



### 2026 North Carolina Billfish Series Participant Rules

1. NC Billfish Series entry fee is \$150.00 per boat or team and covers all participating tournaments.
2. Participants shall comply with North Carolina and Federal Fisheries laws and regulations regarding fishing licenses, vessel permits, fishing gear, seasons, size and bag limits.
3. Series points are earned through registration with the Series and fishing in participating tournaments. Points shall be awarded to each boat or team based on the “best three” tournaments fished.
4. Disqualification by a participating tournament nullifies any Series points earned in that tournament.
5. 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.
6. 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 and mate 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 according to the rules stated in the particular tournament that you are fishing. Failure to execute the required affidavit, for any reason, will disqualify the fish.
7. 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).
8. Protests in the NC Billfish Series competition shall be resolved by the NC Billfish Series 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.
9. Charter boat for the purpose of the NC Billfish 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.
10. A boat or team can only score points in one division, either Private Boat, or Charter Boat.
11. Awards will be given to the overall Winner, top Private Boat, top Charter Boat, overall Total Points\*, 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. (\*total points for all tournaments)

