

CAPTAIN'S HANDBOOK



Carlee Sharpe, Tournament Director
919-801-8346

Madison Struyk, Executive Director
252-725-1568

710 Evans Street
Morehead City, NC 28557



MAJOR SPONSOR

BLUE MARLIN VERIFICATION MADE EASY

STEP 1: CATCH A BLUE MARLIN & RECORD ON VIDEO

In order to receive the full 400 points for a released blue marlin, you must show a clear video or photo of the mate touching the leader or the leader touching the rod tip and clear and indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin. Videos must include the accurate timestamp containing the date and time the fish was caught.

Use one of the three methods below to obtain your timestamped release footage:

1. Using a **GoPro**- Record the release on your GoPro, sync to your GoPro Quik app and save to your camera roll or save it to an SD Card.
2. Using the **camera app** on your cell phone. Record the release as you would a normal video, but pan to an alternate device to show time & date (smart watch or another phone to display the current date and time), making sure it is legible.
3. Using a **timestamp app** on your cell phone (like "Time Stamp Camera Basic"). Record the release using the app and save the video to your camera roll.

STEP 2: COMPLETE RELEASE FORM & SUBMIT VIDEO

There are two methods for reporting your release:

1. You can still fill out the **Release Form** print out found in the Captain's Handbook and turn it in with the **SD card** containing the footage from the GoPro to BR Headquarters to Hatteras Harbor Marina.
2. You can complete the release form and submit video via the **Big Rock App**.

You may only submit the paper form when submitting videos captured on a SD card. Cellphone video submissions must be reported using the app.

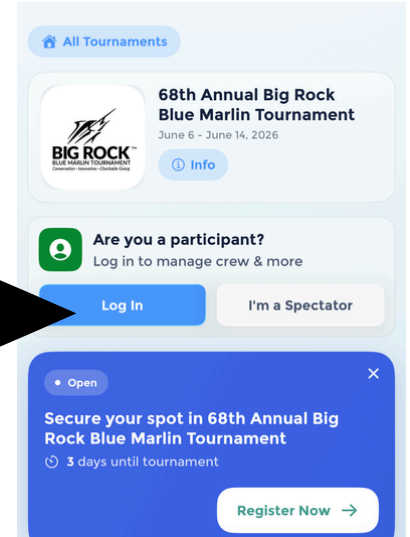
SUGGESTIONS AND BEST PRACTICES

- Make sure you update The Big Rock App & timestamp app (if using)
- Assign someone on-board to be the "administrator" for release elements other than the captain.
- If using the Big Rock app to complete the release form, enter the release info + attach video immediately after the release. This will keep you better organized throughout your fishing day and save time when back at the dock.
- If using a *timestamp app*, use the "trim" function to edit the video down to just the critical moments before saving the video to your photos. Once the video is trimmed, you can save it to your camera roll for easy upload to the Big Rock App when submitting your release form.

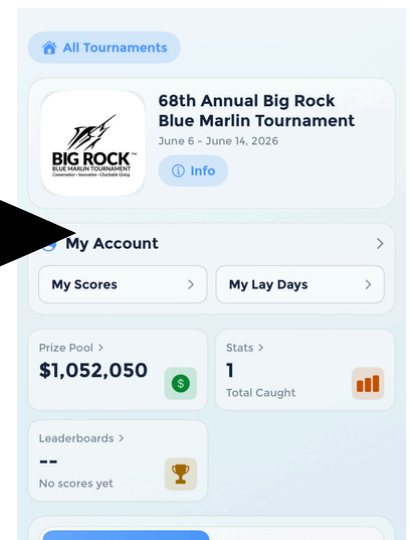
BIG ROCK APP: COMPLETE RELEASE FORM + ADD VIDEO

1 Log into the app as the Team Administrator

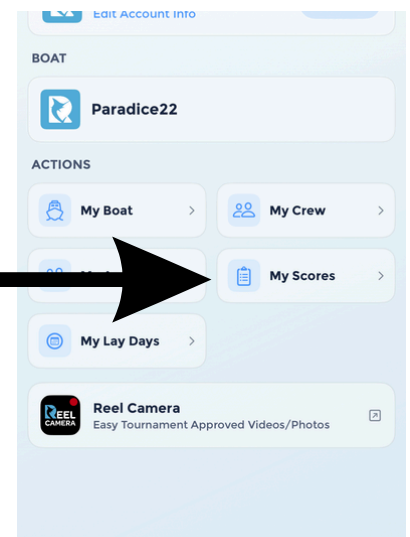
If you need assistance with login credentials, please contact Madison (252) 725-1568 or Carlee (919) 801-8346



2 Tap "My Account"

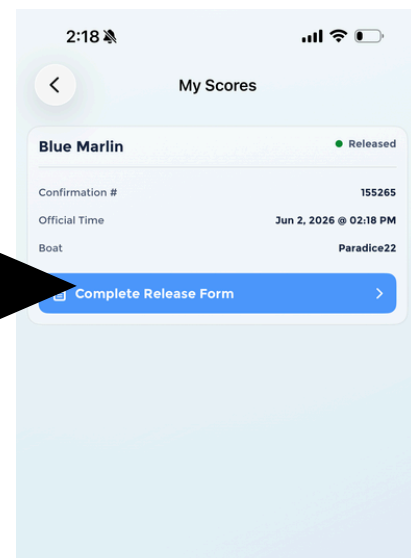


3 Tap "My Scores" - you will see all of the releases that you reported on the radio.

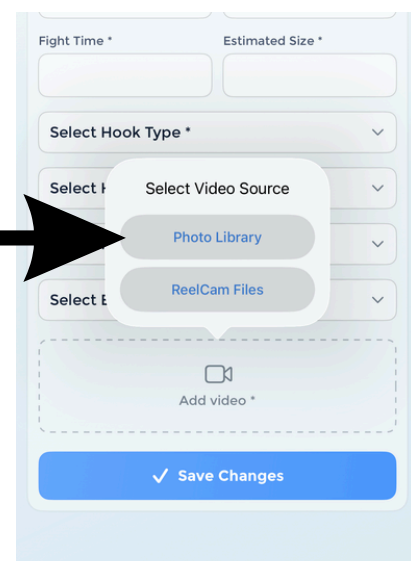


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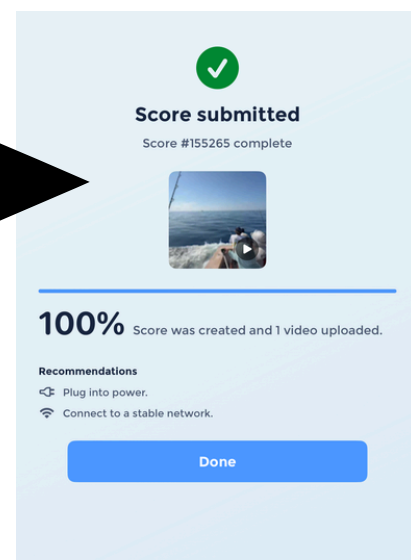
4 Tap “Complete Release Form” on the score + enter required release information.



5 Tap “Add Video” and select video from your library.



6 Tap “Save Changes”



7 Once saved, it will show 100% uploaded & give you a score confirmation #.

(Tip: Screenshot confirmation for your records)

WEIGH STATION PROTOCOL



Any child
13 & under
**MUST WEAR
A LIFEJACKET**
when in the
cockpit or riding
on a chase boat.

WEIGH STATION FYI'S

Employees from Parker Boats and other volunteers will be assisting with the weigh-ins.

Upload release forms + videos via the Big Rock App OR turn them in upstairs at Big Rock HQ.

BIG ROCK KIDS OFFICIAL RULES

FISHING DAYS
JULY 9-11
9:00AM—3:00PM

SCALES CLOSE AT 7PM
RULES COMMITTEE

DEW FORBES | EMERY IVEY

DALE BRITT | RANDY GREGORY

RANDY RAMSEY | RICHARD CROWE

CASEY WAGNER | BRENT GASKILL

FOR QUESTIONS OR
CLARIFICATION, CONTACT:

CARLEE SHARPE

Big Rock Kids Tournament Director

919.801.8346

PLEASE NOTE THAT RULES & REGISTRATION
INFORMATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT.

2026 CHANGES ARE
PRINTED IN ORANGE

- 1 REGISTRATION** All boats must be registered with the Tournament Committee and entry fee paid to qualify for prizes and trophies prior to fishing and no later than 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 9. Boats may enter additional levels any time prior to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 9. Any boat may be substituted, but must be registered with the Tournament Committee prior to fishing. The tournament reserves the right in its sole discretion to deny entry to anyone for any reason.
- 2 RULES MEETING** At least one person from each boat should attend the Captain's Meeting for the tournament which will be held on Wednesday 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 + LAY DAYS** No lines or teasers are permitted in the water before official fishing hours. The use of omnidirectional sonar technology will not be permitted before official fishing hours. Official fishing hours are 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This is a three-day billfish release/gamefish tournament scheduled for July 9-11, 2026. A boat may fish two out of three days, captain's choice. Official time will be GPS time. Fish hooked prior to or after fishing hours are not eligible. Fishing days and times will count as Day 1 and Day 2, eliminating any advantage to fishing on Thursday. Lay Day forms may be submitted in person at the Big Rock Office or by using your Big Rock App account. Lay Day forms must be submitted prior to 9:00 a.m. on

the day declared as a non-fishing day. There will be no exceptions on time. If a boat does not declare a day as non-fishing, the Tournament Committee will automatically count the day as a fishing day for the boat.

- 4 ROD + REEL RULES** This is a rod-and-reel, hook-and-line tournament. Double line and leader combined may not exceed 40 feet; neither may exceed 30 feet. The fish must be fought by rod and reel from the boat. A second rod and reel may be attached to the primary rod and reel. It is not allowed to throw a rod overboard with a flotation device. The following practices are illegal in this tournament: Ⓐ use of handline or rope attached to the line or leader; Ⓑ shooting, harpooning, or lancing; and Ⓒ the transfer of any participant from one boat to another. Drones are not allowed in this tournament.
- 5 REPORTING** All billfish must be reported to Tournament Headquarters when hooked, lost or released. If a fish is released by a junior angler, report the angler name and age for real-time scoring. Radio frequency shall be VHF Channel 71 (alternate Channel 78a).
- 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 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 Kids Billfish Tournament Rules as contained herein.
- 8 QUALIFYING BILLFISH** All participants, fish, and boats must adhere to all state and federal fishing regulations to qualify for prizes in this tournament. This is an all-release tournament. No billfish shall be boated. A billfish is boated when any portion of the fish breaks the outside vertical plane of the boat. In the event a billfish is boated, the boat will automatically be disqualified from the tournament.
- 9 RELEASE POINTS** Cash prizes will be awarded to the boats that score the greatest number of points. Release points will be awarded when mate touches the leader or the 30-foot leader touches the rod tip. No release points will be awarded if the gaff breaks the outside vertical plane of the boat. In the event of a tie in total release points, the tiebreaker shall be the largest single gamefish (dolphin or wahoo) by weight. If no gamefish are caught, the winner will be determined by the first boat to achieve the winning total. In order to qualify as a release, by federal law the billfish must remain in the water.

125 RELEASE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:
 - All billfish, including blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, hatchet marlin and spearfish, and
 - When mate touches the leader or leader touches the rod tip before the fish is released, and
 - When team turns in a release form provided by the Tournament Committee attested to by signature of the captain and mate or angler on board the boat at the time of the release. This form may be submitted to Tournament HQ or the official Weigh Station in Morehead City or submitted electronically

via the Big Rock app. Release forms must be turned in the day the fish was released, no later than 10:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday July 9-10, and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, to qualify.

400 RELEASE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:

Blue marlin, if the team provides indisputable video or photo evidence to the Rules Committee. To qualify for the 400 points, teams must turn in a Release Form in person along with supporting video footage no later than 10:00 pm on the day the fish is released. The release video must contain the following elements:

- The mate touching the leader or the leader touching the rod tip.
- Clear and indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin.
- Date and time stamp of the release. It is the responsibility of the boat to ensure that their camera's clock/date is set accurately to reflect the time and date of the releases. The date and time stamp must be 100% accurate.

There are two options to provide the video evidence:

1) Teams may 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 Tournament HQ or the Official Weigh Station in Morehead City or to the tournament representative at Hatteras Harbor Marina.

2) Teams may complete the release form and submit the supporting video evidence from their phone via the Big Rock App. Teams are responsible for ensuring the date and time of the release are clearly verified within the video using an approved method outlined in the Captain's Handbook.

All videos will become property of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament. If 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 reserves the right to request additional video from other cameras or phones. Teams must retain the original, unedited video files until the end of the tournament.

25 BONUS RELEASE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:

- All billfish released by a Big Rock Kid, defined as any angler age 16 and under. A kid must be the primary angler. The rod may be passed to other Junior Anglers on board, age 16 and under.
- A billfish hooked by an adult must be handed off to a Junior Angler immediately or in a timely manner.
- The angler's age must be verified on the release form attested to by signature of the captain, mate, or angler on board the boat at the time of the release.

25 BONUS RELEASE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:

- All billfish released by A) Boats without omnidirectional sonar technology -OR- B) Boats with but choose not to use, omnidirectional sonar technology.
- 10 DISQUALIFICATION** A boat will be disqualified from the tournament if the boat, captain and crew violate any rules of the tournament.
- 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. All gamefish to be weighed in must be reported as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. The Weigh Master has the right to refuse any fish. Gamefish are defined as dolphin and wahoo. If no qualifying gamefish are caught in Levels 4 or 5, the total amount of the prize money in each level will be retained by the tournament. In the event that only one qualifying fish is caught in Level 4 or 5, the total amount of prize money in each level will be paid to the first place fish for each level.

12 WEIGH-IN All gamefish eligible for prizes must be off-loaded and weighed at the official tournament weigh station from the boat landing the fish. The fish must be entered on the official entry form by the tournament Weigh Master. The same scales and weigh station will be used for all fish, including those entered in the NC Billfish Series. Gamefish scales will close at 7:00 p.m. each day. The weigh station is located on the Morehead City waterfront. 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 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. The Social Security Number or Taxpayer I.D. number of the recipient must be provided on the entry form. All undisputed funds will be distributed ten days after the tournament.

15 PROTEST Any protest by any participant against the catch of another participant must be submitted in writing to the tournament Rules Committee. No protests are allowed against the tournament. Any protest must be received by 9:00 a.m. on the day following the catch and by 6:00 p.m. on the last day of fishing. 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.

16 DISPUTE RESOLUTION A protest by one participant against the catch of another must be submitted in accordance with Rule 15. 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 6:00 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 interest 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 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) Upon the submission of the dispute to arbitration, the party or parties initiating the dispute shall be required to post a cash or surety bond in an amount equal to 20% of the total monetary amount in dispute. All participants agree that (I) Failure to post the required bond within 30 days of notice of the dispute to the Rules Committee shall result in dismissal of the dispute with prejudice; (II) The Tournament shall be permitted to hold all disputed prize money in consideration for the bond being posted; (III) The amount of the bond as provided herein is fair and reasonable security for such disputed prize money being held; (IV) During the pendency of the arbitration, the bond shall be held in the manner agreed upon by the parties or as directed by the arbitrator; and (V) Upon the conclusion of the arbitration, the bond shall be returned to or paid over to the prevailing party or parties in the arbitration in the sole and exclusive discretion of the arbitrator.

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) The reasonable attorney fees and expenses of the prevailing party or parties in the arbitration shall be taxed against or among any parties adverse to the prevailing party, up to the amount of \$25,000. The arbitrator shall make all determinations of prevailing parties and adverse 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.

17 WEIGHT ALTERATION Attempted weight alteration of any gamefish will 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.

18 MUTILATION IGFA rules apply regarding mutilated fish. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries.

19 POLYGRAPH Polygraph tests may be administered to captain, mates, 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 who 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 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 to Tournament Headquarters by 9:00 am on the first day of fishing.

21 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 for 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 permitted and appropriated 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 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.

THE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT CHANNEL IS 71

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS RADIO - Tournament Headquarters will monitor VHF Channel 71 (alternate 78a) from 9AM to 3PM Daily. All billfish hook-ups must be reported at the time of hook-up to qualify. Please report if the release was made by a Jr. Angler and Jr. Angler name for real time scoring. You will NOT need to report gamefish hook-ups. However, we ask that you call the weigh-station to announce that you'll be weighing in a gamefish at least 30 minutes prior to arrival.

FISHING BOUNDARIES

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.

DAILY RADIO SCHEDULE

VHF-CHANNEL #71
Alternate CHANNEL #78a

8:00am	Morning Prayer- Randy Ramsey
8:30	Announce leader board and announce days radio schedule
8:45	Announce 15 minutes to fishing time
9:00	Call fishing time - LINES IN THE WATER
AFTER 9:00	Report number of boats fishing today
11:30	Announce today's releases
1:30	Announce today's releases
2:45	Report 15 minutes to quitting time
3:00	Call time - ALL LINES OUT OF THE WATER
3:15	Announce leader board and today's releases

OFFICIAL TIME IS GPS TIME

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

5:30 PM

Civic Center

Captain's Meeting

6:00 PM

Civic Center

Pig Pickin'

PARTICIPANTS 10 & YOUNGER GET IN FOR FREE!

Co-Sponsored by:



**Gregory Poole
Marine**



THURSDAY - SATURDAY

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Captain's Choice of two of three
fishing days

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Daily **Gamefish Weigh-Ins** will begin around 4:30pm. Scales to close at 7:00 pm nightly. Tune into Big Rock TV for all the action.



FRIDAY, JULY 10

6:00 PM

Civic Center

**FAMILY FUN
NIGHT**

PARTICIPANTS 10 & YOUNGER GET IN FOR FREE!

Sponsored by:



SATURDAY, JULY 11

7:00 PM

Civic Center

**AWARDS CEREMONY
& DINNER**

PARTICIPANTS 10 & YOUNGER GET IN FOR FREE!

Sponsored by:

Hatteras[®]

FISHING DAYS

Available fishing days and hours (EDT)

July 9, 2026	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
July 10, 2026	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
July 11, 2026	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Boats may fish two out of the three available fishing days.

RULES COMMITTEE

Emery Ivey, Dew Forbes, Dale Britt, Randy Gregory, Randy Ramsey, Casey Wagner, Brent Gaskill

WEIGH MASTER: Randy Gregory

TOURNAMENT PRESIDENT: Casey Wagner

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Carlee Sharpe

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

(opens 8:00 AM on fishing days)

710 Evans Street, Morehead City, NC 28557

ENTRY FEES

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

BIG ROCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Casey Wagner, President
Tommy Bennett, Vice President
Richard Crowe, Secretary
Mike Thompson, Treasurer
Jim Bailey
Howard Basnight
Joy Bell
Dale Britt
Les Collins
Roger Crowe
Dew Forbes
Brent Gaskill
Emery Ivey
Jack Jordan
Billy Kornegay
Caroline Petrilli
Randy Ramsey
Curtis Strange

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