

The rules set forth by the Tournament Committee in no way modify or abridge State & Federal Fishing Regulations. It is the responsibility of each Captain to know and adhere to these Regulations.

1. **Deadline for Entries.** The Deadline for entry fees in the Blue Water Tournament shall be Friday, May 22, 2009 at 9 p.m.
2. **Entry Fees.** The entry fee for the Blue Water Tournament shall be \$400 per boat before May 15, 2009. Any entry fee received after May 15, 2009 until 9 p.m., May 22, 2009 shall be \$500.
3. **This tournament is Captain's Choice.** There are NO "Weather" or "Lay" days. In the event the Tournament Committee Cancels the Tournament, 90% of the Level I fee and 100% of Level II, III, IV fees will be refunded within sixty (60) days of the cancellation date.
4. **Check-Out.** No checkout required for Blue Water Tournament boats. Any additional or relevant Tournament procedures will be announced at the Captain's Meeting, Friday, May 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swansboro Rotary Civic Center.
5. **Fishing Times and Boundaries.** Blue Water Tournament fishing time starts at 9 am and ends at 3 p.m. each fishing day by GPS time. No lines, teasers, or cameras in the water before 9 am each day. Fishing Boundary is Loran lines 40100 North 39200 South.
6. **All Billfish must be reported** to the committee boat when hooked, lost, boated, or released. Radio frequency **VHF channel 74, SSB4146.**
7. **Weigh-In.** Blue Water Tournament fish may be weighed-in at Hammocks Beach State Park, Swansboro, or Big Rock Weigh Station, Morehead City Waterfront for blue marlin, tuna, dolphin and wahoo. Release forms may be turned in at either of the two weigh stations or at the Reporting Stations at Odens Dock Hatteras or at Bridge Tender at Wrightsville Beach. Please give tournament boat number to weighmaster to assure accurate accounting records.
8. **Winners of Billfish Categories** will be determined by points. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the first boat to reach the most points. Blue Marlin weighed in must be minimum of 400 pounds or 110 inches or a 400 point penalty will be assessed. Blue Marlin will be awarded 300 points per release. Blue Marlin boated must be weighed in. If meeting minimum length or weight it will be awarded 1 point per pound up to 599.99 lbs and 2 points per pound 600.00 or over lbs. All Billfish other than Blue Marlin must be released and will be awarded 75 points per release. Winning game fish (wahoo, tuna, dolphin) will be determined by weight.
9. **Released fish must be attested** to by signature of the angler, boat captain and one crew member on board the boat at the time of the release on the official release form provided by the tournament committee. This form must be turned in to the Official Weigh Station the day the fish is released to qualify. To be considered a release, the mate must touch the leader wire before the fish is released. Pictures of all releases are required. A waterproof disposable camera will be placed in each Captain's bag. Please turn camera in with release forms. Cameras and photos become property of the tournament.
10. **Attempted weight alteration of any fish** automatically disqualify the boat from the tournament (such as inserted weights, ice, water, etc.).
11. **Scales open at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 23rd** and close 6 p.m. Sunday, May 24th. NO fish may be held until the following day for weigh-in. In the event a billfish is hooked-on-line at 3 p.m., the Tournament committee, if properly notified, will grant adequate time to boat such billfish and re-open scales as necessary; however all "meat" fish must be weighed-in by 8 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, except Blue Marlin. Release forms must be in by 7 p.m. Sunday except for properly reported hooked Blue Marlin which would have an extension time granted.
12. **BOATS FISHING BOTH BLUE WATER AND KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENTS.** For any King Mackerel Tournament fish to be eligible for prizes, all boats in this level will be required to abide by King Mackerel Tournament rules and regulations, except fishing time is limited to 9-3 each day for any Blue Water species to be eligible for points or weigh in.
13. **All species must be weighed-in** from the boat from which they are caught or tournament chase boat. No trucking or overland transportation of fish. Fish must be off-loaded from the boat at designated area ONLY. Any fish not off-loaded from the boat at designated area will be disqualified.
14. **Fish must not be mutilated or darted** in any way, except for gaff punctures.
15. **These rules must be adhered to** or species will be disqualified. IGFA Rules are encouraged. Release of small fish is encouraged.
16. **Any protest must be in writing** and submitted to Tournament Headquarters within (2) TWO hours of last fish weighed each fishing day. Protests must be accompanied by \$100 cash deposit.
17. **All times mentioned in the above rules** are subject to the Weighmaster's watch and his watch only. The official time of the Weighmaster's watch will be announced at the Captain's meeting. All times based on GPS time.
18. **All fish must be fit for human consumption.** All fish are subject to the scrutiny and inspection by the Tournament Committee, Weighmaster, and Marine Fisheries Officials.
19. **All fish must be caught by rod and reel.**
20. **Weighed fish become the property of** the Swansboro Rotary Club Memorial Day Blue Water Fishing Tournament.
21. **Each boat should be represented** at the Captain's Meeting at the Swansboro Rotary Civic Center.
22. **In the event two or more fish are of the exact** same weight, the fish entered first shall be declared the winner.
23. **For safety purposes, all boats entered** must adhere to USCG regulations for their size.
24. **A boat may not be replaced after competition begins** (fishing time 9 am, May 23, 2009). Any changes from registration prior to 9 am May 23, 2009 must be approved by tournament committee.
25. **Cash prizes to be awarded to the boats** with the heaviest fish. In the event that all places are not won, all prize money will be paid proportionally among winners. In the event that no qualifying fish are caught in their level, all prize money will be retained and added to the following year's purse to the established prize schedule. No refunds will be made except levels III and IV.
26. **All winners may be subjected to a polygraph examination.** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to inspect all boats entered in the competition at anytime.
27. **Any two or more boats coming together for any reason after fishing time begins may be disqualified.** As safety is of primary importance, permission may be granted for exceptions by the Committee Boats or Tournament Headquarters. Any disqualification or violation of tournament rules becomes an automatic overall tournament disqualification for boat entered.
28. **Boats are to proceed in an orderly fashion to weigh station.** One member of the crew must remain with the fish to verify weigh-ins. Boats will be tied up in the designated off-loading areas only for off loading and weighing of fish. And crew must depart immediately after offloading fish and weighing of fish.
29. **Once officially registered, all entry fees are non-refundable, except as stated in rules #3 and #25.**
30. **Any tournament official or tournament sponsor** entering the tournament in compliance with the tournament rules is eligible for any and all prizes.
31. **All tournament participants consent and authorize the Tournament Committee,** and their advertising/public relations agencies to use and reproduce names, voices, and/or photographs, whether taken or recorded and circulate the same for any and all purposes of publicity and advertising of all kinds and descriptions in any and all media formats.
32. **QUESTIONS NOT COVERED BY RULES.** The Tournament Rules Committee shall determine the solution to questions or situations and its judgment SHALL BE FINAL.
33. **State and Federal Size and Bag Limits.** All fish must adhere to state and federal regulations. Blue Marlin* - 99" lower jaw fork length (LJFL) and 1 per vessel per trip. * To be eligible for prize money, blue marlin must weigh 400 pounds or measure at least 110" LJFL. Yellow fin tuna: 27" curved fork length and 3 per person per day. Wahoo: 2 per person per day. Dolphin: 10 per person per day.
34. **HMS Permits.** All boats fishing the Swansboro Rotary Tournament must have one of the following valid permits. HMS Angling (recreational), HMS Charter/Headboat, or Atlantic Tunas General Category Permit (commercial). Permits expire annually on May 31 each year. Permits must be on board the vessel when engaged in fishing. The Swansboro Rotary Club Memorial Day Blue Water Fishing Tournament is a registered recreational HMS tournament.

For more information: <http://www.nmfspermits.com>