

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### Section I:

The overall "Rule" governing this tournament will be the full observance of good Sportsmanship practice and acceptable behaviour at all times. There are many aspects of angling that cannot be rigidly controlled through onerous rule making. All participants will be required to accept the interpretation of the Rules & Disciplinary (R & D) Committee on any query, on any aspect of this tournament.

All rules will be interpreted in the light, and within the intent, of good sportsmanship. Any participant, guest, staff or crew taking part in this tournament will be governed by all the rules of this tournament.

Unacceptable behaviour while on Club property, on any boat alongside or while engaged in fishing, as judged by the R & D Committee, may result in the disqualification, or other appropriate disciplinary action, directed at the associated Team, boat, captain or individual angler at this, or at any future, tournament. Threat of and initiation of legal proceedings will be dealt with as unacceptable behaviour.

### Section II:

1. The term 'Marlin' will refer only to Atlantic Blue Marlin.
2. The prizes awarded will be for accepted, verified Tagged & Release Marlin and qualified landed marlin LESS any incurred penalty.
3. All other fish have a separate category as listed in the Awards Section of this magazine.
4. All anglers are to be encouraged to tag and release ALL Billfish.
5. Tagging of ALL releases is required. All proper documentation of a successful "tag" must be reported at the time of release and given into Tournament Control on return from sea.
6. All Claims for a Released Marlin will be acknowledged and, if also verified by the R & D Committee, will qualify for awards as noted in the trophy listing (see Section IV for Tag and Release Rules).
7. The Minimum Qualifying Length for landed marlin, as measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail, (LJFT length), is 99 inches or 8'3" (Approx. 343 lb.), hanging.
  - A) Any marlin measuring under 99 inches must be Tagged and Released.
  - B) If a marlin is measured in under 99 inches, it will be disqualified.

In addition, the angler and boat will be penalised at the rate of:

minus TWO (- 2) Marlin if at, or under, 100 Lbs.

minus ONE (1) Marlin if weighed in above 100 and up to 200 Lbs

NO PENALTY WILL BE AWARDED IF THE MARLIN WEIGHS IN ABOVE 200 Lbs., BUT:-AT THE SAME TIME NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THAT LANDED MARLIN UNLESS IT MEASURES IN AT 99 INCHES, OR MORE (APPROX. 343 Lbs.), HANGING LENGTH.

VERIFIED RELEASES, OR A QUALIFIED, LANDED MARLIN WILL BE SCORED IN AS ONE (1) MARLIN FOR THE OVERALL TEAM SCORE AND A QUALIFIED, LANDED MARLIN WILL BE SCORED ON THEIR LANDED WEIGHT FOR THE HEAVIEST FISH CATEGORY.

EXEMPTION FROM A PENALTY WILL BE GRANTED ONLY IN THOSE CASES IN WHICH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR TOURNAMENT CONTROL ACCEPTS THAT A MARLIN ALONGSIDE IS DEAD, OR MORTALLY INJURED.

C) A fish declared dead or mutilated in order to avoid a penalty cannot later be claimed as a release.

D) A dead or dying fish should not be landed until Tournament Control's approval has been obtained. If prior approval was not obtained or if the mutilation was judged to be a direct effect of an inappropriate or deliberate action of the boat eq. Gaffing OR propeller injury, the R & D Committee reserves the right to penalise the boat &/or angler.

E) Non-offset Circle Hooks must be used for fresh or live bait fishing.

8. There is no penalty, nor minimum weight, for Sailfish, White Marlin and Spearfish, landed or released. These fish have special award categories that is based only on the time of either the landing, or on the time of their verified Tag & Release, as recorded by radio room control. There is no advantage to the landing of the fish in this category. Anglers are therefore to be encouraged to tag and release ALL these rare catches as there will be no scoring incentive to land them.

9. The minimum weight of qualifying non-billfish is 15 lbs. Barracuda and Shark (except Mako Shark) do not qualify. Non-billfish will remain the property of the boat.

10. All billfish caught become the property of the tournament, whether it was brought to the weigh station, disqualified or not. Section III -GENERAL RULES

11. All boat and angler entry fees must be paid prior to the commencement of fishing in the tournament. Allocation of berthing will be based only on the decision of the Berthing Committee and Dockmaster only.

12. A team will be designated by boat name or boat name/nickname. The team shall designate a Team Captain who will be held fully responsible for sportsmanlike conduct of his Team and crew, the tackle used and the full observance of the IGFA Rules and angling conduct of his/her team. All objections and complaints must be written and directed through the Team Captain to the R & D Committee. There is no maximum limit to the number of anglers registered or rods in use, or the number of anglers fishing on one or more days per boat.

13. All anglers must be fully registered and paid up before going to sea. Signed angler forms and releases may be left with payment, in the Tournament Control registration box each morning before proceeding to sea. Absolutely no registration will be accepted from sea.

#### Fishing Schedule

14. This is subject to change at any time by a decision of the Rules & Disciplinary committee. Reasonable notice will be given to the anglers of such variation. Acts of God, including bad weather, may force changes in the fishing schedule for which the organisers cannot be held responsible in any way.

15. The I.G.F.A. International Angling Rule Book, 2009, shall be adhered to in all respects, except that minimum line test rule below shall override the less stringent IGFA Rules. It must be emphasised that NO one but the Angler, from the moment of the "strike," must handle the rod, line, double line and/or swivel at any time. If this happens the fish must be disqualified by the angler or Team Captain. The minimum line test allowed is 30 lbs. and Heavier (50lb, 80lbs & 130 lb.) tackle is permitted but gains no advantage to the angler or team. No wire lines are allowed to be ONBOARD while fishing.

16. The First Eligible Marlin of the tournament may either be a Verified Tag & Release, or a qualified landed, marlin.

17. As a safety measure ALL boats must ensure that the Tournament Control is aware of their TRUE position at all times and must report in when arriving back at marina. A boat not maintaining contact with the Tournament Control will incur the full cost of any rescue attempt mounted by the Tournament Director.

18. The weigh station will normally open at 12 noon for weighing the day's catch.

19. Fish brought in after closure of the weigh station will be weighed in between 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. the following day. The Weighmaster will accept no responsibility for fish left overnight in storage.

20. All fish will be treated as caught on the day hooked, irrespective of when weighed in.

21. Fishing ceases at 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 2nd October, 2009. In order for a fish to qualify the fish, and boat, must pass along side the red Fairway beacon at the Port Antonio Harbour entrance by 5.00 p.m. on Friday and 6:30 p.m. on other days.

22. All fish must be tagged with official weight tags before being taken from the boat. No untagged fish will be allowed into the weigh station.

23. For safety of the other boats in the marina a maximum speed of 3 KNOTS must not be exceeded within the harbour confines i.e., between Folly Point and the Port Antonio Marina.

24. Radio etiquette must be observed at all times. Channel 68 will be reserved for Tournament Control communication at all times. Absolute radio silence must be maintained during the last thirty minutes of fishing each day.

25. There are no specified fishing boundaries.

26. In the event of a tie the award will be made to that fish which was first released, or landed, as judged by the recorded time of the direct, or relayed, report to the radio room control.

27. Proper observance of clubhouse discipline, good behaviour, dress and avoidance of excessive noise, must be observed at all times.

28. Absolutely no illegal drugs or substances will be allowed, are to be used anywhere or traded, while on Club property or on the boats tied or docked alongside.

29. The Tournament Committee shall have the right to place observers on, or inspect any boat at any time in order to ascertain the full compliance with all the rules.

#### Section IV:- TAG AND RELEASE RULES

30. The term "Release" will apply only to the Atlantic Blue Marlin for the overall Boat score. All other released Billfish specie will not be scored for the Team score.

31. A successful release should result in a tagged, live marlin swimming away from the boat after the snap swivel has reached the rod tip.

A "technical release" is not to be judged a successful release, unless the fish was propely Tagged prior to its loss, as the full intention was to continue with the fight. The marlin lost is therefore judged to have won the fight .

A CLAIM FOR A TAGGED & RELEASED FISH MUST BE VERIFIED BY VIDEO-CAMERA, & /OR BY STILL PHOTOGRAPH. THE MORE PHOTO'S YOU HAVE, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES ARE FOR RECOGNITION OF YOUR RELEASE

NO ACCEPTABLE PHOTO, NO POINTS.

On each day of fishing a photograph of the name or silhouette of your boat or the stern board name and the daily DATE CARD posted, should be obtained BEFORE proceeding to sea.

A Tournament Control-designated item will be used to verify the start and finish of a release. Please check with Radio Control AS SOON AS A HOOK UP IS REPORTED.

If any of the above is not done a release may not be recognised for major awards.

Release point standings are to be verified by the participant's own digital and/or video camera with an image that can verify the time and date the photo was taken. The Tournament 2009 will still strive to provide disposable 35mm cameras but it remains the ultimate responsibility of the boat to convince the Rules Committee 2009 of the specie and Tagged Release of the fish-release claimed.

It will remain the ultimate responsibility of the Boat or Team Captain to ensure and provide adequate and acceptable proof of a Tag & Release claim to the Rules & Disciplinary Committee.

32. Apparently dead fish can often be successfully resuscitated by going ahead slowly, holding the fish upright for some time while allowing seawater to gently flow through the gills.

33. All successful Tag & Release of Atlantic Blue Marlin will gain 100 points credit toward the Tony Myers Trophy and will also be counted as a marlin caught for purposes of awards and statistics.

#### Section V :- The Rule & Disciplinary Committee

34. The Rules & Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the Chairman and a minimum of three (3) of the following: The Vice Chairman, Tournament Director, any SHMAA director, a current SHMAA floor member, any IGFA representative and/or Trustee.

35. Any daily complaints or objections must be lodged in writing, through the Team Captain, with the Tournament Control within one (1) hour after weighing ceases on the day the incident occurred. On the night of the prize giving, objections must be lodged in writing immediately following the completion of the prize giving. The R & D Committee will be immediately convened and a final decision made.

36. The decision shall be by a majority vote of the R & D Committee closed meeting only. The Chairman shall have a casting vote. The decision is final and binding on all parties.

#### Section VI :- Sailboat Entries

37. Normal Rules of the Road governing sailboats and motor vessels do not apply to participating boats while either are engaged in fishing during this tournament. Category 138. Sailboats, Motor Sailors, or any other craft satisfying the R & D Committee of their ability to observe ALL the rules governing angling, and abiding by all the rules of the Tournament may enter the motorboat competition observing all rules above on equal footing with the motorboats.

All catches on such vessels will not be considered eligible for the sailboat trophy. Category 11

39. Other sailboats, or motor sailors, limited by their ability to comply with the stringent IGFA International Angling Rules may elect to fish for the separate category of "Sailboat, Most Weight, All Fish".T

his category carries no fish or tackle restriction except for the reasonable observance of good sportsmanship. Fish caught in this category cannot be considered in other categories.

N.B. Copies of the 2009 IGFA International Angling Rules, cameras and tagging equipment are available in the office, limited by supply but will ultimately remain the responsibility of the boat to procure. TIGHT LINES