



35th ANNUAL LOU DUCHENE MEMORIAL BIG FISH TOURNAMENT RULES 2019

Seminar: Thursday, August 1st, 6:30 p.m., Bali Hai

Mandatory Captains Meeting: Friday, August 16th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wave

Tournament: Saturday Aug. 17th 12:01 a.m. to 8:00 p.m..

Banquet: Sunday August 18th, 12:00 noon, Silver Gate Yacht Club

1. There is a **Big Fish Seminar; Thursday August 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the Bali Hai restaurant. This is your last opportunity to pay the \$75 Early Bird entry fee.**
2. There is a **Mandatory Captains' Meeting Friday August 16th, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., at the Wave Gazebo on Shelter Island (near the Shelter Island launch ramp, on the grass near the traffic circle at the end of Shelter Island Drive, San Diego).**
 - a. Each team must designate a captain. The captain or another paid participant representing the vessel must attend the Captains' Meeting or the vessel will be disqualified. **It is the Captain's responsibility to ensure his/her team members are fishing within the rules of the tournament.** The Captains' Meeting is the last opportunity to sign up for the tournament. 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. The Captain or Captain's representative must sign that he/she understands all Rules and has no questions. Failure to sign will result in disqualification.
 - b. Entry fee per angler is **\$75.00, or \$80 after August 1st.** (each person on vessel is considered an angler and must be paid)
 - c. Side pots are \$50.00 per vessel per category.
3. The Tournament **commences Saturday, August 17th at 12:01 a.m. and terminates on Saturday, August 17th at 8:00 pm SHARP. Weigh-in time is Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Weigh master's time is official. **Weigh-in stations are at the Marlin Club and Dana Landing.** You must choose one on your entry form. **We encourage using the facility at the Marlin Club.** If you have no fish to weigh, please notify Ellen Duchene at 619-890-5401 or Mary Belandres at 619-850-9476, so the weighmasters don't wait for someone who's not coming. You may also attempt to reach the tournament director on channel 72.
4.
 - a. The **Big Fish Banquet & Awards Ceremony is Sunday, August 18th at 12:00 noon at Silver Gate Yacht Club.** Please do not park in the club's lot. Cost is \$30 per person if paid by Aug. 1st, \$35 after Aug. 1st, and \$40 after August 13th.
 - b. Early Purchase: Each banquet ticket purchased before close of Big Fish Seminar on August 1st results in a raffle entry for a \$50 Squidco gift card.

5. Cash and Prizes will be awarded in each place for the single heaviest fish weighed in. Cash and Prizes are by angler, not boat. Everyone is eligible to win in either offshore or inshore categories. Only the fish designated in each category will be weighed for those categories. An angler may win in only one of the seven places. If an angler wins in both categories, the highest value single cash and prize that the angler qualifies for will be awarded to that angler.

6. **Prizes are as follows:**

Offshore Category-- Tuna (Bluefin, Bigeye, Albacore or Yellowfin), Yellowtail, White Seabass, Dorado:

Place	Cash	Prize
1 st	\$500	\$500 Fisherman's Landing gift card and an M&M custom rod
2 nd	\$350	\$300 Fisherman's Landing gift card and a rod
3 rd	\$250	\$200 Fisherman's Landing gift card and a rod
4 th	\$200	\$150 Fisherman's Landing gift card

Inshore Category— Bass (Sand Bass, Calico Bass or Spotted Bay Bass), Halibut, Bonito, Barracuda:

Place	Cash	Prize
1st	\$200	\$150 Fisherman's Landing gift card
2nd	\$150	\$100 Fisherman's Landing gift card
3rd	\$100	\$100 Fisherman's Landing gift card

7. **Weigh in:**

- Anglers who are weighing fish must personally report to the Weigh Station Official with their fish directly from the vessel fished on.
- An angler can weigh their largest fish for each of the two categories and any fish necessary for the side pots..
- There will be no ties. In the event of equal weight, the fish weighed in first wins.
- 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 from the weigh in dock, for verification. This only applies when the boat is prevented from reaching the weigh-in dock because the dock is full.
- Optional side jackpots are 'winner take all' style. The side pot purses will be awarded to the first weigh in with the heaviest weight for each division. Side jackpots are entered into by boat, not individual angler. Jackpots will have a 90% payout. Three fish are not required for the side pots and the three fish can be of the same species. In the event that no qualifying fish are weighed in for any or all side pots, 90% of that jackpot's fees will be returned to the participating boats.

1. Tuna (Bluefin, Bigeye, Albacore or Yellowfin, (combined three heaviest fish))

2. Yellowtail (combined three heaviest fish)

3. Bass (Sand Bass, Calico Bass or Spotted Bay Bass), Halibut, Bonito, Barracuda, (combined three heaviest fish)

8. Fishing can be done in any waters that the angler can reach within the time limits of the tournament. All boats must depart from Mission Bay or San Diego Bay. All fish must be weighed at the San Diego Marlin Club or Dana Landing under supervision by the tournament weigh master or assistant. Weight receipts from any other weigh stations will not be accepted.

9. 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. Artificial bait or lures may be used in accordance with the I.G.F.A. rules. Teasers are permitted.

10. All anglers will possess a valid California fishing license and if applicable Mexican fishing license. Beware of Mexican visa rules and protected zone rules when fishing within their territorial waters. All anglers must abide by California and/or Mexican regulations that may apply. Those people fishing in Mexico must be careful to comply with Mexican visa, area preserve, boating license and fishing license requirements. **The San Diego Rod and Reel Club, its individual officers and members are not responsible for any mishaps, injuries, loss or liability incurred by participants in the Big Fish Tournament. It is the captain's responsibility to take all necessary precautions for the safety of himself / herself and passengers.**

11. 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.

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. Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to disqualify any angler who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct.

12. 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 vessel must be a paid participant of the tournament. **THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS.**

13. Early Entry: All anglers paid for before close of Big Fish Seminar on August 1st will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Angler's Choice gift card.

14. Protests

a. 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.

b. 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 18th. The Tournament Rules Committee will make the final determination. The Rules Committee members are: Big Fish Director: Tim Foote; Tournament Master: Pepe Valdivia; Weigh Master: John Chuckta; Immediate Past Weigh Master: Curt Itogawa.