

# Nantucket Anglers' Club

## 2010 Billfish & Offshore Tournament Rules

### 1 IGFA Rules

- 1.1 Unless otherwise noted below, the official rules of the International Game Fish Association will govern this tournament. A copy of the IGFA rules is available in the club office and on line at: <http://www.igfa.org/BookRule2004.pdf>

### 2 Permits

- 2.1 All participants are required to have a valid federal fishing permit for their vessel.
- 2.2 The following permits are recognized by the National Marine Fisheries Service for participation in this type of tournament:

HMS Angling  
HMS Charter/Headboat  
Atlantic Tunas General Category

- 2.3 Please refer to the National Marine Fisheries Service <http://www.hmspermits.gov> to obtain a permit.

### 3 Tournament Structure

- 3.1 The Nantucket Anglers' Club Billfish & Offshore Tournament is a two day, boat/team tournament.
- 3.2 The Boat/Team with the highest point total will be considered the winner of the tournament
- 3.3 Individual anglers will be recognized in other awards as defined below.
- 3.4 Target species are listed below in Trophy Weights & Scoring
- 3.5 Boats/Teams are permitted up to four anglers (entrant plus 3 others) as part of tournament entry. Anglers must be registered prior to fishing.
- 3.6 Additional anglers, above and beyond the those included in the tournament entry fee, may be signed up at the discretion of the boat/team using the form(s) found in the tournament bag or in the Club office. Additional anglers must be registered prior to their departure from Nantucket. Additional anglers will be assessed a fee of \$100.00 per additional angler

### 4 Fishing Hours

- 4.1 Only fish caught during stated fishing hours are eligible for the tournament. Fishing hours are as follows:  
DEPART NANTUCKET: Thursday, July 29: Immediately following captains' meeting  
RETURN NANTUCKET: Saturday, July 31: 6:00 pm
- 4.2 The Captain's meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Thursday, July 29. **Attendance is required in order to begin fishing.** Boats unable to send a representative to the meeting due to circumstances beyond their control (breakdowns, etc.) must report in person to the club prior to beginning fishing.
- 4.3 Official time will be kept by the committee boat.
- 4.4 Boats may, at their discretion, fish any time within the above fishing hours.
- 4.5 Boats are not required to return to Nantucket until 6:00 pm on Saturday. Boats choosing to remain offshore overnight are requested to notify at least one other tournament boat or the Nantucket Anglers' Club.
- 4.6 All boats with fish and/or catch reports must be within the bounds of Nantucket Harbor, as defined by a line running from Brant Point to First Point no later than 6:00 pm on Saturday, July 31. No fish will be weighed or catch reports accepted for boats failing to comply.
- 4.7 Boats with fish and/or catch reports that have returned by 6:00 pm must make every effort to bring fish to the scales and turn in catch reports as quickly as possible.

## 5 Scales

- 5.1 All tournament fish must be weighed on the Nantucket Anglers' Club scales located at the club.
- 5.2 Scales will be open from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday, and from 5:00 pm on Saturday, until all eligible fish have been weighed.
- 5.3 Scales can be made available at times other than those posted on Friday and Saturday prior to the end of the tournament by contacting the Nantucket Anglers' Club Office during normal business hours. The club may be contacted via radio or phone at 508-228-2299.

## 6 Lay Days

- 6.1 Due to the fact that captains, rather than representatives of the Club, know the capabilities of their vessels, the determination of whether a particular boat will call a lay day is left to them.
- 6.2 In the event of a prediction of inclement weather for Friday, August 6, a determination will be made at the captain's meeting to move fishing to Saturday and Sunday.

## 7 Committee Boat

- 7.1 The committee Boat this year will be K-Bird. The official radio channel will be 72A. Committee Boat announcements will be made on this frequency only. Official announcements will be made at: daily at 5:00 am and at the top of the hour until 4:00 pm.
- 7.2 Boats are required to communicate time of all hookups, releases, and boating of eligible fish, as well as the name of the angler.

## 8 Trophy Weights and Scoring

- 8.1 The Nantucket Anglers' Club Offshore Tournament is primarily a release tournament and encourages participants to engage in practices that will perpetuate and enhance the resource represented by target species. Therefore all target species have been assigned a trophy weight and will be scored as follows below.
- 8.2 Please note that tournament trophy weights may exceed state and federal regulations
- 8.3 It is expected that all participants will adhere to both the minimum size and possession limits for all fish caught as established by relevant state and federal regulations. Failure to comply with state and federal limits may result in disqualification. A list of mandated minimum sizes for common species is available at the club office.
- 8.4 Fish brought to the scales that fail to meet established trophy weights or length minimums will incur a penalty equal to the release or minimum points listed below.
- 8.5 Though rare in these waters both sailfish and spearfish have been documented. All sailfish and spearfish must be released, without exception. Any sailfish or spearfish released will receive 100 points per release

Species	Trophy Weight/Length	Points per Release	Points at weigh-in
White Marlin	NA	100 points	All white marlin are to be released
Blue Marlin	NA	300 points	All blue marlin are to be released
Swordfish	Federal minimum	300 points	300 points, plus 1 point/pound over 100 pounds weight
Tuna (All)	See Below	20 points (6 max)	See Below
Tuna (Bluefin)	73"	See Above	100 points, plus 1 point/pound over 200 pounds weight (one fish per tournament)

Tuna (Albacore)	35 pounds	See Above	35 points, plus 1 point/pound over trophy weight (3 fish per tournament)
Tuna (Yellowfin)	45 pounds	See Above	45 points, plus 1 point/pound over trophy weight (3 fish per tournament)
Tuna (Big Eye)	125 pounds	See Above	125 points, plus 1 point/pound over trophy weight (3 fish per tournament)
Wahoo	NA	NA	1 point/pound

## 9 Tiebreakers

9.1 Time of release or boating is vital for tie breaking in tournament standings. In the event of a tie, time of release or boating will be/ the determining factor, with the tiebreaker going to the first angler/boat reaching the higher score.

## 10 Fishing Conduct

10.1 All fish weighed in for tournament and/or prize consideration must be caught from a boat entered in the tournament. In the event of a mechanical failure only, participants may fish from another vessel. The tournament committee must be advised in writing prior to the vessel change.

10.2 Sportsmanlike conduct ashore and afloat is expected of all participants and their guests

10.3 All participants are responsible for tournament information and rules

10.4 It is expected that all participants will adhere to applicable state and federal minimum size and possession limits, regardless of whether said release or weigh-in will be submitted for tournament consideration.

10.5 All boats are expected to have at least one representative at the Captains' Meeting.

10.6 Upon request of a boat fighting a fish other boats must stay clear.

10.7 In the true spirit of offshore tournament fishing and to encourage traditional cockpit fishing, fish must be released from the cockpit or aft of the helm in non-cockpit boats. Upon hookup, every effort must be made by the angler to go aft of the helm to fight and tag the fish.

10.8 The use of aircraft or outside assistance of any kind for baiting or spotting fish is prohibited

## 11 Tackle and Line

11.1 There is no limit on the breaking strength of line used in the tournament.

11.2 All other tackle and gear must conform to IGFA rules

11.3 No harpoon gear, of any kind, can be carried by any tournament boat.

## 12 Circle Hooks

12.1 The use of circle hooks is required for all natural baits and natural bait/artificial lure combinations used in targeting billfish, per the National Marine Fisheries Service Regulations.

## 13 Documentation of Catch

13.1 All boats are required to document their catch as follows:

13.2 Radio Reporting

Boats are required to communicate time of all releases, boatings, and loss of eligible fish, including the name of the angler. In the event the committee boat can not be reached, it is

requested that another tournament boat take note of the transmission.

### **13.3 Photo Documentation**

All boats are required to document their catch, especially releases, with digital photographs, using a camera with a time and date stamp. In the event of a question regarding a boat's catch, the camera's data storage device must be turned over to the Tournament Committee. Boats are required to provide their own cameras and data storage devices.

### **13.4 Daily Catch Log**

Catch logs are provided in boat kits. Please fill out completely. Logs must be turned into the club office or statistician as soon as possible after return to Nantucket on Saturday. Failure to turn in properly completed catch logs may result in disqualification of catch.

## **14 Protests**

14.1 In the event that an issue arises regarding the interpretation of these rules, participants may request a resolution be made by the tournament committee. To do so, aggrieved parties must inform the tournament committee in writing as soon as possible after observing the perceived infraction, and no later than 8:00 pm on the day the tournament ends. The tournament committee will not hear protests after this time.

14.2 The tournament committee may request additional information and documentation from involved participants.

14.3 The tournament committee reserves the right to hold any fish and/or gear deemed questionable.

14.4 All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final. There will be no refunds.

14.5 The Nantucket Anglers' Club Board of Directors reserves the right to impose additional sanctions on Nantucket Anglers' Club members found to have violated these rules, up to and including revocation of membership.

## **15 Weigh-in and Fish Disposal**

15.1 All eligible fish are to be weighed in on official club scales located next to the club

15.2 Tackle must be made available for inspection upon request of weigh master or tournament officials

15.3 All fish brought to the scales are subject to physical inspection and may be held pending inspection at the discretion of the weigh master or tournament officials

15.4 Please cooperate with the weigh master in filling out weigh in slips. Please do not leave until your slip is filled out and signed. It is the responsibility of the angler to insure that information on the form is correct.

15.5 Disposal of fish will be the responsibility of the angler/boat. The club will not make exceptions or create alternate solutions.

15.6 No fish may be dressed at the weigh-in station

# **AWARDS CATEGORIES**

All tournament participants will be eligible for the following awards

## ***Nantucket Anglers' Club Offshore Tournament***

*Boat with highest combined points total*

*1<sup>st</sup> - 25% of entry fees*

*2<sup>nd</sup> - 15% of entry fees*

*3<sup>rd</sup> - 10% of entry fees*

## ***John MacPhee Award***

*Boat with most combined billfish points*

## ***Top Male Angler***

*Male with highest combined points total*

## ***Top Female Angler***

*Female angler with highest combined points total*

## ***Robert Goodwin Award***

*Junior Angler with most combined billfish points*

## ***John G. MacMillian Junior Angler Award***

*Junior angler with highest combined points total*

## ***Pete Guild Entrants Award***

*Entrant of boat with highest combined points total*

## ***Gund Burchell White Marlin Release***

*Angler with most white marlin release points*

## ***Blue Marlin Release Award***

*Angler with most blue marlin release points*

## **ADDITIONAL ENTRY TOURNAMENT AWARDS**

Additional optional entry fee required to enter must be submitted prior to beginning of fishing

Prize pool distributed as follows

1<sup>st</sup> place – 50% of category prize pool

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 30% of category prize pool

3<sup>rd</sup> place – 20% of category prize pool

***Most combined billfish points (blue marlin, white marlin, swordfish)***

*\$250.00 category*

*\$500.00 category*

*\$1,000.00 category*

***Heaviest Bluefin Tuna***

*\$500.00*

***Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna***

*\$250.00*

***Heaviest Albacore Tuna***

*\$250.00*

***Big Eye Tuna***

*\$250.00*

***Heaviest Wahoo***

*\$250.00*

***Heaviest Mahi Mahi***

*\$250.00*