



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)

**2024 SPRING SHOOTOUT FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
**Event Date: Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

**TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**

- **5:00 pm.** Early Bird drawing deadline.

**Thursday: May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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

**Friday: May 17<sup>th</sup>**

- **5:30 pm.** Final Registration at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA

**Saturday: May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024**

- **3:00 am.** Lines In.
- **6:00 pm.** Lines Out.
- **3:00 pm – 7:00 pm.** Weigh Station is open located at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA. (All fish must be brought for official weighing to The Marlin Club in the boat they were caught, by water only)

**Sunday: May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024**

- **11:30 am – 1:30 pm.** Awards celebration at The Marlin Club, 2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA. A meal is provided to Participants as part of Tournament Entry, also available to purchase for non-Participants.

**GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

**Early Bird Drawing**

The winner of the drawing gets a free base entry to the following year's tournament. To qualify for the drawing, the base entry fee must be received by the Early Bird Deadline. All anglers paid in full will receive one raffle ticket for the early bird drawing which will be pulled at the captains meeting. The winning free base entry is good for the following year's tournament only (no Jackpots included) and is non-transferrable.

**Entry & Payment Deadlines**

Early Bird Drawing Deadline – **May 1st at 5:00 pm.**

Last day to withdraw and receive full refund – **May 1st at 5:00 pm.**

Last day to enter the Tournament **May 17 at 5:30 pm** – Registration day by check, credit card, or cash.

Online Registration – Teams may enter the Tournaments on-line at [www.themarlinclub.com](http://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](mailto: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 prior to final registration deadline. 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@gmail.com](mailto:sdmarlinclub@gmail.com). If notice of withdrawal is received prior to the Early Bird Drawing deadline, a full refund is made; thereafter teams 50% of the base entry fee 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. **This is a sport fishing tournament no commercial fishing boats allowed and no sale of any tournament caught fish.**

### **Prize Disbursement**

Cash prizes, if any, 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. Non-cash prizes, if any, will be awarded and distributed on terms and conditions at the sole and absolute discretion of The Marlin Club.

### **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.

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### **Entry Levels, Fees & Awards**

Category	Amount	% Paid to The Marlin Club	% Paid to Winner(s)
EARLY BIRD ANGLER ENTRY FEE (received before 5/1/2024)	\$65 (per angler)	100%	0%
ANGLER ENTRY FEE (received after 5/1/2024)	\$75 (per angler)	100%	0%
ANGLER BIG FISH JACKPOT (all anglers on boat must enter for any one angler to qualify)	\$100 (per angler)	30%	70%
HIGH BOAT JACKPOT	\$500 (per boat)	30%	70%

**Base Entry Fee.** Payment of the Base Entry Fee entitles Anglers to receive designated Angler Merchandise and access to the Awards Celebration (includes 1 meal for each registered angler). Additional merchandise, Award Celebration access passes, food and drink are available for purchase at the event.

**General Tournament Prize Categories.**

- **First Prize Category** – Non-cash, prize awards are issued for the first, second, and third heaviest Qualifying Tuna that are weighed during the Tournament. Qualifying Tuna are defined as and limited to, Bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna, or big eye tuna. If no Qualifying Tuna are weighed during the Tournament for first, second, and/or third place, the heaviest Qualifying Bonita or Calico Bass then qualify for the prize awards allocated for this First Prize Category accordingly. The different species of fish within this category compete against one another and there is not a separate category for each species of fish.
- **Second Prize Category** - Non-cash, prize awards are issued for the first, second, and third heaviest Qualifying Yellowtail, Halibut or White seabass that are weighed during the Tournament. If no Qualifying yellowtail, halibut, or white seabass are weighed during the Tournament, no prizes or awards will be issued for this Second Prize Category. The different species of fish within this category compete against one another and there is not a separate category for each species of fish.

**Tournament Jackpots.** The HIGH BOAT JACKPOT and ANGLER BIG FISH JACKPOT are optional and pay out pursuant to the table above. If there are no qualifying fish caught of a particular species, the money for that species rolls to the other species equally. To clarify further:

- The HIGH BOAT JACKPOT entry cost is \$500 per boat. The winner is the boat with the heaviest combined weight of up to any 3 tournament qualifying fish. The fish do not need to be the same species.
- The ANGLER HEAVIEST FISH JACKPOT entry cost is \$100 per angler, and for any angler to qualify, all anglers on the boat must be entered into the jackpot. The winner is the angler with the heaviest tournament qualifying fish.

**TOURNAMENT RULES**

The following rules apply to all Marlin Club Tournaments (“Tournament” or “Tournaments”), unless noted otherwise (“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 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 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.

**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 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 after the end of fishing, the Team must arrive at the weigh station prior to its closing for that fish to be weighed to qualify.

**Weigh Station Hours.** Weigh station times, location, and any other conditions or parameters of the weigh station 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 caught. 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 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.

**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.

**Species Category.** Before or at the Captain's Meeting, The Marlin Club will announce species and minimum weight requirements (if any) for all species categories.

**Photo Verification.** Before or at the Captain's Meeting, The Marlin Club will announce whether a catch verification requirement is required for the Tournament. If verification is required, 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 to the weigh station or other designated location prior to the Tournament end, 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.

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.

**Weigh-In Procedures.** All Fish must be weighed at the Tournament's official weigh station The Marlin Club 2445 Shelter Island Drive San Diego, CA. 92106. Deadlines for boats to arrive at the weigh station 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. At the election and sole discretion of The Marlin Club, weighed fish may 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, and not by any other means or mode of transportation. 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. 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.

**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, tournament chair/director/personnel, 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**

No more than one angler may fight a single fish. However, the angler fighting the fish may be assisted only with landing a fish - this assistance is limited to handling the leader and gaffing/netting 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 one angler fighting that fish. If a fish is hooked or entangled in more than one line, the extra line(s) must be cut away as quickly as possible. Touching the rod to a rail or using the rail while fishing or fighting a fish is permitted.

## **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 16.5 feet (5 meters) of line directly preceding the leader, hook, or double line. It shall be a single piece of line. If a minimum or maximum strength limit is required for the Tournament, it shall be provided before, or at the Captains Meeting. 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 16.5 feet (5 meters).

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 50 feet. The Double Line is measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double line to the farthestmost 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 50 feet. If a Double Line is used, the combined length of the Double Line and the Leader shall be limited to 50 feet.

Rods and reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. 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.

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 placed and adjusted by anyone.

Rod belts are permitted and may be placed and adjusted by anyone.

Outriggers, downriggers, 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, spreader bars, 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.

- The Following fishing techniques or gear are not allowed:
  - No bounce balling for halibut.
  - No use of flashers for halibut.
  - No use of treble hooks for halibut.

## **Disqualifications**

- Failure to comply with the Tournament rules or 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 angler, rod, or reel while the fish is being fought.
- 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 entangling devices, with or without a hook.

*[END OF RULES]*