



2026 BERMUDA BIG GAME CLASSIC UNOFFICIAL RULES

The Bermuda Big Game Classic tournament committee reserves the right to update or change these rules at any time. By entering the Bermuda Big Game Classic tournament and paying the entry fees, all participants agree to abide by the tournament rules and accept all decisions made by the Tournament Committee as final.

THE TOURNAMENT

The Bermuda Big Game Classic is a three-day, team-based event with top-team honors going to the team that accumulates the most points during the tournament. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams—first, second, and third place. Additional awards are given to the team or teams that land the heaviest blue marlin and the largest meat fish by weight. There are also trophies and prizes for teams earning the most billfish release points. Individual honors include awards for the high-point angler, top lady angler, and top junior angler (17 and under), each receiving a trophy and prize package.

Eligible species include blue marlin, white marlin, spearfish, sailfish, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and wahoo.

BASE ENTRY FEE

The base entry fee is \$5,000 per team and includes up to six(6) registered anglers. This fee covers both tournament participation and access to all scheduled entertainment and social events for those six participants. Guests are welcome to attend; however, they must purchase a participation ticket to access all scheduled entertainment and social events. Non-angler participation packages are \$250 per person.

The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual, organization, or corporation.

OPTIONAL JACKPOTS

Jackpots are completely optional, and you must be entered into each specific category in order to be eligible for cash prizes. See “Prizes & Optionals” for more information.

ANGLERS AND CREW

Each boat must carry one designated captain and one designated mate at all times, without exception. Any changes to the captain or crew must be reported to the tournament committee prior to the start of fishing on that day. A maximum of six registered anglers is allowed per boat. If an angler drops out, a replacement may be added, provided they are registered and the change is communicated to the tournament committee before the start of that day's fishing. Designated captains and mates may also be registered as anglers. Guests are permitted on board. Teams and boats are NOT allowed to receive assistance in landing or releasing fish. Boats may receive aid from other boats in the form of towing due to mechanical failure. All participants must exercise good and courteous sportsmanship whether at the dock, under way or fishing.

TEAM REGISTRATION

Final registration will be held from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m. on July 10, 2026 at the Hamilton Princess Hotel. All preregistered teams, as well as those registering onsite, must have at least one representative present to collect tournament credentials and the captain's bag. To encourage maximum participation, registrations will remain open until 8:29 a.m. (Bermuda time) on July 11, 2026.

CAPTAINS MEETING

The mandatory tournament rules briefing will take place at 7:30 p.m. on July 10, 2026, at the Hamilton Princess. All anglers and captains are required to attend. Those who do not attend agree to be bound by any instructions or rule changes issued during the meeting, whether communicated verbally or in writing.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the tournament start date will receive a full refund of the base entry fee and all optional jackpots. Cancellations within 30 days of the start date will receive a 50% refund of the base entry fee, along with a full refund of any optional jackpots.

CANCELLATION OF ENTIRE TOURNAMENT

If the tournament is canceled prior to any scheduled fishing days due to circumstances beyond Bonnier's control—such as extreme weather, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other force majeure events—50% of the entry fee and 85% of any optional jackpot funds will be refunded. If the tournament is canceled by Bonnier for any other reason, including insufficient participation, all entry fees and optional jackpot payments will be refunded in full.

Refunds will be issued to the Team Representative via ACH, check, or wire transfer within four weeks, provided all tournament entry fees have cleared the bank.

FISHING RULES

ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Spearfish, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna, and Wahoo.

FISHING DATES/TIMES

Tournament fishing days are July 11, 12, and 13. Lines-in: 8:30 a.m., Lines-out: 4:30 p.m. daily

Lines-in and Lines-out calls will be announced via tournament radio—no fishing is permitted before the “lines-in” call.

The tournament committee reserves the privilege of changing starting and finishing times for any reason it deems necessary.

LATE HOOK-UPS

Hookups occurring within the final 15 minutes of fishing must be called in immediately. If a fish is still hooked at lines-out, the angler may continue fighting until the fish is released, boated, or lost; however, tournament control must be notified once the fight ends.

FIGHTING TIMES

All fish must be at the weigh station, or the boat must be back in its slip, by 11:59 p.m. on the day of fishing.

RULES

IGFA angling and tackle rules apply unless otherwise stated. All registered anglers must hook and fight their own fish until it is released or boated. All participants—anglers, captains, and crew—are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with IGFA and tournament rules throughout the competition. Any participant who intentionally breaks these rules is subject to expulsion and disqualification, upon determination by the tournament committee, from this and future tournaments without a refund of any registration fees. For a complete list of IGFA angling and tackle rules, go to igfa.org.

BILLFISH RELEASE RULES

All teams are responsible for supplying and operating their own video equipment to verify billfish releases. To validate a catch, all recordings must be time- and date-stamped in accordance with the official time as stated by Tournament Control prior to each day’s fishing. Teams must use the official release cards included in the team packets received at the captains’ meeting, and it is their responsibility to ensure the

cards are on board before fishing begins. Teams will be notified which release card to use prior to the start of each day's fishing.

To score an official release, the video footage must include clear and sufficient evidence of the following:

1. Clear identification of the species
2. Leader/mainline connection **clearly visible** inside the rod tip, swivel reeled all the way to the rod tip, OR a team member touching the leader while the fish is still hooked
3. Display the release card of the day designated by the tournament
4. Full release of the fish, showing the line being cut, hook removed, or fish swimming away freely
5. Time and date of the release

After each release, the official time, species, and angler name must be recorded on the catch affidavit. The affidavit must be signed by each registered angler and the boat captain.

At the end of each fishing day, teams must bring their camera, signed catch-report affidavit, and all original video footage to Barrs Park for verification. Catch reports must be submitted by 7:00 p.m., unless a team is actively fighting a fish after lines out at 4:30 p.m.

POINTS

Overall points are determined by the combination of billfish release points and blue marlin weigh-in points.

Blue Marlin:

- 500 points are awarded for each blue marlin officially released
- One point per pound for any blue marlin weighed and verified at or above the 500-pound minimum.

White Marlin, Spearfish, or Sailfish:

- 100 points are awarded for each white marlin, spearfish, or sailfish officially released.

If a blue marlin brought to the scales does not meet the 500-pound minimum, the team will be penalized 500 points, plus two points for every pound under the minimum. For

example, a 480-pound fish results in a 540-point penalty (500 points plus 40 additional points for being 20 pounds under), and no points will be awarded for that fish.

Any boated blue marlin must be weighed. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification from the remainder of the tournament and forfeiture of all previously earned points. Only one blue marlin may be boated and weighed per day. All white marlin, sailfish, and spearfish must be released.

Once a blue marlin is boated, the team must photograph or video the fish while measuring its short length, girth, and tail circumference, and report those measurements to the tournament committee.

In the event of a tie, rankings will be determined by the team that first reaches the highest combined point total, based on release or boated time.

MEATFISH

Eligible species include yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and wahoo. Scoring is calculated to the tenth of a pound for fish up to 200 pounds, and to the nearest pound for fish over 200 pounds. The minimum qualifying weight is 25 pounds.

Once a meatfish is boated and the team intends to weigh it, tournament control must be notified. Teams must use the designated card of the day and capture a photo or video of the fish with the card once boated; this will serve as the official time of catch.

In the event of a tie, the team that first reaches the highest score—based on the recorded time of the boated fish—will be awarded the higher placement.

WEIGH-IN/RELEASE VIDEO CHECK IN

The weigh station and release video check-in will be at Barr's Bay Park.

CATCHSTAT

The Bermuda Big Game Classic tournament uses CatchStat for registration and team management and live scoring updates. All content on CatchStat is for entertainment purposes only. All content on CatchStat is for entertainment purposes only and may not reflect official standings or payout amounts. For official results, please contact the tournament committee directly.

BOATS WITH SONAR

Sonars are not permitted to be deployed prior to lines in at 8:30 AM on fishing days.

LINE

The maximum line strength allowed is 130-pound-test. Tournament and/or non-tournament lines are eligible. If the line test stated on the label is 130 pounds or less, the line will be allowed in the tournament. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first five meters of line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook. This section must consist of a single, homogenous piece of line.

LEADERS

The length of the leader is the overall length, including any lure or hook arrangement. In all line classes exceeding 20-pound (10 kg), the leader shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and the leader shall not exceed 40 feet (12.19 meters) total. The tournament committee holds the right to examine any hook sets, line and/or leaders at any time during the event. Refusal to allow the committee to examine any hook sets, line and/or leaders will result in immediate disqualification from the event without a refund of any jackpot or registration fees.

RODS

Unlimited in use or numbers.

TEASERS

Unlimited in use or numbers.

BAITS

Live bait, dead bait, lures and any combination thereof are permitted in this tournament.

HOOKS

Bait must be rigged with non-offset circle hooks only. Artificial lures without natural bait may be rigged with conventional J-hooks.

RADIO/COMMUNICATIONS

The official tournament channel is 7 International. The backup channel will be channel 62 International. Tournament control may also be reached by phone or WhatsApp at (813) 928-6266 or the official radio Whatsapp group. If out of radio range, all catches must be reported via radio or phone as soon as possible.

Tournament control's time will serve as the official time for all starts, hookups, and stops, without exception. All billfish releases and any boated blue marlin or meatfish intended for weigh-in must be reported to tournament control, along with the angler's name and species. All hookups must be reported during the final 15 minutes of fishing each day.

The tournament channel is reserved strictly for official announcements and catch reports. Competitor communications must take place on alternate channels.

WEATHER

There is no weather committee. The tournament is conducted on a “fish at your own risk” basis. If any portion of the tournament is fished and a team or teams land or release fish that match the tournament’s eligible species and minimum weight limits, then prizes will be awarded.

PROTESTS

Participants may lodge protests against any catch which they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. All protests must be stated in writing and accompanied by \$500. All protests will be settled the day of the incident. All protests on July 11, 12 and 13 must be in the hands of the tournament’s designated rules official by 7 p.m. on the day of the alleged incident unless there is a protest regarding a fish that comes to the scales late, in which case the deadline is extended one (1) hour following the weighed fish. The tournament committee may call a protest hearing at their discretion; a protest hearing is not guaranteed. The protesting party, as well as the accused team members, captain and crew, must be present in any official protest hearing. The tournament committee may refuse to consider any protest evidence not submitted at the protest hearing in the presence of the protested team. If the protesting or protested team fails to show up for the protest hearing, that team forfeits its right to submit evidence. Official tournament release video footage may only be viewed by the tournament committee and the team who submitted it. Decisions of the tournament committee with regard to protests are final, non-appealable, and nonjusticiable.

SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Any unsportsmanlike or threatening behavior toward tournament organizers or other participants—or any conduct deemed inappropriate by the tournament committee, at its sole discretion—may result in immediate disqualification of the entire team without refund and possible exclusion from future events.

FULL RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Every participant must accept the Tournament Participant Release before fishing. It confirms that offshore tournament fishing carries a real risk of serious injury or death, that you accept those risks, and that you give up the right to sue the tournament, its sponsors, The Marlin Group Network LLC, other participants, and vessel captains and crew — including for their own negligence. It also covers indemnification, authorization for emergency medical treatment, insurance you are expected to carry yourself, and use of photographs and video taken at the event.

You will be asked to accept it when you register. Please read it in full first — this summary is not a substitute for the release itself.

Read the Tournament Participant Release →

<https://www.marlinmag.com/tournament-participant-release/>

Registered anglers, crew and guests under 18 also require a completed Parent or Guardian Authorization →

<https://www.marlinmag.com/minor-parent-guardian-participant-authorization/>

TOURNAMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

www.bermudatriplecrown.com

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