

**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. Entrants must register by 7:00 PM on Friday, August 23, 2024 at [www.cobiatournament.com](http://www.cobiatournament.com). Last minute entries will be accepted at the discretion of the Rules Committee.

2. Entry fees will be \$395.00 for both days or \$225 for a single day.

3. The **MANDATORY** Captain's Meeting will be held on Friday, August 23, 2024 at the Solomons Yachting Center from 5:30-8:30 PM. If the Captain is unable to attend, he or she may send a crew member in his/her place. Registration Tickets (emailed upon registration completion) must be presented upon entry to the Captain's Meeting. The Ticket will be scanned and Captain Packages will be presented.

4. Each boat will prominently display a placard (issued by the rules committee and included in the Captain Packages). This placard must be displayed at all times during the tournament.

5. Tournament will be two days: Saturday- August 24th & Sunday - August 25th, 2024. Participants shall monitor VHF channel 72. Any cancellations will also be posted on the Tournament Facebook: @cobiatournament

6. Any boat may be boarded by tournament representatives for a thorough inspection of fish boxes, bilges, containers and compartments at any time.

7. At no time after the start of the tournament is any boat permitted to approach another boat, structure or land. Verified emergencies may be excused from this rule. A charter boat may exchange fishing parties as long as the captain gets approval by tournament officials at Solomons Yachting Center. Otherwise, if this rule is broken, the entrant will be disqualified and the entry forfeited.

8. Weigh Station is at Solomons Yachting Center (Solomons Island, MD). Recorded weights at the time of measurement are final. Fish must be weighed in by 5:00 PM SHARP each day! If you are standing in line, your fish will be weighed. If you are approaching the fuel pier and not in line, your fish will not be weighed. You are only allowed to check in 2 cobia per boat per day. Cobia must be a minimum of 40" to be eligible for weigh-in. Scales open at noon each day.

9. No lines in the water before 6:00 AM each day.

10. Boundaries: Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay (no tributaries). Boundaries are subject to enforcement by committee boats, aerial surveillance and fellow participants. Out of bounds will result in disqualification without refund.

11. All fish entered in this tournament must be caught by hook & line.

12. Upon return to port, each boat must go to the weigh station first, verified emergencies may be excused from this rule.

13. All fish entered will be subject to such examination, externally and internally, as the judges deem necessary. Judges reserve the right to delay any award should the fish go to a laboratory for extensive testing to determine the legality of the fish. **In case of fraud, the entrant will be subject to prosecution.** All persons on any boat registering a fish will be subject to a lie detector test if the judges deem necessary or protest is filed. All protests shall be made in writing to the judges no later than one hour after the last fish has been weighed. Challenges shall not be considered without a proper protest being filed. Any fish entered in the tournament is subject to disqualification if the judges decide it bears suspicious marks or characteristics. All decisions by the judges are final.

**COBIA PRIZES (BY WEIGHT)****GRAND PRIZE \$5,000****DAILY PRIZES**

Place	Saturday	Sunday
1.	\$1000	\$1000
2.	\$500	\$500
3.	\$250	\$250
<b>Bluefish - 3 Fish Stringer</b>		<b>Spanish Mackerel - 3</b>
<b>Overall</b>		<b>Fish Stringer Overall</b>
<b>\$750</b>		<b>\$750</b>

14. An individual fish may only win 1(one) prize in the main Tournament. **ALL prizes are by weight!**

15. No refunds. Any prizes without a qualifying fish will not be paid out.

16. All communications between judges and fishermen will be monitored on VHF channel 72.

17. Entry fee must accompany application. Payment required online upon completion of application form. Register/pay online at: [www.cobiatournament.com](http://www.cobiatournament.com)

18. **As participants in this year's PRO-AM Cobia Tournament to be held in Solomons, knowing the risks and dangers involved in such activities and any unanticipated dangers that may develop, you agree to hold harmless and discharge the sponsor, namely the Chesapeake Bay Pro-Am Cobia Tournament, Solomons Yachting Center, and all event sponsors, their assigns, lessees, agents, employees and directors, from any and all damages, demands, actions, cost and/or expenses by or on behalf arising out of personal injury, property damage and or accidents incurred by participants engaged in the Chesapeake Bay Pro-Am Cobia Tournament.**

19. *Our entrants are strongly encouraged to release all fish not eligible for the tournament or which they do not want for personal consumption. Please help conserve our precious resource. All Cobia must be at least 40" in order to be eligible for weigh-in.*

20. By registering to participate in the tournament, all persons consent to the use without payment or restrictions, of any photographs and his or her name in which the captain, crew and/or boat appear for any purposes whatsoever.

21. **Tournament Within Tournament:** Prize money increases and decreases proportionately to the number of boats entered. To be eligible, boats must be entered in the Main Tournament and abide by all Tournament Rules. Winners are determined by the heaviest cobia (by weight), during the Main Tournament by those entering the Tournament Within Tournament. Ten percent (10%) of the proceeds will go towards Chesapeake Bay Pro-Am Cobia Tournament activities. Participation in the Tournament Within Tournament is optional. Entrants in the Tournament Within Tournament may participate in any one or multiple levels: Cobia \$500, \$200, (1st=50%, 2nd=25%, 3rd=15%) & Winner Take All \$250 (90%). \$200 Bluefish Winner Take All 3 fish stringer(by weight). Combined Stringer Winner Take All \$250 (90%) (upto 2 cobia plus upto 3 bluefish plus upto 3 Spanish mackerel stringer by combined total weight).

**NO REFUNDS.** Any prizes without a qualifying fish will not be paid out.