



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



**FIRECRACKER OPEN**  
**2025 HAWAII MARLIN TOURNAMENT SERIES**  
**JULY 4TH & 5TH, 2025**

PRESENTED BY



**TOURNAMENT RULES**

Aloha and Welcome to the Firecracker Open, the third tournament in the 2025 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series. *NOTE: We have adopted the 2024 revision to Base Purse distribution to better reflect the state of the fishery today. The number of “rats” along the Kona Coast has been unprecedented and “most points” scoring has long been designed simply so that each “big game” species caught counts toward winnings. With the high volume of “rats” in Kona waters of late, the intent of this original rule could be lost to teams focusing on racking up unprecedented points scores, potentially far superseding the skill it takes to catch lots of rats on 130-pound tackle. To better offset this imbalance while also celebrating every fish that counts, the Base Purse Format will pay 70% to the single largest Blue or Black Marlin caught - 400 pounds or better, and; the 30% to the team amassing the most total points, overall. Tie scenarios are noted, as is also a scenario whereby no marlin is weighed.*

Mahalo and tight lines!

**FISHING DAYS AND TIMES**

July 4th (Thursday) 8:30 AM til 4:30 PM

**Start Anywhere**

*No leaving Honokohau prior to 6:00 AM on 07/04/25.*

July 5th (Friday) 7:00 AM til 4:00 PM

**Green Buoy Start**

Species	Min. Weight	Points
Blue & Black Marlin	400 pounds	1 Point per LB or 165 Points per T&R
Ahi	100 pounds	1 Point per LB for each LB over 100 LBS

Base Entry Division	Base Purse Payout	Based on
First	70%	Single Largest Marlin 400 LBS or better
Second	30%	Most Total Points

**ELIGIBLE SPECIES, POINTS & PAYOUT**

**BASE ENTRY CATEGORY**

**Team Entry Fee**

Team Base Entry Fee is \$1,100, with 75% paid out as Base Purse.

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### Base Purse Divisions and Purse Splits

70% of the Base Purse will be awarded to the team catching the largest Marlin, 400 pounds or better.

30% of the Base Purse will be awarded to the team amassing the Most Total Points. Points are scored based on the following system.

### Base Purse Scoring for Most Points

Ahi 1 point per pound for each pound over 100 pounds. After the first whole pound, fractions of pounds as displayed by the scale will count.  
Example – a 151.5-pound Ahi will be awarded 51.5 points.

Tagged Marlin Each Blue or Black Marlin will receive 165 points per tag and release, regardless of size.

Weighed Marlin Blue or Black Marlin brought to the scales 400 pounds and larger shall score 1 point per pound. EXAMPLE: A 410-pound Blue Marlin will score 410 points. A 290-pound Blue Marlin will score ZERO points. Striped Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish do not qualify.

Should there be no qualifying Marlin 400 pounds or better, the allotted Base Purse WILL revert to paying most total points. In that scenario, the Base Purse Payout will be as follows:

1st Place 70% of Base Purse - *PAID TO TEAM WITH MOST POINTS*

2nd Place 30% of Base Purse - *PAID TO TEAM WITH SECOND MOST POINTS*

### Base Purse Ties

#### With a Scaled Marlin:

Should there be a tie with teams catching Marlin that weigh the same exact amount, the applicable portion of the Base Purse will be split 70% to the team that arrived at the tie position first, and 30% to the team that arrived at the tie position second. There will only be two places paid, regardless of the number of teams tied.

Should there be a tie, with teams scoring the Most Total Points, the applicable portion of the Base Purse will be split 70% to the team that arrived at the tie position first, and 30% to the team that arrived at the tie position second. There will only be two places paid, regardless of the number of teams tied.

#### With NO Scaled Marlin:

Should no qualifying Marlin be weighed, and there is a tie for Most Total Points in the Base Purse category, 70% of the Base Purse will be paid to the team that arrived at the tie position first, and 30% of the Base Purse will be paid to the team that arrived at the tie position second. There will only be two places paid, regardless of the number of teams tied.

**NOTE: The determination as to what time a fish is Boated or Tagged & Released is based upon the time reflected on the Radio Log, as recorded 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, tagged or weighed.**

### 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*

## **OPTIONAL CATEGORIES**

Once a Team has paid their Team Base Entry Fee and the Base Purse Entry Fee, they are entitled to enter the additional Optional Entry Levels. [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
<a href="#">Top 3 Marlin (50/30/20):</a>	<a href="#">\$1000, \$2500, \$5000</a>
<a href="#">NON-Omni Biggest Marlin per Day:</a>	<a href="#">\$100, \$300, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000</a>
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
Biggest Ahi of Tournament:	\$100, \$300, \$1,000
Biggest Ahi per Day:	\$100, \$300, \$1,000
<a href="#">Top 3 Ahi (50/30/20)</a>	<a href="#">\$100, \$300, \$1000</a>

## **Pay Out Percentage**

All Optional Category levels shall return 87.5% of the total entry fees collected per Category. For example, if there are 10 participants in the \$100 optional category for Biggest Marlin of Tournament, the winner of that optional category will receive \$900.

## **Rules to Win Optional Categories**

As identified above, there are a variety of divisions into which a team may choose to enter. Teams compete only against the other teams entered in the same specific category and division 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 division level if you are not entered in that division level.

Dailies: You must enter both days of any daily category, you may not enter just one or the other.

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 below.

## **Refunds**

If there is no winner in a particular dollar value entry level, then the participants in that level shall have the option of receiving a refund equivalent to 87.5% of the entry fee they paid for the category with no qualifier - or - apply the refund amount to another HMTS tournament.

## **BIGGEST MARLIN OF TOURNAMENT**

To win this optional category, a team must weigh the biggest Marlin of the tournament that meets or exceeds 400 pounds. The various entry levels for the Biggest Marlin of the Tournament categories shall pay the team entered in each level that catches the single largest marlin 400 pounds or better, after both days of fishing.

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 catching the first marlin, and 40% going to the team catching the second fish, as recorded in the Tournament Control Radio Log.

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Should there be no marlin weighed after both 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, as outlined on Page 3 of these Firecracker Open Rules.

### **BIGGEST MARLIN PER DAY**

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

Should a marlin weighing 400 pounds or more be weighed on day one, but not on day two, the money shall roll back and be awarded to the largest marlin of day one.

Should a marlin weighing 400 pounds or more be weighed on day two, but not on day one, the money shall roll forward and be awarded to the largest marlin of day two.

Should there be a tie with two teams catching marlin that weigh the exact amount on the same day, the tie shall be split with 60% going to the team catching the first marlin, and 40% going to the team catching the second fish, as recorded in the Tournament Control Radio Log.

Should there be no marlin weighed after both 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, as outlined on Page 3 of these Firecracker Open Rules.

### **BIGGEST AHI OF TOURNAMENT**

To win this optional category, a team must weigh the biggest Ahi of the tournament that exceeds 100 pounds.

Should there be a tie with two teams catching ahi that weigh the exact amount, the tie shall be split with 60% going to the team catching the first ahi and 40% going to the team catching the second ahi, as recorded in the Tournament Control Radio Log.

### **BIGGEST AHI PER DAY**

The purse allotted for each day is awarded to the single largest Ahi caught that day that exceeds 100 pounds.

If no ahi is weighed on Day One, the purse shall “roll forward” and be added to the second day’s purse. If a qualifier is weighed on Day Two, that fish will win the entire purse. If no ahi is weighed on Day Two, but a qualifying fish was weighed on Day One, the purse shall “roll backward” to the previous day’s winner.

Should there be a tie with two teams catching ahi that weigh the exact amount on the same day, the tie shall be split with 60% going to the team catching the first ahi, and 40% going to the team catching the second ahi, as recorded in the Tournament Control Radio Log.

If no qualifying Ahi are weighed in any of the individual Ahi categories during the tournament, these optional categories WILL NOT revert to total points in the absence of a qualifying weighed fish. The teams shall receive the option of a refund or a roll forward, as outlined on Page 3 of these Firecracker Open Rules.

### **MOST POINTS OF THE TOURNAMENT**

To win this optional category, a team must have the most total points of the tournament.

Points shall be calculated in the same manner as for the Base Purse

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If no points are scored in any of the individual Most Points categories by any team during the tournament, the teams shall receive the option of a refund or a roll forward in that category, as outlined on Page 3 of these Firecracker Open Rules.

### **MOST POINTS PER DAY**

This scoring shall be calculated in the same manner as for the base purse.

If no points are earned on Day One, the purse shall “roll forward” and be added to the second day’s purse. If points are earned on Day Two, that team will win the entire purse. If no points are earned on Day Two, but points are earned on Day One, the purse shall “roll backward” to the previous day’s winner.

If no points are scored in any of the individual Most Points per Day categories by any team during the tournament, the teams shall receive the option of a refund or a roll forward, as outlined on Page 3 of these Firecracker Open Rules.

### **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.

### **NON-OMNI BIGGEST MARLIN PER DAY**

Teams in this category are not permitted to have on board an omni-directional sonar device of any brand *and/or* searchlight sonar during tournament fishing days. Please refer to “Biggest Marlin Per Day” for remaining rules.

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

This optional category will be awarded to the teams who weigh the top three largest ahi during the tournament that exceed minimum weight requirement of 100 pounds. 50% of the payout will be awarded to the team weighing the largest ahi, 30% awarded for second largest ahi, and 20% awarded for third largest ahi. In the event of a tie, respective award position amounts will be split evenly depending on how many teams tied. Example: If two teams tie for first, the payout will be split 40/40/20. If two teams tie for second, the payout will be split 50/25/25. If two teams tie for third, the payout will be split 50/30/10/10. If less than three teams weigh a qualifying ahi, the award amount(s) for unpaid prizes will be split evenly among winning teams in each respective division.

### **More Tiebreaker Scenarios in Points Categories**

#### *Tie With a Scaled Marlin*

A Marlin shall always take precedence over an Ahi at the scales.

In the case of a tie in Total Points, and among the tied teams there is one or more Marlin that has been qualified at the scales, the tie shall first go to the team with the largest Marlin, in pounds. If the Marlin tie in weight, then the particular purse shall be split 60% to the team arriving at the tie position first and 40% to the team arriving at the tie position second.

#### *Tie With No Scaled Marlin With Tags and With Ahi Scaled*

In the case of a tie where there are no Marlin scaled, and there is a team with tag and release points, 60% shall go to the team with the tag and release points before going to a team with the same number of points including

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Ahi, but with no Marlin scaled and/or tagged. Should there be teams in this position, the tie shall be split 60% to the team arriving at the tie position first and 40% to the team arriving at the tie position second.

### *Tie With Tag Points Only in Optional "Most Points" Categories*

In the case of a tie with tag points only, and there are no fish scaled, the tie will be split among those in the tie position with 60% going to the first team to arrive at the tie position, and 40% going to the team that arrived at the tie position second.

### *Tie With Ahi Only*

In the case of a tie where there are no Marlin scaled or tagged, and the tie position is between teams with only Ahi points, the decision will go to the team with the greatest number of Ahi. Should there still be a tie in points and number of Ahi caught by each team is the same, the tie shall be split 60% to the team arriving at the tie position first and 40% to the team arriving at the tie position second.

## **BOX CHECKS**

All boats must comply with random fish box checks, if requested by Tournament Control. You could be asked to allow inspection from either the fuel dock or from the Tournament Control Security Vessel. If your box is checked, you must still report "On the Line" to Tournament Control and cannot fish until Control calls "Start Fishing."

## **PROTESTS**

Section 4.03 of the 2025 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series General Rules applies to any and all protests in the Firecracker Open.

## **RULES**

The rules for this tournament are contained within these specific tournament rules, the 2025 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series – General Tournament Rules, and the IGFA International Angling Rules.

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. A team withdrawing will forfeit their Team Base Entry, but Base Purse and Optional Entry Fees shall be refunded.

Once the tournament has started, the teams are bound by the rules identified above. Violation of one or more rules is grounds for disqualification and/or ejection from the tournament. A team may withdraw after commencement of the tournament, but all entry fees, base and optional, shall be forfeited and remain in the purse as per normal.

In the event of any discrepancies between these rules and any information found on the *konatournaments.com* website or any other tournament documents, the rules handed out to tournament teams shall be final & 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 Firecracker Open of the Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series!*