

# 28th Annual Tournament Rules

**REGISTRATION** - Registration will be from 7:00pm on Wednesday, June 30th, at MBC clubhouse, Uliga. Captain's Meeting and Rule Briefing on Thursday, July 1st, at RRE's Mon Bokanake, from 7:00pm. Registration fees of \$130 for trolling or \$60 for bottom fishing. Refunds of registration fees will be made only for exceptionally extenuating circumstances; ~~generally defined as "death of a captain, death of a boat."~~

**CLUB MEMBERSHIP** - Any person who will be on board any boat entered in the tournament for trolling must be a paid-up 2009-2010 MBC member. Membership dues for calendar year 2009-2010 are \$40 per person and must be paid by the close of registration. There is also a one-time single tournament fee of \$20 per angler, if the person does not want to pay the full yearly dues. No refund of membership dues will be allowed.

**TEAM REQUIREMENTS** - A maximum of six people at one time will be allowed on any boat entered in the tournament. If a team has more than six members, it may rotate anglers during the two days of fishing, but the team captain must notify tournament officials on the dock of each change. The names of each team member must appear on the registration form for the team. Each team must designate a Team Captain to represent the team in all meetings or decisions regarding rules. Team Captains must be on board the boat during fishing.

**CHECK OUT AND CHECK IN** - All boats must check out with tournament officials at the Uliga Dock. Boats and gear may be inspected at this time. After checking out, the boat must proceed directly to the fishing grounds – absolutely no unauthorized shore stops. If a boat stops anywhere after checking out, it must return to the dock and check out again. After fishing all boats must return to the dock and make a report directly. If a boat proceeds to any other landing prior to checking in, all fish on that boat will be disqualified. Boats must answer Radio Round-ups at 10, 12, 2, & 4 o'clock.

**SAFETY AND LIABILITY** - Safety is a primary concern of the club and for this reason, all boats are required to check in at the dock after fishing. Tournament officials will do what they can to locate boats that do not check in, to maintain communication with boats in trouble, and to effect any search and rescue operations that may be necessary. However, the club will accept no liability for any personal injury or property damage incurred in connection with the tournament and will require team captains to sign a liability waiver.

**FISHING HOURS** - Official fishing hours for Friday & Saturday — Trolling: 6:00am check-out; All lines out of the water by 5:30pm; All boats must be back in the immediate vicinity of, and in clear sight of, the Uliga dock no later than 6:00pm. — Bottom Fishing: 6:00am check-out; All lines out of the water by 5:00pm; All boats must be back in the immediate vicinity of, and in clear sight of, the Uliga dock no later than 5:30pm.

**LATE HOOKUPS** - In the event that a team entered in the trolling division is hooked up with a fish before 5:30pm, but has not boated the fish by that time, the fish will be accepted only if the hookup is verified by another team entered in the tournament which witnessed the hookup or via direct radio contact from the team to officials at the Uliga dock.

**RADIO** - All boats that leave the Majuro lagoon are required to have a working marine VHF radio and turned on at all times. This includes bottom fishing boats which will fish oceanside. Radio contact with tournament officials at the dock ("Billfish

Base") will be on VHF channel 69. Telephone at the dock 455-3474.

**RESTRICTIONS** - All fish must be caught on hook and line only. Unattended lines, such as those attached to balls or other floats placed in the water are not allowed. Multiple hooks may be used but fish caught on two lines will be disqualified. Fish must be in good condition in order to qualify. Shark-bitten or mutilated fish will be disqualified. Teams will not be allowed to register or fish on any boat whose primary purpose is commercial fishing. Any determination required on this issue will be made at the discretion of the club's Board of Directors.

**TAG & RELEASE** - The Club will recognize Tag-N-Release meeting the following requirements: (1) You must take digital pictures of the tagged fish, club will not furnish the camera! Camera must display date and time. (2) Only marlin will be eligible. 250 points will be awarded for each Tagged-N-Released fish meeting the above criteria. Points will count towards the President's Cup. Final decision will be made once the tournament officials has reviewed the digital photos.

**BOTTOM FISH** - All bottom fish must be caught in the Majuro lagoon or in the immediate vicinity of Majuro atoll. Boats entered in the bottom fishing division may not rendezvous with or pull alongside any other boat and may not fish in or around Arno. The club acknowledges that some fish may be caught either trolling or bottom fishing. However, in this tournament, in order to avoid confusion, anglers should be aware that the following fish will not be considered as bottom fish: tuna (*looj*) rainbow runner, mackerel (including *ikabwe*) or needlefish (such as *tak*) and of course, sharks (*bako*).

**JUDGES' DECISIONS** - All tournament decisions will be made by a three-member committee consisting of the Director of Tournaments or his designee, the Official Weighmaster, and an Official Judge appointed by the board. Any protest against a decision of the judges must be lodged by the team captain immediately. Officials may refer protests to a vote of all other team captains before making their final decision.

**PRESIDENT'S CUP** - The 2009-2010 President's Cup will be presented at the awards banquet. President's Cup points will be awarded for qualifying fish meeting the following minimum weight requirements: Billfish 100 lbs. for marlin, 50 lbs. for sailfish; Tuna (including yellowfin, skipjack, big eye, dogtooth, loj, etc.) 40 lbs.; Wahoo 25 lbs.; Mahimahi 15 lbs.; and Barracuda and Trevally 15 lbs. One point per pound will be awarded for each such qualifying fish. In addition, 100 bonus points will be awarded for any individual fish weighing 500 lbs. or more. Unless declared otherwise, all points earned will be awarded to the Team Captain.

**LIGHT TACKLE OPTION** - Two President's Cup points per pound will be awarded to any qualifying fish weighed in over 50 lbs. (keeping in mind minimum qualifying weights of Marlin is 100 lbs.). No line over 50 pounds is allowed on board. Leaders must be pre-cut, and no longer than 20 feet. Should your line test over 50 pounds, + 10%, your fish will receive only one President's Cup point per pound. (Your fish will not be disqualified due to this fact.) **TEAMS MUST INDICATE LIGHT TACKLE OPTION FOR EITHER OR BOTH DAYS FISHING AT REGISTRATION.**

## THINK SAFETY FIRST!