



MARLINS FOR MASON

2026 MARLIN RELEASE TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Lines In 8:00 am. Lines Out at 3:00 pm. You may leave the inlet whenever you like.
 - No baits, lures, or teasers in the water prior to 8 am.
2. Fishing boundary is 100 nautical miles from the Ocean City, Maryland Sea Buoy. Boats may depart from any inlet, but must return to Ocean City, MD or Indian River, DE.
3. **Eligible Species:**
 - **Release points:**
 - White Marlin, Sailfish, Spearfish 100 points.
 - Blue Marlin and Swordfish 150 points.
 - **Blue marlin must have video or photo proof for identification.**
 - If no picture white marlin points will be awarded
 - The top 3 places will be awarded in release category with ties broken on time of last billfish caught first. If there is a tie on time of last billfish caught time will go to second to last billfish caught.
4. **Billfish catch reports must be turned into the Marlins for Mason table at Fishermans Marina by 7:30pm**
5. **IGFA rules apply in this tournament, with the following exceptions.**
 - Fish may be hooked by anyone and handed off to the angler.
 - Lady anglers may be assisted, but fish cannot be handed off to a male angler.
 - Youth anglers may be assisted.
 - Effectively this is a boat tournament with no individual awards given aside from junior angler.
6. There is no limit to the number of lines fished. Spreader bars are allowed. The use of non-offset circle hooks is mandatory in all-natural bait and natural bait/lure combinations.
 - Greensticks are NOT permitted.
 - Harpoons are NOT permitted.
 - The intentional use of live bait and/or live bait teasers is not allowed.
7. Releases counts when the leader or swivel touches the rod tip, or the mate grasps the leader. Leader length is limited to 30 feet as per IGFA regulations (30 lb tackle and up).
8. Sonars may NOT be deployed before lines in.
9. Lay day changes must be texted (609) 377-0706 and/or emailed to (marlinsformason@gmail.com) no later than 8:00 a.m. on Thursday. (keep documentation of this notification)
 - If you selected to fish Saturday on your registration form you do not need to call in lay day
 - No lay days need to be called in on Saturday.
 - You may fish on your lay day
10. This is a release only tournament. No meat fish.
 - If you are fishing Heels & Reels please refer to their rules in regards to meat fish.
11. **In order for ladies only teams to be eligible to fish Ladies Only Teams Marlin Release Calcutta you must also be registered in Ocean City Marlin Club Heels & Reels.**
 - If you are not registered you will not be eligible to win Ladies Only Teams Marlin Release Calcutta or Ladies Only Teams Awards (refunds will not be issued if this occurs)
12. Anglers may only fish 1 of 3 days. Boats may fish 3 out of 3 days with different anglers.

TOURNAMENT RULES – CONTINUED



RULES/ POLICIES

- There are no refunds for calcuttas or donations.
- Anglers may be added or changed by email at marlinsformason@gmail.com
- All anglers must be registered prior to fishing.
- In the event of a boat disability before beginning to fish contestants may transfer to a second boat and assume the original boat's number without paying an additional entry fee.
- Only one (1) day needs to be fished by at least one (1) boat to make the tournament official and for prizes to be awarded.
- The Marlins for Mason reserves the right to cancel or extend the tournament at any time.
- All registered anglers, crew members and observers participate in Marlins for Mason tournament and events (at their own risk). The Participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Tournament, Marlins for Mason and its respective officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, partners, members, and/or attorneys (collectively the "Tournament Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties. All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of Marlins for Mason whether an individual, a corporation or other type of entity, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including, without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any boat, team or person. Participants specifically agree and consent to the use of any photograph or video in which they appear, and/or audio recordings of such participants, by the Tournament for any purpose whatsoever including, but not limited to, resale, advertising and promotional material without compensation or restriction of any kind. The Liability Release shall be binding upon the Participants and their respective heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns.
- By registering in Marlins for Mason and paying the entry fee, Participants acknowledge that they have read these Rules and the Liability Release. As a condition for the entry into the Marlins for Mason. all Participants hereby agree to be bound by all the Rules, and by the Liability Release.
- Any last minute changes will be posted at registration on July 29, 2026

Fishing Days, Fishing Times, and Distance Parameters

- The decision as to which day to fish rests entirely with the angler/team and crew. This day must be selected at time of sign up. Unless otherwise stated it will be assumed you are fishing the day listed on your registration
- If a boat breaks down on the way out before lines in (8:00 a.m.), you must notify another boat on channel 19. If you break down after lines in (8:00 a.m.), you will be declared as fishing.

Prize Money Payout Procedures

- If no marlin release occurs the calcutta / prize money will be carried forward to the following years prize money.
- Prize money will be awarded to the person listed on the registration form. This person must supply social security number to receive prize money.
- Each winning team must complete a Prize Money Distribution Form before any award check will be issued. Prize money checks will be mailed within fourteen (14) business days of the awards ceremony. One check will be issued per winning team.

(609) 377-0706

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