is made via PayPal (not a credit card), no transactions fees apply. Teams may reserve entry with a minimum deposit of \$500. Full payment required by no later than April 15, 2012. Only full payments will be accepted after this date. Cancellations made before April 15th, 2012 will be given a full refund, less any transaction or merchant fees. Cancellations made after April 15, 2012 may result in a partial refund.

#### **Maximum Number of Persons per Team and Boat**

Teams may choose the option of two people minimum or a maximum of three. A trained and certified USC Observer will be placed on board all team vessels during competition.

#### **Fishing Times and Permitted Fishing Locations**

Regulation start time for fishing on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is 7:00am. All teams must return by 4pm to the checkpoint designated by tournament directors. Tournament boundaries are open with the following exceptions. Teams may not fish within 300 yards of another team's anchored boat while they are fishing unless invited in by that team. Teams may not fish within 50 yards of another team's boat while they are fishing adrift unless invited in by that team. Fishing within 300 yards of any boat not participating in the tournament that is chumming with live or dead bait is not allowed.

#### **No Elimination**

Teams will compete through both days of competition with points from day one rolling over to day two. The team with the most cumulative points at the end of regulation fishing on day two will be the 2012 Guy Harvey Ultimate Shark Challenge Champions.

### **Late Penalties**

Teams who are not at the official check-in area at the designated time will be penalized 20 (twenty) points per minute from their total points for that day. Any team more than sixty (60) minutes late will lose all points earned that day.

### **Federal, State and Local Laws**

All anglers are required to follow all applicable Federal, State and Local regulations and laws. Any violation of such rules or USC rules may result in a disqualification from the tournament day, the entire tournament or from all USC events. Anglers must wear a USCG approved PFD during competition anytime their combustion engine is running and in gear.

### **Law Enforcement**

Teams must allow any law enforcement agency aboard their boat anytime it is requested. Any team given a citation from any law enforcement official during tournament hours may disqualify their earned points for the day. Disqualification of points shall be at the discretion of tournament directors depending on the infraction. All anglers shall, at all times, possess their boat registration, fishing license, driver's license and proof of insurance on the boat during competition hours.

### **Polygraph Testing**

All anglers are subject to a polygraph test at the discretion of the tournament directors.

### **Boats, Motors and Horsepower Regulations**

Vessels used in the tournament must meet a minimum length of 18 feet. The USC has the right to approve or disapprove any vessel for use in this competition. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment including a functional bilge pump. For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public. Anglers must use the same boat they started the tournament with for the entire tournament unless permission is granted by a tournament director to do otherwise.

### **Safety**

Safe boating will be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened USCG approved; personal floatation device (PFD) anytime the combustion engine is on and in gear. Anglers using an electric trolling motor for slow maneuvering are not required to have life jackets on. The ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.

### **Insurance**

Current liability insurance is required for each angler using his/her boat(s) in the USC. Every team must sign an affidavit stating they have current liability insurance before they can compete. Insurance must be valid for anglers and boat on tournament days.

### **Mandatory Team Meeting**

Anglers must attend the Team Meeting at the announced time and location. All anglers must sign a waiver of liability.

### **Tobacco Use**

The use of tobacco is not permitted while any angler is being photographed or filmed during any aspect of the competition or related events.

### **Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs**

Consuming alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs onboard a team's boat during competition hours will result in immediate disqualification with no exceptions.

### **On the Water Communication**

All teams must have a working cell phone and VHF radio (hand held VHF radios are permitted) on board the vessel during tournament hours to communicate with USC personnel. The use of cell phones, radios or any other electronic communication is prohibited for tournament anglers during the hours of competition for the purpose of discussing fishing with anyone not participating in the tournament.

### **Sharing of Information**

Tournament anglers may share information with each other up to and during the competition. However, no communication among tournament anglers pertaining to fishing is allowed via cell phone, VHF radio, pager or any electronic device during competition.

### **Contestants Must Remain in Boat**

All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the check-in except with the permission of a tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, a team must immediately notify a tournament director and advise them of the nature of the problem. Assistance may be given from someone outside of the tournament only after permission is given by a tournament director.

Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the check-in point, according to tournament directors' directions, will be eligible to restart and resume competition. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to contact and notify tournament directors to request assistance or a restart.

### **Sportsmanship**

All anglers are required to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation, and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to the USC, USC sponsors and the sport. Any angler displaying conduct or behavior deemed by the tournament directors or committee to be in bad taste or outside the limits of acceptable sportsmanship may receive point deductions or be disqualified from the event. The tournament committee has the right to disqualify any fish and/or team from the tournament for any un-sportsmanlike conduct or rule infraction without prior warning. Should this be necessary, there will be no refund of any entry fees paid.

## SECTION 2 of 2: Scoring, Catch & Release Procedure, Bait & Equipment

### Point Scoring System

Points are awarded based on each qualifying species caught. Score cards will be provided for the team.

*The minimum length for all qualifying species is five feet.*

Qualifying Species	Points	Likelihood of Catch
Dusky:	700	Low
Mako:	700	Low
Sand tiger:	700	Low
Tiger:	600	Medium
Hammerhead (scalloped 8'+):	550	Medium
Hammerhead (scalloped 5' - 8'):	350	Medium
Hammerhead (great 8'+):	500	High
Hammerhead (great 5' - 8'):	350	High
Bull:	300	High
Lemon:	200	High
Sandbar:	150	Medium
Blacktip (7 max per day):	100	High
Spinner (7 max per day):	100	Medium
Nurse (2 max per day):	50	High

**Bonus points are awarded for the following measurements of all qualifying species.**

Feet	Points
6 - 7	20 points
7 - 8	30 points
8 - 9	40 points
9 - 10	50 points
10 +	100 points

### **Additional bonus Points:**

- The team with the first recorded and reported qualifying species (5 feet +) caught on each day will be awarded 100 bonus points. In the event of a tie, both teams will earn the bonus points.
- The team that catches and tags the most qualifying sharks each day will be awarded 100 bonus points. In the event of a tie, both teams will earn the bonus points.
- The team that catches and tags the largest shark each day will be awarded 100 bonus points. In the event of a tie, both teams tied will earn the bonus points.

*NOTE: To receive eligible bonus points, qualifying sharks must meet or exceed the hash mark (for each foot) located on the measuring device. Agree on a final measurement when the shark is at the straightest possible angle in alignment with the measuring device.*

### **Tournament-Qualifying Catch and Release Procedure (The Pit Stop) is Defined as:**

- Reporting hook up to tournament command
- Bringing shark to the boat in the shortest time possible
- Measuring the shark with an observer present using the provided measuring device
- A qualifying shark species of 5-foot minimum length caught with single hook and line
- Caught on tournament regulation rod
- Securing the sharks's head and tail
- Properly identifying the shark
- Properly tagging the shark
- Photographing the shark (*Observer will take photos, but additional photos are always recommended*)
- Removing tail rope and hook or cutting the leader as close to the hook as safely possible  
(*Coordinate release of head and tail*)
- Releasing the shark
- Proper documentation of data on provided score cards
- Assisting Observer with proper documentation of data on provided capture sheets
- Reporting shark species and length to tournament command

### **Bait**

The use of tarpon, sharks or mammal flesh for bait or chum is prohibited. Otherwise, bait or chum that is considered legally acceptable is allowed. Live or dead bait is permitted, according to state and federal laws regarding species allowed. Anglers are only permitted to buy bait or chum prior to the start of each tournament day. No purchasing of bait during tournament hours is allowed. During tournament hours teams must catch their own bait with no assistance from any other angler outside of the tournament.

### **Tackle & Equipment**

No spinning reels are permitted to catch any shark during the competition. Only conventional reels may be used. All reels used to catch any shark during the competition must have a minimum of 80lb mainline (braid or mono at team's discretion). Any rod and reel combo meeting these requirements will be deemed a "Tournament Rod". Leader length and size is at the team's discretion. Single, non stainless steel, inline circle hooks are the only hooks allowed to be used during the competition. No treble or J hooks are allowed. Teams can deploy no more than three Tournament Rods per boat at any given time.

Other non-Tournament Rods (i.e. bait rods) may be used. However, any shark caught on this tackle will not be awarded points. Foul hooked sharks shall not be awarded points. A foul hooked shark is defined as "any shark that is hooked anywhere outside the mouth". Any breakaway system used in conjunction with lead is not permitted. Any balloons and/or floats used must be affixed to the mainline or leader to prevent balloon or float from breaking off. Pointed gaffs are not permitted to be used on any shark being landed or caught by anglers.

### **Additional Equipment and Required Procedures**

All sharks brought to the boat for documentation; tagging and measurement must first be secured at the tail and head. It is recommended that teams use the AFTCO tail snare to control, direct and secure the sharks. Teams must also have a tail rope on board with a minimum length of 15 feet. Most dock lines will serve this purpose.

Under no circumstance, is a tail rope or snare device to be applied anywhere in front of a shark's dorsal fin. Failure to safely secure any shark may result in no points awarded for that catch. Each team must also have a blunt tip (non-pointed) gaff or similar hook device onboard their vessel to be used in controlling, directing and securing the shark's head.

This is also helpful, in the event the mainline or leader breaks off after a shark's tail is secured. A blunt tip gaff is defined as any gaff-like device without a sharp or pointed end that can cause unnecessary injury to a shark. Docking hooks or conventional gaffs with their points filed down or wrapped with a sufficient amount of plastic tubing, cork and/or electrical tape are some convenient substitutes for pointed gaffs. Any such device must not exceed two inches in length (not including the handle), and can only be used in the mouth or jaw area of a shark, and never in the area of the eyes, gills or gullet. Point deductions and/or disqualification may result if these rules are not strictly adhered to.

### **Observers**

A trained USC Observer will be placed on board each team's vessel. Their role is to assist the tournament directors and anglers in the accurate identification of shark species, total length measurement, proper tagging, documentation and release procedures and adherence to the rules. Observers are not permitted to assist the team in any way with fishing for and/or catching a shark. Once a shark is legally caught (secured by the head and tail), an observer is then allowed to assist the team with identifying, tagging, measuring and releasing the shark. An observer must be requested to do so by a team member before he/she can assist in anyway.

### **Measurements**

All qualifying species require a 5-foot minimum length to receive points. Teams are required to measure all fish with an observer present. Measurements must be witnessed by the tournament appointed observer and confirmed by same. Any measurement not verified by an observer, will not be awarded points for that catch. Measurements are taken by the teams with provided measuring devices. Points are awarded incrementally, as noted above. Failure to do so will result in no points awarded for that catch. Teams must keep every shark's head pointed into the current at all times during the documentation and release procedure and must also avoid holding the shark vertical in the water for any length of time. Under no circumstances is a shark to be completely removed from the water.

### **Tagging, Documentation and Reporting of Sharks**

Teams are required to radio in all hookups to tournament command, and to report the species, as soon as it can be identified during its time on the line. Any captured species of shark (qualifying or not) is required to be properly identified and documented by each team's assigned Observer. However, it is only qualifying species that must be conventionally tagged by each team and documented on their score card. Stainless steel dart tags will be utilized in this competition. Training of anglers and observers in the proper tournament catch and release procedure will be provided by tournament personnel, prior to competition. All tags and related equipment including tag needles and pole will be provided.

At any time during competition, certain sharks may be designated by research personnel as appropriate specimens for satellite tracking tags. In these cases, a research intercept vessel will be dispatched to the location by tournament command. During this time and after a fish is brought to boat side by the team, secured at the head and tail, conventionally tagged and measured for points, it will then be handed off by the team to researchers on the research intercept vessel, who will then place the satellite tag, further document and release the animal. Any measurements taken by the research team of a shark will be the official length used for determining any bonus points.

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