



## **BIG FISH TOURNAMENT RULES 2011**

- 1. There is a Mandatory Captains' Meeting Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Wave Gazebo on Shelter Island (east of the Shelter Island launch ramp (grass area), at the end of Shelter Island Drive, San Diego.)** The captain or another paid participant representing the vessel must attend the Captains' Meeting or the vessel will be disqualified. The Captains' Meeting is also the last opportunity to sign up for the tournament. At the Captains' Meeting, the captain or representative will be given their tournament gift pack, tournament premiums and tournament towels for all the paid participants. This check-in/registration by at least one registered angler from the vessel, who is a paid participant, will be strictly adhered to. Failure to be checked off on the tournament participation list will disqualify all anglers of that vessel. Once again, the meeting is at 6:00 p.m. and the deadline for registration is 8:00 p.m. The person representing the team must sign that he/she understands all Rules and has no questions. Failure to sign will result in disqualification. **DON'T BE LATE.**
- 2. The Tournament commences Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 a.m. and terminates on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. SHARP.**
- 3. Weigh-in times are as follows: Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. SHARP. Weigh master's time is official.** Fish can be weighed in at either the **San Diego Marlin Club**, and must be called in advance for **Dana Landing** on channel 69.
  - A. Anglers who are weighing fish must personally report to the Weigh Station Official with their fish.
  - B. An angler can enter fish in each category and can win more than one prize in each category.
  - C. There will be no ties. In the event of equal weight, the fish weighed in first wins.
  - D. All fish must be weighed in by the termination of the tournament, except in the event the weigh-in dock is full. In that case, the Weigh Station Official can allow a representative from the boat to report a fish for weigh-in if the official is **notified before the weigh-in deadline**. The angler must notify the Weigh Station Official by radio at a visual distance, for verification. **This only applies when the boat is prevented from reaching the weigh-in dock because the dock is full.**
  - E. Prizes for the Marlin division will be awarded by a random drawing, which will be held at the August 28th banquet. The drawing will determine 1st, and 2nd places. There is only one entry in the drawing per angler. A released marlin must be photographed and **CLEARLY DEPICT THE MARLIN AND LEADER IN HAND**. Digital photographs will be accepted and all photographs must be submitted to the weigh master or weigh station official by 10:00 a.m. Sunday August 28th, 2011. **The photo must include a 2011 Big Fish tournament Towel in it for verification.** Marlin may also be killed and weighed for entry in the drawing. Marlin must be a minimum of 100 pounds.
  - E. Prizes for the Tuna division are for the two heaviest fish weighed in, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in order of weight.
  - F. Prizes for the IGFA (Yellowtail, Dorado, White Sea Bass, and Halibut) division are for the two heaviest fish weighed in 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in order of weight.
  - G. Side jackpots will be awarded to the heaviest one fish for each division.
  - H. Fishing can be done in any waters that the angler can reach within the time limits of the tournament. All boats must depart from a port within the State of California. All fish must be presented by boat,

in the water, at a designated weigh-in station by a tournament-entered boat. Weight receipts from any other weigh stations will not be accepted.

- I. I.G.F.A. rules apply. Every fish must be brought to gaff by use of regulation tackle only, unless otherwise noted. Double tuna hooks are allowed. All other I.G.F.A. rules regarding leaders, lures and hooks apply. Live bait may be caught or purchased, as available, prior to the commencement of the tournament. Bait may be kept aboard tournament boats, used or transferred at the discretion of the anglers or skippers throughout the tournament. Artificial bait or lures may be used in accordance with the I.G.F.A. rules. Teasers are permitted.
- J. All anglers will possess a valid California fishing license. Anglers fishing within the boundaries of Mexico will possess a valid Mexican fishing license. All anglers must abide by California and/or Mexican regulations that may apply.
- K. The following acts or omissions will disqualify a fish:
  - a. Acts of persons assisting the angler in adjusting the reel drag or touching any part of the tackle, either by hand or other devices during the playing of the fish.
  - b. Use of a gaff exceeding 8 feet in overall length, use of a rope exceeding 30 feet in length from the head of a detachable (flying) gaff. After the fish is gaffed, assistance may be given to the angler and the gaffer in placing a tail-rope on the fish and boating it.
  - c. Mutilation caused by sharks, marine mammals, propellers or any other act that removes or penetrates the flesh, except which occurs from the gaff. Exception: the shooting of a shark one time (no shotguns) is permitted.
  - d. Frozen and/or defrosted fish presented for weigh-in are prohibited and will result in the disqualification of all participants on the offending vessel.
  - e. Transferring of anglers and fish from a disabled vessel is allowed. The angler must report with his fish to the weigh master, on a tournament-registered boat.
- L. The Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to disqualify any angler who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct.
- M. All persons must complete a tournament application form and pay the entry fee by the end of the Captain's meeting. All persons on the boat must be a paid participant of the tournament. **THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS.**
- N. **Official tournament channel is VHF 69.** For weighing in, (in San Diego Harbor) call the Big Fish weigh master at **The San Diego Marlin Club** at **VHF 78**, or (in Mission Bay) call the Big Fish weigh master at **VHF 69 - BEFORE ARRIVING.**

### **Protests**

1. Any protest relative to the weight of the fish or manner of weighing must be made before the fish is removed from the scale. This protest must be made to the tournament rules committee. If needed the Weigh Station Official will contact someone from the tournament rules committee. All decisions by the Weigh Station Official stand in effect unless over-ruled by the Tournament Rules Committee.
2. Any protest, except weight, must be made to a member of the Tournament Rules Committee. All protests, other than weight, must be made in writing and submitted to a member of the Tournament Rules Committee by 11:00 a.m. on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
3. **The Tournament Rules Committee** will make the final determination. The Rules Committee members are the following:

Fox Ludwig  
President  
(619) 610-8426

Alexander Williamson  
Big Fish Director  
(619) 277-0255

Rhonda Ito  
Vice President  
(619) 623-3922

[fox@sandiegorodandreel.com](mailto:fox@sandiegorodandreel.com) [alex@sandiegorodandreel.com](mailto:alex@sandiegorodandreel.com) [rhondaito@sandiegorodandreel.com](mailto:rhondaito@sandiegorodandreel.com)

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Fish Tournament Additional Rules Clarifications:

**Catch and release of Marlin:** You may use one of the t-shirts received at the Captains' Meeting (Star Lures or other) in the identifying photo of your marlin catch or the Big Fish towel, which will be handed out at the Captains' Meeting. You are also allowed to catch your fish and bring it in for identification. If you are in the billfish side pot, there is no catch and release for that. You must bring the fish in for weighing. The billfish side pot includes swordfish and marlin. The main marlin prize category only includes marlin.

**Tuna category:** Bonito and Skipjack are not included in the Tuna category.

### **Information for contact to weighing officials:**

Saturday Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

S.D. Marlin Club? (Jim Morgan, Cell Ph. 619-646-8556)

Dana Landing: MUST be called in on channel 69

Sunday Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

S.D. Marlin Club (Jim Morgan, Cell Ph. 619-646-8556)

Dana Landing MUST be called in on channel 69

The tournament radio channel is 69. SD Marlin Club channel is 78. Radio contact to the Dana Landing weighing official will be through SD Marlin Club (69 or 78.)

Saturday radio contact to the Tournament Director; hail "Molly M" (channels 69 or 72.)