



Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
710 Evans Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

RULES & REGISTRATION



LiquidVideo.net Photo



59th Annual

BIG ROCK™

BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT

June 9th - 17th, 2017



JARRETT BAY
BOATWORKS
MAJOR SPONSOR



59th Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament

REGISTRATION



MAJOR SPONSOR

Please Complete Form in Detail & Sign

Has this boat fished in this tournament before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Boat Name _____

Make and Length _____

Name of Owner _____

Owner's Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Name of Captain _____

Captain's Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mobile Boat # for Emergencies _____

Year-Round Contact Number _____

Pay Prize Money To [Winner] _____

Winner's Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Winner's Social Security # or Federal Tax ID# _____

Where Docked During Tournament _____

Boat Engine Type _____

HMS Permit # _____

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/permits_reporting/index.html

I, as entrant, do hereby RELEASE, DISCHARGE and HOLD HARMLESS Crystal Coast Tournament, Inc., its officers, directors and sponsors, whether individual or corporate, from any claim for damages to my person or property incurred by my participation in the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament. This release applies to all members of my crew and all parties fishing from my boat.

By signing the entry form and paying my entry fee, I acknowledge that I have read this release and am bound by same. This release shall also be binding on my heir, executors, administrator, or assigns.

I further do hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the Rules of the Tournament and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions contained therein.

Signature _____

After May 25, 2017, we strongly recommend that you register in person rather than mailing your form and entry fee.

Level 1 Mandatory

Guaranteed Prizes

\$25,000 First Place Blue Marlin

\$10,000 Second Place Blue Marlin

\$6,000 Third Place Blue Marlin

\$5,000 First Release of Each Day

\$5,900 59th Billfish Released during week of the Tournament

\$5,000 Largest Gamefish for the week (Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin)

\$3,000 2nd Place Gamefish for the week (Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin)

\$2,000 Largest Gamefish Daily (Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin)

\$1,000 2nd Place Gamefish Daily (Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin)

First Release of the
Day Sponsored by:



\$2,500 _____

Gamefish Level
Sponsored by:



Release Sponsor:



Level II Three Places 50/30/20 Largest Blue Marlin

\$1,500 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$123,175 First Place

\$68,905 Second Place

\$45,270 Third Place

Level III Three Places 50/30/20 Largest Blue Marlin

\$5,000 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$405,800 First Place

\$238,480 Second Place

\$158,320 Third Place

Level IV Winner Take All Blue Marlin

\$2,500 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$257,125 Winner Take All

Level V Fabulous Fisherman's First Fish Boated over 500 Pounds

\$5,000 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$433,500

Level VI Winner Take All Largest Dolphin

\$1,000 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$130,050 Winner Take All

Level VII Three Places 50/30/20 Weekly Release

\$2,500 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$88,612.50 First Place

\$53,167.50 Second Place

\$35,445 Third Place

Level VIII Daily Release Winner Take All (NEW FOR 2017)

\$2,500 _____

Estimated for 2017 based on 100 entries:

\$35,417 Daily Winner Take All Each Day

Level IX Outboard Three Places 50/30/20

\$1,000 _____

Paid in 2016:

\$7,650 First Place

\$4,590 Second Place

\$3,060 Third Place

Sponsored by:



ENTRY FEE All Levels \$22,500

*Excludes Level IX Outboard Level

Make Checks Payable to:

Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament

Mail Form & Payment to:

Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament

710 Evans Street

Morehead City, NC 28557

Total: _____

Rec'd by _____

Check # _____

Date _____

59TH ANNUAL OFFICIAL RULES



Fishing Days

Available fishing days and hours: (EDT)

June 12, 2017	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 13, 2017	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 14, 2017	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 15, 2017	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 16, 2017	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 17, 2017	8:00 am-2:00 pm

Scales close at 7:00 p.m. daily for gamefish, 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Boats may fish four out of the six available fishing days.

Rules Committee: Dew Forbes, Howard Basnight, Richard Crowe, Randy Gregory

Committee Boat: To Be Announced

Weigh Master: Randy Gregory

Tournament President: Billy Kornegay

Tournament Director: Crystal Hesmer

Reporting Stations

Tournament Headquarters

(opens 6:00 am on fishing days)

Atlantic Beach: Anchorage Marina, Sea Water Marina.

Beaufort: Town Creek Marina, Olde Towne Yacht Club, The Boathouse. **Morehead City:** Morehead City Yacht Basin.

Wrightsville Beach: Bridge Tender Marina. **Hatteras:** Hatteras Harbor Marina, Teach's Lair, Hatteras Landing.

Entry Fees

You must enter Level I before you can enter any other level.

* 2017 changes are printed in red.

1. REGISTRATION - All boats must be registered with the Tournament Committee and entry fee paid to qualify for prizes and trophies. Any boat may be substituted during the week but must be registered with the Tournament Committee prior to fishing. Any boat entered in the Big Rock tournament shall not be entered in another tournament simultaneously, except for 1) NC Governor's Cup 2) Atlantic Billfish Championship 3) King of the Hill and 4) Offshore Fishing League (OFL). The tournament reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to deny entry to anyone for any reason. No entries or upgrades will be accepted after 9:00 am, Monday morning.

2. RULES MEETING - At least one person from each boat should attend the Captain's Meeting for the Tournament, which is usually held on the Saturday evening prior to the first day of fishing. Regardless, all participants in the Tournament are responsible for knowing all Tournament Rules, including any changes to the Rules that may take place at the Captain's Meeting.

3. FISHING TIME AND LAYDAYS - No lines or teasers are permitted in the water before official fishing hours each day. Official time will be GPS time. Fishing days for all eligible boats shall be any four out of the available six days, captain's choice. No single boat can fish more than 4 total days during the Tournament. Non-fishing days must be reported to one of the official reporting stations on the official lay-day form prior to 9:00 a.m. of the day declared as a non-fishing day. Forms will be available at the reporting stations. The form must be signed by a member of the fishing team or boat's crew. Forms may also be photographed and emailed to forms@thebigrock.com. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please call tournament headquarters to confirm. If a boat does not declare a day as non-fishing, the Tournament Committee will automatically count the day to be a fishing day for that boat.

4. ROD & REEL RULES - This is a rod and reel, hook and line tournament. Double line and leader combined may not exceed 40 ft; neither of which may exceed 30 ft. The following practices are illegal in this tournament: a) use of handline or rope attached to the line or leader; b) shooting, harpooning, or lancing; and c) the transfer of any participant from one boat to another to aid in the landing of the fish.

5. REPORTING - All billfish must be reported to TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS when hooked, lost, boated or released. Radio frequency shall be **VHF CHANNEL 71** and alternate channel 78a. Fish hooked prior to or after fishing hours are not eligible.

6. BOUNDARIES - All boats fishing in Tournament must fish between LORAN coordinates North 40275 and South 39200. All fish must also be hooked within those coordinates.

7. QUALIFYING BLUE MARLIN - To be eligible for prize money, a blue marlin must weigh at least four hundred pounds or measure at least one hundred and ten inches. In the event of a tie by weight, the marlin having the largest total measurement of girth plus length shall be declared the winner. Length shall be measured from the V-notch in the tail to the tip of the lower jaw. Additionally, all fish must adhere to State and Federal Fisheries regulations to qualify for prizes in this tournament. In the event a blue marlin does not meet these qualifications, the fish will be disqualified, and the boat will be penalized four hundred pounds from the weight of the largest blue marlin weighed in by the boat.

during the week. In addition, a penalty of four hundred points will be taken away from the total of release points accumulated by said boat. No official weigh slip will be given for any disqualified fish. In the event a blue marlin is boated or gaffed, the fish shall be presented at the official weigh station; if not presented the 400 point penalties will incur. A fish is boated when it breaks the plane of the boat. The weigh master has the right to refuse any fish in his sole discretion.

8. OUTBOARD LEVEL \$1000 - Entry in this level is restricted to outboard boats only. No inboards, inboard-outboards, jet powered or airboats permitted. No sailboats permitted. Any hybrid or combination engine boat will not be eligible for prizes in this level. To be eligible for prize money, a blue marlin must weigh at least 400 pounds or measure at least 110". If no blue marlin are caught, the winners will be determined by release points. If no billfish are caught or released, winners will be determined by the largest gamefish, (yellowfin tuna, dolphin, wahoo). Prize money for the Outboard Level is a guaranteed purse of a minimum of \$10,000. Prizes will be divided as follows: 50%/first place, 30%/second place and 20%/third place or 60/40 for two places. Winners may be polygraphed (See Rule #19). All other Big Rock rules are enforced for this level. Entrants must enter Level I and may enter additional levels as stated in Big Rock rules.

9. LEVEL V \$5000 - The Winner of this level will be the first blue marlin reported and boated weighing 500 lbs. or more. Qualifying fish must meet all Tournament Rules. All boats participating in this level must be entered in all categories of the Tournament. If no qualifying fish is weighed in, 100 % of the entry fee in this category will be returned to the entrant.

10. FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS - All vessels and participants shall comply with North Carolina and Federal Fisheries laws and regulations regarding fishing licenses, vessel permits, fishing gear, season size limits and bag limits. Participants shall also adhere to all Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament rules as contained herein.

11. GAMEFISH - Winning gamefish will be determined by weight. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the first fish weighed-in. Fish must be in fresh edible condition and fit for human consumption. All gamefish must be weighed in the day they are caught. Hookup time for gamefish should NOT be reported to Tournament Headquarters. Level VI - "Winner take all - dolphin" prize money will rollover to the next year's tournament if no qualifying fish is weighed.

12. WEIGH-IN - All blue marlin and gamefish eligible for prizes must be off-loaded and weighed at the official Tournament weigh station from the boat landing the fish unless authorized by the weigh master at the weigh station. The fish must be entered on the official entry form by the Tournament weigh master. Blue marlin take priority over gamefish at the scales. The same scales and weigh station will be used for all fish including those entered in the Governor's Cup Series. Gamefish scales will close at 7:00 p.m. during the week and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. The weigh station is located on the Morehead City Waterfront. All billfish weighed in shall be donated for research. The weigh master has the right to refuse any fish in his sole discretion.

13. MANDATORY HOOK REQUIREMENTS - Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory when deploying natural bait or natural bait/artificial lures. "J" hooks are allowed on artificial lures only.

14. RELEASE POINTS FOR Levels VII and VIII - Cash prizes will be awarded to the boats that score the most number of points first. To be considered a release, the crew cannot have attempted to boat or gaff the fish. In order for a billfish to be counted as a release, a member of the fishing team or crewmember must touch the leader. A fish is boated when any portion of the fish breaks the plane of the boat.

Release points are awarded as follows:

Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Spearfish, and Hatchett marlin will receive 125 points.

Blue Marlin will be scored at 400 points if the team provides indisputable video or photo evidence to the Rules Committee. In order to qualify for the 400 points, teams must turn in a Release Form in person along with the SD Card, Micro SD Card or Compact Flash Card from their camera. Forms and Media Cards can be turned in at the Official Weigh Station in Morehead City or to the tournament representative at Hatteras Harbor Marina. The Media Card and Release Form must be turned in no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day fish is released to qualify. The Media Card must show continuous video or a clear single photo of the mate touching the leader and clear and indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin. It is the responsibility of the participants to ensure that their camera's Clock/Date is set accurately to reflect the time and date of the Releases to qualify for the 400 points. All videos will become property of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament. In the event that the rules committee is unable to see indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin, the release will be scored at 125 points. The tournament will NOT allow photo's or video from cell phones.

All other released fish must be attested to by signature of the angler, captain and two witnesses (if available) on board the boat at the time of the release on the Official Release Form provided by the Tournament Committee. This form shall be turned in to the OFFICIAL WEIGH MASTER AT TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS, or any OFFICIAL REPORTING STATION. Release forms must be turned in no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day the fish is released to qualify. Other than blue marlin, billfish forms may also be photographed and emailed to forms@thebigrock.com. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please call tournament headquarters to confirm. Release reports will be taken over the phone from the reporting station personnel to the Tournament Headquarters staff each morning of the tournament. The forms will then be forwarded to the Tournament Headquarters by the reporting station for verification.

In the event of ties, the first boats to achieve the winning totals shall be declared the winners.

15. PRIZE PAYOUT SCHEDULE - Prize money checks will be made payable to the person or entity so indicated on the registration form of the winning boat. Social Security number or Taxpayer I.D. number of the recipient must be provided on the entry form. All undisputed funds will be distributed 10 days after the tournament.

16. PROTEST - Any protest by any participant against the catch of another must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Rules Committee. Any protest must be received by 9:00 a.m. on the day following the catch of the disputed fish and by 7:00 p.m. on the last day of the tournament. Any member of the Rules Committee or the weigh master (in their sole discretion), retains the right to hold and keep any fish deemed questionable by him

with respect to being qualified for any prize or cash award. If retention of the fish is refused, the fish is automatically disqualified.

17. DISPUTE RESOLUTION – A protest by one participant against the catch of another must be submitted in accordance with Rule 16. All other disputes, controversies, or claims of any kind arising out of or relating to the Tournament (hereinafter, “dispute” or “disputes”), including, but not limited to, all disputes concerning decisions by Tournament Officials, Boards, or Committees, must be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last fishing day of the Tournament. Failure to submit any such disputes in writing by that date and time shall constitute a waiver and release of any and all such disputes.

In the event of any dispute arising out of or relating to the Tournament in any way, the interested parties shall use their best efforts to settle such dispute by mutual agreement. To this effect, responsible, authorized representatives of the interested parties shall meet, consult, and negotiate with each other in good faith (with or without a third-party mediator, as they may choose) and attempt to reach a mutually satisfactory solution. In the event they do not reach such a solution within a period of five (5) days after the first notice by any party to any other of the existence of the dispute, then without waiving any other provisions in these Rules concerning the absolute discretion and finality of decisions made by the Tournament Officials, Boards, or Committees, the sole and exclusive means for resolution of any dispute shall be the procedures set forth below:

- a) The dispute shall be submitted to arbitration under the North Carolina Revised Uniform Arbitration Act, Chapter 1, Article 45C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- b) All negotiations, mediations, and arbitration hearings shall take place in Morehead City, North Carolina, or such other places the interested parties may agree upon in writing.
- c) The arbitration shall be conducted by a single arbitrator who is a retired North Carolina state or federal judge or an attorney whose practice experience includes commercial litigation. The arbitrator must be a resident of the State of North Carolina. In the event the interested parties cannot agree upon an arbitrator, the decision shall be made by a Resident Superior Court Judge of Carteret County, North Carolina.
- d) Prior to any arbitration hearing, limited discovery shall be permitted for the purpose of obtaining production of documents and taking depositions. All discovery shall be governed by the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. All issues regarding discovery requests shall be decided by the arbitrator. All discovery shall be completed within 90 days after the selection of the arbitrator; provided, however, that the arbitrator shall have the authority to extend or reduce the time for discovery in a manner consistent with a general desire for expedited resolution of the dispute.
- e) All fees and expenses for the arbitration shall be borne by the parties equally. However, each party shall bear the expense of said party’s own counsel, experts, witnesses, and preparation and presentation of proofs. Only in the case of extreme abuse of the procedure may the arbitrator reallocate such costs and expenses among the parties.
- f) Any arbitral award may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court of Carteret County.

The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be construed,

interpreted, and enforced under the laws and judicial decisions of the State of North Carolina, notwithstanding any principle of conflicts of law. In the event any part of this Agreement shall be declared illegal, invalid, or void, such declaration shall not affect the validity of any of the other terms or provisions of this document.

18. WEIGHT ALTERATION - Attempted weight alteration of any blue marlin or gamefish will be subject to disqualification and automatically disqualify the boat from the tournament. IGFA rules apply regarding mutilated fish. The Rules Committee reserves the right to cut open any fish for inspection of suspected weight altering efforts such as inserted weights, ice, water, etc.

19. POLYGRAPH - Polygraph Tests shall be administered to the top money winners, release winners, (captain, mate and/or angler) and others as deemed necessary by Tournament Officials. Participants must make themselves available for polygraph testing in Carteret County within 24 hours following notice from Tournament Officials. Individuals that are required to take the polygraph test must not consume alcohol or any controlled substance within eight hours prior to the test. A participant’s refusal to take a polygraph test or failure to answer test questions in a manner satisfactory to Tournament Officials, in their sole discretion, may result in disqualification. By entering the Tournament, participants consent to the admissibility of polygraph results in any dispute or proceeding arising out of the Tournament.

20. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TOURNAMENT - No Level I fees will be refunded. 100% of all other levels will be refunded 14 days after the tournament and following collection and clearing of all funds paid. All refund requests must be received in writing by 12:00 noon Sunday prior to the tournament at Tournament Headquarters.

21. REFUNDS - In the event that no qualifying fish are caught, the prize money will be handled as follows; a) 85% of Level III entry fees will be returned to Level III participants equally b) 100% of Level V will be returned and c) all other entry fees will be retained by the tournament and added to the following years purse accordingly. In the event that no fish qualify for the daily release prize, the money will be retained by the Tournament.

22. VIOLATION OF RULES - Any boat violating any of these Tournament Rules or any boat containing a participant violating any of these Tournament Rules is subject to disqualification from the Tournament (unless another sanction for a particular violation is expressly set forth herein). By participating in the Tournament, all participants acknowledge that all Tournament Rules are material and that disqualification is a permitted and appropriate sanction for any violation of any Tournament Rules. Decisions regarding the interpretation of Rules, violation of Rules, penalties, and the suspension of any Rules or penalties will be made by Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors in their sole and absolute discretion. All decisions by Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors are final and are not subject to further challenge by participants.

15% OF FEES RETAINED BY TOURNAMENT EXCEPT FOR LEVEL I.
(SEE PRIZE SCHEDULE FOR LEVEL I)

For clarification or any questions, contact:
Crystal Hesmer, Tournament Director, Cell 252-241-1515
710 Evans St., Morehead City, NC 28557
Office 252-247-3575, Fax 252-247-2392
director@thebigrock.com

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Lady Angler Event, Civic Center
Best Dressed Contest. Captain's Meeting -
upstairs 6:30 pm

Event Sponsor



Best Dressed
Contest Sponsor



SATURDAY, JUNE 10 8:00 am-2:00 pm

20th Annual Keli Wagner
Lady Angler Tournament



ALEXSEAL®
Yacht Coatings
Major Sponsor

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

5:30 pm-7:00 pm - Sponsors Reception CCC Student
Center, adjacent to Civic Center. Invitation Only

7:00 pm-9:00 pm - Captain's Cocktail Party

7:30 pm-8:00 pm - Captain's Meeting at Joslyn Hall, next
door to Civic Center. Registration outside Civic Center

9:00 pm-11:00 pm - Captain's Dance

Entertainment by:



Catered by:



SUNDAY, JUNE 11

1:00 pm-5:00 pm - Waterfront Registration
continues.

6:00 pm-9:00 pm - Pig Pickin', The Boathouse,
Front St. Village, Beaufort, Registration continues

Co-Sponsored by:



MONDAY, JUNE 12-17

Begins 6 Days of Fishing, 2 Lay Days
Required - Captain's Choice

Daily Weigh-Ins Monday thru Saturday

710 Evans Street, Morehead City.

Approximately 4 pm (Sat. 3 pm.)



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Smithfield Foods Pork Chop

Night, Crystal Coast Civic Center

Sponsored by:



**Sales and
Service**

Pork Chops by:

Smithfield.

Good food. Responsibly.®

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Bailey's Phillips House Trunk Show at Atlantic
Beach's Coral Bay Club. Don't miss this spectacular
event with this season's hottest designer jewelry!
10% of all proceeds will be donated to the KWLA
Tournament.

Sponsored by:



SATURDAY, JUNE 17 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Awards Cocktail Party, Dinner & Auction

Crystal Coast Civic Center

Sponsored by:



thebigrock.com

Visit us on the web for daily up
to the minute standings during
tournament week. Listen to the live
hook-ups via the audio and view
the weigh-ins live, all starting on
Monday, June 12, 2017.

ALL WEEK LONG

Beautiful jewelry and clothing
sold at all major events and
at weigh station weather
permitting. Come ready to shop
for every gift giving occasion.