

2026 BIG ROCK KIDS RULE AMENDMENTS

1. REGISTRATION *All boats must be registered with the Tournament Committee and entry fee paid to qualify for prizes and trophies prior to 9:00 AM on the boats first day of fishing. Boats may enter additional levels any time prior to their first day of fishing. No entries or upgrades will be accepted after Saturday, July 11 at 9 AM.* 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.

3. FISHING TIME + LAYDAYS 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 AM until 3 PM. *This is a four-day billfish release/gamefish tournament scheduled for July 9-12, 2026.* A boat may fish two out of four 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 AM 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.

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. *Daily prize money will be divided by the number of days that a qualifying fish is released.*

125 RELEASE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:

- 1) All billfish, including blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, hatchet marlin and spearfish, and
- 2) When mate touches the leader or leader touches the rod tip before the fish is released, and
- 3) 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. **Release forms must be turned in on the day the fish was released, no later than 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (July 9-12), and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 12, to qualify.**

400 RELEASE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR:

1) 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 or online via your Big Rock app account, along with video or photo evidence. All release forms must be turned in the day the fish is released no later than 10:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.**

The release video must contain the following elements:

- a) The mate touching the leader or the leader touching the rod tip.
- b) Clear and indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin.
- c) 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.

20. WITHDRAWAL FROM TOURNAMENT *Boats will be allowed to withdraw from the tournament prior to their first day of fishing. All withdrawal & refund requests must be submitted in writing to tournament officials. No refund or withdrawal requests will be accepted after Saturday, July 11 at 8:59 AM. All entry fees will be refunded except for Level I. 100% of all other levels will be refunded 14 days after the tournament and following collection and clearing of all funds paid.*