



2026 Kona Kick Off
June 27-29, Fishing Days June 28 & 29
Unofficial Tournament Rules



**HAWAII MARLIN
TOURNAMENT
SERIES**

Schedule

- **Saturday June 27, 4-7:30 PM:** Final registration, Happy Hour, and Captains' Meeting at the Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club
- **Sunday 6/28 & Monday 6/29**
 - **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)
- **Monday, June 29**
 - **5 PM:** Live Music, Party, and Dinner at Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club
 - **7:00 PM** - Awards Presentation & Raffle Drawings

THE TOURNAMENT

The Kona Kick Off is a two-day, billfish team event with the top-team honors trophy awarded to the team that weighs the largest marlin, 400 lbs or more. If no qualifying marlin are weighed, top-team honors will be awarded to the team with the most points. Eligible species for the tournament include blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, ahi, ono, and mahi. Optional points categories award 1 point per lb for weighed blue or black marlin, 165 points for each tagged and released blue or black marlin, and 75 points for each tagged and released striped marlin.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES: Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Striped Marlin, Ahi, Ono, Mahi

MINIMUM WEIGHT: 400lbs for blue and black marlin, 50 lbs for ahi, and 10 lbs for ono or mahi

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 \$1000 per team. 35% goes to the tournament, then the Base Entry prize money will be disbursed accordingly: 40% is awarded to the team who weighs the single largest marlin, 400 lbs or more, 20% is awarded to the team who weighs the biggest ahi, 20% is awarded to the team who weighs the biggest ono, and 20% is awarded to the team who weighs the biggest mahi. 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.

If no qualifying marlin are weighed for the Base Purse, that payout portion will be awarded to the team with the most overall points. If no qualifying marlin are weighed or tagged, the marlin portion of the base purse will be divided equally among the winners of the other base purse divisions, and the team

who weighs the heaviest fish out of all the ahi/ono/mahi base divisions will receive the first place trophy/title. If no qualifying fish are weighed in the ahi/ono/mahi divisions, then the portion of base purse for that division shall be divided equally among the winners of all other base purse divisions.

CAPTAINS MEETING

The final registration, captains' meeting and kickoff party will take place from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on June 27th 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 June 28, 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: \$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: \$4000, \$2000, \$1000, \$600, \$200

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 be applied to the other day's fishing.

MOST POINTS JACKPOT

Divisions: \$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: \$4000, \$2000, \$1000, \$600, \$200

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 be applied to the other day's fishing.

3-FLAGS AGGREGATE

Divisions: \$500

The team that weighs the largest combined amount of one ahi, one ono, & one mahi throughout all tournament fishing days will win this entire cash award. Only one fish per species shall contribute to each team's final aggregate amount. Teams do not have to weigh all three species in order to win.

BIGGEST AHI, ONO OR MAHI OF THE TOURNAMENT

Divisions (for each species): \$500

There are separate categories for biggest ahi, biggest ono, and biggest mahi. The team who weighs the single heaviest qualifying fish for each category will be awarded 100% of the prize for the category in which they are participating.

DAILY BIGGEST AHI, ONO, OR MAHI

Divisions (for each species): \$1000, \$500

There are separate categories for ahi, ono, and mahi. The Daily Biggest Ahi, Ono, or Mahi cash prize for each category/division will be split evenly between the teams that weigh the single heaviest qualifying fish in that respective category/division of each tournament fishing day. If no qualifying fish on an individual day are weighed, that day's payout will be applied to the other day's fishing.

5. TIE RESOLUTION AND PAYOUT POLICY

In the event of a weight tie for the Base Purse or any weighed fish categories, the cash award will be split evenly among all teams tied. In the event of a tie for points categories, 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/ROLLOVER POLICY FOR UNCLAIMED PRIZE DIVISIONS

If no qualifying fish are weighed in the “Biggest Marlin Jackpot”, “Daily Biggest Marlin”, “Biggest Ahi”, “Biggest Ono”, “Biggest Mahi”, “Daily Biggest Ahi”, “Daily Biggest Ono”, “Daily Biggest Mahi”, or “3-Flags Aggregate” 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 HMTS 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), 70% 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

Kona Kick Off 2026 Entry & Optional Categories			
Category	Division	Entry Fee	Payout Structure
			40% Biggest Marlin 20% Biggest Ahi 20% Biggest Ono 20% Biggest Mahi
Biggest Marlin Jackpot	Base Entry	\$1,000	
	Division 1	\$2,000	Winner-Take-All
	Division 2	\$1,000	
	Division 3	\$500	
	Division 4	\$300	
Daily Biggest Marlin	Division 5	\$100	2 way split
	Division 1	\$4,000	
	Division 2	\$2,000	
	Division 3	\$1,000	
	Division 4	\$600	
Most Points Jackpot	Division 5	\$200	Winner-Take-All
	Division 1	\$2,000	
	Division 2	\$1,000	
	Division 3	\$500	
	Division 4	\$300	
Daily Most Points	Division 5	\$100	2 way split
	Division 1	\$4,000	
	Division 2	\$2,000	
	Division 3	\$1,000	
	Division 4	\$600	
3-Flags Aggregate (Ahi+Ono+Mahi)	Division 5	\$200	Winner-Take-All
Biggest Ahi Jackpot	Division 1	\$500	
Biggest Mahi Jackpot	Division 1	\$500	Winner-Take-All
Biggest Ono Jackpot	Division 1	\$500	
Daily Biggest Ahi	Division 1	\$1,000	2 way split
	Division 2	\$500	
Daily Biggest Mahi	Division 1	\$1,000	2 way split
	Division 2	\$500	
Daily Biggest Ono	Division 1	\$1,000	2 way split
	Division 2	\$500	
Across the Board Entry		\$30,900	