



13th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series May 2 - July 15, 2001



TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

1. Fish must be caught in accordance with all state and federal laws to qualify to earn points or awards. All anglers, including female and youths, must strike their fish in order to be eligible for series points or awards. After a fish strikes, only the angler is allowed to touch the rod. Once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate or is wound to the rod tip, then the angler may have assistance to tag and release or boat the fish. Vessels may provide assistance to other vessels for boating fish.

2. Listed below are minimum qualifying sizes for billfish brought to the dock, measured in a curved line along the body from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw:

Bluemarlin	101 inches
Whitemarlin	68 inches
Sailfish	65 inches

Note: The above measurements exceed the federally mandated minimum lengths by two (2) inches.

3. A penalty of 100 points will be assessed against a boat for each billfish brought to the dock not meeting minimum size requirements.

4. Boats guilty of wanton waste of fish taken in a Series event will be disqualified from earning points for that event.

5. Scoring for eligible billfish weighed in is based only on those points officially awarded each boat by each tournament. Boats earn one point per pound for their single heaviest billfish weighed in each tournament. No points are awarded for any additional billfish weighed.

6. Only blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish are eligible for tag and release points. Scoring for billfish tagged and released in good condition is as follows:

Blue Marlin	300 points
Whitemarlin	150 points
Sailfish	100 points

7. To qualify for tag and release points, a billfish must be legitimately fought to the boat, a scientific tag issued by a state or national fisheries research program implanted in the fish's back muscle and the hook removed or the leader cut as close to the fish's mouth as possible prior to release.

8. Billfish boated for measuring, without use of gaff, harpoon or other injurious device, will qualify for tag and release points, provided they are returned to the water healthy and are above the Federal minimum size.

9. Any billfish gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured in an attempt to boat the fish will not qualify for tag and release points, even if ultimately returned to the water.

10. To qualify any billfish for points, every person aboard the vessel 18 years of age or older must sign an affidavit swearing that all rules and regulations were observed with the described fish. Failure of any person to sign for any reason disqualifies that fish.

11. Affidavits must be completed the day the tag and release or catch occurs, except when a medical emergency involving the boat's crew prohibits completion of the form or when a mechanically disabled boat cannot return within the prescribed weigh-in period. In these instances, the forms must be completed and returned within ten (10) days of the tag and release. Boats fishing out of other marinas or ports may fax their completed tag and release affidavit to

tournament headquarters prior to the close of the weighing scales on the day of catch.

12. Boats will be awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of four events. A boat's highest total points up to a maximum of four tournaments will count toward aggregate point totals for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. Points cannot be transferred from one boat to another.

13. Boats must fish a minimum of two Series tournaments to qualify for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. However, the Outstanding Billfish, Lady Angler and Youth Angler awards may be won by vessels fishing only one tournament.

14. In the event of a tie, the boat participating in the most events shall be the winner. If a tie remains, the boat accumulating the points the earliest shall be the winner.

15. Awards will be presented for the heaviest dolphin, wahoo and tuna caught by boats participating in the series and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Outstanding Female and Youth Anglers (under 16 years of age). The awards for Female and Youth angler will go to the heaviest tuna, dolphin or wahoo if no female/youth angler has landed or tagged legal billfish. Billfish caught by female or youth anglers will earn regular Series points for the species.

16. A Blue Water Conservation Award will be presented to the boat accumulating the most points tagging dolphin (50 points), yellowfin tuna (100 points) and wahoo (150 points). All fish must be caught on legal Series tournament fishing days, and tagged using official tags supplied by the Marine Resources Division's Marine Gamefish Tagging Program. Completed tagging reports will serve as official entry forms and must be submitted either to Marine Resources Division personnel working the tournament or the weighmaster on the same day the fish was tagged.

17. Creel limits for dolphin are 7 per angler per day and 26 per boat per day, with no minimum size restriction. Creel limit for yellowfin tuna is 3 per angler per day with a minimum legal size of 27 inches curved body fork length. There is no minimum size restriction or creel limit on wahoo.

18. All awards are presented to the boat. Invitations to the annual Governor's Cup awards reception are limited to winning boat crews and boat owners whose boats fish two or more yearly series events.

19. It is the intent of the S.C. Governor's Cup to encourage release of healthy billfish, therefore the use of 130 lb. class line is allowed.

20. A boat owner may request an official ruling from the Governor's Cup Series. The request for a ruling must be submitted in writing to a member of the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall rule on the request within seven (7) days. Any ruling of the Tournament Committee may be appealed by writing to the Board of Directors within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding weekend days and holidays. Results of an appeal shall be rendered by the Board in writing to the appellant within thirty (30) days. All decisions of the Board are final. All rulings will focus solely on compliance with Governor's Cup Series rules, not individual tournament rules.



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BENEFACTOR



Charleston, SC - Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Palm Beach Gardens, FL - Stuart, FL

2001 SERIES SCHEDULE

- May 2-6** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Bill Hackett
3702 Docksite Rd.
Edisto Beach SC 29438
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 16-20** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 23-27** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 6-10** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Charles Stone
P.O. Box 549
Murrells Inlet SC 29576
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 27-
July 1** *Isle Of Palms Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Brian Berrigan
P.O. Box 550
Isle of Palms SC 29451
843-886-0209 FAX 843-886-0058
- July 11-15** *Charleston Harbor Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
24 Patriots Point Road
Mt. Pleasant SC 29464
843-406-4775 FAX 843-856-8540

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*A Release Today
Is A
Fish Tomorrow*

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