



2026 Los Cabos Billfish Tournament Rules

Schedule

- **Wednesday October 7, 4-8 PM:** Final registration, captains' meeting and kickoff party at the Playa Grande Resort's Beachside Terrace
- **Thursday 10/8, Friday 10/9, & Saturday 10/10**
 - **6:30-7 AM:** Visual check out at Cabo San Lucas and San Jose
 - **7 AM:** Shotgun Start
 - **4:30 PM:** Lines Out
 - **2 PM-7:30 PM:** Weigh Station Open at IGY Marina
 - **7:30 PM:** Deadline for release video and fish submissions (see below for exceptions)
- **Sunday, October 11**
 - **6:30 PM-8:30 PM** - Awards Banquet at Playa Grande Resort's Beachside Terrace
 - **7:30 PM** - Dinner is Served

Base Entry Fee

The Los Cabos Billfish Tournament entry fee is \$2,500 per team, whether teams choose to target billfish or gamefish. This entry fee covers the participation of all registered anglers on a team, and allows your team to enter any of the optional jackpot categories. Team registered captains and mates can also be registered anglers. For each team entry, the tournament provides 1 captain's bag, 6 tournament shirts, 6 tournament hats and 6 tickets to all planned entertainment and social activities. The tournament committee reserves the right to deny entry of any individual, organization or corporation.

Trophies and top honors are awarded to the teams that weigh the three heaviest blue or black marlin, 300 lbs or more. If no qualifying marlin are weighed for any of the top 3 positions, top honors will be awarded to the teams with the most points. Points will be awarded by scoring 1.5 points per pound for marlin at or exceeding the 300-pound minimum weights for blue and black marlin, 300-points for blue and black marlin releases, and 25-points for striped marlin, sailfish and spearfish releases. In the event of a tie, the team reaching the highest score first wins with the other team assuming the next award position. This is based on the time of release and boated time of billfish.

Optional Jackpot Categories

Only teams entered in optional jackpots are eligible for cash prizes. We have separated the base entry fee from the eligible payout categories so each team can choose the specific categories they prefer. The tournament rules apply to all optional jackpots. There are several jackpot categories for overall points, billfish release points, marlin, wahoo, dorado, and tuna. Please see our "Prizes and Awards" for full descriptions.

Early Bird Drawing

This tournament has an Early Bird drawing. The winner of the drawing gets a free base entry to the following year's tournament. To be eligible, your paid base entry must be received on or before September 7, 2026. Entries are weighted by the date of payment: for each full month prior to the Early Bird Deadline that a team submits its base entry, the team will receive one (1) additional entry in the drawing. For example, a team that enters six (6) months prior to the deadline will receive six (6) entries. The free entry is good for the following year only and is non-transferable.

Cancellation Policy

Registrants who cancel their participation on or before September 7th, 2026, will receive a full refund of their base entry fee and any optional jackpots. Registrants who cancel within 30 days of the tournament start date will receive 100% refund of any optional jackpots, but no refunds of the base entry fee will be permitted within 30 days of the tournament.

Cancellation of Entire Tournament

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), 85% 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 four weeks of required paperwork as long as all tournament entry fees have cleared the bank.

Angler Requirements

A final registration, captains meeting and kickoff party will take place from 4:00 to 8:00 PM on October 7, 2026, at the Playa Grande Resort in the Salon Magño Banquet Room. All teams must send at least one representative to obtain tournament credentials and the team captain's bag. All anglers and boat captains must attend the scheduled angler/captain's meeting at 7:00 PM. All teams accept and agree to be bound by all instructions and/or rule changes made in writing or orally during that meeting. All anglers must provide a copy of their fishing license to the tournament committee. If a team has an angler drop out, an additional angler can be added if he/she registers and provides their fishing license. All participants must exercise good and courteous sportsmanship whether at the dock, underway or fishing.

Boat and Crew Requirements

Each team must designate a Primary Contact who is able to make decisions for the team. The representative must provide a cell phone number and email address. All correspondence will be sent to the Primary Contact.

Without exception, each boat must have one designated boat captain and at least one designated mate aboard. Designated captains and mates can also be registered anglers. Boats may receive aid from other boats due to mechanical failure. Teams and boats are NOT allowed to receive assistance in landing or releasing fish. Teams are allowed to change boats but must inform the tournament director and check out prior to going fishing. All fish to be weighed must be brought to the designated **IGY Marina Weigh Station** during weigh station hours and removed from the registered boat.

Fishing Licenses

Every person onboard the boat must provide a valid fishing license. The Team Representative must provide all of the required paperwork to the tournament committee prior to fishing to be eligible. A copy of all fishing licenses and the required paperwork must be emailed to the tournament committee at lcbt@bonniercorp.com. The deadline to receive licenses and required paperwork is October 7, 2026, by 8:00 PM.

Required:

- 1. Vessel Registration Document (Certificate of Documentation) or Temporary Import Permit**
- 2. Vessel Insurance (Deck Sheet Cover Page)**
- 3. Captain's License or Captain's License Passport**
- 4. All Angler's Fishing License Numbers Must be added to Catchstat**

It is the responsibility of registered boat captains and anglers to comply with all Mexican Federal and State laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits and any other regulations that may apply.

Rules

IGFA International Angling Rules apply in this tournament unless otherwise stated. If necessary, registered anglers are permitted to make **one rod pass per fish** to another registered angler on their team. When registered anglers are fighting a fish, they must comply with the listed angling rules and regulations. It is the responsibility of each team and crew member to know, understand and abide by angling, tackle and tournament rules during this competition. Any angler, captain or mate who deliberately breaks these rules will be immediately expelled and disqualified from this and future tournaments WITHOUT a refund of any jackpot or registration fees. Decisions of the tournament organizers and committee are final, nonappealable and nonjusticiable.

Fishing Boundary

A 50-mile radius fishing boundary from the Cabo San Lucas coordinates **22°52'35.6" N 109°53'39.9" W** is in effect for this competition. To determine this in case of protest, all teams must have GPS tracking on for the entire duration of the tournament, and they must not erase their GPS tracks until 24 hours after 4:30 PM "Lines-Out" on the final fishing day of the tournament. Upon request from the tournament committee, teams must show their GPS tracks for all three days of the tournament to determine if they were inside the boundary. Any tournament boat witnessed outside of these boundaries by at least two other participating tournament vessels who both file an official protest can be disqualified from further competition. However, in an effort to avoid false claims against tournament leaders, any fish taken by the offending vessel on days prior to the alleged infringement will still be eligible for prize money. Any boats found making false claims of boundary infringement will be disqualified WITHOUT a refund of any jackpot or registration fees and banned from further competition.

Eligible Species

Eligible species include blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, sailfish, spearfish, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, wahoo, and dorado.

- **Blue and black marlin:** Minimum eligible weight is 300 lbs. A maximum of two marlin may be weighed per boat per day, with no more than one marlin per angler per day.
- **Striped marlin, sailfish, and spearfish:** Release only.
- **Tuna (yellowfin or bigeye), wahoo, and dorado:** Minimum eligible weight is 20 lbs.

Billfish Releases and Boatings

All billfish hookups, releases, and boated fish must be reported to Tournament Control, including the boat name, boat number, angler name, and species. Billfish releases should be called in after the fish is officially released, and boated fish should be called in once the fish is onboard.

Scoring

- **Blue or black marlin:** 300 points for each officially released fish, or 1.5 points per pound for any weighed fish meeting or exceeding the 300 lb minimum.
- **Striped marlin, spearfish, or sailfish:** 25 points for each officially released fish.

Penalties

If a boated blue or black marlin fails to meet the 300 lb minimum, the team will be penalized 300 points, plus 2 points for every pound under the minimum. Example: A fish weighing 280 lbs results in a total deduction of 340 points, with no other points awarded for that fish.

Any boated blue or black marlin—regardless of reason—must be weighed. Failure to weigh will result in immediate disqualification from the remainder of the tournament and forfeiture of all previously earned points.

Ties

In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by the team that reaches the final point total first, based on official release or boated times. The other team will assume the next award position.

Video Verification of Releases

All teams are responsible for providing and operating their own video equipment to verify billfish releases. Before departing each day, teams must record video of their boat name and team number using all release cameras. Teams will be informed of the specific catch control card of the day to use prior to each day's start of fishing. *"Catch Control Cards" are in each team packet given to you at the captain's meeting, and it is your responsibility to make sure they are on the boat prior to the start of fishing.*

To score an official release, a single continuous video must include:

1. Clear identification of the species
2. Leader/mainline connection clearly visible inside the rod tip, swivel reeled all the way to the rod tip, OR a team member touching the leader while the fish is still hooked
3. Time of catch, shown via GPS time or video of phone screen.
4. Display the catch control card of the day designated by the tournament
5. Full release of the fish, showing the line being cut, hook removed, or fish swimming away freely

After each release, the official time, species, and angler name must be recorded on the catch affidavit. The affidavit must be signed by each registered angler and the boat captain.

Official Release Time

Official Release Time can be documented as soon as the leader/mainline connection is clearly visible inside the rod tip, the swivel is reeled all the way to the rod tip, OR a team member touches the leader while the fish is still hooked. However, it is the responsibility of each team to show the time of release via a GPS time or video of a phone screen. Tournament control will determine the "Official Release Time" by the time shown visibly in the video. All video requirements still must be met in addition to the official release time in order for a fish to be counted.

Release Video Submission — Methods & Deadline

Deadline: All release videos **and** the signed catch affidavit must be submitted **by 7:30 p.m. local time each fishing day**, unless the Tournament Director grants a specific exception due to fighting a fish after Lines Out or other extenuating circumstances.

*Electronic submission is an **option**, not a right; Tournament Control may require in-person presentation at any time.*

Submission Option A — Electronic Submission via CatchStat (Mobile App or Web)

1. Access.

Electronic submission is available via the CatchStat mobile app (iOS/Android) or via the web at <https://lcbt.catchstat.com>. To use it, a team member's **email must be on the team roster** and correctly linked in CatchStat so that the **"My Teams"** page is visible after sign-in.

- If you cannot access My Teams, you can contact Tournament Control to have your email linked or you **must** submit release media and the affidavit in person.

2. When & Where to Upload.

After Tournament Control adds your billfish release to CatchStat, a corresponding entry will appear in your list of catches. Upload your release video(s) to the matching **fish/angler/release time** entry.

3. Affidavit.

The signed catch affidavit may be:

- **Delivered in person** (see Submission Option B), or
- **Uploaded electronically** as an attachment to **any** catch entry on the team, **or**
- **Emailed** to Tournament Control at **LCBT@bonniercorp.com**

4. Verification & Responsibility

- **Status in CatchStat** - Verified releases will be visually marked as verified within your team's Fish Log in CatchStat.
- **Daily Review** - Tournament Control will review and verify all submitted releases each day. Due to volume, verification may take several hours after the 7:30 p.m. submission deadline.
- **Timeliness vs. Scoring** - The submission deadline is satisfied when your release video(s) and signed affidavit are successfully uploaded/attached (or delivered in person) and correctly associated to the catch by 7:30 p.m. local time. Verification may occur later.
- **Issues & Fallback.** - If any issues are identified (e.g., poor image quality, incomplete footage, or missing required elements), Tournament Control may require the team to present the original video in person for further review.
- **Team Responsibility** - It is each team's responsibility to ensure uploads are complete and visible in CatchStat (or delivered in person) by 7:30 p.m. and to monitor the in-system status thereafter.

5. **Keep Originals.** Teams must retain the **original, unedited** video files until final results are posted.

Option B — In-Person Submission at the Weigh Station

Deliver the **original release video(s)** and the **signed catch affidavit** to Tournament Control at IGY Marina Weigh Station **by 7:30 p.m. local time** each day.

Quick Submission Checklist

- BEFORE LINES-IN, make sure at least one team member can sign in and see **My Teams**.
- After each release appears in your **Fish Log**, upload the matching video(s).
- Submit the **signed affidavit** (upload, email, or hand-deliver).
- If any electronic issue arises, **bring the originals in person** by the deadline.

Releases not submitted by this deadline will be disqualified, unless a specific exception has been made by the Tournament Director. Any falsified affidavits will result in disqualification from the tournament without refund. All recordings, images, and audio become the property of Bonnier LLC and may be used for promotional purposes. Tournament media (website, social channels, or video) is for entertainment and marketing only.

Boated Fish

All teams intending to weigh billfish must notify tournament control at the time it is boated and take video or a picture of the fish with the letter card to confirm the catch is complete. All teams intending to weigh tuna, wahoo or dorado must notify tournament control at the end of the fishing day on their way in.

Tackle

- Rods: Unlimited in use or numbers.
- Teasers: Unlimited in use or numbers.

- Hooks: All tournament participants must use non-offset circle hooks for all species whenever live or dead natural bait is used.
- Baits: Live bait, dead bait, lures and any combination thereof are permitted in this tournament. Live bait cannot be purchased or received from another boat during tournament fishing hours.

Note: *The tournament committee reserves the right to examine any tackle, hooks, line and/or leaders anytime during the event. Refusal to allow the committee to examine any tackle, line and/or leaders will result in immediate disqualification from the event WITHOUT a refund of any jackpot or registration fees.*

Fishing Hours

Lines-In is **7:00 AM**. Lines-Out is **4:30 PM**. The Tournament Committee may adjust starting or ending times if necessary.

- All live-bait fishing must stop **15 minutes before lines-in** (by 6:45 AM).
- Any tournament boat fishing for live bait between **6:45 AM and 7:00 AM** may be disqualified for that day.
- Live-bait fishing may resume after the 7:00 AM start.

Morning Check-Out

Two water-based visual check-out locations will operate from **6:30 to 7:00 AM**: Cabo San Lucas (in front of the arch) and San Jose del Cabo (offshore of Puerto Los Cabos Marina). Boats must pass one of the committee boats in an orderly manner, display their boat number for verification, and wait for a committee member to confirm check-in via radio. After check-in, boats will line up behind the committee boat until the **7:00 AM Shotgun Start** is announced over the radio.

Late Starts

Boats delayed by mechanical problems may check out over the radio at any time during the day, but **must notify Tournament Control before 7:00 AM** with details of the issue, estimated departure time, and location.

Official Time

Tournament Control's clock is the sole official time for start, catch-and-release, and end of fishing each day. Synchronize all cameras, phones, and GPS instruments with the Tournament Control time.

Weigh Station

Weigh station hours are 2 PM – 7:30 PM. All fish to be weighed must be at the weigh station scale by 7:30 pm all three days.

Late Fish Fights

During the last hour of fishing each day, all hookups must be reported. In the event of hookups prior to 4:30 PM in which the fish fight continues past lines-out, all fish to be weighed or release video must be back to the **IGY Marina Weigh Station no later than 9:00 PM on the day of the catch.**

Communications

The official tournament VHF channel will be 28. In the event that channel 28 is not available the backup channel will be 27. All billfish hookups, releases, boated and lost fish are to be reported to tournament control along with the boat name, boat number, angler name and fish species. Billfish releases should be called in after the fish is let go. Tournament Control international cell-phone number +1-561-267-2674 will be available for teams to communicate. During the last hour of fishing each day, all hookups must be reported. Boated fish should be called in once the fish is on board.

Weather

There is no weather committee. The tournament is conducted on a "fish-at-your-own-risk" basis. If any portion of the tournament is fished and a team or teams land or release fish that match the tournament's eligible species and minimum weight limits, then prizes will be awarded.

If government officials outside the jurisdiction of the Tournament Organizers decide to cancel a scheduled tournament fishing day(s) due to perceived unsafe sea conditions, the resumption of fishing will be communicated by 6:00 am the next morning on the tournament's VHF radio channel and posted on the tournament's social media. It's important to understand that a resumption announcement by the Tournament Organizers doesn't guarantee the safety of participants. The decision to fish or not should be solely based on the team's judgment.

CatchStat

The Los Cabos Billfish Tournament uses CatchStat for registration, team management, and private release video verification. CatchStat provides live scoring updates. All content on CatchStat is for entertainment purposes only. Content does not replace and may not reflect official tournament standings or payout amounts. Official standings can be obtained by contacting the tournament committee.

Protests

Participants may lodge protests against any catch which they believe was not made in accordance with these rules. All protests must be stated in writing and accompanied by \$1000 USD. All protests will be settled on the day of the incident. All protests on October 8, 9 and 10 must be in the hands of the tournament director no later than 9:00 PM on the day of the alleged incident. All disputes will be ruled on by the Tournament Committee and shall be final and binding. Decisions of the tournament organizers and committee with regard to protests are final, nonappealable and nonjusticiable. Any boats/teams/participants found making false claims of boundary infringement will be disqualified WITHOUT a refund of any jackpot or registration fees and banned from further competition.

Sportsmanlike Conduct

All participants are expected to maintain a reasonable and sportsmanlike demeanor at all times throughout the tournament. Unsportsmanlike or threatening conduct toward tournament organizers or other participants, or any other behavior which the tournament organizers deem inappropriate, in their sole discretion, will result in immediate disqualification of the entire team with no refund of entry fees.

Equipment and Tackle Regulations

Line

Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament line may be used. 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. For this tournament, 130-pound-test is the maximum; tournament or non-tournament lines are eligible. If the stated line test is 130-pound or less on the label, it is allowed in the tournament. Wire lines are prohibited.

Line Backing

Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used. Line backing not attached to the fishing line is permissible with no restrictions as to size or material. If the fishing line is attached to the backing, the catch shall be classified under the lighter of the two lines. Wire line backing is prohibited.

Double Line

The use of a double line is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications: A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double 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 double line on all classes of tackle over 20 pound (10 kg) shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 40 feet (12.19 meters).

Leader

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 line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader. The leader on all classes of tackle over 20 pound (10 kg) shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 40 feet (12.19 meters).

Rod

Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods. The rod tip must be a minimum of 40 inches (101.6 cm) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 27 inches (68.58 cm) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. When the rod butt is placed in a gimbal, the measurement from the center of the reel seat to the pivot point of the gimbal can be no more than 27 inches. (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

Reel

Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Power-driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device that gives the angler an unfair advantage. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

Hooks for Bait Fishing

All tournament participants must use non-offset circle hooks for all species whenever live or dead natural bait is used. For live or dead bait fishing no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly embedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hook's length (the length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 18 inches (45.72 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.

Hooks for Lures

When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 12 inches (30.48 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). Baits may not be

used with gang hooks. Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1½ hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 4 inches (101 mm), whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Fighting Chairs

May not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting a fish.

Gimbals

Must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.

Gaffs and Nets

Gaffs and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 8 feet (2.44 meters) in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff the rope may not exceed 30 feet (9.14 meters). The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoon or lance attachments are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters).

Entangling Devices

Either with, or without a hook, are prohibited or may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting, or landing the fish.

Outriggers, Downriggers, Spreader Bars and Kites

This equipment is permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device. Spreader bars are also acceptable when used strictly as a teaser. (An angler, captain or mate can act as a human outrigger.)

Daisy Chains, Birds, Floats and Similar Devices

This equipment may only be used if they do not unfairly hamper or inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler or crew an unfair advantage in fighting, landing or boating the fish.

A Safety Line

A safety line may be attached to the rod, reel or harness provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

Angling Regulations

From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the registered anglers must hook, fight, release and land or boat the fish. If necessary, registered anglers are allowed to pass the rod to ONE other registered angler when fighting fish. If a rod holder is used and a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, the registered anglers must remove the rod from the holder as quickly as possible. The intent of this rule is that the angler shall strike and hook the fish with the rod in hand. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish. A harness may be attached to the reel or rod, but not to

the fighting chair. The harness may be replaced or adjusted by a person other than the registered anglers. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted. When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.

The following acts and situations will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with tournament rules, equipment or angling regulations.
2. Resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish.
3. Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
4. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish at any stage of the catch.
5. Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.
6. Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.
7. Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.
8. Intentionally foul hooking a fish.
9. Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.
10. Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.
11. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
12. If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the tournament angling rules.
13. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. (Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries.)
14. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.
15. When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.
16. When a catch violates laws or regulations governing the species or the waters where it was caught.

The Los Cabos Billfish Tournament committee reserves the right to update or change these rules at any time. By entering the Los Cabos Billfish Tournament 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:

[Los Cabos Billfish Tournament website](#)

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

2026 LOS CABOS BILLFISH TOURNAMENT ENTRY & OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

| Mandatory Base Entry Fee | \$2,500 | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|--|
| Category | Entry Fee | Payout | Payout Structure |
| Winner-Take-All Largest Marlin Level 1 | \$1,000 | 85% | Winner-Take-All |
| Winner-Take-All Largest Marlin Level 2 | \$3,000 | 85% | Winner-Take-All |
| Winner-Take-All Largest Marlin Level 3 | \$5,000 | 85% | Winner-Take-All |
| Largest Marlin 50/30/20 Level 1 | \$3,000 | 85% | 50/30/20 |
| Largest Marlin 50/30/20 Level 2 | \$5,000 | 85% | 50/30/20 |
| Daily Largest Marlin Level 1 | \$1,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 |
| Daily Largest Marlin Level 2 | \$2,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 |
| Daily Largest Marlin Level 3 | \$3,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 |
| Daily Largest Marlin Level 4 | \$4,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 |
| Winner-Take-All Release Points Level 1 | \$3,000 | 85% | Winner-Take-All |
| Winner-Take-All Release Points Level 2 | \$5,000 | 85% | Winner-Take-All |
| Billfish Release Points 50/30/20 Level 1 | \$3,000 | 85% | 50/30/20 |
| Billfish Release Points 50/30/20 Level 2 | \$5,000 | 85% | 50/30/20 |
| Daily Release Points Level 1 | \$3,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 |
| Daily Release Points Level 2 | \$5,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 |
| TWD Heaviest of Each Gamefish Level 1 | \$1,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Heaviest of each species |
| TWD Heaviest of Each Gamefish Level 2 | \$3,000 | 85% | 3 way split - Heaviest of each species |
| Heaviest Wahoo Daily | \$500 | 85% | 3 way split - Heaviest Daily Wahoo |
| Heaviest Tuna Daily | \$500 | 85% | 3 way split - Heaviest Daily Tuna |
| Heaviest Dorado Daily | \$500 | 85% | 3 way split - Heaviest Daily Dorado |
| TOTAL ALL IN | \$59,000 | | |

Please see our "Prizes and Awards" form for a full description of each optional category.

FULL RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

READ CAREFULLY! This Release affects your legal rights, and its completion is a prerequisite for your enrollment and participation in the Los Cabos Billfish Tournament (the "Tournament"). Your entry indicates your FULL acceptance of these terms.

By entering the Los Cabos Billfish Tournament and paying the entry fees, I AGREE AS FOLLOWS: I am applying to participate in the Tournament; acceptance of my application is at the sole discretion of the Tournament organizers. In consideration of being permitted to apply for, enroll or participate in the Tournament and such activities as may be arranged for me in connection with such application, enrollment and participation (collectively, the "Tournament Activities"), individually for myself and on behalf of my personal representatives, heirs, assigns, executors, administrators, and next of kin, and as the vessel's master (if I am the vessel's master):

1. I hereby acknowledge that the Tournament Activities are dangerous and hazardous, and may entail the risk of serious injury, death, and property or economic damage. I understand that the risks include, but are not limited to, dangers posed by inclement weather and the inherent risks posed by game fishing. I hereby fully assume all non-economic and economic risks posed to me by my enrollment and participation in the Tournament Activities, whether those risks are known or not and whether those risks are foreseen or not. I hereby release and discharge the Tournament, its sponsors and Bonnier LLC; each of their respective parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliated companies; the officers, employees, associates, agents, and contractors of all of the foregoing; all other Tournament participants; and all location owners and operators (collectively, the "Releasees") of and from any and all claims, suits, causes of action, obligations, liabilities, debts, costs, damages, or demands of every kind and nature which I now have or which may arise from or in connection with my enrollment and participation in the Tournament Activities, whether or not caused or contributed to by the negligence of the Releasees or the manner in which the Tournament is conducted by the Releasees. ALL TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS ARE ADVISED TO OBTAIN THEIR OWN INSURANCE COVERAGE.
2. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Releasees, their heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, assigns, and parent organizations from any damages, costs, expenses, or liabilities, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees or other professional fees, resulting from or in any way connected with the risk posed by the Tournament or Tournament Activities, and regardless of whether those risks were caused in full or in part by a party indemnified hereunder.
3. I agree that this Release supersedes any other agreements, written or oral, between the parties and is governed by the laws of Florida. I intend this release to be interpreted as broadly as possible, and if any portion of this Release is held invalid, I intend the remainder to continue in full legal force and effect.
4. I acknowledge receipt of the rules of the Tournament, and I agree to fully abide thereby. I further agree that: (i) I will abide by and accept all decisions made by the Tournament organizers or any representative of the Tournament organizers in connection with my application, enrollment, or participation in the Tournament; (ii) all such decisions will be final, non-appealable, and in the sole discretion of the Tournament organizers or their representatives; and (iii) any economic or non-economic consequences to me as a result of such decisions are within the scope of the foregoing release.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL LEGAL RIGHTS BY ACCEPTING IT. MY ACCEPTANCE AND TOURNAMENT ENTRY IS GIVEN VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE BEING MADE TO ME, AND I INTEND MY ENTRY TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Participants in Tournaments are advised to obtain their own insurance covering them and their vessel's participation. By entering the tournament, I hereby affirm receipt of the rules of the Tournament. I also affirm that I will abide by and accept all decisions made by the Tournament committee.

PUBLICITY RELEASE

In consideration for being permitted to enroll and participate in the Los Cabos Billfish Tournament (the "Tournament"), I hereby agree to the following terms:

1. I grant the Tournament, Bonnier LLC, and their respective licensees, affiliates, successors and assigns (collectively, the "Licensed Parties") the unrestricted, irrevocable, and perpetual worldwide right to record, copy, reproduce, publish, exhibit, perform and otherwise exploit (collectively, "use"), and license others to use in any and all media now existing and hereinafter developed, without payment of additional compensation, my appearance, name, likeness, voice, and statements that I make in interviews connected with the Tournament, and any photographic, video or audio materials that I create during my participation in the Tournament (collectively, the "Property"), for any purpose, including but not limited to advertising and promotion. I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve any use of the Property or any materials including the Property.
2. The Licensed Parties shall have no liability to me relating to the use or publication, as set forth herein, of the Property for any reason. For myself and on behalf of my personal representatives, heirs, assigns, executors, administrators, and next of kin, I hereby irrevocably release and exempt the Licensed Parties from and against all actions, claims and demands that I now have or may have in the future arising from or relating to any such use or publication of the Property.
3. Nothing herein obligates the Licensed Parties to make any use of any of the rights set forth herein. The rights granted shall not revert to me by reason of the Licensed Parties' lack of use and are irrevocable.

By registering as a participant, you are consenting to our [privacy policy](#) and agreeing to grant The Marlin Group use of your personal information to send you newsletters, surveys, offers, and other emails that may be of interest on behalf of Marlin and our trusted partners. You can opt out or amend your email preferences at any time.