



BEACH HAVEN MARLIN & TUNA CLUB

ANGLING RULES AND

REGULATIONS

2024

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Club Fishing Rules & Procedures

1. Applies to all Club tournaments, (unless otherwise noted in the tournament rules or at the captains meeting), and the annual angler and boat awards.
 - a. NOTE: all tournaments sponsored by the Club that are open to nonmembers and their boats such as the WMIT have their own rules and regulations.
2. All registered fish must meet State, Federal and/or BHMTC size and possession regulations in effect at the time of the catch to qualify.
3. Offshore fishing boundaries are unlimited. Boats must depart and return through Barnegat, Beach Haven, Little Egg, or Absecon Inlets without passing through any other inlet. Inshore fishing boundaries are unlimited, but boats must depart from ports on the bays from Barnegat Bay to the bays behind Absecon Island or their tributaries. Extenuating circumstances, preventing the return of boats as prescribed, will be judged by the Angling Activities Committee.
4. All anglers, member and non-member, and member boats must be registered for Club tournaments in order to register a fish. An “official weighing record”, (weigh-slip), must be completed and given to the weigh master or if there is no weigh master it must be placed in the weigh shack to register a fish. All weigh-slips must be completed and copies hung and put in the weigh slip box in the weigh shack within 24 hours from the time the boat returns to port.
5. Only boats registered as a Club member’s boat may compete in Club tournaments.
6. Club tournaments will be governed by rules set up by the Angling Activities Committee.
7. Grievances, ties and interpretation of the rules will be decided by the Angling Activities Committee.

8. For purposes of Club tournaments and the annual angler awards, anglers will be classified as follows:

- a. Men's division: male Club member.
- b. Women's division: female Club member.
- c. Intermediate division: Registered intermediate angler age 11-15.
Registered senior angler age 16 -20
- d. Junior division: Registered junior angler age 10 years and under

NOTE: All registered Intermediate and junior division anglers age is their age as of January 1st of the fishing year.

9. In case of a tie in weight, first fish weighed will take the prize for the annual awards only. Ties in weight will result in shared awards for all Club tournaments. In the case of a marlin release eligible for an award, the first of the competing fish released, by time, will take the prize in both the annual awards and Club tournaments.

10. Final weigh-in times for Club tournaments are to be interpreted as absolute unless boats are in line waiting their turn, tied to the dock or have passed the scale and are idling, or have been directed by the tournament director to wait in the ICW in case of larger boats or considerable traffic. Breakdown of a boat or equipment will not alter the final weigh-in time.

- a. Exception: After contact, (prior to the final weigh-in time), with the tournament director, either directly or via another Club boat, any boat towing a disabled boat will be permitted to have its fish weighed and registered in any Club Tournament, if the Angling Activities Committee determines that the assisting boat would have been able to reach the weigh station prior to the deadline, had it not taken the tow.
- b. For fish to be registered for an annual boat award a member must be on the boat when the fish is caught.

11. All IGFA tackle and angling rules apply with the following exceptions:
- a. Bang sticks, and/or firearms are permitted for shark fishing only. Fish must be leadered, gaffed or darted before firearms may be used.
 - b. Harpoons are permitted. Fish must be leadered before a harpoon may be used.
 - c. After a hook-up, a crew member may assist an angler by removing the rod from a rod holder for purposes of transferring the rod to the fighting chair or stand-up gear. This transfer must be done expeditiously and is intended for anglers whose strength or skills may hinder them from safely removing the rod themselves into either a fighting chair or stand up gear. After the rod transfer all BHMTTC fishing rules apply. This does not allow for a person to purposely bait a fish for the purpose of then transferring the rod to another angler.
 - d. Spreader bars are permitted
 - e. Wire line is permitted.
 - f. Umbrella rigs are permitted.
 - g. Line class is limited to the manufacture's stated rating of no greater than 130 lbs. The use of tournament grade line is not required. If line backing is used it cannot be any greater than the manufacture's stated rating of 130 lbs. unless it is taped over so no backing is attached to the line that has the hook attached to it.
 - h. Electric reels and up to 100 foot leaders are allowed for deep drop sword fish fishing only.
- *REMINDER: Fishing under the combined IGFA and BHMTTC fishing rules may disqualify a fish for STATE OR WORLD RECORDS, if the fish was hooked, fought or landed with any of the BHMTTC exceptions.
12. Trolling: In any tournament designated as "troll only", hookups accomplished with no headway are permissible ONLY if they occur while baits or lures settle while fighting an initial hookup.

13. Members and non-members competing in Club tournaments, contests, and pools are assumed to have all permits, licenses, and registrations required by law. It is not the responsibility of the tournament director, or the angling committee to verify that all required permits and/or registrations are acquired. Failure of an angler/vessel to have the necessary documents shall not be grounds for a protest to be filed, or for a fish to be disqualified.

Club Annual Contest Procedures

1. All BHMTTC Fishing Rules apply.
 - a. All fish must be weighed on a BHM&TC certified scale on the BHM&TC premises, and this weight must be recorded on the Official Weighing Record, (weigh slip). The only exception is if a fish is weighed on a BHM&TC certified scale in Barnegat Light during a BHM&TC tournament.
2. Only Club members in good standing are eligible to compete. Boats of Club members, while sailing for hire (charter) are ineligible to compete. Likewise, Club members cannot register fish caught by the owner / member / captain while the boat is sailing for hire (charter). Members chartering a boat may compete for angler awards, but the boat is ineligible to qualify for a boat award, even if owned by a Club member.
3. Fish entered in competition will be credited to the angler and to the boat that the fish was caught on. Separate awards will be awarded to the angler and the boat owner. The boat award will only be awarded if the boat is owned by a member and is not chartered when the fish is caught.
4. Contest dates for the fishing season are January 1st through December 31st.
5. "First" released marlin and "first" weighed tuna should be reported at the time released or boated by radio, or by direct verbal communication with another Club boat. If this cannot be done, the time recorded by the person in command will be accepted as the official time. In either case a weigh-slip must be filled out according to BHMTTC annual contest procedures.
6. Registering a released fish: A weigh slip (indicating release) must be completed and copies hung and put in the weigh slip box in the weigh shack and must be signed by the angler, plus the owner / captain of the vessel from which the marlin was released. A photo of the marlin in the water with a hand on the leader is preferred and can replace the signature of a witness.
7. Registering a weighed fish: The fish must be witnessed, on the scale, by a Club member meeting the criteria of "witness" listed below or by a picture of the fish on the scale showing the scale and full body of the fish from head to tail with a clear picture of the weight. It is the responsibility of the angler to make sure a weigh slip is fully completed and filed. If a junior or intermediate division angler catches the fish, the responsibility lies with the parent or sponsor. The qualifications of a "witness" are as follows:
 - a) A witness must be 21 years of age and a member in good standing of the BHMTTC.
 - b) An angler may not witness his or her own fish.
 - c) Media (class ME) members are not valid witnesses.

8. Eligible species for awards:

OFFSHORE:

WHITE MARLIN, (true, hatchet, round-scale spearfish), BLUE MARLIN, TUNA, (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, true albacore), SWORDFISH, WAHOO, MAHI-MAHI, TILEFISH, (golden, blueline), MAKO SHARK

INSHORE:

BLACK SEABASS, WEAKFISH, SUMMER FLOUNDER, WINTER FLOUNDER, BLUEFISH, FALSE ALBACORE, BONITA, STRIPED BASS, TAUTOG, CODFISH

AWARDS CATEGORIES: OFFSHORE: Awards will be given for the first MARLIN released (white or blue); first and second most number of releases for both WHITE and BLUE MARLIN (see 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d); the first weighed TUNA (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye or true albacore); the heaviest and second heaviest BLUEFIN TUNA, YELLOWFIN TUNA, BIGEYE TUNA, TRUE ALBACORE, SWORDFISH, WAHOO, GOLDEN TILEFISH, BLUELINE TILEFISH, MAKO SHARK

INSHORE: Awards will be given for the heaviest and second heaviest :BLACK SEABASS, WEAKFISH, SUMMER FLOUNDER, WINTER FLOUNDER, BLUEFISH, FALSE AIBACORE, BONITA, STRIPED BASS, TAUTOG, CODFISH

The awards for "THE MEN'S DIVISION", "THE WOMEN'S DIVISION" and "THE INTERMEDIATE DIVISION", (both intermediate and senior) will be given annually, to anglers, for the categories listed in this paragraph..

- a) NMFS and BHMTTC requires anglers fishing in billfish tournaments to use only non-offset circle hooks when deploying natural bait or natural bait and artificial lure combinations. Anglers can continue to use J hooks on artificial lures. Members and non-members competing for the angler and/or boat awards for white and blue marlin in the annual contests and for the Goofy Gus Award, may NOT enter marlin that are caught and released with natural baits or artificial lure and natural bait combinations if deploying other than non-offset circle hooks.
- b) Scoring is by the number of releases per angler in the white and blue marlin categories (Le. angler A releases 8 white marlin, angler B releases 2 - these anglers would take first and second place respectively).
- c) Anglers in each division (men, women and intermediate) may win either first or second most releases for each release category, but not both. In the event that only one angler in any given division, registers releases in either release category, only the first place award will be given for that species.
- d) Ties in scoring are determined by the time an angler releases their last competing fish.

9. A boat award will be given to the owner of the boat (see #2 for boat eligibility) catching the heaviest fish in each category listed in #8 above. This is a single award for each fish category specified, not one for men's, women's, and intermediate divisions as in the angler awards. Fish caught by non-members or junior anglers qualify for these awards.
10. Grievances, ties, and interpretation of these rules will be decided by the angling activities committee.
11. See "junior and intermediate angler division regulations" for additional requirements.
12. See "BHMTTC" Special Awards for additional awards criteria.

Junior & Intermediate Angler

Regulations

1. Any member may sponsor any child, under the age of 21, as a junior division or Intermediate division angler. For Club purposes, a junior or intermediate angler's age is considered to be their age on January 1st of the current fishing year.
 - a. On January 1st of the year when the intermediate angler's is 21, they can no longer be registered as an intermediate angler and may apply to become a Class "A" active member and must meet all new membership requirements.
 - b. If they have accumulated five (5) consecutive years as a registered intermediate angler prior to year they become 21, the initiation fee will be waived, but they must complete a membership application and include a check for class A dues.
2. To become a registered junior or intermediate division angler an application must be filed and a registration fee must be paid prior to registering any eligible fish (see rule #8 of the annual fishing contest rules and procedures for specified eligible fish).
 - a). Junior and intermediate angler registration fees:

Junior division angler: age 10 and under	\$25.00
Intermediate division angler: age 11 thru 20	\$25.00
3. Intermediate division anglers (ages 11 thru 20) will fish for annual awards in a similar fashion to the adults. All BHMTTC fishing rules apply to intermediate division anglers.
4. * Also see "Special Awards" for more information on junior and intermediate division angler awards.
5. Junior division anglers registering any fish will be presented an award the year following. BHMTTC Fishing Rules apply to junior division anglers.

EXCEPT:

 - a. Fish may be caught by land but within regional boundaries as defined in rule 3 of "BHMTTC FISHING RULES AND PROCEDURES": (local surf, dock on LBI and / or adjacent mainland areas)
 - b. Adults may hook and hand to Junior Anglers.
6. Junior and intermediate division anglers have no membership privileges.

Executive Committee Regulations for Discrepancies Regarding Angling Rules & Regulations

ANGLING COMMITTEE

This committee will be selected annually by the angling committee chairman an/or in his absence the executive committee. It shall consist of eight (8) members plus the chairman to make a total of nine (9) members.

PROCEDURES

1. When discrepancies arise, the complainant should first contact the chairman of the angling committee for a ruling. Any fish where the "Official Weigh Slip" is not filled out completely or properly will be subject to disqualification and the angler will be notified. If the angler does not respond within two weeks the fish will be disqualified and the angler will be informed of the disqualification.
3. If there continues to be a disagreement, the complainant must submit in writing immediately to the commodore (do not wait for the next executive meeting) the details of the problem.
4. The commodore will call a face to face meeting of the Angling Committee (preferably at the Clubhouse) where the complainant can give the details or circumstances surrounding the problem.
5. Following the complainants disclosure, he must leave the meeting. The angling committee will discuss the case and make a ruling.
6. The angling chairman must then submit in writing the resolution of the problem to both the executive committee and the complainant. Listed in the letter must be the reasons for the determination, and those attending the meeting.

7. Meetings will require the attendance of at least three (3) members of the angling committee to be official. This ruling will be considered final.
8. Where irregularities cause a change in standings, the changes must be noted in the next listing of the standings available at the Club and online.



No. 2001

OFFICIAL WEIGHING RECORD

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ANGLER: _____

☐ MEN ☐ WOMEN ☐ JUNIOR (10 & UNDER) ☐ NON MEMBER

☐ INTERMEDIATE (11 THRU 15) ☐ SENIOR (16 THRU 20)

BOAT NAME: _____

CLUB MEMBER'S BOAT ☐ YES ☐ NO

NAME OF BOAT OWNER: _____

ANGLER'S SIGNATURE: _____

PHOTO ☐ YES ☐ NO

Photo must be sent within 24 hours to ANGLING CHAIRMAN and their designee to phone #s or e-mail address listed in the weigh shack.

FISH SPECIES: _____

DATE CAUGHT: _____ WEIGHT: _____ lbs

TIME CAUGHT: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM ☐ CHECK BOX IF RELEASED

WHERE CAUGHT: _____

NOTES: _____

WITNESS: _____

Must be a club Member - no intermediate, senior or junior anglers

SIGNATURE: _____

PHONE#: _____

A PHOTO MUST BE SENT OR A WITNESS MUST SIGN AT THE SCALE