

Fish The Moons Blue Marlin World Series

The Fish the Moons Blue Marlin World Series is the first of its kind in big game tournament fishing. Founded by Captain Pete Rae, the new worldwide series is focused on targeting big blue marlin around the full moons in May through September. The series will consist of five separate 2-day events, with each team choosing one of the two days to participate anywhere in the world. Each event will have a winner-take-all purse for the team landing the heaviest blue marlin weighing 500 pounds or more. There will also be an optional Series Calcutta for the largest two marlin weighed over the course of the five events. We look forward to attracting the best sportfishing teams in the industry and building the most unique blue marlin series in the world.

Rules

1. Teams. Each participating boat, and its individual owners, crew members, anglers, participants, and guests on board are collectively referred to as “teams”.
2. Series Governance and Adherence to Rules. The Fish the Moons Blue Marlin World Series is administered, managed and governed by Fish the Moons LLC (“FTM”). It is the responsibility of each team to read and understand the rules identified below (the “Rules”) before entering an FTM event. By entering and participating in an FTM event, each team acknowledges and agrees that they have read and fully understand the Rules, that failure to abide by the Rules will result in disqualification, and that disqualification is a permitted and appropriate sanction for any violation of the Rules. A team representative should contact the Tournament Director at director@fishthemoons.com if they have any questions relating to the Rules.
3. IGFA Angling Rules. All IGFA angling rules apply to each FTM event, subject to the express modifications identified herein in the FTM Rules. It is the responsibility of each team to know and understand the IGFA angling rules prior to competing in an FTM event. Teams can visit <https://igfa.org/international-angling-rules/> for a complete list of IGFA angling rules.
4. Entry Levels, Fees and Payouts- Individual Events. Each individual FTM event has two levels of entry, which are detailed as follows:
 - (a) Level 1: The entry fee for Level 1 is \$2,500. The winner of Level 1 will be the team landing the heaviest qualifying blue marlin weighing 500 pounds or more. Level 1 of each FTM event is a winner-take-all category, and thus, all Level 1 prize money will be awarded to the team with the heaviest qualifying blue marlin.
 - (b) Level 2: Teams must enter Level 1 to be eligible for Level 2. The entry fee for Level 2 is \$5,000. The winner of Level 2 will be the team with the heaviest qualifying blue marlin weighing 500 pounds or more. Level 2 of each FTM event is a winner-take-all category, and thus, all Level 2 prize money will be awarded to the team entered into Level 2 with the heaviest qualifying blue marlin. The winning team of Level 1 can be different than the winning team of Level 2 if the winner of Level 1 did not enter Level 2.

5. Series Calcutta- Entry Fee and Payout. Each team that enters an individual FTM event is eligible to enter the overall Series Calcutta, which awards prizes to the team(s) landing the two heaviest qualifying blue marlin throughout the entire five event series. The entry fee for the Series Calcutta is \$5,000. Prizes for the Series Calcutta will be paid out to the team(s) landing the heaviest and second heaviest qualifying blue marlin weighing 500 pounds or more throughout the five individual FTM events. The prize payout of the Series Calcutta will be divided as follows: 70% to the first-place team and 30% to the second-place team. The same team can be first and second place, but the two blue marlin must be caught in separate FTM events. If only one qualifying blue marlin is weighed in the Series Calcutta throughout the five events, then all prize money for the Series Calcutta will be awarded to the team who weighed that marlin.
6. Timing of Entry into Series Calcutta. A blue marlin will be eligible for the Series Calcutta only if the team that landed such fish was registered for the Series Calcutta prior to, or at the time of, the FTM event in which they landed the fish.
7. Registration and Entry Deadline. All teams competing in an FTM event must be fully registered with entry fees paid and cleared no later than 48-hours prior to the first Available Fishing Day (as defined below) of each individual event (the “Entry Deadline”).
8. Declaration of Fishing Day. There are two Available Fishing Days in each FTM event. Each team must declare one of the two Available Fishing Days as their tournament fishing day no later than the Entry Deadline for each individual FTM event. A representative of each team must send FTM a written message via text or email clearly stating the team name and the declared fishing day prior to an event’s Entry Deadline. The Tournament Director or other FTM representative will send confirmation of receipt of the declared fishing day for each team prior to the start of the FTM event and post a list of tournament participants on FTM’s website or social media page. The first Available Fishing Day will be counted as a team’s declared fishing day if the team fails to declare its fishing day in accordance with the Rules herein.
9. Tournament Dates and Entry Deadlines. The Available Fishing Days and Entry Deadlines for each individual FTM event in 2024 are as follows:

2024 Tournament Dates (Available Fishing Days)	Entry Deadline for each event
May 22nd and May 23rd	May 20th, by 6pm EST
June 20th and June 21st	June 18th, by 6pm EST
July 20th and July 21st	July 18th, by 6pm EST
August 18th and August 19th	Aug 16th, by 6pm EST
September 16th and September 17th	Sept 13th, by 6pm EST

10. Form of Payment. Payments for entry fees can be made by credit card, check or wire transfer. Payments by credit card can be made on the tournament website (fishthemoons.com) and will incur a 3% convenience fee. Payments made by check or wire transfer must be received without restriction by FTM at least ten (10) days prior to the Entry Deadline.

11. Weigh Master and Weigh Station. It is the responsibility of each team to submit a weigh master and weigh-in location for approval by FTM prior to the Entry Deadline of each individual event.
12. Withdrawals and Refunds. Any team wishing to withdraw from an FTM event must do so in writing prior to the relevant Entry Deadline to receive a refund. A team will receive a 100% refund if it withdraws from an FTM event in accordance with the procedures herein. Refunds will not be issued for withdrawal requests received after the Entry Deadline. Refunds granted by FTM will be remitted within ten (10) business days of receipt of the written withdrawal request.
13. Revocation or Denial of Entry. FTM has the absolute right and sole discretion to deny or revoke entry to any team. A notice of denial or revocation will be made to a team representative by phone, fax, or email and will be immediately effective at the time of notification.
14. Other Tournaments. Teams may participate in other tournaments at the same time as an FTM event unless the conflicting tournament has an overlapping schedule (see Paragraph 17). However, teams must comply with all FTM rules for a blue marlin to be eligible in an FTM event or the Series Calcutta, regardless of the rules of any other simultaneous tournaments.
15. Fishing Times. The official fishing hours for all FTM events are 8:30am to 4:30pm on the declared fishing day in the local time zone of where each participating team is fishing.
16. Conflicting Fishing Times. Teams wishing to compete in an FTM event that are also registered in another tournament with a conflicting “Lines In” or “Lines Out” time may start or complete an FTM event at the same “Lines In” and “Lines Out” times as the conflicting tournament, provided the team submits written proof of registration into the conflicting tournament to FTM. However, fishing time shall remain a total of eight (8) hours in the FTM event. Permission to compete at conflicting fishing times is subject to FTM’s approval (Example: if a team is granted approval to put lines in at 7:30am on their declared fishing day, then lines out will be at 3:30pm rather than 4:30pm).
17. Overlapping Schedules. A team may not participate on an Available Fishing Day of an FTM event if they are participating in another tournament with fishing times that fully overlap the fishing times of the FTM event on that particular day. An overlapping schedule occurs when a tournament other than an FTM event has fishing times that both start before and end after the fishing times of an Available Fishing Day of an FTM event. (For example, a team may not participate on an Available Fishing Day of an FTM event if, on that day, they are participating in a separate tournament that allows them to fish all 24-hours of that day).
18. Sonar Usage. Omni-Directional Sonar (ODS) may not be deployed, activated, energized, displayed or otherwise referred to in locating fish until after the assigned "Lines-In" time of each fishing day. This rule does not apply to standard bottom finders transmitting at 50 to 200 kHz or CHIRP sonars transmitting broad spectrum signals. It also does not apply to side scan sonar capable of scanning water from port to starboard at a 180-degree arc.

19. Qualifying Blue Marlin. A blue marlin must be caught in accordance with the Rules herein and weigh 500 pounds or more to be eligible for prize money in any of the FTM events or the FTM Series Calcutta. A team may only weigh one blue marlin in each FTM event.
20. Winning Fish and Tie Breakers. The winning fish in each level will be the heaviest qualifying blue marlin weighing 500 pounds or more. If two or more teams weigh a blue marlin with the same weight during an FTM event, the blue marlin with the largest total measurements (length + girth) as submitted on the official weigh-in form will be declared the winner. The purse will be split evenly between the winning teams if two or more blue marlin have the exact same weight and measurements.
21. No Qualifying Fish. If there is not a qualifying fish weighed in an FTM event and a winner cannot be declared, all prize money in each level for that event, minus the Administration Fee (see Paragraph 31), will be forwarded and added to the purse at each level for the following FTM event. If there is not a qualifying blue marlin weighed in the final FTM event of the year, then all prize money at each level from that event, minus the Administration Fee, will be forwarded to the first FTM event of the following year. If there is not a qualifying blue marlin weighed in the Series Calcutta, then all prize money for the Series Calcutta, minus the Administration Fee, will be forwarded to the Series Calcutta for the following year.
22. Reporting of Hookups and Landings. All teams must report to FTM, as soon as safely possible, when they are hooked up with a blue marlin and when they release or land/boat a blue marlin. Upon boating a blue marlin, the team must report the fish's length (lower jaw to fork of tail), girth, and tail circumference. The team must also report their estimated time of arrival to the scale. These notifications to FTM can be made by any means available to the team, including VHF, text message, email, and fax.
23. Weight Determination and Measurement Verification. A weigh master preapproved by FTM must be present to record the official weight and measurements (length and girth) of all boated blue marlin. At least two (2) independent witnesses must be present to verify the taking and recording of official weight and measurements by the approved weigh master. Each team must record a time and date stamped video of the official measurements and weight to be submitted to FTM with the official weigh-in forms. The video must clearly record the measuring of the length and girth of the marlin by the approved weigh master. The video must also record the fish being weighed and clearly display the reading on the scale. It is the sole responsibility of the team weighing a blue marlin to submit the video and completed weigh-in form. FTM must receive the signed weigh-in forms and video via text message or email from each team no later than 11:59pm on their declared fishing day. Failure by a team to submit the video or the weigh-in form by 11:59pm in the time zone in which they participated will result in immediate disqualification.
24. Fishing in Remote Areas. An observer approved by FTM may be required for teams wishing to compete in remote locations. Whether a team is required to have an observer will be made at the sole discretion of FTM.
25. Weight Alteration and Mutilated Fish. IGFA rules apply regarding mutilated fish. Attempts by a team to alter the weight of any blue marlin will automatically disqualify the team from any

individual FTM event and the Series Calcutta. FTM reserves the right to take any and all reasonable actions necessary to make a proper and final decision on disputes relating to weight alteration and mutilation.

26. Line Class. Any monofilament, Dacron or braided line with a manufacturer's stated breaking strength of 130 pounds or less is acceptable. There are not any restrictions on backing material or pound test.
27. Mandatory Hook Requirements. Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory when using natural bait (ex. naked ballyhoo or live bait) or a natural bait/artificial lure combination (ex. ballyhoo with a skirted lure on top of it). J-hooks can be used in artificial lures only when the lures are not combined with a natural bait.
28. Local and Government Regulations. It is the responsibility of the participating teams to comply with all relevant laws and regulations, including all applicable permits and licenses, required to fish for and land a blue marlin in their chosen area of participation during an FTM event. However, failure by any team to hold or obtain a required license or registration is not grounds for disqualification of a blue marlin from an FTM event, or for protest in accordance with Paragraph 33.
29. Adverse Conditions. It is the responsibility of each team to determine whether it is safe for them to fish on any day of an FTM event. Teams are not entitled to a refund for any reason whatsoever unless they withdraw in accordance with the rules identified in Paragraph 12.
30. Polygraph. FTM reserves the right to require that a crewmember or participant of any team pass a polygraph test prior to declaring the winners. The polygraph examination shall be administered at the discretion of FTM and at a reasonable time and location to be determined by FTM. A participant's refusal to take a polygraph examination or failure to answer questions in a manner satisfactory to FTM will result in disqualification. By entering an FTM event, teams and their crew members and participants consent to the admissibility of polygraph results in any dispute or proceeding that arises during an event.
31. Prize Money Distribution. The applicable prize money in each FTM event and the Series Calcutta is equal to the total sum of entry fees collected, minus a 15% administration fee (the "Administration Fee").
32. Prize Payout Schedule. Prize money checks will be made payable to the person or entity provided on a team's registration form. The Social Security Number or Taxpayer I.D. number of the recipient must be provided upon request from an FTM representative. All undisputed funds will be distributed within fifteen (15) business days after each event. All undisputed funds relating to the Series Calcutta will be distributed within fifteen (15) business days after the last FTM event.
33. Protest. All protests must be submitted by teams in writing to FTM by 11:59pm on the day in which the team participated. As a matter of clarity, the protesting team must submit the protest by 11:59pm of the time zone in which they participated. Failure to submit a protest in writing by such time shall constitute a waiver and release of such protest or dispute. All disputes will be decided upon by FTM,

and any and all such decisions made by FTM will be done so at their sole and absolute discretion, with such decisions to be final and fully binding amongst all participating teams.

34. Indemnification and Hold Harmless. All teams, including the owners, anglers, crew members and guests on board each vessel (collectively referred to as “teams”), are entering and participating voluntarily in the FTM events at their own risk, and assume all risks that can occur as a result of such participation. In consideration of FTM’s acceptance of the entry and participation of each team, the teams individually and collectively agree to release, forever discharge, hold harmless and indemnify Fish The Moons LLC, its officers, managers, beneficial owners, members, directors, agents, employees, representatives, sponsors, donors, attorneys, and any and all other persons and entities connected with the FTM events, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, demands, costs, fees, and obligations, which the teams may have or acquire that arise from or are in any way connected to their participation in an FTM event. In the event of an action or legal proceeding as a result of an unresolved dispute that affects the distribution of the prize money in an FTM event or the Series Calcutta, then such prize money shall not be distributed until the matter is fully resolved and agreed upon in writing. FTM shall only act as an escrow holder as it relates to the distribution of prize money and it reserves the right to file an action in interpleader to resolve any matter. The teams shall indemnify FTM and hold it harmless from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, actions, lawsuits, or proceedings at law or in equity, or other expenses, fees, or charges of any character or nature, that it may incur or with which it may be threatened by reason of its acting as an escrow holder.
35. Attorneys’ Fees. If any legal action or other proceeding is brought that is in any way relating to the distribution of prize money or otherwise relating to an FTM event, then the successful or prevailing party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees (including paralegal fees), court costs, and all expenses incurred in that action or proceeding, even if not taxable as court costs, including, without limitation, all such fees, costs, and expenses incident to appeals, in addition to any other relief to which such party may be entitled.
36. Governing Law and Venue. These Rules, and all matters and actions pertaining to FTM events and the FTM Series Calcutta, shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of North Carolina, excluding the conflicts of laws principles thereof. The venue for any action arising from an FTM event or the Series Calcutta shall lie in Carteret County, North Carolina, and all teams agree to submit to the jurisdiction of such court by entering and participating in an FTM event.