



Note: These Rules May be Subject to Further  
Revision Prior to Tournament Start



**BIG ISLAND MARLIN TOURNAMENT**  
**2025 HAWAII MARLIN TOURNAMENT SERIES**  
**AUGUST 22ND, 23RD, AND 24TH**

**TOURNAMENT RULES**

Aloha and Welcome to the Big Island Marlin Tournament, the seventh tournament in the 2025 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series. This is the event that started it all off for this Series way back in 1987.

Mahalo and tight lines!

**FISHING DAYS AND TIMES**

August 22nd (Friday) 7:00 AM til 4:00 PM **Green Buoy Start**

August 23rd (Saturday) 7:00 AM til 4:00 PM **Green Buoy Start**

August 24th (Sunday) 7:00 AM til 4:00 PM **Green Buoy Start**

(NOTE: See HMTS General Rules - Section 1.03 Start Fishing)

No fishing beyond 45 miles from mouth of Honokohau Harbor.

**ELIGIBLE SPECIES, POINTS & PAYOUT**

Species	Min. Weight	Points
Blue & Black Marlin	400 pounds	1 Point per pound or 165 Points T&R

No other species are scored for this event. Striped marlin, spearfish and sailfish do not count.

**Tag and Release Verification (FOR OPTIONAL CATEGORIES)**

See: HMTS General Rules Section 2.08 Tagging and/or Gaffing - and - Section 3 Tag and Release Requirements

**BASE ENTRY CATEGORY**

Base Entry is \$2700, with 75% of Base Entry paid out as Base Purse. Please refer to HMTS General Rules for the definition of a Team. A team must first pay base entry to be eligible to enter all/any optional categories.

**Base Purse Payout**

The total purse from the Base Entry fee shall be awarded to the top three, largest individual marlin weighed during the three days of the tournament, 400 pounds or better. Should there be fewer than three marlin weighed, then the purse distribution shall be adjusted as outlined below.

*With Three or More Marlin Weighed*

First Place Biggest Marlin	50%
Second Place Biggest Marlin	30%
Third Place Biggest Marlin	20%

*With Two Marlin Weighed*

First Place Biggest Marlin	60%
Second Place Biggest Marlin	40%

## 2025 BIG ISLAND MARLIN TOURNAMENT - TOURNAMENT RULES

### *With One Marlin Weighed*

Winner Take All 100%

Tie Breaking with Weighed Marlin: Should there be a tie with two teams catching marlin that weigh the exact amount, the tie shall be split with 60% going to the team gaffing the first marlin, and 40% going to the team boating the second fish, according to the tournament control radio log.

If no marlin are weighed through the course of all three days of fishing, the purse from the Base Purse shall revert from Biggest Marlin to Total Points and will be awarded to the teams with the most total points.

### *With NO Marlin Weighed and Three Teams Scoring Points*

First Place Most Points 50%

Second Place Most Points 30%

Third Place Most Points 20%

### *With Two Teams Scoring Points*

First Place Most Points 60%

Second Place Most Points 40%

### *With One Team Scoring Points*

Winner Take All 100%

Tie Breaking with Points: If the Base Purse reverts to points, the top three points scoring teams will split the purse as outlined above. If there are ties in any combination, the first three highest scores -- as recorded on the radio log -- will split the purse 50/30/20. If only two teams, or only one team, score points in the entire tournament, the purse is distributed as above.

## OPTIONAL ENTRY DIVISIONS

Optional jackpots also follow all tournament and IGFA rules.

87.5% of all optional jackpot entry fees will be returned as prize money. If a team does not receive a matching entry from another team in an optional category, that team shall be refunded 100% of the entry fee for that optional category. [Categories in BLUE are new in 2025.](#)

The Specific Optional Categories and Divisions are as follows:

Biggest Marlin of Tournament: \$100, \$300, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000

Biggest Marlin per Day: \$100, \$300, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000

Most Points of Tournament: \$100, \$300, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000

Most Points per Day: \$100, \$300, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000

[Top 3 Marlin \(50/30/20\):](#) \$1000, \$2500, \$5000

[First Marlin Tag&Release:](#) \$500

[First Qualifying Blue or Black Marlin Weighed:](#) \$500

## Rules to Win Optional Categories

There are a variety of dollar value entry levels into which a team may choose to enter. Teams compete only against the other teams entered in the same specific category and dollar level. Teams entered in the \$100 daily compete only against other teams in the \$100 daily, etc. etc. You cannot win an optional entry category if you are not entered into that category. Likewise, you can't win a specific dollar level if you are not entered in that dollar level.

## **2025 BIG ISLAND MARLIN TOURNAMENT - TOURNAMENT RULES**

Dailies: You must enter all three days of any daily category; you may not enter just one or two.

There shall be only one place paid per category, unless there is a tie, in which case, the optional category purse will be split as outlined on Page 5.

### **SCORING**

Blue or Black Marlin brought to the scales 400 pounds or better shall be judged firstly on weight, secondly on points, should points apply.

In the instance(s) that points do apply, marlin 400 pounds or better shall score 1 point per pound. For example, a 400-pound marlin will score 400 points, a 412-pounder will score 412 points, etc. Marlin weighing in less than 400 pounds will receive zero points.

Every boat that takes a marlin on board must call in a short measurement to tournament control within 15 minutes of boating the fish. If unable to meet the 15-minute time frame, a team must notify control and state why.

### **TAGGED MARLIN**

Each Blue or Black Marlin will receive 165 points per tag and release, regardless of size. Verification of species must be clear through videos taken with your personal device. Teams should always employ as many back up videos from as many cameras as possible. One never knows with wild animals at sea.

### **Tag and Release Verification**

See: HMTS General Rules *Section 2.08*

*Tagging and/or Gaffing - and - Section 3 Tag and Release Requirements*

### **BOATED FISH**

See: HMTS General Rules *Section 1.08*

*Estimated Weight and Short Length*

### **BIGGEST MARLIN OF THE TOURNAMENT**

The various entry levels for the Biggest Marlin of the Tournament shall pay the team entered in each level that catches the single largest marlin, weighing 400 pounds or better, after all three days of fishing.

Should there be no marlin weighed after three days of fishing, Biggest Marlin of the Tournament shall NOT revert to tag and release points. The teams shall receive the option of a refund or a roll forward, of 87.5% of their entry in that daily category.

### **BIGGEST MARLIN PER DAY**

The purse allotted for each day is awarded to the single largest marlin caught that day that meets or exceeds 400 pounds.

If no marlin 400 pounds or better is caught on Day One and/or Day Two, but there is a marlin 400 pounds or better caught on Day Three, the money allotted for Day One and Two will roll forward and be added to that allotted for Day Three. Should a marlin 400 pounds or better be weighed on Day One but not Day Two or Three, the money shall roll back and be awarded to the largest marlin of Day One.

If a marlin is weighed on two days, but not on the other day, the purse allotted for the day with no marlin will be awarded to the winners of the other two days with 60% going to the largest marlin and 40% to second largest marlin.

## **2025 BIG ISLAND MARLIN TOURNAMENT - TOURNAMENT RULES**

Should there be no marlin weighed after three days of fishing, Biggest Marlin Per Day shall NOT revert to tag and release points. The teams shall receive the option of a refund or a roll forward, of 87.5% of their entry in that daily category.

### **MOST POINTS OF TOURNAMENT**

The purse allotted for this division shall be paid to the team that amasses the most total points of the tournament for all three days combined weighed fish and tag points.

This scoring shall be calculated at 1 point per pound for weighed Blue or Black Marlin 400 pounds or better, and 165 points for each tagged and released Blue or Black Marlin. All weighed marlin will be scored 1 point per pound if they weigh at least 400 pounds. If the marlin weighs less than 400 pounds, it will receive zero points.

Tag and Release points do apply, and both Most Points divisions may revert to only tag points in the event that no marlin are weighed, 400 pounds or better.

### **MOST POINTS PER DAY**

The purse allotted for each day is awarded to the team with the greatest number of points earned on that day. This scoring shall be calculated at 1 point per pound for weighed Blue or Black Marlin and 165 points for each tagged and released Blue or Black Marlin. All weighed marlin will be scored 1 point per pound if they weigh at least 400 pounds. If the marlin weighs less than 400 pounds, it will receive zero points.

If no points are earned on Day One and/or Day Two, but there are points earned on Day Three, the money allotted for Day One and/or Day Two will roll forward and be added to that allotted for Day Three. Should points be earned on Day One but not Day Two or Three, the money shall roll back and be awarded to the team with the most points earned on Day One.

In the event that points are earned on two days, but not on another day, the purse allotted for the day with no points will be awarded to the winners of the other two days with 60% going to the team with the most points earned on their qualifying day and 40% to the team with the second most points earned on their qualifying day.

Tag and Release points do apply, and both Most Points divisions may revert to only tag points in the event that no marlin are weighed, 400 pounds or better.

### **TOP 3 MARLIN (50/30/20)**

This optional category will be awarded to the teams who weigh the top three largest marlin during the tournament that exceed the minimum weight requirement of 400 pounds. 50% of the payout will be awarded to the team weighing the largest marlin, 30% awarded for second largest marlin, and 20% awarded for third largest marlin. In the event of a tie, awards will be distributed to the team(s) that arrived at the higher position first, reflected by boated time on the tournament radio log.

### **FIRST MARLIN TAGGED & RELEASED**

This optional category will be awarded to the team who tags and releases the first blue or black marlin on fishing day one of the tournament, reflected by time on the tournament radio log. Only one team shall be awarded in this category for each respective division.

## 2025 BIG ISLAND MARLIN TOURNAMENT - TOURNAMENT RULES

### FIRST QUALIFYING BLUE OR BLACK MARLIN WEIGHED

This optional category will be awarded to the team who boats and weighs the first qualifying blue or black marlin of the tournament, reflected by boated time on the tournament radio log. Only one team shall be awarded in this category for each respective division.

### TIEBREAKER IN OPTIONAL PURSE CATEGORY

In case of a tie in an optional purse category with tag points only, the optional purse for that category will be split 60% to the team that arrived at that position first, and 40% to the team that arrived at the position second.

In case of a tie in an optional purse category with at least one weighed fish, the optional purse for that category will be split 60% to the team with the largest weighed fish, and 40% to the team that has the second largest weighed fish – or, has second most points with tag points only.

Should there be a tie with two teams catching marlin that weigh the exact amount, the tie shall be split with 60% going to the team gaffing the first marlin, and 40% going to the team boating the second fish, according to the tournament control radio log.

**NOTE: The determination as to what time a fish is Gaffed or Tagged & Released is based upon the time recorded on the Radio Log by Tournament Control Radio. The time a team calls in and reports the qualifying fish is when it is recorded, not the time it was gaffed or tagged.**

### Refunds in Optional Categories

*Should no marlin be weighed 400 pounds or better by any team in the Biggest Marlin of Tournament and Biggest Marlin per Day optional category division, the jackpot portion of that category shall be refunded, or teams may opt to roll their refund into a future event. If no fish are caught or tagged in the Most Points of Tournament and Most Points per Day optional category divisions will be refunded or rolled forward.*

## RULES

The rules for this tournament printed herein are the Big Island Marlin Tournament specific tournament rules. The 2025 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series – General Tournament Rules, and the IGFA Saltwater Angling Rules are separate documents, and may be found in team kits.

Should a team find that there are rules in the tournament that they do not find acceptable, they may withdraw from the tournament prior to the call of “start fishing” on Day One of the tournament. Should a team withdraw prior to the call of “Start Fishing” they will forfeit their Team Base Entry, but their Base Purse and Optional Entries shall be reimbursed. A team may withdraw after commencement of the tournament, but all its entry fees, base and optional, shall be forfeited and remain in the purse.

Once the tournament has started, the teams are bound by the fishing rules herein. Violation of one or more rules is grounds for disqualification and/or ejection from the tournament, and potentially future tournaments.

In the event of any discrepancies between these rules and any information found on any other source, these rules -- delivered to teams directly in their team kits -- shall control.

### Tournament Contact Information:

[KonaTournaments.com](http://KonaTournaments.com)

Lacey Hagler, Tournament Director - [Lacey.Hagler@marlinmag.com](mailto:Lacey.Hagler@marlinmag.com) - 561-267-2674

Laura Dowsett, Registration Manager - [Laurapkdowsett@gmail.com](mailto:Laurapkdowsett@gmail.com) - 808-430-4000

*Mahalo for fishing in the 2025 Big Island Marlin Tournament of the  
Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series!*