



The Marlin Club
2445 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 222-8677
www.themarlinclub.com
sdmarlinclub@gmail.com
Official IGFA Weigh Station (Open to the Public)

2023 GENE GRIMES MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL LIGHT TACKLE TOURNAMENT

Date: SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2023

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

TOURNAMNET SCHEDULE

Wednesday September 27, 2023

- **3:00 pm – 6:00 pm.** Registration at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA.
- **6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.** Mandatory Captain's Meeting at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA.

Thursday September 28, 2023

- **3:00 p.m. – 5:00 pm.** Final Registration Opportunity at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA.

Friday September 29, 2023 – Fishing Day 1 of 2

- **5:00 am.** Lines In.
- **6:00 am.** Roll Call/Boat Check in over Tournament VHF Channel 65.
- **2:00 pm – 7:00 pm.** Weigh Station at The Marlin Club is open. Located at 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA. Other approved weigh stations: Dana Angling Club, Dana Point; The Tuna Club of Avalon, Santa Catalina, and; Balboa Angling Club, Newport Beach.
- If fish are weighed or Catch/Release Report Forms turned in at any of the other approved weigh stations, anglers are subject to the availability and hours of that weigh station and in no event shall a fish be weighed or Catch/Release Report Forms submitted to the weigh station past 7:00 pm. Furthermore, the Team Contact must notify The Marlin Club no later than 7:00 pm by radio, telephone, text, or email to provide all information included on the Weight Certificate or Catch/Release Report Forms, and provide a copy of the Weight Certificate or Catch/Release Report Form to The Marlin Club physically, by text, or email by 7:00 pm.
- Participants may continue fishing at any time from lines in at 5:00 am through lines out at 6 pm on October 1, 2022.

Saturday September 30, 2023 – Fishing Day 2 of 2

- **6:00 pm.** Lines Out/Tournament Concludes/No reports accepted.

- **2:00 pm – 8:00 pm.** Weigh Station at The Marlin Club is open. Located at 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA. Other approved weigh stations: Dana Angling Club, Dana Point; The Tuna Club of Avalon, Santa Catalina, and; Balboa Angling Club, Newport Beach.
- If fish are weighed or Catch/Release Report Forms turned in at any of the other approved weigh stations, anglers are subject to the availability and hours of that weigh station and in no event shall a fish be weighed or Catch/Release Report Forms submitted to the weigh station past 8:00 pm. Furthermore, the Team Contact must notify The Marlin Club no later than 8:00 pm by radio, telephone, text, or email to provide all information included on the Weight Certificate or Catch/Release Report Forms, and provide a copy of the Weight Certificate or Catch/Release Report Form to The Marlin Club physically, by text, or email by 8:00 pm.

Sunday October 1, 2023

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Awards celebration at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA. Food provided to Participants as part of Tournament Entry, also available to purchase for non-Participants.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Tournament Contacts, Headquarters & Approved Weigh Stations

Tournament Headquarters – The Marlin Club San Diego. 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA.

Tournament Director – Marcus Hale (619) 551-6521.

Tournament Contact Methods:

- VHF – Channel 65
- Cell Phone - Marcus Hale (619) 551-6521
- Email – sdmarlinclub@gmail.com

Approved Weigh Stations:

- The Marlin Club, San Diego
- Dana Angling Club, Dana Point
- The Tuna Club of Avalon, Santa Catalina
- Balboa Angling Club, Newport Beach

Entry & Payment Deadlines

Last day to withdraw and receive full refund – **September 27, 2023.**

Last day to enter the Tournament – Registration Day, by check, credit card, or cash.

Online Registration – Teams may enter the Tournaments online at www.themarlinclub.com. Go to the website, download/print the PDF entry form, complete and sign the form, then mail or drop off the form at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA, 92106, or email the form to sdmarlinclub@gmail.com. In addition to submission of the Entry Form, to be entered, the base entry

fee amount must be received by The Marlin Club. The Team Contact will be notified in person, by phone, or by email of entry confirmation and Team Number. Teams/Participants can enter Optional Jackpots at any time up to the close of Registration. When making additional payments, Teams must include on the form of payment the Boat/Team name and entry number.

Methods of Payment

The only form of payment accepted is cash, check, or credit card. Make checks payable to: The Marlin Club.

Withdrawal from the Tournament

Withdrawal requests must be submitted in writing to The Marlin Club at 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA, 92106 or by email at sdmarlinclub.com. If notice of withdrawal is received prior to the Early Bird Drawing deadline (if applicable), a full refund is made; thereafter, the portion of base entry fee allocated for cash awards is refunded, and 100% of paid Optional Jackpot entries are refunded. Once the Tournament starts, there are no refunds for any reason whatsoever.

Team Contact

Each Team must designate one Team Contact and provide to The Marlin Club that person's phone number, mailing address, and email address. There can be only one Team Contact per team. The Team Contact is solely responsible for being able to reach each member of the Team. All official Tournament correspondence is sent to the Team Contact only. Any refunds or cash prizes are made payable to the Team Contact only and obligations or preferences relating to distributions or allocations of the refund or cash prizes is solely between the Team Contact and the other Participants on the Team.

Anglers, Captains, Deckhands

There is no limit on the number of members per team. All Team members must be included in the Team Registration, at the time of Registration. Everyone listed on the Entry Form is considered an angler, including the Captain and Deckhands. Team changes must be submitted in writing to The Marlin Club. Team Members may not change teams during the Tournament without prior approval from The Marlin Club.

Prize Disbursement

Cash prizes will be paid by check, cash, or wire transfer to the Team Contact within 30 days of the Tournament ending. Participants receiving cash prizes are solely responsible for payment of any city, state, and federal taxes.

Permits and Licenses

It is the sole responsibility of all Participants to comply with all laws regarding fishing licenses, size and bag limits, fishing area restrictions, and any and all other laws and regulations that apply. This is a state and/or federal requirement and not a Tournament Rule. Permit and licensing infractions do not affect Tournament results or awards. A fish caught in violation of size and bag limit or fishing area restrictions results in disqualification of that fish.

Entry Levels, Fees & Awards

Category	Amount	% Paid to The Marlin Club	% Paid to Winner(s)
Tournament Base Entry Per Angler	\$100	30%	35% Tuna w/the Most Points 35% Marlin w/the Most Points
\$200 Jackpot – Tuna w/the Most Points	\$200 Per Boat	20%	80%
\$200 Jackpot – Marlin w/the Most Points	\$200 Per Boat	20%	80%

Base Entry Fee. Payment of the Base Entry Fee entitles Anglers to receive designated Angler Merchandise and access to the Awards Celebration and any food provided. Additional merchandise, Award Celebration access passes, food, and drink are available for purchase at the event.

Overall Tournament Awards. The Overall Tournament Awards are paid from the Base Entry Fee. The Base Entry Fee is mandatory and pays 70% to cash awards, The Marlin Club keeps 30%. The amount allocated to the Overall Tournament Award category is split evenly between the numbers of species of fish in the category. 100% of the amount allocated for each species is then awarded to Teams that catch the qualifying fish with the most points, within that species, within that category. If there are no qualifying fish caught of a particular species, the money for that species rolls to the other species equally.

Tournament Jackpots. The Tournament Jackpots are Optional and pay 80% to cash awards, The Marlin Club keeps 20%. The Jackpot fees are per Team and the Team can enter none, one, all, or any combination of the Jackpots. The amount allocated to the particular Jackpot is split evenly between the numbers of species of fish in that Jackpot. 100% of the amount allocated for each species is then awarded to Teams that catch the qualifying fish with the most points, within that species, within that Jackpot. If there are no qualifying fish caught of a particular species, the money for that species rolls to the other species equally.

TOURNAMENT RULES

General Rules

Rules/Captains Meeting. All Tournament rules and information are subject to change without prior notice. This includes rules and information in print, on social media, or listed on The Marlin Club's website(s) or other online platforms or accounts. Additional or different rules or instructions may be given before or at the Captains Meeting for each individual tournament. It is mandatory for at least one team member to attend the Captains Meeting. It is the sole responsibility of each team member ("Participants") to know and comply with the Tournament Rules and each Participant agrees to abide by the Tournament Rules and accept the decisions of the Marlin Club (or its representative) as final.

Possibility of No Winners. Each Participant acknowledges, accepts, and assumes all risk that the Tournaments are fishing competitions, which could result in no winner(s) in the event no qualifying fish are caught and weighed.

Forfeit. If a Participant or a Team is disqualified for any reason, they forfeit any and all entry money, prizes, jackpot money, and/or prize money.

Tournament Start and End. The official start and end time, location, and any other conditions or parameters of each fishing day are stated in these Rules and any changes shall be provided before, or at the Captains Meeting. Any boat not complying with the start and end rules shall be disqualified from the Tournament.

Tournament Boundaries. Teams must fish within a 100-mile radius of Point Loma (N 32 38.2000 W 117 14.2000).

Bait Fishing. Teams may catch, purchase, or otherwise obtain or make bait at any time, before or during the Tournament.

Fishing Times. Fishing times, location, and any other conditions or parameters of each fishing day are stated in these Rules and any changes shall be provided before, or at the Captains Meeting. Any boat not complying with the fishing time rules shall be disqualified from the Tournament. A fish hooked prior to the end of fishing may be fought until boated, released, or lost. However, if the fish is boated or released after the end of fishing, the Team must arrive at the weigh station prior to its closing for that fish to be weighed or Release Report to qualify.

Weigh Station Hours. Weigh station times, location(s), and any other conditions or parameters of the weigh station are provided in these Rules and any changes shall be provided before, or at the Captains Meeting.

Modifying Fishing Hours or Days. It is within the sole and absolute discretion of the Marlin Club to modify the fishing hours or days due to government mandates, weather, tides, and fishing conditions. However, once the Tournament has started, fishing hours or days will not be modified unless no qualifying fish have been reported as caught and/or released. Good faith efforts will be made to fish all day(s) of the Tournament however, one day of fishing, or any part thereof constitutes a complete Tournament. If fishing days are cancelled, the other fishing days that are fished will constitute a complete Tournament and no additional days of fishing will be added due to the cancellation of any fishing days.

Cancellation of Entire Tournament. If a Tournament is cancelled prior to the start of any fishing, the portion of Entry Fees and Optional Jackpot monies that were allocated for cash awards to Participants or Teams will be refunded by one check within four weeks payable to the Team Contact. Instead of a cash refund, Teams may elect to take a credit equivalent to the refund amount to be used on upcoming Tournaments, through the following year.

No Qualifying Fish Caught. If no qualifying fish are caught during the Tournament, 100% of the entry fees (including optional jackpot money) that were allocated for cash awards are refunded by one check within four weeks, payable to the Team Contact. Instead of a cash refund, Teams may elect to take a

credit equivalent to the refund amount to be used on upcoming Tournaments, through the following year.

- **Reporting Marlin Catch to Radio Control and Official Time.** When a marlin is hooked, captains must report to Radio Control the Boat Name, Angler Name, Grid Area and Species. The boat Captain must again report to Radio Control when the marlin is lost, released or boated. Marlin still being fought at lines out must be reported to Radio Control as soon as possible. Times are recorded to the whole minute. The time recorded by Radio Control is the official time. Due to radio traffic congestion, in any instance where Radio Control did not have a hook up recorded prior to lines out, and a Team is reporting a marlin as being so, the Tournament Organizers will determine the fish's qualification on a per instance basis. Tuna do not need to be reported to Radio Control.

Communications and Tournament Standings. Tournament VHF radio channel(s) and telephone numbers used to contact Tournament Control will be provided before or during the Captain's Meeting. The Marlin Club may or may not broadcast standings through Tournament Control and has no obligation or expectation to do so.

Photo Verification. A catch verification requirement is required for the Tournament. The following rules apply.

Teams shall provide their own digital camera(s) and is solely responsible for ensuring the date and time settings on the camera(s) are accurate. If more than one camera is used, all cameras used must comply with the Photo Verification requirements. Photos/Videos must be provided by the Team Contact to the San Diego Marlin Club weigh station physically, or by email or text to sdmarlinclub@gmail.com or (619) 551-6521 on the same day the fish were caught or released, prior to the designated weigh station closing time, or as otherwise specified at the Captain's Meeting.

At the Captain's Meeting The Marlin Club will inform the Participants of a Verification Object to take a photo/video with at the beginning of each fishing day. The Verification Object photo/video must be taken before any fish photos/videos are taken for the day.

For Release Category billfish, Teams must verify the catch by way of digital photo/video of the fish as it is released. To successfully accomplish this verification, the photo/video must show the Participant's hand on the leader and/or the leader connection touching the rod's tip, AND the photo/video must show the billfish. If it cannot be positively identified as a billfish, no points will be awarded. A separator photo/video must be taken in between each billfish. This separator photo/video shall be of a finger count. For example, after releasing the first billfish, take a photo/video holding up one finger and after releasing your second billfish, hold up two fingers, etc . . .

For Non-Release marlin, Teams must verify the catch by way of digital photo/video of the fish as it is landed. To successfully accomplish this verification, the photo/video must show the angler fighting the fish, AND the fish being landed on the boat. Photo verification of Tuna is not required.

Marlin Catch/Release Report Form. Marlin Catch/Release Report Forms for all fishing days will be given to all teams at the Captain's Meeting. Catch/Release Report Forms are compared to radio logs for verification. Catch/Release Report Forms must be signed by the boat Captain indicating they agree to the information as recorded. All marlin released or boated must be recorded on the Catch/Release

Report Forms (you do not need to record Tuna on the Forms). Catch/Release Report Forms must be turned in at an approved weigh station, and if arriving at an approved weigh station other than The Marlin Club weigh station, the Team Contact must submit a photo or copy of it by email or text to sdmarlinclub@gmail.com or (619) 551-6521 from the weigh station on the same day the fish were caught or released, prior to the designated weigh station closing time. If you did not catch or release a marlin, you do not need to turn in a Catch/Release Report Form.

Weigh-In Procedures. Fish must be weighed at the Tournament's official weigh station(s) and Catch/Release Report Forms must be turned in to the weigh station(s). Approved weigh stations are listed in these Rules and any changes will be announced before, or at the Captain's Meeting. Deadlines for boats to arrive at the weigh station are listed in these Rules and any changes will be announced prior to, or at the Captain's Meeting. A boat has "arrived" at the weigh station only when it is within visual contact AND VHF radio or phone contact with weigh station officials. Fish are weighed in the order of boat arrival to the weigh station unloading dock. Weigh station officials will continue to weigh fish for all boats that arrived prior to the deadline. Weighed fish become the property of the Tournament. Fish must and can only be brought to the weigh station on the boat on which they were caught. The angler who caught the fish must remain with the fish throughout the weigh in process and must verify the weight information, sign the Weigh-In Form (if any) and provide a phone number they can be contacted at. If a billfish is being weighed, the rod, reel, line, leader, lure, and hook(s) must accompany each fish to be weighed. A fish brought to the weigh station is allowed to have its mouth sealed closed but once the weigh station official raises the fish on the scale, the angler must remove whatever is sealing the mouth closed and clip any leader material flush with the fish's mouth. Artificial lures shall be removed from the fish prior to weighing. Other than artificial lures, nothing will be pulled from inside the fish but anything that falls out and disconnects from the fish as a result of gravity remains out when determining the fish's weight.

Breaking Ties. Ties between two or more fish that weigh the same are broken by the time the fish are weighed, the first to be weighed being the prevailing fish. In the Release Category, point ties are broken by the time the final releases were made to obtain the final amount of points. Time is rounded and recorded to the nearest whole minute.

Dispute/Protests. All disputes or protests regarding any aspect of the Tournament must be submitted in writing to The Marlin Club no later than one hour after the closing of the weigh station at the end of the Tournament. All disputes or protests shall be ruled upon by The Marlin Club and the ruling shall be binding and final on all Participants and Teams.

Release of All Claims

In consideration for being accepted by The Marlin Club for participation in the Tournament, the Participant hereby acknowledges participation is expressly conditioned on their agreement to each of the terms of this document. Participation in the Tournament involves physical exercise, sport and recreational activities that may cause injury. Participant understands there is an inherent risk of injury when choosing to participate in any physical exercise, sport, and/or recreational activities, including boating, deep sea fishing, and sport fishing ("Fishing"). Participant expressly acknowledges that activities related to Fishing are extremely dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury or death.

Participation in the Tournament is a voluntary activity in all respect and Participant assumes the full risk of any injuries, including death, damages, or loss which Participant may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with their participation in the Tournament.

Participant does hereby fully release and discharge The Marlin Club and its directors, officers, members, agents, employees, and sponsors and those whose facilities or equipment are being used for this Tournament (collectively, the Released Parties) from any and all liability, claims and causes of action from injuries or illness, including death, damages or loss which they, on behalf of themselves, may have or which may accrue to them on account of participation in all activities associated with participation in the Tournament. This is a complete and irrevocable release and waiver of liability. Specifically and without limitation, Participant hereby releases the Released Parties from any liability, claim, or cause of action arising out of the Released Parties' own negligence, sole negligence, contributory negligence, or gross negligence.

Angling Rules

Only one angler may fight a single fish, no handoffs or other assistance can be provided for fighting the fish. Anyone is permitted to assist with safely landing a fish, including handling the leader and gaffing the fish. Anyone is allowed to remove other lines, teasers, etc . . . from the water before, during, or after a fish is hooked. Once a fish is hooked, the rod/reel upon which the fish is being fought must stay in contact with the angler. If a fish is hooked or entangled in more than one line, the extra line(s) must be cut away as quickly as possible.

Equipment Rules

"Backing" is defined as any line on the reel that precedes the Fishing Line. It may or may not be connected to the Fishing Line. The use of Backing is allowed, and it has no minimum or maximum strength limit.

"Fishing Line" is defined as the first 25 feet of line directly preceding the leader, hook, or double line. It shall be a single piece of line. Dacron, monofilament, multifilament, lead core multifilament, and polyethylene fiber fishing lines are acceptable. Wire lines are prohibited. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the Fishing Line, which must be a minimum of 25 feet.

- **Marlin** – the maximum line class of the Fishing Line used to catch a marlin is 50 lbs. If greater than 30lb Fishing Line up to 50 lb Fishing Line is used, the angler will be awarded 1 "point" per pound of fish. If greater than 20 lb Fishing Line up to 30 lb is used, the angler will be awarded 1.25 "points" per pound of fish. If 20 lb Fishing Line is used, the angler will be awarded 1.50 "points" per pound of fish. If Fishing Line is used with less than 20 lb line class, the angler will be awarded 1.75 "points" per pound of fish.
- **Tuna** - the maximum line class of the Fishing Line used to catch a tuna is 80 pounds. If greater than 50lb Fishing Line up to 80 lb Fishing Line is used, the angler will be awarded 1 "point" per pound of fish. If greater than 30 lb Fishing Line up to 50 lb is used, the angler will be awarded 1.25 "points" per pound of fish. If greater than 25 lb Fishing Line up to 30 lb is used, the angler will be awarded 1.50 "points" per pound of fish. If Fishing Line is used with 25 lb line class or less, the angler will be awarded 1.75 "points" per pound of fish.

The use of a “Double Line” is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications: it must consist of the actual Fishing Line used to catch the fish. The Double Line shall be limited to 30 feet. The maximum combined length of the double line and leader is 40 feet. The Double Line is measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double line to the farthest end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel, or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

The use of a “Leader” is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications: the length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook, arrangement or other device and is measured to the bend of the last hook. The leader must be connected to the Fishing Line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. There are no regulations on the material or strength of the Leader. The Leader shall be limited to 30 feet. If a Double Line is used, the combined length of the Double Line and the Leader shall be limited to 30 feet.

Rods and reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited to fight fish. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

Hooks must comply with sporting ethics and customs. The Marlin Club encourages the use of non-offset circle hooks as they have been shown to increase the survival of angler released fish.

Fighting chairs may not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting the fish.

Harnesses may be attached to the reel or rod, but not the fighting chair or otherwise affixed to the boat. The harness may be adjusted by anyone.

Rod belts are permitted and may be adjusted by anyone.

The use of rod holders to fight the fish are not permitted.

Outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars, kites, and other similar devices are permitted so long as the fishing line is attached to a snap or other release device.

Teasers, daisy chains, birds, floats, and similar devices are permitted and may, but are not required to be attached to the fishing line. However, they are not permitted if they inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler an unfair advantage in fighting, releasing, and/or boating a fish.

A safety line may be attached to the rod/reel so long as it does not assist the angler in fighting the fish.

Species Specific Rules

SPECIES	Fishing Line	POINTS/POUND	POINTS/RELEASE
Marlin	Greater than 30 lb up to 50 lb	1.00	150
Min. weight to keep and weigh 150 lbs*	Greater than 20 lb up to 30 lb	1.50:1	187.5
	Equal to 20 lb	1.75:1	225
	Less than 20 lb	2:1	262.5

Tuna	Greater than 50 lb up to 80 lb	1.00	n/a
No min. weight to keep and weigh	Greater than 30 lb up to 50 lb	1.25	n/a
	Greater than 25 lb up to 30 lb	1.50	n/a
	Equal to or less than 25 lb	1.75	n/a

*Marlin weighing less than 150 lbs. are penalized 2 points for every pound under 150 lbs. For example, a marlin that weighs 142 lbs., which is 8 lbs. under the minimum, will be penalized 16 points, resulting in a recorded score of 126 points.

Disqualifications

- Failure to comply with the Tournament rules.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish at any stage of the fight or landing the fish (this does not include flying gaffs – which are allowed so long as they do not have harpoon or lancing attachments).
- Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being fought.
- Changing the angler while the fish is being fought or anyone assisting the angler in fighting the fish.
- Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being fought.
- Attaching the line or leader to a part of the boat.
- Recapturing a fish after it escapes by any method other than as allowed in the Tournament Rules.
- The use of Drones during fishing hours.
- The use of power or leverage assist devices, rod holders, etc . . . to fight the fish.
- The use of entangling devices, with or without a hook.
- Nets may not be used to obtain a fish. However, nets may be used to make bait.