



2011 North Carolina Governor's Cup Tournament Rules

1. Tournament participation in the Governor's Cup Series requires acceptance of and compliance with these rules.
2. Tournaments shall be billfish tournaments.
3. Tournaments shall be registered Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournaments.
4. Tournaments shall have a representative at an annual Governor's Cup Advisory Board meeting. The Advisory Board is comprised of a representative from each tournament, and the Series coordinator from the Division of Marine Fisheries. A charter captain, a private boat captain, and a member of the scientific community, as chosen by the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, will also serve. The Advisory Board's Duty is to recommend rules and policies to the Division of Marine Fisheries Director for the Series.
5. Participating tournaments shall donate to the operating budget of the Series in the amount of \$1000.
6. All participating tournaments shall be 501C3 or like/kind.
7. Participating tournament dates shall not overlap and shall be available by January 1 of the Series year.
8. There shall not be more than three Governor's Cup tournaments in a month.
9. Participating tournaments shall be open to the public and rod and reel, hook and line fishing.
10. Participating tournament rules shall include that all vessels have a proper and current HMS permit and that all crew, anglers, and any other individual participating in fishing shall have a valid NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) or be covered under a valid For Hire CRFL blanket license.
11. All fish taken in tournaments shall be in accordance with State and Federal size and bag limits. State and Federal size and bag limits must be printed for tournament participants along with the tournament rules.
 - Blue Marlin (99" LJFL minimum) & White Marlin (66" LJFL minimum) - 1 marlin per vessel per day
 - Sailfish (63" LJFL minimum) - 1 fish per vessel per day
 - Yellowfin Tuna - (27" CFL minimum) - 3 fish per person per day
 - Dolphin - 10 fish per person per day or 60 fish per trip whichever is less (no minimum size required)
 - Wahoo - 2 fish per person per day (no minimum size required)*Size and Bag limits as of January 1, 2011. Please check size and bag limits often, they are subject to change without notice.
12. Landed blue marlin shall meet either the requirement of 110 inches in lower jaw fork length or 400 pounds in weight. The landing of white marlin and sailfish is strictly prohibited.
13. No billfish shall qualify for a release if boated for any reason, gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured, and participating tournament rules shall encourage the quick and safe release of all billfish landed to reduce post-release mortality.
14. No tournament can require the mandatory tagging of billfish.
15. Tournaments shall require that the captain, mate, and angler execute in full an affidavit attesting to compliance with all rules and conditions pertaining to the release of the described billfish.
16. Billfish releases shall be confirmed by participating tournaments through polygraph testing, photographs, video, or observers in order to verify the release when there is money awarded to participants.
17. Tournaments shall assist the Division of Marine Fisheries in requested fisheries data collection.
18. All tournament fish shall be weighed on certified scales that are approved by the Division of Marine Fisheries.
19. The addition and/or replacement of any tournament shall be voted on by the Governor's Cup Advisory Board.
20. Any tournament being considered for addition to the series shall be a tournament that has been in place for at least 3 years with an average of 20 boats.