



## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual White Marlin Invitational Tournament Rules

**Tournament Date: July 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Tournament Website: [www.TheWMIT.com](http://www.TheWMIT.com)

*Updated as of 7/14/17, supersedes 2/23/17 version*

### Tournament Committee:

Dave Ridley	John Tichy
Bill Linney	Wes Jones
John Fitzgerald	Brendan Graham
Brian McMahon	Tom Lynch

***PLEASE NOTE THAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE 2017 RULES FROM PRIOR YEARS. IT IS THE REGISTRANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CAREFULLY EXAMINE AND BE FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ALL RULES.***

### Tournament Rules

1. By participation in this tournament on any registered vessel, an individual is consenting to hold harmless The White Marlin Invitational (hereinafter, the Tournament) and Tournament Officials of the White Marlin Invitational, The Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club (hereinafter, the Club or BHMTc) and its Officers, Directors and members from any and all liability;
2. Members of the Tournament Committee (hereinafter, the Committee) are Tournament Officials. The Weigh Master for BHMTc is also a Tournament Official;
3. Registration is to be made by vessel, not by angler.

4. There shall be four (4) available fishing days for the tournament. The four (4) available fishing days for the tournament are as follows:

Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

Each registered vessel shall be permitted to fish a maximum of two (2) of the four (4) available days of the tournament, and the choice of days to be fished shall be made individually by each captain/crew. The Tournament and/or Club shall make no determination on the fishability of a given day, and holds no responsibility for the choice of a captain/crew to fish on a certain day. The Tournament and Club assumes no liability or responsibility for any damage or loss.

5. An angler or boat will be disqualified for such cause, as misconduct, unsportsmanlike behavior, or any other incident deemed inappropriate by the Tournament Committee.
6. Boats will be issued one Tournament Boat Number placard at the captain's meeting unless your registration indicates that you will not attend the captain's meeting in which case a placard will be mailed to registrant. This Tournament Boat Number must be visibly displayed on the port side of the vessel (not behind smoked glass). The placard must be firmly affixed to the port side of the boat during declared fishing day(s), from prior to departure from slip through completion of weigh-in or release reporting.
7. Fishing grounds are limited to a 100 Nautical-mile radius from Little Egg Bell Buoy (Latitude: 39° 27' 56.2", Longitude: 74° 16' 27.3")
8. Fishing hours are between 7:00am and 3:00pm (Eastern Daylight Time, as measured by GPS). Vessels may not clear your chosen inlet prior to 12:00 AM of any chosen fishing day.
9. No lines of any kind are permitted in the water until announcement of the starting time by the Committee Boats. In the event that a Committee Boat is not heard, fishing may begin no earlier than the 7:00am starting time (Eastern Daylight Time, as measured by GPS).
10. Each boat must pick two (2) non-fishing days by submitting "No Fish Day cards" with Boat Name, Tournament Boat Number, and signature prior to 9:30am for the day selected.

A member of the boat's crew may physically deliver the card to the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club mailbox located on the pole in the Club driveway. No Fish Day cards are located in a second mailbox adjacent to the card deposit box – each is labeled accordingly.

Alternatively, the Primary Contact identified on the registration form may submit an email to [wmit@bhmtc.com](mailto:wmit@bhmtc.com) with a copy to [angling@bhmtc.com](mailto:angling@bhmtc.com) which is required to be electronically timestamped and delivered prior to 9:30am on the elected No Fish Day. Email submissions by anyone other than the Primary Contact may not be accepted and will be counted as a fishing day. The Email must include the Boat Name, Tournament Boat Number, and state: "The [Boat Name] elects [date] as a non-fishing day." The tournament director at the captain's meeting may determine alternate directions for delivery/reporting. All boats must be dockside in order to declare a non-fishing day. Any boat not submitting the card by 9:30am on any given day is assumed to be fishing that day. NO EXCEPTIONS.

11. All 48<sup>th</sup> Annual White Marlin Invitational Tournament rules will apply. All IGFA rules for fishing and tackle will apply unless noted otherwise in this document. Any rule changes will be addressed at the Captain's meeting on July 25, 2017 and posted to [www.TheWMIT.com](http://www.TheWMIT.com) prior to 11:59pm on July 25, 2017. These rules include, but are not limited to:
  - a. No Fang Hooks
  - b. No Harpoons
  - c. No Green Sticks
  - d. No Live Bait
  - e. Non- Offset Circle Hooks required on all dead baits
  - f. "Hook and Hand\*" is allowed
    - \* Hook and Hand is defined as a rod being able to be picked up from a rod holder after a fish is on the line for the purpose of transferring the rod immediately to the designated angler. After the moment of transfer of the rod to the designated angler, the angler must fight the fish alone until it is boated or released.
  - g. Spreader Bars are allowed as teasers only. No hooks are allowed to be attached to a spreader bar. (This includes Squid Nation Flippy Floppies per IGFA)
12. Participants are assumed to have all necessary permits, licenses and/or registrations required by law. However, it is not the responsibility of the tournament officials or directors to verify that all required permits, licenses and/or registrations are acquired by anglers or vessels participating in the tournament.
13. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off the angler is grounds for disqualification. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification. (NEW IGFA RULE, 2017)
14. The maximum line strength that can be used is 130-pound test. The use of backing is permissible. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 16.5

feet (5 meters) of line directly preceding the double line, leader or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line. (NEW IGFA RULE, 2017)

15. There is no limit on the number of lines with hooks or teasers that may be fished.
16. This tournament is trolling only.
17. Use of spotter planes, drones or any other types of aerial surveillance is prohibited.
18. For all purposes of identification, Hatchet Marlin shall be considered White Marlin.
19. Bluefin tuna regulations will be reviewed at the Captain's Meeting.
20. A maximum of 3 tuna, 3 White Marlin, 1 Blue Marlin, 1 Dolphin, 1 Wahoo, and 1 Bluefin Tuna\* may be weighed in per boat, per day. (\* Bluefin tuna fishing is under the Recreational Atlantic HMS permit).
21. Tournament radio channel is VHF-69. Captains must identify as fishing "Beach Haven Tournament" when hailing committee boats.
22. All boats must report boated or released White Marlin, boated or released Blue Marlin, and boated tuna estimated at over 100 pounds to a Committee Boat. The only reported information required for each reportable fish is boat number, species, time and as to marlin, whether the marlin was boated or released. All Committee Boats shall identify themselves when called.
23. All boats with boated tuna over 100lbs, as well as boated White and/or Blue Marlin should notify the BHMTTC as soon as within radio contact range of the BHMTTC, but no later than the entrance to the inlet of their intended weigh station.
24. For release purposes, a fish is considered caught when one of the following actions is completed:
  - a. The mate is able to grab the leader
  - b. The swivel hits the rod tip
  - c. The connection (knot, splice, etc.) between the leader and the mainline/double line/flyline passes through the rod tip.
25. Boats may depart from any inlet in New Jersey, but must return through one of the following five (5) inlets if weighing in a fish at BHMTTC or Hoffman's Marina: Manasquan Inlet, Great Egg Harbor Inlet, Atlantic City Inlet, Little Egg Inlet, or Barnegat Inlet. Boats not weighing in fish may return through any inlet in NJ.

***Weigh-ins:***

26. All fish must weigh-in at Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club or at Hoffman's Marina. BHMTTC & Hoffman's Marina are the only two (2) official tournament weigh locations.
27. Weigh-in is allowed by vehicle; however, weigh-in by vehicle is only allowed at Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club and must otherwise comply with all deadlines and

rules. Fish brought to Hoffman's Marina scales by vehicle will not be weighed in and will be disqualified.

28. For fish being transported for weigh-in by vehicle to BHMTTC, the fish must be immediately transferred from your fishing vessel to your vehicle and brought directly to BHMTTC for weigh-in during the official weigh-in times\*.
29. \* The following procedure must be followed for rule #27 and # 28:
  - a. Boats must be docked in slip prior to 8pm, and a picture must be taken of your boat in the slip AND sent via text or email (prior to 8pm) to (908) 963-5924 or [wmit@bhmtc.com](mailto:wmit@bhmtc.com) with the picture of your boat in the slip; name of fish species and estimated weight of catch, and estimated time of arrival at BHMTTC. In no event will weigh-ins be allowed after 9:15pm. This rule modification is in recognition of potential summer traffic on Long Beach Island for participants choosing to weigh-in by vehicle. All other rules about breaking the "finish line" for each inlet still apply (see Rule 34). Participants weighing in fish by vehicle must be present with the fish inside the property gates/fence of the BHMTTC by 9:15pm– NO EXCEPTIONS
30. Fish being weighed in may be brought to the scale on a boat other than the boat it was caught on should a larger boat need to transfer a fish to a smaller boat to navigate the inlet or waterways to the scales. All other rules relating to deadlines still apply.
31. In the event of a malfunction in the primary weighing system, the Tournament shall switch to a back-up scale certified by the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures or an approved vendor certifying the BHMTTC scales to the requirements of the New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures.
32. Boats fighting fish after 2:45pm must radio the hook-up immediately to a Committee Boat. All other radio communications must cease. Report of a hook-up between 2:45pm and 3:00pm WILL NOT constitute a boated fish. For the fish to be eligible it must be:  
REPORTED to a Committee Boat or to the BHMTTC, and HAVE BOATED TIME ASSIGNED BEFORE RETURNING TO THE DOCK. This is the responsibility of the Captain of the Vessel catching the fish. The Club radios will be on from 3:45pm-8:00pm.
33. All fish eligible for prizes must be brought to the official scale at the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club or Hoffman's Marina by boat or in a vehicle (only at BHMTTC) on the same day as caught, and a completed catch report must be delivered to the Weigh Master at the time of weigh-in. If a fish is being transported to weigh in by vehicle, a catch report must still be completed in the manner prescribed above.
34. For Beach Haven weigh-ins, the line drawn from 108 Marker to 120 degrees SE is the "finish line." Your boat must cross this line prior to 8:00pm to weigh in any fish by boat. A digital camera and/or polygraph exam may be used to verify that the boat has passed or not by 8:00pm satellite (GPS) time. In Manasquan Inlet for weigh-ins at Hoffman's Marina, the "finish line" is the northern monument of the Manasquan Inlet entrance with a straight line South. Rule # 34 is to address boats "queuing" for weigh-in by boat due to traffic at the scales. See rules # 27-29 for weigh-in by vehicle.

35. In the event that you do not have fish to be brought to the scale, but have released White or Blue Marlin that day, you are responsible for turning in a completed catch report by 8:00pm that day. A release report may be faxed to the BHMTTC (609) 492-6566 or a picture can be taken of the completed release report and emailed to [wmit@bhmtc.com](mailto:wmit@bhmtc.com) with a copy to [angling@bhmtc.com](mailto:angling@bhmtc.com). Absence of catch or release reports means disqualified fish. NO EXCEPTIONS.
36. Any protest as to the weight of the fish, the manner in which it is being weighed or the condition of the fish must be made while the fish is on the scale to the Weigh Master. Once the fish has been removed from the scale, the weight is considered official and shall stand. Any fish under protest will be kept at Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club until the Tournament Officials release an official decision. If a protest is made at Hoffman's, the fish will be turned over to the Weigh Master at Hoffman's who will transport (or accompany/observe the transport) of the fish to BHMTTC for further review.
37. Any other protest, including any boat observed fishing before 7:00am, must be presented to any Tournament Official by 8:15pm on the day of the alleged infraction. The Tournament Officials shall serve as judge, and their decision is final.
38. Weigh Master has the right to protest any fish.
39. In the event of a tie in the point category, the winner shall be the first boat reaching the winning point total in its respective first or second day of fishing.
40. Only one day need be fished by at least one boat to make an official tournament and for the prizes to be awarded.
41. No entry of the Beach Haven White Marlin Invitational may participate in any other fishing tournament while fishing this Tournament. However, nothing in this rule # 41 shall prevent an angler/boat from participating in 1) their club's annual tournament if such club is an organized fishing club, 2) a season long tournament event that occurs for 30 consecutive days or longer, or 3) another fishing tournament scheduled for the same (or overlapping ) time period as the White Marlin Invitational, provided that i) the angler/boat has completed their White Marlin Invitational fishing days prior to commencement of participation (defined as first available fishing day beginning at 12:01am) in such other tournament; ii) the angler/boat will not be fishing in such other tournament on the days they are fishing in the White Marlin Invitational, and iii) the boat/angler abides by all other rules for the White Marlin Invitational including being present for polygraph testing on the stipulated date and time as set forth in the rules and confirmed at the Captain's meeting.
42. The Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club reserves the right to cancel the tournament or modify any aspect of it at any time, for any reason.
43. Any amendments to the Rules will be announced at the Captain's Meeting on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm at the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club, 420 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Beach Haven, NJ 08008, Each boat entry is strongly encouraged to have a representative attend the captain's meeting; however, it is not mandatory. Rule

changes will be posted to [www.TheWMIT.com](http://www.TheWMIT.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thewmit](http://www.facebook.com/thewmit) prior to 11:59pm on July 25<sup>th</sup>. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES & ABIDE BY ALL RULES & REGULATIONS OF THIS TOURNAMENT.

44. Any boat not submitting their No Fish Day card by 9:30am on any given day is assumed to be fishing that day. Should a boat submit a No Fish Day card and still fish, that day of fishing is unofficial and cannot be counted or considered for anything in the tournament.
45. The captain and crew of a boat with mechanical problems may be allowed to switch boats. In this event, they will fish under the same name and same Tournament Boat Number. The Tournament Committee must approve such transfers.
46. All fish eligible for cash prizes may be subject to examination by Tournament judges, fish ID experts and/or consulting biologists should there be any question about the freshness of the catch. It is the responsibility of the participant to keep all eligible catches in suitable and proper condition until weigh-in.
47. Any fish mutilated prior to boating or landing the fish by Shark, Propeller, etc. will be disqualified.
48. Polygraph examinations may be required at the discretion of the WMIT Committee. The WMIT Committee shall have the right, at its discretion, to require a single person or multiple persons (including the entire crew) on a registered vessel to take a polygraph examination. All persons selected by the WMIT Committee must take, and pass at the determination of the test administrator, the polygraph examination prior to the distribution of any prize or award money to them (or their vessel) by the WMIT. The polygraph testing will occur at The Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club, 420 N. Pennsylvania Ave, Beach Haven NJ 08008, Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. The exact time will be announced at the Captains' meeting and listed in the Tournament Information Book that is distributed with the boat packets or posted on [www.TheWMIT.com](http://www.TheWMIT.com) prior to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2017. The WMIT Committee reserves the rights, in its sole discretion, to reschedule any polygraph examination, or require additional polygraph examinations.
49. If an angler wishes to dispute an unfavorable polygraph result, the angler may have a second polygraph conducted within 10 days by a certified polygraphist by the American Polygraph Association at the angler's expense. This polygraph must be administered to ASTM standards. The decision as to which of the two-polygraph tests will be used to determine prize money eligibility is that of the WMIT Committee in consultation with the polygraph examiner(s). The decision of the WMIT Committee shall be final.

50. The Treasure Chest will be based on a minimum of 65 boats.
51. Prize money will not be awarded to anyone who does not provide a social security number OR a Federal ID Number.
52. Prize money will not be awarded to anyone (individually or to a boat) selected by the Committee to take a polygraph test should that individual or members of the selected boat crew refuse to take a polygraph examination.