



**40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
NANTUCKET ANGLERS' CLUB  
BILLFISH TOURNAMENT  
&  
OFFSHORE CLASSIC**

# Rules

## 1 IGFA RULES

- 1.1 Unless otherwise noted below, the official rules of the International Game Fish Association will govern these tournament(s). 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

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 Tournament and Offshore Classic Tournament represent two distinct tournaments. Participants will compete in both under the same entry fee.
- 3.2 Unless otherwise noted below both tournaments will utilize the same rules.
- 3.3 Both tournaments are boat/team tournaments. Individual anglers will be recognized in other awards as defined below.

## 4 FISHING HOURS

- 4.1 Only fish caught during stated fishing hours are eligible for the tournament(s). Fishing hours are as follows:

START: Saturday, August 1: 12:01 am

SCALES CLOSE: Sunday, August 2: 5:00

pm

- 4.2 Official time will be kept by the committee boat.

## **5 TIME of DEPARTURE**

- 5.1 No tournament participant may depart from Nantucket prior to 12:01 am on Saturday, August 1

## **6 SCALES**

- 6.1 All tournament fish must be weighed on the Nantucket Anglers' Club scales located at the club.
- 6.2 Scales will be open from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Saturday, August 1, and from 5:00 pm on as defined under "End of Tournament" below on Sunday August 2.

## **7 END of TOURNAMENT**

- 7.1 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, or Madaket Harbor, as defined by a perpendicular line across Hither Creek staring at Jackson Point, no later than 5:00 pm on Sunday, August 2. No fish will be weighed or catch reports accepted for boats failing to comply.
- 7.2 Boats with fish and/or catch reports that have returned by 5:00 pm must make every effort to bring fish to the scales and turn in catch reports as quickly as possible.
- 7.3 Scales will remain open until all eligible fish have been weighed.

## **8 OVERNIGHTS**

- 8.1 Boats are not required to return to Nantucket between the end of Saturday's fishing and the beginning of Sunday's, leaving them the option of staying offshore during overnight. However all boats must report their intentions to the Club no later than 1:00 pm on Saturday afternoon.
- 8.2 Boats may fish overnight if they so choose and fish caught and/or released will count towards tournament standings.

## **9 LAY DAYS**

- 9.1 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.

## **10 COMMITTEE BOAT**

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 Boats are required to communicate time of all hookups, releases, and boating of eligible billfish, as well as the name of the angler.

## **11 ADDITIONAL ANGLERS**

- 11.1 The Billfish Tournament and Offshore Classic entry fee allows the entry of three anglers per boat. Additional Angler's can be added at the discretion of participants by filling out an Additional Angler Forms provided in your boat kit. Please fill out if you wish to add another angler during the week.
- 11.2 Please note that the committee boat or office must be informed of an additional angler prior to the start of fishing.

## **12 AWARDS CATEGORIES**

12.1 Participants will be eligible for the following awards

### ***Nantucket Anglers' Club Billfish Tournament***

#### ***John A. MacPhee Memorial – Billfish Tournament Winner***

*Boat with most combined billfish points*

*Billfish Tournament 2<sup>nd</sup> place*

*Billfish Tournament 3<sup>rd</sup> place*

#### ***Captain Jack Dooley Award – Top Male Angler***

*Male Angler with most combined billfish points*

#### ***Robert J Reid Award – Top Female Angler***

*Female angler with most combined billfish points*

#### ***Robert Goodwin Award – Top Junior Angler***

*Junior angler with most combined billfish points*

#### ***Captain Pete Guild Entrant's Award***

*Entrant with most combined billfish points*

#### ***Gund/Burchell White Marlin Release Award***

*Angler with most white marlin release points*

#### ***Blue Marlin Conservation Award***

*Angler with most blue marlin release points*

#### ***First Eligible Billfish***

#### ***Last Eligible Billfish***

#### ***Captain Pete Guild First Lifetime Billfish***

## ***Nantucket Angler's Club Offshore Classic Tournament***

### ***Offshore Classic Tournament Winner***

*Boat with the most combined points in the following categories:*

*Heaviest 3 yellowfin/albacore*

*Heaviest 3 Big Eye*

*Heaviest 3 Mahi Mahi*

*Heaviest 3 Wahoo*

*1<sup>st</sup> Place – 25% of Entry Fees*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 15% of Entry Fees*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 10% of Entry Fees*

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

*Junior angler with the most combined points in the following categories:*

*First 3 white marlin – scored per billfish tournament rules*

*First 3 blue marlin – scored per billfish tournament rules*

*First 3 swordfish – scored per billfish tournament rules*

*Heaviest 3 yellowfin/albacore*

*Heaviest 3 Big Eye*

*Heaviest 3 Mahi Mahi*

*Heaviest 3 Wahoo*

### ***Hard Luck Award***

### ***Proud Mary Award***

*For outstanding service to the tournament*

## **13 TROPHY WEIGHTS and SCORING**

- 13.1 The Nantucket Anglers' Club Billfish 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.
- 13.2 Please note that tournament trophy weights may exceed state and federal regulations
- 13.3 It is expected that all participants will adhere to 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.

### **White Marlin**

A white marlin released is worth 100 points toward Billfish Tournament standings. A trophy weight of 95 pounds has been established for white marlin. Any white marlin brought to the scales that exceeds 95 pounds will be receive 100 points plus 1 point per pound towards tournament standings. In the event that a white marlin is brought to the scales that weighs less than 95 pounds, a 100 point penalty will be assessed in tournament standings.

### **Blue Marlin**

A blue marlin released is worth 100 points toward Billfish Tournament standings. A trophy weight of 450 pounds has been established for blue marlin. Any blue marlin brought to the scales that exceeds 450 pounds will be receive 100 points plus 1 point per pound towards tournament standings. In the event that a blue marlin is brought to the scales that weighs less than 450 pounds, a 100 point penalty will be assessed in tournament standings

**Swordfish**

A swordfish released is worth 100 points toward Billfish Tournament standings. Any swordfish brought to the scales that exceeds 150 pounds will be receive 100 points plus 1 point per pound towards tournament standings.

**Spearfish and Sailfish**

Though rare in these waters, both species have been recorded. In the event of a catch of either species, they must, without exception, be released. Anglers will receive 100 points toward Billfish Tournament Standings for the release.

**Yellowfin and Albacore Tuna**

Yellowfin and Albacore Tuna brought to the scales will receive 1 point per pound toward Offshore Classic standings. Both Yellowfin and Albacore must be a minimum of 27" to qualify for the tournament.

**Big Eye Tuna**

Big Eye Tuna brought to the scales will receive 1 point per pound toward Offshore Classic standings. Big Eye must be a minimum of 27" to qualify for the tournament.

**Mahi Mahi**

Mahi Mahi brought to the scales will receive 1 point per pound toward Offshore Classic standings

**Wahoo**

Wahoo brought to the scales will receive 1 point per pound toward Offshore Classic standings

*Please note that all species will count toward scoring in the MacMillian Junior Angler Tournament*

## **14 Tiebreakers**

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

## **15 FISHING CONDUCT**

### **Registered Boat**

All fish weighed in for 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.

### **Boat and Crew Conduct**

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

All participants are responsible for tournament information and rules

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

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

### **Tackle and Line**

The maximum breaking strength of line is 130# as defined by the IGFA

All other tackle and gear must conform to IGFA rules

### **Circle Hooks**

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

**Aft of the Helm**

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.

**Crew Conduct**

Casting by mate/crew is prohibited.

**Chum**

Chumming is prohibited.

**Live Bait**

Live bait is prohibited.

**Aircraft/Outside Assistance**

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

**16 DOCUMENTATION of CATCH**

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

**Radio Reporting**

Boats are required to communicate time of all hookups, releases, boating, and loss of eligible billfish, 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.

**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 Sunday August 2. Failure to turn in properly completed catch logs may result in disqualification of that day's catch.

## **17 PROTESTS**

- 17.1 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 7:00 pm on the day the tournament ends. The tournament committee will not hear protests after this time.
- 17.2 The tournament committee may request information and documentation from involved participants.
- 17.3 The tournament committee reserves the right to hold any fish and gear deemed questionable.
- 17.4 All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final. There will be no refunds.
- 17.5 The Nantucket Anglers' Club Board of Directors reserves the right to impose additional sanctions on club members found to have violated these rules, up to and including revocation of membership.

## **18 WEIGH-IN and FISH DISPOSAL**

- 18.1 All eligible fish are to be weighed in on official club scales located next to the club or those used as roving scales as defined above
- 18.2 Tackle must be made available for inspection upon request of weigh master or tournament officials
- 18.3 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
- 18.4 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.
- 18.5 Disposal of fish will be the responsibility of the angler/boat. The club will not make exceptions or create alternate solutions.

