

2026 Marlin Global Challenge Rules

Revised 8.11.26

The Marlin Global Challenge is a winner-take-all tournament, and the jackpot will be awarded to the boat that catches the heaviest Blue Marlin in a recognized tournament anywhere in the world between Jan 1, 2026 and October 31, 2026. Only official weights from recognized tournaments are accepted, with the tournament's tackle and angling rules serving as the standard for qualifying those fish. A "recognized tournament" refers to annual, established events that utilize certified scales and are conducted with the presence of a weighmaster and spectator witnesses, included on the [list of recognized tournaments](#). Please e-mail tournaments@marlinmag.com if your intended tournament is not listed. The Marlin Global Challenge reserves the right to determine if a tournament meets the requirements. If you are unsure whether the tournament where you intend to weigh a marlin qualifies, please contact the Marlin Global Challenge tournament committee in advance for confirmation.

ENTRY FEE

The Entry Fee is \$3,000 per boat, with 85% of the aggregate entry fees awarded to the boat who weighs the single heaviest Blue Marlin. This is a "boat tournament," and the award payout will be distributed to the person designated as the primary contact (PC) for the winning boat on Marlin.Catchstat.com. PCs may register multiple boats throughout the Marlin Global Challenge duration; however, they must be registered as separate entries, and the PC must be present on the boat at the time the weighed fish is boated.

The winning boat with the heaviest fish will also receive an invitation to participate in the 2027 Offshore World Championship and will be recognized in a Marlin magazine special feature. The winner will be announced by November 15, 2026.

WINNING FISH

The winning fish must be a Blue Marlin weighing 500 pounds or more, caught in accordance with these rules. In the event of a tie in weight, the heaviest fish weighed first, based on time, shall be the winner. Boats and teams are expected to comply with their recognized tournament's rules and all local, state, and federal regulations regarding licensing, size limits, and other applicable requirements. If the recognized tournament disqualifies the catch for any reason, it is no longer eligible for the Marlin Global Challenge.

REGISTRATION CLOSE DATE AND REFUND POLICY

Boats must register and pay the \$3,000 entry fee by 11:59 PM (in the timezone of the recognized tournament) the day before the start of the recognized tournament in which they intend to participate. Retroactive registrations after a catch will not be accepted. No refunds will be issued under any circumstances.

REPORTING PROCEDURE & VERIFICATION OF WEIGHT

All catches must be recorded on the catch report affidavit sheets. These can be downloaded from the Marlin Global Challenge [website](#) or [CatchStat](#). Affidavits must be received by the Marlin Global

Challenge committee within 72 hours of the qualifying catch and must be accompanied by a photo of the fish on the scale at the weigh station. Email submissions to: tournaments@marlinmag.com

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

The registered boat's Primary Contact is responsible for prize winnings and must sign a prize disbursement form specifying how funds are to be distributed. If multiple parties are to receive funds, each must complete a form and specify the payment method (check, ACH, or wire). A signed W-9 Form must be provided if applicable. Funds will be disbursed within 30 days from receipt of all necessary documents, provided that all tournament entry fees have cleared the bank. All funds will be paid from a U.S. bank account in U.S. dollars.

PROTEST AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION/POLYGRAPH

Participants may lodge protests against any catch they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Marlin Global Challenge committee within 24 hours of the alleged infraction. All disputes will be ruled on by the Marlin Global Challenge Tournament Committee and the director of the recognized tournament, and their decisions shall be final and binding.

The Marlin Global Challenge reserves the right to require the winning team to submit to a polygraph exam. Failure to comply or failure of the test will result in disqualification, and the winnings will be awarded to the next eligible team.

SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

All participants are expected to maintain sportsmanlike behavior at all times. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct toward tournament organizers or other participants, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers, will result in immediate disqualification with no refund of entry fees.

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

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/>

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

Tournament Contact Information:

MarlinGlobalChallenge.com
tournaments@marlinmag.com

MARLIN GLOBAL CHALLENGE CATCH REPORT AFFIDAVIT 2026

By signing below, I hereby affirm that the information submitted by me (or on my behalf) in this Catch Report Affidavit is true and accurate. I further attest that I have followed all of the rules of the 2026 MARLIN GLOBAL CHALLENGE and the recognized tournament I am fishing, copies of which were furnished to me and the receipt of which I hereby acknowledge. If asked, I hereby consent to a polygraph test to further validate the representations made in this affidavit. I understand that refusal to submit to a polygraph exam will result in immediate disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of any prize money.

Affidavits MUST be received by the MARLIN GLOBAL CHALLENGE committee within 72 hours of the qualifying catch. A photo of the angler/team with the fish at the weigh in, must accompany this affidavit. These can be emailed to: Tournaments@marlinmag.com

Date:	Name of Tournament:
Angler Name:	Boat Name:
Weight:	Length (LJFL):
Local Time of Weigh In:	Girth:
Scale Type/Make:	Date Certified:
Person or Agency that certified the scale:	
Tournament Weighmaster Name/Signature:	
Weighmaster Phone:	
Primary Contact* Name:	
Primary Contact Phone:	
Primary Contact Email:	
Witness Name/Signature:	
Witness Phone/Email:	

*This is the person listed as the Primary Contact on your CatchStat registration.

Tournaments@marlinmag.com www.marlinglobalchallenge.com