



# 2017 North Carolina Governor's Cup

## Participant Rules

1. Participation in the Series by billfish tournaments requires acceptance of and compliance with these rules, which apply together with the rules of each participating tournament.
2. Each vessel participating in the Series shall have a proper and valid Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit.
3. Each vessel is responsible for insuring that all individuals fishing with their team shall have a valid NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) or are properly covered by a valid CRFL blanket license.
4. Participants shall abide all State and Federal size and bag limits.
  - Blue Marlin (99" LJFL minimum) & White Marlin (66" LJFL minimum) - 1 fish per vessel per day
  - Sailfish (63" LJFL minimum) - 1 fish per vessel per day
  - Yellowfin Tuna - (27" CFL minimum) - 3 fish per person per day
  - Dolphin - 10 fish per person per day or 60 fish per trip whichever is less (no minimum size required)
  - Wahoo - 2 fish per person per day (no minimum size required)

\*Size and Bag limits as of January 1, 2017. Check regulations prior to fishing—subject to change without notice.
5. Series points are earned through registration with the Series and fishing in participating tournaments subsequent of registration. Points shall be awarded to each boat or team on the basis of the "best three" tournaments fished.
6. Series entry fee is \$125 per boat or team and covers all participating tournaments. \$100 of the entry fee goes to the Marine Fisheries Conservation Fund.
7. Disqualification by a participating tournament nullifies any Series points earned in that tournament.
8. Series points will be awarded as follows:
  - (a) Fifty (50) points will be awarded for each Series tournament fished.
  - (b) Four hundred (400) points for each blue marlin and one hundred twenty-five (125) points for each white marlin, sailfish or spearfish released according to the release rules stated in the particular tournament that you are fishing.
  - (c) One point per pound, or fraction thereof, for each blue marlin landed meeting the Series minimum requirement of 110 inches or 400 pounds. A 200 point penalty will be assessed for undersized fish.
9. Series Rules for Releases:
  - (a) Released billfish will qualify for points if released according to the release rules stated in the particular tournament that you are fishing.
  - (b) No billfish shall qualify for a release if boated for any reason, gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured. The fish may be tagged. ***An Atlantic billfish harvested from its management unit that is not retained must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water.***
  - (c) For each released billfish to qualify for points, the Captain, mate and angler shall execute in full an affidavit attesting to compliance with all rules and conditions pertaining to the release of the described fish. Affidavits shall be executed by close of the tournament. Failure of any person to execute the required affidavit, for any reason, will disqualify the fish.
10. In the event of any tie for Series awards, the boat or team receiving the greater number of points for releases shall win. In the event there is still a tie, the boat or team attaining its point total first shall be declared the winner(s).
11. Protests in the NC Governor's Cup Series competition shall be resolved by the NC Governor's Cup Advisory Board and their judgment shall be final. Any protest pertaining to a participating tournament shall be handled in accordance with the rules of that tournament and their judgment shall be final.
12. Charter boat for the purpose of the Governor's Cup Series shall be defined as a vessel that is properly licensed and permitted to carry passengers for hire, promoted and advertised as a charter boat and conducts most offshore fishing trips under charter for the current year.
13. A boat or team can only score points in one division, either private boat or charter boat.
14. Awards will be given to the overall Winner, top Private Boat\*, top Charter Boat\*, **top Points Boat (new for 2017 – boat scoring the most points in all tournaments)**, outstanding Junior Boy\*, Junior Girl\* and Lady Angler\* and for the largest blue marlin\*, yellowfin tuna, dolphin and wahoo. Junior anglers are age 16 and under. \*2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies awarded.
15. We encourage the release of all billfish. Please tag your fish if you have the time and opportunity.