



Balboa Angling Club's 2026 Master Angler Billfish Tournament Rules

1. Each participating Club may enter an unlimited number of teams, with a maximum of 4 boats per team. Only the scores of the Top Team will count for each Club for the Top Club trophies.
 2. Anglers may use substitute boats if necessary, due to mechanical issues, etc.
 - See rule 42 for additional information
 3. Above mentioned angler/boat changes must be reported and confirmed each day that they occur to one of the following:
 - The Tournament Chairman Philip Dollar (603) 397-28961.
 - The BAC office (949) 673-6316 or FAX (949) 673-6384 or email: info@balboaanglingclub.org
 4. The Tournament Control, or Committee Boat (Fin & Tonic), or Relay Boat (TBD) – Channel 65
 5. All anglers must have a valid California fishing license.
 6. All anglers, boat operators, and any other participants including boat guests must sign the Master Angler Billfish Tournament 2026 (MABT) Release of liability or will not be allowed in the Tournament.
 7. The entry fee for the 2026 MABT is as follows:
 - \$250– Members
 - \$300 – Non-Members*
- *Non-Member entry fee comes with complimentary BAC membership through December 31, 2026.
8. There are no maximum anglers per boat.
 9. There is no limit on trolling or casting lines. Only Team Members shall be allowed to handle leaders, rods, gaffs, tagging sticks, tail ropes, etc.
 10. Except for Tuna and Swordfish, the use of non-offset circle hooks is required for all live or dead bait.
 - J-Hooks are acceptable on ALL lures/jigs.
 11. The "MABT Marlin Count Verification Slip" will be completed, signed, and turned in by each Boat Captain for all team members who earn points.



- The slips must be brought in, faxed, telephoned, or emailed to the BAC prior to 9:00AM, Sunday, September 13th, 2026.
 - Any slips received after 9:00AM will not be recorded.
12. Every participating boat must designate a team member to attend the mandatory Captain's meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, at The Newport Legion, 215 15th St., Newport Beach, CA. 92663.
 13. Tournament boats may depart from any port.
 14. Fishing hours shall be 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, and 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.
 15. Any boat hooked up prior to "lines out" may continue to fight the fish until it is caught or lost.
 16. Tournament radio channel to be Channel 65.
 - ROLL CALL will be at 11:00 a.m. and 6:35 p.m. on Friday and 11:00 a.m. and 6:35 p.m. on Saturday.
 - All fishing boats must monitor this frequency during the Roll Call and report their activity or lack of.
 - Reporting procedure is as follows: Knockdowns/ Hook-ups/ Releases. Example: if you had 2 knockdowns, 1 hook up and 1 release your report would be: 2-1-1.
 17. Upon hook-up, a boat must report to Tournament Control or Committee Boat (Fin & Tonic) the following:
 - Boat Name
 - Angler Name
 - Time of Hook-Up
 - Line Class
 - Bait or Jig
 - Boat location by the grid on the Official MABT 2026 Tournament Chart
 18. If unable to directly contact Tournament Control, Committee Boat, or Relay Boat the boat that is hooked-up MUST relay the above information through another tournament boat to Tournament Control, Committee Boat, or Relay Boat. Hook-up information may also be called into:
 - BAC Clubhouse by VHF radio or - 949-673-6316



- Philip Dollar - 603-397-2896
 - Bryan Lojeski - 949-291-1361
 - Casey McCann - 949-870-0029
 - If there is no pickup, leave a text, voicemail, email following Tournament Reporting Procedures noted above.
19. A boat must immediately announce the results of any hook-up previously reported under Rule 15 when released (Marlin) or Boated (Broadbill). This additional information must be reported and confirmed in the manner and terms stated in Rule 16.
- Boat Name
 - Angler Name
 - Time of day when Marlin released, or Broadbill boated.
 - You may be asked to repeat information listed in Rule 13 to clarify information.
 - If no contact can be made with Tournament Control or the Tournament Committee Boat by direct contact or relay, the hook-up must be reported to the Balboa Angling Club at (949) 673- 6316. This contract must be made immediately upon hook-up and upon boating or releasing the fish, or to (603) 937-2896 (Phil Dollar), (949) 291-1361 (Bryan Lojeski) or (949) 870-0029 (Casey McCann).
20. All fish must be hooked and caught from a tournament boat.
- This excludes tenders, inflatables, dinghies, etc.
 - Any device, such as a gangplank, platform, boom, or trapeze used to give a boat tagging or gaffing a fish an unfair advantage in doing so, is prohibited.
 - A legal bow-pulpit or swim step is allowed.
 - Line & Leader Classification – IGFA (International Game Fish Association) Rules apply.
21. The use of backing is permissible.
- The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 16.5 feet (5 meters) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook.
 - This section must comprise a single, homogenous piece of line.
22. The length of the leader and double line is determined by line class. For line classes up to and including 20 lb. the leader shall be limited to 15 feet.



- The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 20 feet.
 - The leader in all classes of tackle over 20 lb. shall be limited to 30 feet. The combined length of the double line and leader is limited to 40 feet.
23. For a released marlin to qualify, angler or mate must grab and retain the leader in hand at the time of release.
 24. Billfish brought to leader UNDER 10 MINUTES MUST BE TAGGED to qualify as a release.
 25. No touching the double line, no grabbing and letting go of the leader, and no cutting the leader prior to having grabbed and retained the leader.
 26. Teams are encouraged not to "pop" or "snap" the leader to break it.
 - Marlin will be released in good condition. If possible, hooks should be removed.
 27. Teams are also encouraged to swim the marlin alongside the boat since it enhances post-release survival.
 - Following the release of a Marlin the angler may continue fishing; no limits are set for this tournament.
 28. Persons other than anglers, including professional boatmen, may be permitted upon and may operate participating boats.
 - They may not handle rod, reel, gaff, tagging stick or leader during tournament hours.
 29. Use of spotter planes and/or drones to locate fish is forbidden.
 - Any communication with an aircraft during the tournament is prohibited, except in cases of emergency.
 30. The carrying of harpoon gear is prohibited.
 31. The fishing boundaries shall be 115 miles from the Bell Buoy at Newport Harbor as indicated on the Official Tournament Chart, which will be handed out at the Team Captain's meeting.
 32. Fifteen (15) minutes prior to lines out, radio silence will be in effect on the Tournament Channel (Channel 65).
 - Any boat hooked up during this time MUST immediately contact Tournament Control, The Tournament Committee Boat (Fin & Tonic) or The Relay Boat (TBD).



- If unable to make contact, the boat must relay their hook-up information through another tournament boat to Tournament Control or the Committee Boat.
 - Hook-up information may also be called into
 - BAC Clubhouse by VHF radio or - 949-673-6316
 - Philip Dollar - 603-397-2896
- 33. Roll Call will follow the announcement "Lines Out" approximately five (5) minutes after stop fishing.
- 34. Prizes will be awarded in the Pelagic Game Fish Division for High Pelagic Game Fish Angler.
 - Points earned in the Game Fish Division will not count towards the overall angler, boat, and club standings.
- 35. Any protest must be presented in writing to the BAC before noon, Sunday September 13th.
 - The Protest Committee will render a final resolution on all protests. Any verbal protest will not be considered.
- 36. In the event of rough seas, the Board of Directors has the authority to postpone or cancel tournament fishing.
 - If such action is taken, the information will be available by calling the BAC at (949) 673-6316.
 - No Refunds
- 37. In the event a Marlin is brought up dead it will be considered a released fish.
 - The time of release will be that of the leader in hand.
- 38. **The rules committee will require 12# & 16# line samples to obtain verify the breaking strength of line used in the tournament. Samples MUST be turned in no later than 9:00AM, Sunday September 13, 2026.**
- 39. BAC members must submit a Billfish Release Form and a line sample, if the fish is for button or annual Angler Point consideration.
 - Please fill out the form completely and submit with the line sample to the BAC Office within fifteen (15) days of the catch.
- 40. Trophies will be awarded in the following categories:
 - High Angler - 1st through 3rd
 - High Boat - 1st through 3rd



- High Club -1st through 3rd
 - Pelagic Division -1st Place Only
41. Any tournament team member, captain, angler, affiliate of, etc. that posts, publishes, or disseminates tournament results before the Balboa Angling Club (BAC) Master Angler Billfish Tournament (MABT) committee posts / publishes the official results will have their team disqualified.
 42. No list changes will be permitted to Anglers, Boats, or Teams after 6:15a.m., Friday, September 11th, unless a substitute boat is needed due to mechanical issues, etc.



Balboa Angling Club's

2026 Master Angler Billfish Tournament Rules Enforcement

Any observed rule infraction should be reported to Tournament Control or the Tournament Committee Boat. Strict adherence to both the spirit and letter of these rules is necessary. In fairness to all, involuntary infraction of these rules can no more be condoned than can willful violations.

Participants should be sure that they understand the rules and that their tackle complies with specifications.

PROTEST COMMITTEE

Philip Dollar, Casey McCann, Bryan Lojeski, John Doughty and David Dubois.

POINT SYSTEM

In case of a tie, the first angler arriving at the total shall prevail.

<u>MARLIN</u>	<u>SURFACE CAUGHT BROADBILL WEIGH IN</u>	<u>DEEPDROP CAUGHT BROADBILL WEIGH IN</u>
12 lb. test 240 points	20 lb. test 5.5 points per lb.	1.5 points per lb. (Minimum Fish Weight minus 100 pounds)
16 lb. test 210 points	30 lb. test 4.5 points per lb.	
20 lb. test 180 points	50 lb. test 3.5 points per lb.	
30 lb. test 150 points	80 lb. test 2.5 point per lb.	

BROADBILL

Surface caught Broadbill are encouraged. Deep Drop Broadbill techniques (in compliance with IGFA standards) will qualify for MABT tournament points at a different point level (noted above).

WEIGH STATIONS

Broadbill to be weighed at Balboa Angling Club or other IGFA certified scale by no later than 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th. A list of Southern



CA IGFA certified weigh stations can be found on page 9 & 10 of this document.

PELAGIC GAMEFISH DIVISION

Fish weight must exceed twice the amount of the line class - example: 20# line= 40 lb. fish, minimum weight. 80# Max for Bluefin Tuna, 30# all other species. Heaviest weight of a qualifying single fish regardless of line class wins the division.

MARLIN

Note that a MANDATORY line sample of 15 feet will be required on all 12# & 16# fish released in the tournament. Line will only be tested 2 times, dry as is. The average of the two tests will determine the breaking point of the line.

The BAC also reserves the right to randomly request line samples for any reported releases regardless of line class. In the event your line over tests it will be moved up into the next qualifying line class. **All samples must be turned into the BAC no later than 9:00a.m. Sunday, September 13th.** Lines may be passed to the Committee Boat for delivery to the clubhouse.

It is important to recognize that different brands of previously tested 12 lb. lines broke at the following strengths:

Ande Premium 12.5 lb.	Ande Tournament 11.5 lb.	P-Line 17 lb.
Berkley Big Game 15 lb.	Jinkai IGFA 12.5lb.	Izorline 17 lb.
Suffix Key Lime IGFA 11 lb.	P-Line CXX 21 lb.	Maxima 16 lb.

The spirit and success of this tournament reflects upon individual and team angling skill, based entirely on an honor system. If you have any questions as to the breaking strength of your line, it is recommended that you pre-test it prior to fishing.

Tournament Committee

Phil Dollar, Chairman
 Ruth Schock, Co-Chair
 Josh Kast, Co-Chair
 Davy Schweickert, Co-Chair

Bryan Lojeski, Co-Chair
 Casey McCann, Co-Chair
 Andy Gottlieb, Co-Chair



LINE TESTING

IGFA tests all the line and tippet samples submitted with world record claims in accordance with the metric line class designations. For example, the U.S. customary equivalent of 4kg is 8.81 pounds. Thus, line designated by the manufacturer as 8 lb class line may test up to 8.81 lbs. (4kg) to qualify for an 8 lb. line class record. The U.S. customary equivalents in pounds for the metric line classes are as follows:

METRIC	U.S. CUSTOMARY	U.S. EQUIVALANT
1kg	2#	2.2 lb.
2kg	4#	4.4 lb.
3kg	6#	6.61lb
4kg	8#	8.81lb
6kg	12#	13.22lb
8kg	16#	17.63lb
10kg	20#	22.04lb
15kg	30#	33.06lb
24kg	50#	52.91lb
37kg	80#	81.57lb
60kg	130#	132.27lb

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IGFA APPROVED WEIGH STATIONS (source: igfa.org)

1. Balboa Angling Club

200 A Street, Newport Beach, CA 92661

2. Harbor Rod & Reel Club/Huntington Harbour Yacht Club

3821 Warner Ave, Huntington Beach, CA 92649

3. Southern California Tuna Club/Alamitos Bay Fuel Dock

227 N. Mauna Drive, Long Beach, CA 90823

4. Killer Shrimp

4211 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

5. Channel Islands Sportfishing Center



4151 Victoria Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93035

6. Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club

2600 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard, CA 93035

7. Mission Bay Marlin Club

2590 Ingraham Street, #B, San Diego, CA 92109

8. The Marlin Club

2445 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106

In the event of radio contact being lost, please text/email details to the following:

- BAC Clubhouse by VHF radio or - 949-673-6316
- Philip Dollar - 603-397-2896
- Bryan Lojeski - 949-291-1361
- Casey McCann - 949-870-0029

In case of no cell reception, relay to Vessel "TBD". This vessel has Starlink and will forward.

THANK YOU for fishing the 45th Master Angler Billfish Tournament!
Good Luck!

Philip Dollar
Vice President
Balboa Angling Club
MABT 2026 Chair



Rev.	Change	Date
1	Added suggestions submitted via email	May 18
2	Added #9	May 19
3	Revised #30	May 19
4	Revised score card deadline to 8:30am 9/13	May 22
5	Final Formatting	May 25
6	Added Legion address	June 21
7	Revised line sample turn in time, rules committee	Aug 2