

Rules & Regulations

LA PAZ GOLD CUP 2010

1. The tournament is open to the persons who are willing to register properly, committed to following the Rules and Regulations established for the tournament and respect the judge's decisions.
2. The registration fee of the Tournament for Category "A" is \$ 7,500.00 pesos from 1 to 4 anglers per Vessel and each additional angler in the same Vessel has to be registered in the Tournament by covering a \$2,000.00 pesos fee. The registration fee for Category "B" in the Tournament (Catch & Release) is \$2,000.00 pesos per Vessel.
3. The fishing area for the tournament will be inside and outside La Paz bay. See the Official Tournament Map for details. Any fish caught outside of the Official Fishing Area will result in the disqualification of the Team and Boat from the Tournament.
4. The Tournament is composed of Categories "A" & "B". In Category "A" the sole species qualifying are BLACK MARLIN and BLUE MARLIN, with a minimum weight of 200 pounds for both species. In Category "B" (CATCH AND RELEASE) the species qualifying are STRIPED MARLIN, BLACK MARLIN AND BLUE MARLIN. The 200 pound weight minimum does not apply for the catch and release Category "B". All teams in category B must have a digital camera or cell phone to take the required photos. The photo must be clear and include a selected number given over the radio at the time of the hook up.

Any Species in Category "A" that are below the Official Minimum weight limit established by the Tournament will be confiscated and disqualified from the Tournament and the Species will become property of the Tournament Organizers to be donated to Humanitarian Institutions.

Furthermore a penalty of \$50 USD per pound will be charged to the Angler/Team for any fish presented less than 200 pounds. The penalty fee must be paid at the time of weigh in or the Team will be disqualified immediately. Failure to pay penalty will result in a lifetime ban from participation in all future La Paz Gold Cup Tournaments. Also if another fish is to be presented that qualifies, the amount of pounds from the underweight fish shall be subtracted from the next presented fish.

Example: 200 pound limit. Fish presented 190 pounds = $\$50 \times 10 \text{ pounds} = \500 . Also 10 pounds will be subtracted from the next fish presented. Example: 340 pound fish – 10 pounds = 330 pound fish.

Prizes

CATEGORY "A"

First Place \$1,00,000.00 pesos and Trophy

Second Place \$200000.00 pesos and Trophy
Third Place \$100,000.00 pesos and Trophy

JACKPOT: The Tournament has 4 different JACKPOT options, \$1,000, \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 pesos per Vessel per day, JACKPOTS are optional. The winner of the daily JACKPOT will be the registered angler that presents the heaviest Black Marlin, Blue Marlin or Dorado of each fishing day, with a minimum weight of 200 pounds, registered to the Tournament and in the JACKPOT of that day. The winner of the daily JACKPOT will receive 80% of the total amount of the JACKPOT registration fees for that day and that JACKPOT option. The other 20% is to be donated to charity.

If any situation occurs and it is not taken into consideration in the Rules and Regulations for the Tournament, the Tournament Organizers will solve it and their decision will not be appealable.

5. All Vessels have the obligation to check in upon departure and arrival in each fishing day at the tournament control area and present their team number in person (Weighing area). All Vessels must have the necessary equipment onboard, according to the local authorities, such as, marine radio VHF working properly, valid fishing permit for anglers. Failure to have a valid permit or license will result in disqualification.

6. The Tournament will start with the flare signal and/or with a marine radio announcement at 07:30 hours at the tourist pier on the Malecon and lines out will be at 17:00 hours. All Vessels with species onboard have to be present their fish at the weight station on the tourist pier before 19:00 hours; any Vessel who arrives after that time will be disqualified. The official time of the tournament will be the time used by the official tournament Judge. In case of a hook up reported before 17:00 hours and still fighting after that time the Vessel will have until 21:00 hours to be at the weight station. Any Vessel with lines in the water after 17:00 hours will be disqualified for both days of the tournament. All Vessels fighting with a species reported before 17:00 hours will have the obligation to allow the judge or one of the designated persons to check or inspect the Vessel and the species at any time.

7. Anglers may present only one Marlin per day to be weighed with a maximum of two Marlins per vessel. The tournament organizers or judge will have a biologist verifying and validating the species presented for weigh in by each angler. The minimum weight for Black and Blue Marlin is 200 pounds. If the catch does not meet the minimum weight it will not count and will be confiscated. In Category "B" there is no minimum weight.

8. Any situation not specified in the Rules and Regulations, the Tournament Judge criteria will be enough and unappealable, as well, the Tournament Organizers have the right to cancel or change the tournament date due to weather conditions or any other unforeseen factors. If there isn't a winning catch the Tournament Organizers will handle the amount of the prizes and will dispose of that amount for community services and humanitarian help.

9. Any disqualifications during the Tournament are not grounds for a reimbursement of registration or JACKPOT fees previously paid.

10. By registering for the tournament, anglers must read and comply with the “Rules and Regulations” and conduct themselves accordingly. No refunds will be given after paying the registration fee. It is the responsibility of the Captain and Team to understand these rules and regulations.

11. For reasons due to mechanical failures or engine problems with a Vessel (not because of lack of Fuel) anglers and their species may board another Vessel in order to present to the Weight Station their species, as long they arrive before the time limit for weighing established in these Rules and Regulations and have the authorization of the Tournament Judge.

12. All participants have the obligation to report every Marlin Hook Up to the judge on the radio (65VHF channel), as well, if the species is on board or Released. The judge on the radio will tell the angler the Official time of the Hook Up, as well the official time of the species On board or Released. Every Marlin reported as on board has to be presented at the Weigh Station, no matter the Marlin’s weight. In case the angler is fighting with a catch and is unable to communicate with the judge on the Radio it is possible to be helped by another tournament Vessel to retransmit the information needed by the judge on the radio. When reporting a hook up the anglers name, the name of the Vessel and the location according to the Official Tournament Map have to be told to the Judge on the Radio. The catch won’t qualify for the Tournament for any angler who does not follow these rules as they are stated.

International Angling Rules

The following angling rules have been formulated by the International Game Fish Association to promote ethical and sporting angling practices, to establish uniform regulations and to provide basic angling guidelines for use in fishing tournaments and any other group angling activities.

The word “angling” is defined as catching or attempting to catch fish with a rod, reel, line, and hook as outlined in the international angling rules. There are some aspects of angling that cannot be controlled through rule making, however. Angling regulations cannot insure an outstanding performance from each fish.

EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

A. LINE

1. Monofilament, multifilament and lead core multifilament lines may be used.
2. Wire lines are prohibited. Wire leaders ok.

B. LINE BACKING

1. Backing not attached to the fishing line is permissible with no restrictions as to size or material.
2. The backing may not exceed the 130 lb (60 kg) line class and must be of a type of line approved for use in these angling rules.

C. DOUBLE LINE

The use of a double line is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.
2. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double to the farthest end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line. The double line shall be limited to 15 feet (4.57 meters). The double line on all classes of tackle over 20 lb (10 kg) shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 40 feet (12.19 meters).

D. LEADER

The use of a leader is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader. The leader on all classes of tackle over 20 lb (10 kg) shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 40 feet (12.19 meters).

E. ROD

1. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods.
2. The rod tip must be a minimum of 40 inches (101.6 cm) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 27 inches (68.58 cm) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. When the rod butt is placed in a gimbal, the measurement from the center of the reel seat to the pivot point of the gimbal can be no more than 27 inches. (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

F. REEL

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.
2. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device that gives the angler an unfair advantage.
3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.
4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

G. HOOKS FOR BAIT FISHING

1. For live or dead bait fishing no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly imbedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hook's

length (the length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 18 inches (45.72 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook.

2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Treble hooks are prohibited.

3. A two-hook rig for bottom fishing is acceptable if it consists of two single hooks on separate leaders or drops. Both hooks must be imbedded in the respective baits and separated sufficiently so that a fish caught on one hook cannot be foul-hooked by the other.

H. HOOKS AND LURES

1. When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 12 inches (30.48 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure.

2. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). Baits may not be used with gang hooks.

I. OTHER EQUIPMENT

1. Fighting chairs may not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in fighting a fish.

2. Gimbals must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.

3. Gaffs and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 8 feet (2.44 meters) in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff the rope may not exceed 30 feet (9.14 meters). The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoon or lance attachments are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters).

4. Entangling devices, either with or without a hook, are prohibited or may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting, or landing the fish.

5. Outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars and kites are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device. Spreader bars are also acceptable when used strictly as a teaser.

6. Daisy chains, birds, floats and similar devices may only be used if they do not unfairly hamper or inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler or crew an unfair advantage in fighting, landing or boating the fish.

7. A safety line may be attached to the rod provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

ANGLING REGULATIONS

1. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight, and land or boat the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations.

2. If a rod holder is used and a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, the angler must remove the rod from the holder as quickly as possible. The intent of this rule is that the angler shall strike and hook the fish with the rod in hand.

3. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish fought by the angler will be considered for prize money.

4. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.

5. A harness may be attached to the reel or rod, but not to the fighting chair. The harness may be replaced or adjusted by a person other than the angler.

6. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.

7. When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader.

8. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.

9. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

The following situations will disqualify a catch:

- When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.
- Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. (Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries.)
- When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

- Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.
- The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, float line, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.
- Resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish.
- Handling or using a hand line or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
- Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks) at any stage of the catch.
- Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.
- Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.
- Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.
- Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.
- Intentionally foul-hooking a fish
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- Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.
- Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.
- Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
- If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.
- Not reporting departure or arrival with tournament control.
- Behaving in a disrespectful manner with the judge or tournament organizers.
- Not having a fixed radio onboard with channel 65.

- Having persons fishing other than registered anglers.
- There could be routine inspections at any time during the tournament to verify that boats comply with the rules and regulations set forth by the tournament organizers. Any boat that rejects such inspection will be disqualified.
- Not having current fishing licenses issued by SAGARPA when presenting your catch at the weight station.
- Not presenting at the weight station the specie reported as “on board”, no matter the weight of the specie.
- Using the radio on the tournament channel improperly such as use of profanity.

13. In case of a dispute with the weighing at the weight station, complaints must be put in writing, no later than 60 minutes after closing of that weight station and accompanied by a \$2,000.00 M.N. (two thousand pesos) fee in cash, which will be refunded if dispute is in your favor or kept by the tournament organizers if otherwise. All disputes will be reviewed by tournament judges as soon as possible and their decision is final and non disputable.

14. Official Tournament Channel will be 65 VHF, for emergencies will be 64 VHF.

15. Taxes or expenses generated by the prizes obtained by the anglers have to be paid by the winners to the respective authorities, before the prizes are given.

16. Any disqualifications will be for both fishing days of the Tournament and no refunds of any registration or JACKPOT fees will be made.

Admission right is reserved by the Tournament Organizers.