



*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
August 9-15, 2026*

Schedule, Rules, Scoring, Trophies, Optional Jackpots & Waivers

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 9 – Team Briefing

6pm to 8pm, Royal Kona Resort

Team and Captains gather at Royal Kona Resort “Mai Tai Bar” for rules briefing. Signs will be posted at the bar entrance. Heavy appetizers and cash bar.

Monday, August 10 to Friday, August 14 – Fishing

Teams should gather at 5:30AM at the Royal Kona Resort lobby entrance. Shuttles will depart promptly at 5:45AM for the Honokohau Harbor fuel dock.

Once all team teams are loaded aboard, boats will depart the harbor and “start fishing” will begin with a shotgun start at the Green Buoy at 6:30AM. Stop fishing will be at 3:30PM each afternoon. Boats will return to the fuel dock/weigh station and the shuttles back to Royal Kona Resort will depart about 4PM.

Boats will have a light breakfast as well as lunch and snacks onboard. Bottled water, beers, and some cocktails are also provided. Teams are welcome to bring any other specific food or drink options they may prefer beyond that.

Appetizers and a cash bar will be available Monday through Friday between 4:30PM and 6:30PM at the upper level of the hotel’s “Mai Tai Bar” each day for teams to mingle and enjoy (same location as the meet and greet on Sunday night).

Saturday, August 15 – Awards Reception

6:30PM to 9:30PM, Royal Kona Resort

6:30PM Cash bar opens, live music

7:00PM Dinner buffet followed with awards presentation

(continued)

2026 TOURNAMENT RULES & SCORING

While all efforts are made to keep this information current, all published rules shall be considered unofficial. Official rules will be distributed and announced at the registration check-in and captains meeting. All participants agree to the terms of these rules by participating in the tournament.

- Eligible species: blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, sailfish, spearfish, ahi (yellowfin tuna)
- IGFA rules will apply, with exception: Boat crew may pass rod to angler if fighting from chair. If necessary, the angler may pass the rod to another teammate, who must fight the fish to the conclusion of fight, either release, boated, or lost fish.
- 50-pound-class tackle only.
- Teams rotate boats each day at the direction of tournament organizers.
- Shotgun Start at Green Buoy at 6:30AM daily.
- Lines out at 3:30PM daily; any fish hooked and called in to Tournament Control prior to Lines Out may be fought to conclusion.
- All billfish hookups, releases, and boated fish must be reported to Tournament Control, including the boat name, team name, angler name and species. Billfish releases should be called in after the fish is officially released, and boated fish should be called in once the fish is onboard.
- Weigh station will be open from 1:30PM to 4:00PM; any boat wishing to weigh early must contact Tournament Control.
- 300-pound minimum weight for qualifying blue and black marlin to be boated. Any blue or black weighed over 300 pounds will receive 1.333 points per pound. Example: a 350-pound marlin weighed will score 467 points.
- Bonus points will be awarded to weighed fish in the following fashion:
 - The largest qualifying blue or black marlin weighed each day will receive 100 bonus points.
 - Any blue or black weighed over 500 pounds will receive 100 bonus points.
 - The largest blue or black weighed at the end of the tournament will receive 100 bonus points.
- Release points will be awarded in the following fashion:
 - Blue or black marlin = 300 points
 - Striped marlin or sailfish = 150 points
 - Spearfish = 100 points
- All releases must be captured on video and supplied to Tournament Control by 6:30PM on the day of its catch to earn release points. Each team is responsible for supplying its own video equipment and personnel. The video must show all four of the following components to receive release points:
 - Clear identification of the angler
 - Clear identification of the species
 - 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
 - Full release of the fish, showing the line being cut, hook removed, or fish swimming away freely

- Ahi (yellowfin tuna) will also count towards your overall points total. The minimum weight for any ahi weighed will be 100 pounds. Any Ahi caught over 100 pounds will score 1.333 points per pound. Example: a 120-pound ahi will score 160 points.
- **Communications:** The official tournament VHF channel will be 72. In the event that channel 72 is not available, the backup channel will be 68. During the last hour of fishing each day, all hookups must be reported. Boated fish should be called in once the fish is on board. Tournament Control cell-phone number 562-563-8862 will be available for team communications and to receive videos for verification.
- **Tiebreakers:** Any tie breakers on weight or release points will go to the team achieving the tie position first based on time, as noted by the time of release called into tournament control on VHF channel 72.
- **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.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Registrants who cancel their participation more than 90 days prior to the tournament start date will receive a full refund of their deposit along with any prepaid base entry fee or optional jackpots. Registrants who cancel within 90 days of the tournament start date will sacrifice their deposit but receive a 100% refund of any optional jackpots.
- **CatchStat:** The Pacific Cup uses CatchStat for registration, team management, and private release video verification. CatchStat provides live scoring updates. All content on CatchStat is for entertainment purposes only. Content does not replace and may not reflect official tournament standings or payout amounts. Official standings can be obtained by contacting the tournament committee.
- **Disqualifications:** Lack of adherence to IGFA rules, other otherwise specified rules, especially those governing equipment, tackle, angling practices and mutilation of fish, shall result in disqualification.
- **Protests:** Participants may lodge a protest of any catch which they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. All protests must be stated in writing and accompanied by \$1,000 USD. All protests must be in the hands of the tournament director no later than 8:00 PM on the day of the alleged incident and will be settled on the day of the incident. All disputes will be ruled on by the Tournament Committee and shall be final and binding. Protest fees will be refunded only if protest is upheld.

Rules committee:

Capt. Boyd DeCoito, David Ritchie, Myles Blatt, and Jack Vitek.

TROPHIES

The following trophies will be awarded:

- Heaviest Marlin of the tournament
- Heaviest Ahi of the tournament
- Top Boat
- 2026 Pacific Cup Winners, awarded to the team accumulating the highest point total at the end of the tournament

OPTIONAL JACKPOTS

All teams entered in The Pacific Cup may elect to participate in optional jackpots for heaviest marlin, billfish release points, and heaviest ahi as detailed below. Only teams entered in each optional jackpot category are eligible for prizes within that category. All optional jackpot divisions are 85% payback.

1. Heaviest Marlin Overall: Optional Entry Fee – \$1,000

The fee to enter the Heaviest Marlin Overall Jackpot is \$1,000 and is optional. The jackpot prize will be awarded to the team that catches the heaviest blue or black marlin at or over the 300-pound minimum weight in the tournament over the five days of fishing.

If two teams catch an identical weight fish that would qualify for first place, the winning prize will be awarded to the team that caught their fish first, based on the time the fish was boated according to the radio log.

If no teams entered in the Heaviest Marlin Overall Jackpot catch a qualifying marlin, entry fees will be returned less a 15% fee. Only teams registered in the Heaviest Marlin Overall Jackpot are eligible for cash and prizes.

2. Daily Heaviest Marlin Jackpot: Optional Entry Fee – \$1,000

The fee to enter the Heaviest Marlin Daily Jackpot is \$1,000 (\$200 per fishing day) and is optional. The Heaviest Marlin Daily Jackpot will pay out one-fifth of the jackpot to each day's heaviest blue or black marlin that exceeds the 300-pound minimum weight.

If no fish that reach the minimum weight on an individual day are weighed, the jackpot will roll over to the next day's fishing.

If no qualifying fish is weighed on the final day of fishing, any remaining accumulated jackpot funds shall be awarded to the winner(s) of the most recent fishing day on which a qualifying fish was weighed.

If two teams catch an identical weight fish that would qualify for first place, the winning prize will be awarded to the team that caught their fish first, based on the time the fish was boated according to the radio log.

In the event that no teams in the Daily Marlin Jackpot catch a qualifying fish during any of the five fishing days, the Daily Marlin Jackpot entry fees will be returned less a 15% fee. Only teams registered in the Daily Heaviest Marlin Jackpot are eligible for cash prizes.

3. Billfish Release Points Jackpot: Optional Entry Fee – \$1,000

The fee to enter the Billfish Release Points Jackpot is \$1,000 and is optional. The team that achieves the highest billfish release point total after five days of fishing will win the entire jackpot.

In the event of a tie, the team that first achieved its final point total shall be declared the winner, based on the official release time of the fish that produced the tying score.

If no Billfish Release Points Jackpot teams release a fish, the release-jackpot entry fees will be returned less a 15% fee. Only teams registered in the Billfish Release Points Jackpot will be eligible for these cash awards.

4. Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot: Optional Entry Fee – \$1,000

The fee to enter the Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot is \$1,000 (\$200 per fishing day) and is optional. The Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot prize will pay out one-fifth of the jackpot to each day's highest point total.

If no team registered in the Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot registers any points on an individual day, the jackpot will roll over to the next day's fishing.

If no billfish points are achieved on the final day of fishing, any remaining accumulated jackpot funds shall be awarded to the winner(s) of the most recent fishing day on which release points were achieved.

In the event of a tie, the team that first achieved its final point total shall be declared the winner, based on the official release time of the fish that produced the tying score.

In the event that no teams in the Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot register points, the Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot entry fees will be returned less a 15% fee. Only teams registered in the Daily Billfish Release Points Jackpot are eligible for cash prizes.

5. Heaviest Ahi Jackpot: Optional Entry Fee -- \$1,000

The fee to enter the Heaviest Ahi Jackpot is \$1,000 and is optional. The team that catches the heaviest ahi at or over the 100-pound minimum weight will win the entire jackpot.

If two teams catch an identical weight fish that would qualify for first place, the winning prize will be awarded to the team that caught their fish first, based on the time the fish was boated according to the radio log.

If no teams in the Heaviest Ahi Jackpot catch a qualifying fish, the Heaviest Ahi Jackpot entry will be returned less a 15% fee. Only teams registered in the Heaviest Ahi Jackpot are eligible for cash prizes.

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/>

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