



33rd ANNUAL LOU DUCHENE MEMORIAL BIG FISH TOURNAMENT RULES 2016

1. **There is a Mandatory Captains' Meeting Friday August 19th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Wave Gazebo on Shelter Island (east of the Shelter Island launch ramp (grass area), at the end of Shelter Island Drive, San Diego.)**
 - a. Each team must designate a captain. The captain or another paid participant representing the vessel must attend the Captains' Meeting or the vessel will be disqualified. It is the Captain's responsibility to ensure his/her team members are fishing within the rules of the tournament. The Captains' Meeting is the last opportunity to sign up for the tournament. At the Captains' Meeting, the Captain or representative will be given their tournament gift pack and tournament premiums for all the paid participants. This check-in/registration by at least one registered angler from the vessel, who is a paid participant, will be strictly adhered to. Failure to be checked off on the tournament participation list will disqualify all anglers of that vessel. The Captain or Captain's representative must sign that he/she understands all Rules and has no questions. Failure to sign will result in disqualification.
 - b. Entry fee per angler is \$75.00 (each person on vessel is considered an angler and must be paid)
 - c. Side pots are \$100.00 per vessel per category.
2. **The Tournament commences Saturday, August 20th at 12:01 a.m. and terminates on Sunday, August 21st at 10:00 a.m. SHARP. Weigh-in times are as follows: Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. SHARP. Weigh master's time is official. Fish will be weighed at the San Diego Marlin Club or must be called in advance for Dana Landing via Ellie's Cell Ph. 619-890-5401 or you may attempt to reach the tournament weigh master on channel 78. Dana Landing Weigh-In times are as follows: Saturday 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**
3. **There is a Big Fish Seminar; Thursday August 4th at 7:00 p.m.** in the downstairs open air pavilion at the Bali Hai restaurant.
4. **The Big Fish Banquet is on Sunday, August 21st 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at the Bali Hai open air pavilion.
5. Purse will be awarded for the five heaviest fish weighed in. (fish excluded are sharks/rays/skates, billfish, grouper) All applicable California and Mexico laws must be followed.
6. Payouts are as follows:

Place	Cash	Prize
1st	\$500.00	\$750.00 Gift Card Fisherman's Landing and a Rod and Reel
2nd	\$400.00	\$500.00 Gift Card Fisherman's Landing and a Rod and Reel
3rd	\$300.00	\$250.00 Gift Card Fisherman's Landing and a Rod and Reel
4th	\$200.00	
5th	\$100.00	

7. Weigh In

- A. Anglers who are weighing fish must personally report to the Weigh Station Official with their fish directly from the vessel fished on.
 - B. An angler can win more than one prize.
 - C. There will be no ties. In the event of equal weight, the fish weighed in first wins.
 - D. All fish must be weighed in by the termination of the tournament, except in the event the weigh-in dock is full. In that case, the Weigh Station Official can allow a representative from the boat to report a fish for weigh-in if the official **is notified before the weigh-in deadline**. The angler must notify the Weigh Station Official by radio at a visual distance from the weigh in dock, for verification. **This only applies when the boat is prevented from reaching the weigh-in dock because the dock is full. (Please refer back to rule #2 for Dana weigh in times)**
8. Optional side jackpots are ‘winner take all’ style. The side pot purses will be awarded to the first weigh in with the heaviest weight for each division. Side jackpots are entered into by boat, not individual angler. Jackpots will have a 90% payout. Three fish are not required for the tuna and yellowtail side pots. In the event that no qualifying fish are weighed in for any or all side pots, 90% of that jackpot’s fees will be returned to vessel.
- a. Tuna (combined 3 heaviest fish)
 - b. Yellowtail (combined 3 heaviest fish)
 - c. Halibut, Dorado, White Sea Bass (combined 3 heaviest fish)
9. Fishing can be done in any waters that the angler can reach within the time limits of the tournament. All boats must depart from a port within the State of California. All fish must be weighed at the San Diego Marlin Club or Dana Landing under supervision by the tournament weigh master or assistant. Weight receipts from any other weigh stations will not be accepted.
10. I.G.F.A. rules apply. Every fish must be brought to gaff by use of regulation tackle only, unless otherwise noted. Double tuna hooks are allowed. All other I.G.F.A. rules regarding leaders, lures and hooks apply. Live bait may be caught or purchased, as available, prior to the commencement of the tournament. Artificial bait or lures may be used in accordance with the I.G.F.A. rules. Teasers are permitted.
11. All anglers will possess a valid California and if applicable Mexican fishing license. All anglers must abide by California and/or Mexican regulations that may apply. The club is not responsible for problems you may have with authorities of Mexico or California.
12. The following acts or omissions will disqualify a fish:
- a. Acts of persons assisting the angler in adjusting the reel drag or touching any part of the tackle, either by hand or other devices during the playing of the fish.
 - b. Use of a gaff exceeding 8 feet in overall length, use of a rope exceeding 30 feet in length from the head of a detachable (flying) gaff. After the fish is gaffed, assistance may be given to the angler and the gaffer in placing a tail-rope on the fish and boating it.
 - c. Mutilation caused by sharks, marine mammals, propellers or any other act that removes or penetrates the flesh, except which occurs from the gaff.

- d. Frozen and/or defrosted fish presented for weigh-in are prohibited and will result in the disqualification of all participants on the offending vessel.
 - e. Transferring of anglers and fish from a disabled vessel is allowed. The angler must report with his fish to the weigh master, on a tournament-registered boat.
 - f. Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to disqualify any angler who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct.
13. All persons must complete a tournament application form and pay the entry fee by the end of the Captain's meeting. **All persons on the vessel must be a paid participant of the tournament. THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS.**
- a. Early Entry; All anglers paid for before close of Big Fish Seminar will be entered into a raffle for a SeaTow Membership.
 - b. Early Banquet Ticket Purchase before close of Big Fish Seminar will be entered into a raffle for a pair of Pelagic Sunglasses valued at over \$150.00.
14. **Official tournament channel is VHF 69.** Fish can be weighed in the San Diego Harbor at **The San Diego Marlin Club** docks. You may also contact Ellie at 619-890-5401 or the San Diego Marlin Club VHF78

Protests

- A. Any protest relative to the weight of the fish or manner of weighing must be made before the fish is removed from the scale. This protest must be made to the tournament rules committee. If needed the Weigh Station Official will contact someone from the tournament rules committee. All decisions by the Weigh Station Official stand in effect unless over-ruled by the Tournament Rules Committee.
- B. Any protest, except weight, must be made to a member of the Tournament Rules Committee. All protests, other than weight, must be made in writing and submitted to a member of the Tournament Rules Committee by 11:00 a.m. on August 21st.
- C. **The Tournament Rules Committee** will make the final determination. The Rules Committee members are the following:

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Big Fish Director
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Norm Campbell
Vice President
(619)988-5186

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