

2020 WMO INFORMATION HIGHLIGHT SHEET

PLEASE READ ALL RULES IN TOURNAMENT BROCHURE CAREFULLY

- 1. FISHING DAY EXTENSION – FISHING DAYS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th. BOATS MAY FISH 3 OUT OF 7 DAYS.**
- 2. BLUE MARLIN TIME EXTENSION – General Tournament Rule 8A – Any boat still fighting a blue marlin after the 3:30 PM deadline will be permitted to fight that fish until boated, released, or lost – except that in order to be eligible for prize money, the blue marlin must be made available for weighing no later than 12:15 AM on Monday, August 10th, regardless of which fishing day the hook up occurred.** The boat must make every effort to keep the Tournament Directors posted on the status of the fight including relaying information via VHF, cell phone, or Single Side Band to another tournament boat. **ALSO – if the boat fighting the blue marlin has another boated fish it intends to weigh, the boat must follow the procedures under General Tournament Rule D6 or the fish will not be weighed.**
- 3. DECLARING A NON-FISHING DAY – Read General Rules C1-C5.** A representative for your boat must declare a non-fishing day by 8:30 AM on the day you are not fishing by **texting the word LAYDAY TO 474747 and following the directions in the automatic reply.** **If you do not report your non-fishing day by 8:30 AM your boat will be counted as fishing that day.** No texts need be made, nor will be taken on Sunday August 9th.
- 4. CATCH AND RELEASE REPORTS / SCORING QUESTIONS – All catch and release reports must be turned in to the White Marlin Open by 9:15 PM the day fished.** Catch and release reports may be submitted in the following ways:
 - Turning in the catch and release report to the scorers' table at Harbour Island Marina
 - Dropping the catch and release report in the designated Drop Box at one of the following marinas: Sunset Marina, O.C. Fishing Center, Talbot Street Pier Office, Bahia Marina
 - Boats fishing from an inlet **OTHER THAN OCEAN CITY, MD** may submit their catch by **texting the word CATCH to 474747 and following the directions in the automatic reply.**
- 5. ELIGIBLE ANGLERS - Any person listed on the Official White Marlin Open entry form will be considered an angler (i.e. Captain, Mate, Boat Owner).** Anglers may also be registered by **texting the word WMOANGLERS to 474747 and following the direction in the automatic reply.** All anglers must be registered prior to fishing.
- 6. BLUE MARLIN MINIMUM LENGTH – In order to be eligible for weighing, a blue marlin must meet the minimum length of 114 inches. There is no minimum weight. The winner will be determined by weight.**
- 7. WHITE MARLIN MINIMUM – In order for a white marlin to qualify for prize money and/or billfish points it must be at least 68 inches AND 70 pounds.**
- 8. All fish intended for donation to the Maryland Food Bank must be kept on ice.**
- 9. SMALL BOAT ADDED ENTRY LEVELS – The small boat added entry levels (SBM&SMT) are for boats under 40'. Boat length is determined by LOA (Length Over All).** Length Over All (LOA) is the horizontal distance between the outboard side of the foremost part (bow) of the hull and the outboard side of the aftermost part (stern) of the hull. It does not include bowsprits, rudders, outboard motor brackets, swim platforms that do not contain buoyant volume, and other similar fittings and attachments that are not part of the buoyant hull envelope.

OVER

10. With the intention of preserving sportsmanship, rewarding angling skills and billfish conservation, the intentional use of live bait and/or live bait teasers in the attempt to catch billfish, or any other eligible species, is not allowed. The use of live bait or stopping and casting or pitching to tailing fish or fish balling bait is not permissible. Live baiting shall include live teasing and fishing for bait at any point during the tournament. The use of Chub Mackerel, Atlantic Mackerel, Boston Mackerel and Tinker Mackerel is prohibited.

11. FLIPPY FLOPPY – The Flippy Floppy is 100% legal to use when used strictly as a teaser. If a hooked bait/lure is placed behind the Flippy Floppy (or incorporated into the Flippy Floppy), this would not be IGFA legal. The reason for this is because the horizontal “arms” extending from the main daisy chain prevent this from being considered as an “in-line” daisy chain which are IGFA legal.

12. STINKY TINKY – As per NOAA – It is not illegal to soak lures in fish oil. However, soaking an artificial lure in fish oil then makes part of it a natural component and would trigger the requirement to use non-offset circle hooks.

13. CHUNKING for tuna and CHUMMING for sharks is permitted, but not before 8:30 AM

14. DEPARTURE INLETS – Boats fishing in the White Marlin Open may leave from any inlet between Rudee Inlet, VA and Barnegat Inlet, NJ. No boat may pass the sea buoy of any inlet prior to 4:00 AM on any fishing day. Any boat leaving early will be disqualified for that fishing day. There is a distance limit of 100 nautical miles from the Ocean City Inlet sea buoy. Boats must fish within this limit regardless of the inlet of departure.

15. POLYGRAPH TESTING – Read in the brochure General Rule G5.

Any angler winning \$50,000 or more **may** be subject to a polygraph test. **Anglers that are required to take a polygraph test will be contacted by a tournament director on Sunday August 9th after 9:15 PM to confirm the test time and location.**

***The White Marlin Open reserves the right to reschedule and/or cancel any polygraph test, at its discretion, for a different time, date and/or location.**

16. TROPHY PRESENTATION & PRIZE MONEY PAYOUT PROCEDURE – Representatives from boats receiving prize money must report to the Tournament Directors Table at the Aloft Hotel on 45th Street between the hours of 4 PM and 6 PM Monday, August 10th to complete a Prize Money Distribution Form indicating how the money should be disbursed, including Social Security or Federal Identification Numbers, and signed by the winning angler. Without the completed Prize Money Distribution Form, no prize money will be dispersed. Prize money checks will be mailed within 7 business days of the satisfactory completion of all polygraph tests. **DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, THE ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY WILL BE REPLACED WITH A TROPHY AND CEREMONIAL CHECK PRESENTATION AT THE ALOFT HOTEL ON 45TH STREET IN OCEAN CITY. WINNERS MAY COME ANY TIME BETWEEN 4PM AND 6PM ON MONDAY AUGUST 10TH TO FILL OUT THEIR PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTION FORM, RECEIVE THEIR TROPHY AND/OR CEREMONIAL CHECK AND HAVE THEIR PHOTO TAKEN.**

17. VHF 19 – The Tournament designates **VHF channel 19** as the frequency for tournament use. It will be monitored from shore from 4:15 PM – 9 PM nightly. If you have a fish intended for weighing and would like to make the Tournament Directors aware of it, you can do so on this channel. The Mid-Shore Electronics/White Marlin Open base station, provided by Mid-Shore Electronics, will be able to reach 10 miles past the Ocean City Inlet sea buoy.

18. PROTEST – Read General Rule F – All protests in compliance with Rule F will be given to the judges. A majority ruling by the judges is required for a decision. That decision is final. The judges are Brian Tinkler, Glenn Mumbauer and Shawn Harman. The Weighmaster is Alex Davis.

19. IGFA RULES – IGFA Rules can be found online at <http://www.igfa.org/Fish/INTERNATIONAL-ANGLING-RULES.aspx>