

2025 Cape Fear Blue Marlin Tournament Rules

**Rules Committee - Arlen Ash, Cameron Bailey, William Bailey, Bobby Brown, Jackson David,
Jimmy Vass, Jr., Jordan Vass**

Weighmasters – Randy Gregory, George Lott

Official Reporting / Weigh Station – Seapath Marina and Yacht Club

1. All boats must be registered no later than 9:00pm Wednesday May 28th and entry fees paid to qualify for prizes. Entry fees may be paid by cash or check. No credit cards accepted. The tournament or tournament host reserves the right to deny entry to anyone for any cause. Withdrawal from the tournament must be done by notifying a rules committee member by 8:30am on the first fishing day and 15% of Level 1 money will be retained for tournament expenses.

Registration will be Wednesday May 28th at Seapath Marina starting at 3pm.

2. Fishing time will be GPS 8:30am to 3:00pm daily Thursday May 29th, Friday May 30th, and Saturday May 31st. Fish hooked after 3:00pm each day are not eligible for prize money. VHF channel 72. No sonars shall be deployed before lines in time of 8:30am each day. This is a fish 2 out of 3 day event, Captains choice. This is a total points tournament(Weighed/Released/Combined). Fishing boundaries will be between North 39550 and South 39000 Loran. An official lay day form must be turned in by 8:30am the day declared as a non-fishing day. Email a picture of the completed lay day form to; rules@capefearbluemarlin.com. The form must be signed by a participant. If a lay day form is not turned in, that day will automatically be counted as a fishing day.

3. **Boated Blue Marlin** - A Blue Marlin that has been boated must be reported to the committee boat along with an estimated time of arrival to billfish scales(Atlantic Marine). A Blue Marlin that is boated must be a minimum of 110 inches, measured from V-notch in tail to tip of lower jaw. Billfish is considered boated if it breaks the vertical plane of the boat or is gaffed to be measured. If a Blue Marlin does not meet the required 110 inch minimum, all billfish points(weighed and released) shall be disqualified for that boat for that day. Points for qualifying billfish shall be 1 ½ pts per pound up to 599lbs and 2 pts per pound 600lbs or above. Scales are open at 4:30pm and close at 7:00pm each day.

4. **Released Billfish** – All billfish must be reported to committee boat when hooked, lost or released. The crew cannot attempt to boat or gaff a billfish that is claimed to be released. A verified release of any billfish must include a time-stamped video or digital photograph showing the date, time, leader in mate's hand or inside the rod tip, the assigned tournament marker (found in registration packet), and identifiable species in one single picture or continuous, unedited video segment. Release form and picture/pictures shall be emailed to rules@capefearbluemarlin.com. All materials must be received no later than 7:00pm the day of the release. In the event of a tie, the first boat to achieve winning points will be declared winner. Each release will award the participating boat with points as per the following values and criteria.

a.) Blue marlin – Undisputable identifiable blue marlin meeting all criteria in Rule 4 shall be worth 400 pts for Sonar boat and 425 pts for Non-Sonar boat. Must pass a 4 out of 7 vote from rules committee if in question. If a blue marlin is not identifiable and does not pass a majority vote in the rules committee, it shall be worth 100 pts.

b.) White marlin/Sailfish/Spearfish – Undisputable indentifiable white marlin/sailfish/spearfish meeting all criteria in Rule 4 shall be worth 120 pts for Sonar boat and 125 pts for Non-Sonar boat. Must pass a 4 out of 7 vote from rules committee if in question. If a white marlin/spearfish is not identifiable and does not pass a majority vote in the rules committee, it shall be worth 100 pts.

5. **Gamefish** – 1st Place Tuna(Yellowfin Only), Dolphin or Wahoo will be determined by weight. If two or more fish are of same weight, then length plus girth shall determine winner. All gamefish qualifying for prize money must be offloaded at the official weigh station(Seapath Marina) from the boat landing the fish unless authorized by the weighmasters. Scales open 4:30pm and close at 7:00pm each day.

6. **Level 4 Billfish Lottery** – Each individual billfish released shall be assigned a number. At the awards party two numbers will be randomly drawn and the Level 4 monies will be split between the two winners equally 50/50.

7. This is a rod and reel, hook and line tournament. Double line and leader may not exceed 40ft, neither of which may exceed 30ft. Mandatory use of non offset circle hooks with natural bait or natural/artificial combinations is required. J-hooks may be deployed with artificial lures only. All billfish, gamefish and participants must adhere to the latest NC state and Federal regulations to qualify for prize money. Each participant(including captain and mate) is required to have a current NC state saltwater fishing license. All boats must have current 2025 HMS permits.

8. Disputes must be made in writing to CFBMT rules committee. Dispute must be made by 8:30am the following day or no later than 7:00pm the last day of tournament. Weighmaster has the right to hold any fish qualified for prize money deemed questionable. If retention refused, fish is disqualified. Rules committee may cut open any fish for inspection. Fish with weight alterations are disqualified. IGFA rules apply regarding all fish.

9. Prize money checks will be written to the person/entity on registration form. SSN or TIN must be provided to receive prize money. Checks will be mailed to address on form when all checks have cleared by the bank.

10. One person from each boat entered is responsible for knowing rules, including any changes made. Any boat breaching above rules will be disqualified. Decisions of the rules committee are final. By signing the CFBMT entry form and paying the entry fees you have agreed and understand the rules for the 2025 CFBMT.

HMS permits – All boats must have one of the following valid permits – HMS angling(recreational), HMS Charter/Head boat or Atlantic Tunas General category permit(commercial). Current permits expire annually on December 31st each year. Permits must be on board the vessel when engaged in fishing. The 2025 CFBMT is a registered recreational HMS tournament. For more information on HMS permits call (888) 872-8862.