



MERCURY

TOMA EL MANDO.*



WESTERN

Caribbean

BILLFISH CUP

MAY 1-2, 2021



Corona®



WESTERN CARIBBEAN BILLFISH CUP

is a tournament, intended to unite and incentivize sportfishing competition among fishermen in our surrounding waters. In this tournament, the goal is to facilitate the participation of everyone through a virtual registration process and simplified rules, which allow fishermen to fish from their home port or any other port of their choice located within the Western Caribbean boundaries.

REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEE

All participating boats must go online to www.wcbillfishcup.com, follow the registration steps and continue to the online payment process. The entry fee for this year's event will be set at **US \$450.00**. All teams need to be registered with their paid inscription in full no later than **Friday, 30th of April at 6:00pm**. After the established deadline, no more boats will be allowed to enter the tournament without any exceptions.

Once your boat is registered, you will receive an email containing two art files which will be used as a release verification tool. You will need to print both files, store them securely and have them ready to write down the days official code-number, which will be randomly selected before fishing hours of Day 1 and 2.

Note that all participating boats are responsible for having their permits, licenses and registration in order with the local authorities.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*1 Please be sure to have cellphone signal at this time. Video of random code selection will be posted on WhatsApp chat and WCBC Instagram live feed.

*2 All videos must be uploaded in CAPTAPP and to the tournaments official Dropbox link. Please read carefully point #7 (Filming Instructions) and #8 (Video Uploads) in the Tournaments Rules & Regulations for more information on the correct procedure.

Friday, April 30, 2021

Virtual Captains Meeting

7:00 pm | A Zoom link will be provided to all registered emails and via WhatsApp to the "WCBILLFISH CUP" group with all registered cellphones.

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Day of Fishing

4:50 pm | Random selection of the official code for DAY 1.*1
5:00 am | Lines in (fishing begins)
5:00 pm | Lines out (fishing ends)
7:00 pm | Video upload deadline*2

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Day of Fishing

4:50 pm | Random selection of the official code for DAY 2.*1
5:00 am | Lines in (fishing begins)
5:00 pm | Lines out (fishing ends)
7:00 pm | Video upload deadline*2
8:00 pm | Virtual award ceremony

BILLFISH POINTS & PRIZES

Blue Marlin (500 Billfish Points), **White Marlin and Spearfish** (300 Billfish Points), **Sailfish** (200 Billfish Points) are the only species that qualify for this tournament. The Billfish Division winner is defined by the sum of points awarded for the official release of one or more properly recorded and reported Billfish species. Please be sure to read and comply to all details listed in the rules and regulations. **Fail to comply with all filming and video upload instructions will result in the released billfish to be disqualified.**

Of the total cash collected from the inscriptions, 20% will be set aside for charity purposes and 80% will go to tournaments Jackpot. Therefore, the prizes up for grab will be distributed in the following form:

- **1st PLACE:**
The boat that reaches the highest accumulation of billfish points first will get 50% of the total jackpot collected, plus prizes.
- **2nd PLACE:**
The boat with the second highest accumulation of billfish points will get 30% of the total jackpot collected, plus prizes.
- **3rd PLACE:**
The boat with the third highest accumulation of billfish points will get 20% of the total jackpot collected, plus prizes.



RULES & REGULATIONS

1. ACCEPTANCE OF RULES & REGULATIONS

By registering in the Western Caribbean Billfish Cup, all participants accept and agree to the following

- a) Accept all the rules established by tournament officials.
- b) Accept all decisions made by the Tournament Committee as final. The Tournament Committee is not liable for any type of accidents, damages and/or loss of life, boats and equipment during the event.
- c) It is the sole responsibility of participating anglers, captains and crews to know and comply with the Western Caribbean Billfish Cup rules.
- d) Anglers and boat captains must attend the scheduled Captain's Meeting. If they don't attend, they automatically accept and agree to be bound to any change to the rules given at the meeting.

2. TOURNAMENT START & OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

All participating boats are authorized to fish from their home port or any other port of their choice within the **Western Caribbean**.

Because the fishing will be taking place in numerous regions of Honduras and Belize, the official channels to communicate your hook ups and releases will be:

- **"WCBillfish Cup 2021"** WhatsApp group.
- Tournaments Base cellphone / WhatsApp **+(504) 9971-1738**
- **Channel 63 International Frequency** for boats in the Gulf of Honduras (Puerto Cortes, Omoa, Punta Sal in Honduras and lower zapodilla keys all the way up to south of Glovers Reef in Belize.)

3. EXTENDED FIGHTING TIME (Applies only for Day 1)

If there is a need to extend the fighting time due to a late hook up, then the participating boat must communicate with the base reporting the hookup before 5:00 PM and must be granted the extension by the tournaments' base. This is the only case in which a video can be uploaded after 7:00 pm, but no later than 11:59 pm of that same day. This extension does not apply for the final day of fishing.

4. FISHING RULES

- A. Only fish caught on rod and reel, trolling or drifting, will qualify. Anchoring will not be permitted.
- B. Artificial and natural baits are allowed. Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory when using live bait.
- C. The line to be used shall not exceed 80 lbs of resistance. The "Top Shot" method is allowed. Wire is not allowed except in the leader.
- D. The use of firearms, explosive devices, harpoons and electric reels for catching fish shall not be permitted.
- E. If a captain can't be present in a competition (due to illness or travel), he may use a brother, son (over 17 years old), fishing partner or friend to represent him or the boat that was being captained under his name.
- F. No holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish.
- G. From the time the angler has full control of the rod (in the chair or with the rod in the rod-belt), until the fish is either landed or released, NO person other than the angler is permitted to touch any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device.



If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, floatline, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.

- H. Resting the rod in a rod holder or on the gunwale while fighting the fish is not permitted.
- I. The Western Caribbean Billfish Cup is a 100% Catch and Release sportfishing event. Any boat that decides to sacrifice a Billfish species will be automatically disqualified from the tournament.
- J. Half Mile common courtesy rule during hook up is in effect. If a boat is fighting a fish, other boats must respect that boats boundaries and give way if needed. If the common courtesy rule is broken the offending vessel is subject to penalty and/or disqualification by the judges.

All IGFA rules apply to this tournament with the following exceptions:

- a) Daisy chains and squid chains are allowed in front of the lures
- b) Bird teaser/Boone birds or similar are allowed in front of the lures
- c) Flippy floppys are only allowed as teasers.

5. REPORTING HOOK UPS & RELEASES

All hook ups and releases must be reported to the tournaments base through any of its official channels, informing the boat name and the time of the hook up and release. **The time recorded by the tournaments base is the official time of release. It is the sole responsibility of the boat crew to make sure that the base has received hookup and release time information.**

Since the fishing will be taking place in numerous regions of Honduras and Belize, the official channels to communicate your hook ups and releases will be:

- **“WCBillfish Cup 2021”** is the official WhatsApp group.
- Tournaments base cellphone / WhatsApp
+(504) 9971-1738
- **Channel 63 International Frequency** for boats in the Gulf of Honduras (Puerto Cortes, Omoa, Punta Sal in Honduras and lower Zapodilla keys all the way up to south of Glovers Reef in Belize.)
- In some other areas where you can't use any of the three channels above, you may also use your radio to reach people that have cellphone signal and ask them to report the fish to any of the official channels above. **All registered cellphones will be marked as Group Admins in the WhatsApp group to facilitate adding other members they find necessary incorporating to the group for these purposes.**

If your team will be fishing in an area where you can't use any of the 4 means of communication depicted above, **we strongly encourage you to take a satellite phone or a messaging device** such as inReach, Spotx or similar to report your ime. Remember, all hook ups and releases must be reported immediately. The release time is recorded by exact hour and minute. The time recorded by the tournaments base is the official time of the release, Failure to comply with this can result in a team losing their position at the leaderboard.

6. CAPT APP

The Capt. App is a smartphone seamless integration application designed to facilitate sportfishing team statistics, logging, tournament creation and its organization as well as private fishing clubs data management. The app works offshore and outside of any cellphone signal and stores the official release video info in a proprietary camera file as well as your device library.



This proprietary camera avoids the possibility of the release times being modified, making these video requirements much transparent for every participating team and much easier to validate for the tournament judges. Based on the format of this tournament, the use of the Capt. App by all participating teams will give certainty of the full transparency of each team's releases and their times.

All boats will have to download the Capt. App in their smartphones and use it as one of the two validation videos needed in this tournament; information that will be explained in further detail in point #7. We recommend that all participating boats get acquainted with how the app functions before the tournament starts. A sample video with step by step instructions on how to use the Capt. App will be posted on WCBC Instagram account and website, it will be also sent via WhatsApp group.

7. FLAG & FILMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RELEASE VALIDATIONS

All boats must have the **Capt. App** application downloaded on their smartphones as well as a High Definition Video Camera in order to participate in the Western Caribbean Billfish Cup. Take into account that you won't be able to comply with both required videos using one same device, **this means that you will need at least one separate smartphone and another video camera for the High Definition videos.** Photos will not be accepted as evidence.

After your boat has been registered, you will receive an email containing two art files which will be used as a release verification tool (flag). You will need to print both files, store them securely and have them ready to write down the official code-number, which will be randomly selected before fishing hours of Day 1 and 2. For validation purposes, we strongly suggest using a black or blue marker to write down the days official code-number.

A release is considered official when the leader's tip touches the tip of the rod, or when the captain or a crew member touches the leader with his or her hands. To validate and confirm the points on the billfish you are releasing, you will need to comply with the following :

1. A video taken and uploaded on the Capt App, which will be the official video for judging purposes of that particular release.
2. A High Definition video taken on another video camera and uploaded on the tournaments official Dropbox link. This video will serve as backup evidence in case there are

any issues with the official video. This video will only be accepted if its uploaded by the upload deadline.

Both videos must contain the following aspects:

- A. The fisherman and crew registered under the boat that is fighting/releasing the fish.
- B. A shot of the boats **zoomed-out chart plotter screen, clearly depicting the vessels GPS position** is within the Western Caribbean boundaries.
- C. The days printed flag with the specific code clearly highlighted. It is very important that the flag is clearly displayed at the time of the release. **If the video does not CLEARLY show the flag with the days number and code, the fish will be disqualified.**
- D. The Billfish next to the boat, clearly identifying if the billfish species is a Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Spearfish or Sailfish. If the species cannot be properly identified, the boat will be awarded the points based on the criteria of the committee and tournament judges. If the video shows the leader in hand but cannot be identified if the specimen is truly a species of Billfish, there will be no points awarded for the release. To avoid this last issue, we strongly suggest using a second underwater camera as backup, which most of the



time, if filmed correctly, its shots validate a billfish species that are not clearly shown in the main camera being used. Consider that in order to validate the fish in case this kind of issue presents itself, this second camera also needs to comply with all the aspects mentioned in this section.

E. The Billfish swimming freely away from the boat.

Failure to comply with any of the aspects detailed above will result in the non-distribution of the Billfish Points.

8. VIDEO UPLOADS

On the first day of fishing, all release videos should be uploaded and submitted before 7:00 pm on the Capt. App and to the tournaments official Dropbox link. Video uploaded on the Dropbox link must be full HD unedited version. NO low-resolution videos will be accepted. **Only a participating boat that has reported a hook up on the first day before 5:00 pm will be able to upload the videos past this time.** If this is the case, the participating boat will have until 11:59PM of that same day to upload the videos.

On the second day of fishing, all videos should be uploaded and submitted before 7:00pm on the Capt. App and to the tournaments official Dropbox link.

A sample video with step by step upload instructions on how to upload a video on the Capt. App and Dropbox link will be posted on WCBC Instagram account and website. It will be also sent via WhatsApp group.

9. HOW TO SUM UP BILLFISH POINTS

When a billfish is properly released, Billfish Points will be awarded using the following point structure:

SPECIES RELEASED	POINTS EARNED
Blue Marlin	500 Billfish Points
White Marlin / Spearfish	300 Billfish Points
Sailfish	200 Billfish Points

10. TIE BREAKER

If there is a tie between the Billfish Points awarded to 2 or more boats, the boat that reaches the highest amount of billfish points first wins the prize that is in dispute. This is determined by the time of their last billfish released.



11. PROTEST

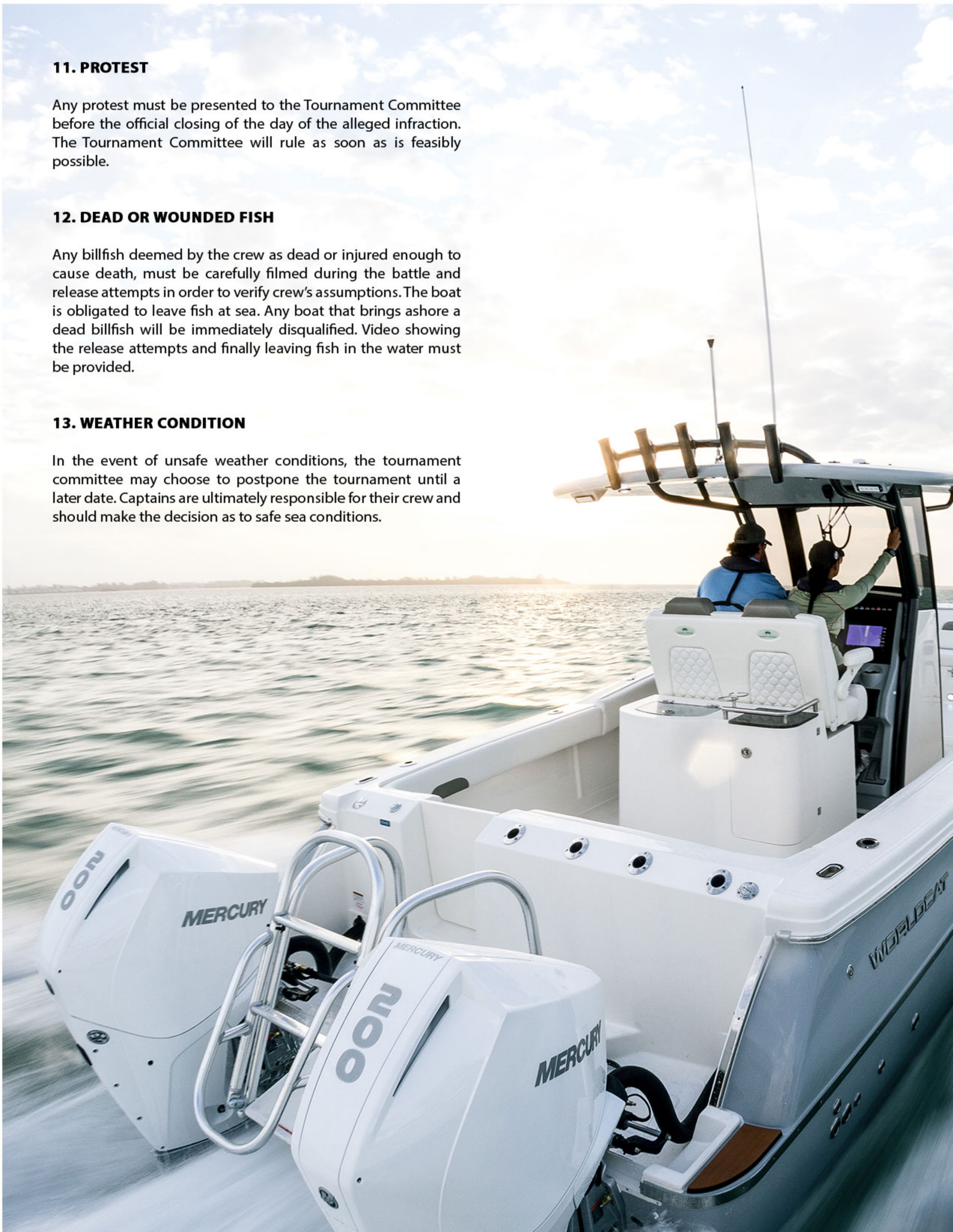
Any protest must be presented to the Tournament Committee before the official closing of the day of the alleged infraction. The Tournament Committee will rule as soon as is feasibly possible.

12. DEAD OR WOUNDED FISH

Any billfish deemed by the crew as dead or injured enough to cause death, must be carefully filmed during the battle and release attempts in order to verify crew's assumptions. The boat is obligated to leave fish at sea. Any boat that brings ashore a dead billfish will be immediately disqualified. Video showing the release attempts and finally leaving fish in the water must be provided.

13. WEATHER CONDITION

In the event of unsafe weather conditions, the tournament committee may choose to postpone the tournament until a later date. Captains are ultimately responsible for their crew and should make the decision as to safe sea conditions.





MERCURY

TOMA EL MANDO.*



WESTERN *Caribbean* BILLFISH CUP

