



2026 Big Island Marlin Tournament August 24-28, Fishing Days August 25-27 Unofficial Tournament Rules



Schedule

- **Monday August 24, 4-7:30 PM:** Final registration, Happy Hour, and Captains' Meeting at the Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club
- **Tuesday 8/25, Wednesday 8/26, & Thursday 8/27**
 - **6:30-7 AM:** Visual check out North Side of Fuel Dock
 - **7 AM:** Shotgun Start
 - **4 PM:** Lines Out
 - **6 PM:** All boats inside Honokohau Marina
 - **6:30 PM:** Deadline for release video submissions (see below for exceptions)
- **Friday, August 28 (in conjunction w/the It's A Wrap Registration)**
 - **4 PM:** *It's A Wrap* Registration open for the next tournament
 - **5 PM:** Live Music, Party, and Dinner at Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club
 - **6:30 PM** - *Big Island Marlin Tournament* Awards Presentation & Raffle Drawings
 - **7:15 PM** - *It's A Wrap* Captain's Meeting

THE TOURNAMENT

The Big Island Marlin Tournament is a three-day, billfish team event with top honors awarded to the teams that weigh the three heaviest marlin, 400 lbs or more. If no qualifying marlin are weighed, top honors will be awarded to the teams with the most points, but the portion of Entry Fees designated for cash awards will be refunded. Eligible species for the tournament include blue marlin and black marlin. Optional Entry Categories have a 400 lb minimum weight requirement. Optional points categories award 1 point per lb for weighed blue or black marlin, or 165 points for each tagged and released blue or black marlin.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES: Blue Marlin, Black Marlin

MINIMUM WEIGHT: 400lbs for Base Entry and Optionals

LINES-IN: 7:00 AM, **LINES-OUT:** 4:00 PM

RADIO CHANNEL/TOURNAMENT CONTROL: VHF Channel 68, unless otherwise announced

BASE ENTRY FEE

The mandatory base entry fee is \$2,750 per team. 35% goes to the tournament, then the Base Entry prize money will be disbursed accordingly: 50% is awarded to the team who weighs the largest marlin, 30% is awarded to the team who weighs the second largest marlin, and 20% is awarded to the team who weighs the third largest marlin. This basic entry fee covers tournament participation, tournament shirts, any team gifts, and entry to all planned entertainment or social activities of up to six (6) registered participants. Additional anglers may be added for a registration fee of \$200 each, which includes an additional ticket to social activities. Guest access to social events may be added for a fee of \$100 each. Additional crew members may participate at no additional charge, but will need to purchase a \$100 guest pass for social events. The tournament committee reserves the right to deny tournament entry of any individual, organization or corporation.

BASE PAYOUT CONTINGENCIES

Base payout will be awarded to the teams that weigh the three qualifying heaviest marlin in the tournament and will be awarded accordingly: 50% to heaviest, 30% to second heaviest, and 20% to third heaviest. In the event of a tie, the award earned and the next lower level will be split evenly. For example, if two teams weigh the heaviest marlin of equal weight, they will split the first and second heaviest marlin award evenly, and the next heaviest marlin by weight (or a third tied weight boated at a later time) will win third place. If only one team weighs a qualifying marlin, they will win the first, second and third place payouts. If only two teams weigh a qualifying marlin, they will split the third place award evenly. If there is a tie for third place, the team who boated the third place fish first, according to the radio log, will be awarded the third place payout. Only three teams will be awarded cash from this category, regardless of how many teams tie.

CAPTAINS MEETING

The final registration, captains' meeting and kickoff party will take place from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on August 24th, at the Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club. All teams that are preregistered and teams needing to register must send at least one representative to obtain tournament credentials and attend the captain's meeting in case there are any last minute changes to the schedule or rules. Regardless of attendance, all participants accept and agree to be bound by all instructions and/or rule changes made orally or in writing during that meeting. In an effort to maximize participation, registrations and optional additions will be accepted until 6:45 a.m. on August 25, 2026.

RULES AND LAWS

It is each registered team member's responsibility to understand and abide by IGFA angling rules, local and federal laws and regulations, Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series rules, and the specific tournament rules for which they are participating in. Each participating vessel must designate a Professional Licensed Captain.

1. DEPARTURE POINT AND SHOTGUN START / "LINES-IN"

All vessels must depart from Honokohau Harbor each morning and return there each evening. All fishing days will begin with a shotgun start. Teams shall stage between the Green Buoy and the northern boundary, no deeper than 100 fathoms. "Start Fishing" will be announced by Tournament Control at 7:00AM unless otherwise specified. Teams are required to check in with Tournament Control by radio when they are "On the Line" prior to the start.

2. LINES-OUT AND RETURN DEADLINE

Teams with a boated fish or catch affidavit to submit must cease fishing at the call of "Stop Fishing" (lines out) at 4:00 PM and proceed directly to the Fuel Dock for submission. All fish, catch affidavits, and terminal tackle must be checked in by boat, at the Fuel Dock, unless an exception is made by the tournament director. Teams without any potential qualifying fish or catch affidavits may fun-fish after "Stop Fishing." Any catch made after the official "Stop Fishing" call will not count toward the tournament or series. All vessels with fish to weigh or catch affidavits to submit must be inside Honokohau Harbor by 6:00 PM. Any boat not inside the line between the green and red harbor entrance lights by that time will have its catch(es) disqualified, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Tournament Director.

3. BAIT FISHING

All live bait must be caught during fishing hours, on tournament days, and a team may only use live bait caught on the same day they were caught.

4. OPTIONAL CATEGORIES AND DIVISION LEVELS

All optional jackpot divisions are 85% payback. Tournament rules apply to all optional jackpots. Only teams entered in the optional categories are eligible for corresponding cash prizes. Teams only compete against other teams entered in their specific optional categories and division levels.

BIGGEST MARLIN JACKPOT

Divisions: \$3000, \$2000, \$1000, \$500, \$300, \$100

The team that weighs the heaviest marlin, at or over the 400-pound minimum, throughout all tournament fishing days, will win the entire cash award in their respective division.

DAILY BIGGEST MARLIN

Divisions: \$9000, \$6000, \$3000, \$1500, \$900, \$300

The Daily Biggest Marlin cash prize for each division will be split evenly between the teams that weigh the heaviest marlin, at or over the 400-pound minimum, of each tournament fishing day. If no qualifying fish on an individual day are weighed, that day's payout will roll over to the next day's fishing. If on the final day of fishing, no qualifying fish are weighed, then the final day's cash prize will be split evenly between the previous days.

TOP 3 MARLIN (50/30/20)

Divisions: \$2000

The Top 3 Marlin cash prize will be awarded to the teams that weigh the three qualifying heaviest marlin in the tournament and will be awarded accordingly, 50% heaviest, 30% second heaviest and 20% third heaviest. In the event of a tie, the award earned and the next lower level will be split evenly. For example, if two teams weigh the heaviest marlin of equal weight, they will split the first and second heaviest marlin award evenly, and the next heaviest marlin by weight (or a third tied weight boated at a later time) will win third place. If only one team weighs a qualifying marlin, they will win the first, second and third place payouts. If only two teams weigh a qualifying marlin, they will split the third place award evenly. If there is a tie for third place, the team who boated the third place fish first, according to the radio log, will be awarded the third place payout. Only three teams will be awarded cash from this category, regardless of how many teams tie.

MOST POINTS JACKPOT

Divisions: \$3000, \$2000, \$1000, \$500, \$300, \$100

The team that scores the most points, throughout all tournament fishing days, will win the entire cash award in their respective division. Scores will be determined by combining the points earned through weighed marlin (1 point per pound for blue and black marlin 400 lbs or bigger) and Tag & Release (165 points for each blue or black marlin released, regardless of size).

DAILY MOST POINTS

Divisions: \$9000, \$6000, \$3000, \$1500, \$900, \$300

The Daily Most Points cash prize for each division will be split evenly between the teams that score the most points of each tournament fishing day. If no points are scored on an individual

day, that day's payout will roll over to the next day's fishing. If on the final day of fishing no points are scored, then the final day's cash prize will be split evenly between the previous days.

5. TIE RESOLUTION AND PAYOUT POLICY

In the event of a weight tie for the “Biggest Marlin Jackpot” and “Daily Biggest Marlin” optional categories, the cash award will be split evenly among all teams tied. In the event of a tie for the “Most Points Jackpot” and “Daily Most Points”, the team reaching the high point total first—based on official release or boated times—will receive 60%, the second team will receive 40%, and there will only be up to two places paid, regardless of how many teams are tied. Any trophies/titles will be awarded to the team who reaches the high score first.

6. REFUND POLICY FOR UNCLAIMED PRIZE DIVISIONS

If no qualifying fish are weighed for the Base Purse, “Biggest Marlin Jackpot”, “Daily Biggest Marlin”, and “Top 3 Marlin” optional divisions, the portion of Entry Fees and/or Optional funds designated for awards will be refunded, or teams may choose to apply their refund amount toward the following 2026 HMSTS tournament. The same refund policy applies to “Most Points Jackpot” and “Daily Most Points” optional divisions if no team scores points. If a team in a specific optional category has no matching competitors at the end of final registration, 100% of their specific optional division will be refunded. Refunds will be processed by ACH, check or wire transfer to the Team Representative within 4 weeks of all tournament entry fees clearing the bank and refund paperwork submitted.

7. CANCELLATION REFUND POLICY

Registrants who cancel their participation before 7:00 PM on Final Registration Day will receive a full refund of their base entry fee and any optional jackpots. If the tournament must be canceled before scheduled fishing days due to unforeseeable events beyond Bonnier's control (e.g., extreme weather, natural disaster, terrorist acts, and other force majeure events), 65% of the Entry Fee and 100% of the Optional Jackpot funds will be refunded. If Bonnier cancels the tournament for any other reason (e.g., insufficient participation), the Entry Fee and Optional Jackpot fees will be fully refunded. Refunds will be issued by ACH, check or wire transfer to the Team Representative within 4 weeks of all tournament entry fees clearing the bank and refund paperwork submitted.

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

Tournament Contact Information:

HawaiiMarlinTournamentSeries.com

Lacey Hagler, Tournament Director – Lacey.Hagler@MarlinMag.com

Big Island Marlin Tournament 2026 Entry & Optional Categories			
Category	Division	Entry Fee	Payout Structure
	Base Entry	\$2,750	50% Biggest Marlin 30% 2nd Biggest Marlin 20% 3rd Biggest Marlin
Biggest Marlin Jackpot	Division 1	\$3,000	Winner-Take-All
	Division 2	\$2,000	
	Division 3	\$1,000	
	Division 4	\$500	
	Division 5	\$300	
	Division 6	\$100	
Daily Biggest Marlin	Division 1	\$15,000	3 way split
	Division 2	\$6,000	
	Division 3	\$3,000	
	Division 4	\$1,500	
	Division 5	\$900	
	Division 6	\$300	
Most Points Jackpot	Division 1	\$3,000	Winner-Take-All
	Division 2	\$2,000	
	Division 3	\$1,000	
	Division 4	\$500	
	Division 5	\$300	
	Division 6	\$100	
Daily Most Points	Division 1	\$9,000	3 way split
	Division 2	\$6,000	
	Division 3	\$3,000	
	Division 4	\$1,500	
	Division 5	\$900	
	Division 6	\$300	
Top 3 Marlin (50/30/20)	Division 1	\$2,000	50% Biggest Marlin 30% 2nd Biggest Marlin 20% 3rd Biggest Marlin
Across the Board Entry		\$65,950	