

49TH ANNUAL GOLD STAR OFFSHORE OPEN RULES

PRIZE DETERMINATION

GUARANTEED PRIZE MONEY

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Billfish Release	\$1500	\$900	\$600
Tuna	\$1500	\$900	\$600
Swordfish	\$1500	\$900	\$600
Mahi	\$750	\$450	\$300
Wahoo	\$750	\$450	\$300

The Offshore Open Grand Prize Winner will be awarded to the boat that accumulates the most overall prize money. Winners of prize money in each species category will be determined by total points. In the Tuna, Mahi, and Wahoo categories, total points will be based on the combined weight of a stringer of up to five fish. In the Swordfish category, total points will be based on the combined total of release points and the weight of a stringer of up to four boated swordfish. To qualify for weigh-in, a boated swordfish must have a minimum lower-jaw fork length (LJFL) of 57 inches.

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All boats must be represented at the Captains dinner on Sunday August 9th 2026 at 6PM.
2. Boats must report the day they are fishing by calling 855-GET-TUNA and leaving a message. Please report your fishing day the morning of departure or the evening prior to departure. If fishing two single days, then you must report both individual days. Failure to report your fishing day may result in disqualification of fish weighed and releases reported. This is a Captain's choice format with no weather committee. The crew members of each individual boat will be solely responsible for the decision as to which day to fish. The OCMT, Michael Strange Foundation, and the Gold Star Offshore Open Foundation assumes no liability or responsibility for any damage or loss.

3. If a boat that registered for a day trip chooses to convert to an overnight trip during it's first day of fishing, notification must be made by 3:30PM via one of the following: call 855-GET-TUNA, text Brian Logue @ 609-827-0820.
4. Boats may leave any inlet from Manasquan Inlet to Cape May Inlet after 12:00 Midnight. Fishing times are 6AM to 3:30PM on the day you are fishing and if fishing overnight, fishing times are 6AM day one to 3:30PM day two. If fishing two single days, fishing times are 6AM to 3:30PM each day. Weigh in is from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. Fishing boundaries are up to 125 nautical miles from the GE Inlet.
5. **OMNI SONARS** are not permitted to be deployed prior to the official lines-in time of 6:00AM.
6. All Billfish must be reported at the time of release. Provide your boat name and number via text Brian Logue @ 609-827-0820, or call the hotline @ 855-GET-TUNA. If you are unable to text or call, report your release to another participating boat in the Gold Star Offshore Open or Committee Boat, and note the boat you reported the release to on your release form.
7. Any fish hooked prior to 3:30PM may be played until boated or released, but the hookup must be reported to a Committee Boat prior to 3:30PM, or report to Brian Logue via text, or call the Hotline at 855-GET-TUNA. All boats must reach the Weigh Dock by 8PM. No exceptions.
8. All boats must make weigh-in from 5PM to 8PM on the day you return.
All boats weighing fish must return via GE Inlet directly to the Weigh Dock located at the OCYC in order to qualify for prize consideration. NO stopping at fuel dock or personal dock prior to weigh-in. ALL BOATS MUST RETURN RELEASE SLIPS TO THE WEIGH DOCK VIA:
-Hand off to personnel at the OCYC Weigh Dock
-Text photo of release slip to 609-827-0820 (CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF WEIGH SLIP MUST BE RECEIVED FROM BRIAN LOGUE for the releases to be officially counted)
9. In the event of a tie in the Billfish release category, the winner will be the boat with the earliest time of release of the **last** billfish.
10. Boated Billfish, except Swordfish, do not count for points in this Tournament.

11. In the event of a tie in a category other than the Billfish Release category, the boats tied in those non-Billfish Release categories will be equally awarded the prize money for that category.
12. If any listed cash prize category is not won, the guaranteed prize money for the category will be equally divided among the other winning categories after settling any ties.
HOWEVER, THIS PRIZE MONEY WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR DETERMINATION OF THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER.
13. In the event of a tie in GRAND PRIZE winning money, the winner will be determined by the boat accumulating the most overall points.
14. Vhf channel 71 is the Tournament channel.
15. Charter Boats are permitted.
16. Junior Anglers are those 16 years of age and younger as of August 10, 2026.
17. Awards, prizes, and Calcutta payout eligibility- Fish must be caught in accordance with the following:
- a) State and Federal regulations apply. The Tournament is a registered recreational HMS tournament. For more info, please visit www.nmfspermits.com
 - b) NMFS circle hook requirements- This is a fish/tuna tournament. Any natural bait or natural bait/artificial lure combination may only be rigged with non-offset circle hooks. J-hooks may be used on artificial lures that **are not** combined with natural baits.
 - c) IGFA rules apply- no restriction on weight class of tackle. The Tournament chairman and committee retain sole authority for interpreting IGFA rules and administering any such interpretation. EXCEPTION: Spreader Bars are permitted.
 - d) Hook and hand **is not permitted**.
 - e) Use of electric reels is prohibited. However, use of a "Reel Cranky" type device may be used ONLY to check baits.
18. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Tournament chairman or weigh master on the day of the alleged infraction. In the event of a protest, the Tournament directors will have the sole and exclusive responsibility to investigate the alleged violation with the intent to determine if the alleged violation materially aided the angler, crew, or vessel or otherwise affected the outcome of the Tournament. The chairman, co-chairman, and

weigh master shall serve as judges and their decision will be final. In all cases, each registrant and their respective crew agree to be bound by the ruling of the Tournament committee. Polygraph examination may be required of any crew claiming available prizes.

19. By entering this Tournament, the angler holds harmless the Ocean City Marlin and Tuna Club, the Gold Star Offshore Open Foundation, and the Michael Strange Foundation, its members, and the Tournament Directors and Committee from any and all liability whatsoever.