

Note: These Rules May be Subject to Further  
Revision Prior to Tournament Start

## 2017 HAWAII MARLIN TOURNAMENT SERIES GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES - KEWALO

### Section 1 General Tournament Rules and Procedures

#### Section 1.01 Fishing Hours

7:00AM to 4:00PM SATURDAY  
6:00AM to 3:00PM SUNDAY

#### Section 1.02 Check In, Check Out

Boats based in Kewalo Harbor are not allowed to leave the harbor for any reason, prior to the call of Start Fishing, except for the sole purpose of moving to the starting line. All boats must be in the harbor, or inside of the Start Line between sunrise and the call of Start Fishing.

All Kewalo based boats must check in at Harbor Master's dock for Fish Box check and to collect the Intova video cameras if participating in the Tag and Release division prior to proceeding to the Starting Line.

Boats launching or moored outside of Kewalo Harbor must check in at the harbor masters dock between 6:00 AM and 7:00 AM for Fish Box Check, on Saturday and 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM on Sunday.

Absolutely no fishing during the commute between any other harbor or launch ramp to Kewalo Harbor.

If you are late, you must still check in at the fuel dock before going fishing.

If your team elects to participate in the Tag and Release Division, you will pick up your tags and cameras at the Harbor Masters dock at check in, as well.

All boats must check in with tournament control by radio when "On the Line." Boats must also "Secure" at the end of the day. A boat may "Secure" prior to actual arrival at the harbor, but from the time that they announce that they are "Secure", they are holoholo.

#### Section 1.03 Start Fishing

All fishing starts from the Red Buoy at Kewalo Basin and "The Line" extends from the Red Buoy east towards Diamond Head at the distance offshore equal to that of the Red Buoy. A lane must be left open in the Channel to allow non-tournament boats ingress and egress to the harbor.

#### Section 1.04 Fishing

Fishing is allowed up to, but no further than 50 miles off shore.

**Area**

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**Section 1.05 Radio and Tournament Control**

Tournament Control will be on VHF Radio (channel to be determined). Cell phone calls are not accepted for reporting a fish catch, tag or loss etc. If your radio does not work for any reason, relay your report to a team with a good radio, so they can call in your report on the radio.

**Section 1.06 Radio**

**Roundups**

Radio roundups will be conducted at 10:00AM, 12:00PM and 2:00PM. When Tournament Control calls for your team to report, you must call in your Team Number, Area & Fish Report.

**Section 1.07 Radio Conformation**

All hook ups, losses of fish, captures of fish and tag and releases must be confirmed by tournament control radio. If confirmation from Tournament Control is not possible due to distance or radio failure, a confirmation must be made via relay. Any fish that has been tagged or boated that tournament control has not confirmed will not be allowed to qualify in any manner. Confirmation is the responsibility of the teams.

**Section 1.08 Estimated Weight and Short Length**

Every team that boats a marlin must call in the short length within 15 minutes of boating the fish.

**Section 1.09 Cell Phone**

Cell phone hook up/catch/loss/tag reports must be called to another boat and relayed to Tournament Control by VHF radio. Tournament Control will not accept cell calls for fish catch reports.

**Section 1.10 Multiple Hook Ups**

Multiple hook ups must be reported to Tournament Control immediately upon realization that there are multiple fish hooked up. Specific pictures will be required to verify a multiple fish. Failure to report or produce the proper photos can be grounds for disqualification.

**Section 1.11 Dock Time**

In regard to all fish reported as caught or tagged to Tournament Control - prior to the call of "Stop Fishing" - all boats with fish to weigh and/or tag cards to turn in, must be inside the Harbor by 6:30 PM on Saturday and 5:00 PM on Sunday. If you are not inside a line drawn from the red bollard on the Ewa corner of the harbor masters loading dock to the red bollard on the Makai corner of the Fisherman's Wharf Loading Dock by 6:30 PM, your catch will not qualify. It's that simple.

**Section 1.12 Late Weigh Ins**

If you hooked up prior to the call of "Stop Fishing" at 4:00 PM on Saturday or 3:00 PM on Sunday, you may fight your fish until you catch it. If it is apparent that you will miss the dock time because you are still hooked up, Tournament Control must be notified in order to make the necessary arrangements.

If there are fish on board that you boated prior to the call of "Stop Fishing" at 4:00 PM on Saturday or 3:00 PM on Sunday, and you hook up prior to the call of "Stop Fishing" but do not land that fish(s), your first fish(s) will still count and you will be exempt from dock time provided that Tournament Control was properly notified.

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**Section 1.13 Registered Crew**

Each team must register one captain and up to two crew. If any substitutions are to be made, they must be made prior to “Start Fishing” of that day to Tournament Control. Captains and crew can be registered as anglers, please note that four anglers are the max per team included with the base entry. More may be added but an additional registration and hospitality fee may be charged.

**Section 1.14 Disposition of Fish**

Disposition of fish is 100% the responsibility of the teams. Fish must NOT be left at the dock, or they will be confiscated....and eaten.

**Section 1.15 Registered Anglers**

Any participant who wishes to weigh a fish for qualification or turn in a tag card must be listed on the registration form as an angler. Non-registered guests are welcome on board to ride along, BUT only registered anglers can angle a fish for qualification in the tournament. Substitute anglers are allowed, but they must be called in prior to “Start Fishing” of that day to Tournament Control.

**Section 1.16 Definition of Team**

A team is defined as a maximum of four (4) anglers and one (1) captain and two (2) crew in relation to the Base Entry Fee. Personnel can be added. (see sec. 1.14)

**Section 1.17 Minimum Weight**

No awards will be given to any fish that weighs in under the minimum weight specified in the specific rules of that tournament.

**Section 2 Angling Rules**

**Section 2.01 Angling Rules**

*For the Kewalo Harbor Big Fish Chase – only - Jungle Rules apply. Jungle Rules catches must be caught on rod and reel only, but any number of anglers may fight the fish or touch the gear, and teams may fight the fish from the rod holders or from a fighting chair, gimble or standing up. Line class and breaking strength can vary from boat to boat, rod to rod, if desired.*

International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) Angling Rules For Fresh and Saltwater strictly apply to teams wishing to score Series Points in the Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series. IGFA angling rules can be found in each team kit.

**NOTE: IGFA “Release Rules” do NOT apply and are not incorporated into the HMT Series Rules or associated individual Event Rules.**

If you elect to fish Jungle Rules, you can win the purse in the Kewalo Harbor Big Fish Chase, but your catch(es) will not score HMT Series Points

There will be a separate and specific Rule Sheet for qualifying a catch for the “Beat Choy’s Monster 1,805 pound marlin and win \$75,000.00” program.

**130 lb. test line is the maximum allowed for this contest. Rod and reel must be IGFA compliant!**

**Section 2.02 Fishing Line Requirements**

With the exception of the Kewalo Big Fish Chase “Jungle Rules” fishers, 130-pound (60kg) line class maximum. No bonus points for lighter line. Tackle will be inspected with each and every fish weighed and tagged. Lines may be tested at the discretion of the judges.

**Section 2.03 Terminal Tackle**

With the exception of the Kewalo Big Fish Chase, Terminal tackle must be tied to IGFA specifications. Mis-tied terminal tackle is not considered non-conforming gear, but will result in the disqualification of the specific catch being judged at that time only.

**Section 2.04 Re-Use of Lures**

A lure may be re-used after a capture only if this method is strictly adhered to: Cut the leader approximately 12 inches up from the eye of the front hook. Save the hook(s) with the 12 inches of leader attached. Save the long piece of leader also. Present both pieces to the judge along with your lure, tackle and fish or tag card. Cuts, scrapes and scratches that do not match on the two pieces of leader can be grounds for disqualification. The hook set cannot be reused, only the lure. The hook set and leader must be presented as described above or your fish will be disqualified.

**Section 2.05 Non-Conforming Gear**

Any non-conforming gear, on board, used or not used, is ground for disqualification. Remove all hand lines, long lines, purse seines, drift gill nets, slide gaffs, harpoons, commercial fishing gear, bombs, guns, bang sticks, gang hooks, green stick rigs (the green stick its self can stay on board) etc. from boat.

**Section 2.06 Transfer of Stuff**

After the call of start fishing, there shall be no transfer of “stuff” between tournament boats *On The Playing Field*– including but not limited to – bait, tackle, caught fish, mechanical supplies and/or personnel. A team may return to the harbor to pick up “stuff”, and/or people, and/or to change boats, if needed. A request to use a replacement boat must be made to Tournament Control prior to the transfer of any stuff or personnel between boats. Tournament Control may require an inspection of one or both boats prior to the time that the request to use a replacement boat is granted.

**Section 2.07 Tag Poles**

Tag poles shall be no longer than 8 feet overall. Tag poles will be measured. Telescoping tag poles that extend beyond 8 feet long will be consider non-conforming gear.

**Section 2.08 Tagging and/or Gaffing**

For the Kewalo Big Fish Chase, it is not necessary to tag the marlin if you do not have a tag pole. However, to qualify for the Tag and Release division, you must get video with the Intova camera supplied by tournament control, only.

**Section 2.09 Birds**

Birds of any sort are not allowed.

**Section 3 Tag and Release Requirements**

NOTE:IGFA “RELEASE RULES” DO NOT APPLY!

**Section 3.01 Video for Tag and Release Verification**

All marlin released must be videotaped in order to qualify and the video must be taken with the camera supplied by tournament control only. No video – no winning. Videos must be taken with the intent to verify (1) species of the marlin and (2) that the release procedure was fully performed, and (3) that double headers were actually being fought when so reported. Back up with other video.

**Section 3.02 Best Approach to Producing Video Required by Judge(s)**

The best approach to getting the videos required is to take at least one video from the bridge with a wide view of the fish on the leader being released.

REMEMBER TO TURN THE CAMERA OFF WHEN FINISHED!

It is expressly understood that due to the nature of dealing with wild animals, and the inefficiencies of sport fishing tackle, no procedure is fool proof, and there is always a chance that, regardless of procedure taken, the team may not capture the video image needed by the judge(s) and may be denied points based upon the lack of photographic quality and/or detail. In any event, all video must be taken in compliance with Sections 3.01 and 3.05.

**Section 3.03 Radio Control and Photos**

Tournament Control radio will give special instructions for video that you must take at the time that you call in your tag and release (after your release). Failure to take security video assigned by tournament control will result in disqualification.

**Section 3.04 Multiple Hook Ups and Tagging**

Multiple Hook Ups must be reported to radio control immediately upon hookup as you will be required to take specific video to verify.

**Section 3.05 Intent of These Rules**

As with the I.G.F.A. Angling Rules, tournament rules are written with specific “intent” paramount. Participants should be aware that dealing with wild animals is not like dealing with a golf course, where it is plainly obvious whether a golf ball went in the hole or not.

As example, I.G.F.A. Angling Rules (Saltwater) state the intention that the angler shall strike and hook the fish with the rod in hand. We all know that this is not practical with 130 lb. bent butt tackle. However, I.G.F.A. recognizes this is rarely the case with heavy tackle. The IGFA’s stated intention is that the angler move the rod from the holder to the fighting position as quickly as possible.

This tournament requires that video be taken of marlin released with the intent to verify (1) species of the marlin and (2) that the tagging procedure was fully performed, and (3) that double headers reported, were actually being fought.

A photo proving that the tag and release procedure was fully performed may take many forms, and it is the responsibility of the judge(s) only, to ascertain if the photos provided fulfill the intent of this rule. By participating in this tournament, the teams accept this, and are responsible for providing the best possible photos to the judges.

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It is not the intent of this rule that teams are required to get a close up of a tag streamer in a marlin. “Man handling” fish after tagging contributes to undue mortality. This is counter-productive to the intent of tag and release. The recommended procedure for teams to get the video required by the judge(s) is outlined above. The decision to either follow or not follow the recommended video procedure is the choice of the teams, and the results of the video are their responsibility – regardless of procedure employed.

It is always a good idea to take backup video. Inform tournament control if the “official” camera fails for any reason, so we can accept backup video.

The judge(s) shall be the only person(s) to interpret the video for the purpose of rulings. A team may ask to see the photos taken from their boat only. Should the judge(s) have a problem with any particular video and/or disallow a tag and release on the grounds of insufficient video proof of (1) species and/or (2) that the tag and release procedure was fully performed, and/or (3) that there was indeed a double header - it is the responsibility of the judge(s) to show the video to the team whose catch is being disallowed, only.

**Section 4 Sportsmanship, Protests and Payout**

**Section 4.01 Sportsmanship**

All judging, awarding, and accounting of purses and prizes will be handled in a business-like manner and in the spirit of good sportsmanship. No yelling or otherwise attempting to intimidate judges or officials shall be tolerated.

**Section 4.02 Disqualification**

Grounds for disqualification include but are not limited to: cheating in any manner, which includes but is not limited to--filling fish with water, using line /fronts heavier than 130 lb test (except at Kewalo), faking a tag video in any manner, disfiguring official cameras in any manner, using tag poles longer than 8 feet in length, and/or using non-conforming gear & falsifying hook-ups.

**Section 4.03 Protests**

All protests must be filed in writing by 7:00 PM on the final day of fishing. Each individual protest must be submitted along with a \$300.00 fee. No Exceptions. At the Tournament Director(‘s) discretion, a decision on any potential rules infraction may be referred to the Protest Committee for final decision. A decision of the Protest Committee will be final and binding upon all parties. If the grounds for protest are not found valid, the Protester shall lose the \$300.00 deposit.

**Section 4.04 Current Protest Committee**

- John Jordan (Kona)
- Tomo Rogers (Kona)

**Section 4.05 Rights and Responsibilities**

There are certain responsibilities inherent to, and accepted by teams and management. Upon payment of entry fee(s), teams are, from that point forward, bound by the rules of the tournament as printed herein, and accept this responsibility.

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Upon acceptance of entry fee(s) from any number of teams, management becomes responsible for scoring of the tournament, judging of catch(es) in relation to the rules printed herein, and disbursement of purse and/or refunds as determined by the outcome of the tournament.

Should a team find that there are rules in the tournament that they do not find acceptable, they may withdraw from the tournament without penalty prior to the call of start fishing on Day One of the tournament.

Once the tournament has started, the teams are bound by the rules printed herein. Violation of one or more rules is grounds for disqualification and/or ejection from the tournament. A team may withdraw after commencement of the tournament, but all entry fees shall be forfeited and remain in the purse as per normal. Management reserves the right to deny entry to anyone.

**Section 4.06 Official Results and Pay Out**

Purse money shall not be distributed until tournament videos are processed and results verified, should video catches come into play. "Results" printed prior to video verification, protest review and final tally are "Unofficial."

**Section 5 HMT Series Scoring, Points and Placement**

This section pertains to the overall Series points earnings and does not apply to individual tournament standings.

*NOTE: Only fish caught to IGFA specs will earn Series Points.*

**Section 5.01 Fish Scoring for Series Points**

200 Points shall be awarded to the angler and boat for each blue or black marlin tagged and released.

50 points shall be awarded to the angler and boat for each striped marlin tagged and released.

Zero points shall be awarded for spearfish or sailfish regardless of whether they are tagged or captured.

1 Point Per Pound shall be awarded for each blue or black marlin boated. However, a minimum weight of 300 pounds is required to qualify for Series points, regardless of Member Tournament minimum rule.

1 Point Per Pound will be awarded for each pound over 100 pounds for each Ahi weighed. Example: a 101 pound ahi will score 1 point. A 123 pound ahi will score 23 points.

**Section 5.02 Series Angler and Boat Scoring**

Anglers and Boats shall earn points for each Member Tournament that they fish – as individual anglers or boats-regardless of their team composition. All participants in a Member Tournament are automatically entered in the Series.

The Series points, however, shall be awarded to the angler or boat in relation to their specific catch, and the catches of their teammates.

Multiple catches by members of a team in a Member Tournament shall be scored for Series Points separately – according to individual’s catches-and with no connection to the scoring of the Member Tournament.

At the end of a Member Tournament, an angler is guaranteed 50 points just for participation, and could score points for catch(es), and possibly earn placement points. Boat points are cumulative of all angler points scored on board. Boats also receive 50 Participation Points for each tournament entered

**Section 5.03 Rules for Qualifying Catch**

All Series points are to be awarded based on catches complying with IGFA International Angling Rules only.

Catches hoping to qualify for Series points must first qualify for points in the Series Member Tournament in which they are captured and/or tag and released. Should the Series Member Tournament judge(s) authorize claim under IGFA rules, the Series judge(s) shall proceed with the processing. Rod, reel, hooks, line and terminal tackle shall be inspected at the discretion of the Series judge(s).

Series judgment(s) shall remain separate from those of the Member Tournament judgment(s), and will have no effect on the outcome of the Member Tournament score, whatsoever.

**Section 5.04 Event Placement Points**

Event Placement scoring is awarded to the angler’s catching a fish on a team that contributes to that team earning First, Second or Third Place Overall in each Member Tournament.

First, Second or Third Place Overall shall not necessarily be attributed to Member Tournament purse distribution, but to the equivalent of First through Third Total Points, or Gross Score.

Should more than one angler contribute to a catch to the Member Tournament Placement, the Series Event Placement Points shall be split evenly among the anglers catching the qualifying fish.

Should one or more fish from a Placement team be disqualified, the angler disqualified will not receive a share of the Event Placement Points unless they qualified a fish other than the one not allowed.

- 300 points gross shall be awarded to the angler(s) for a First Place Overall finish.
- 200 points gross shall be awarded to the angler(s) for a Second Place Overall finish.
- 100 points gross shall be awarded to the angler(s) for a Third Place Overall finish.



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**Section 5.05 Participation Points**

Each angler shall receive 50 participation points per Member Tournament fished. Participation points may be revoked if an angler is proven to have taken part in a rule infraction.

**Section 6 Definitions**

**Section 6.01 Ahi**

The Definition of “Ahi” in the HMT Series, refers to Yellow Fin Tuna, Blue Fin Tuna and Big Eye Tuna.

**Section 7 Misc.**

**Section 7.01 Entry fee and access to HMTS events**

The entry fee for each event includes access for up to four anglers and two crewmembers per event entered. Additional tickets are available for family and friends. Please enquire with HMTS Staff.

**Section 7.02 Administrative Fee**

All entry fees, whether base or optional are subject to a 5% administrative fee. This fee is not included in the calculation of the base purse, or the optional purse. This Administrative Fee has been incorporated into the tournament entry forms. For example, an entry fee for a \$100 daily optional category is reflected on the entry form at a price of \$105.

**Section 7.03 Cash/Check Discount**

All entry fees paid by cash or check, whether base or optional, are entitled to a 5% cash/check discount. This Cash/Check Discount has been incorporated into the tournament entry forms. For example, an entry fee for a \$100 daily optional category would ordinarily reflect a price of \$105. The Cash/Check Discount Form, however, reflects a price of \$100.

*Mahalo for fishing in the 2017 Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series!*