

# 2012 Yamaha Contender Miami

# Billfish Tournament Official Rules

The following rules have changed for the 2012 event. If you are familiar with past YCMBT rules, please read the rules listed to learn about the changes: #8, #9, #11, #29, #34, #36 and #40.

## A. GENERAL RULES

**1. Applicable Rules and Laws:** I.G.F.A. rules shall apply to this Yamaha Contender Miami Billfish Tournament ("YCMBT") except where they are inconsistent with these YCMBT rules that follow, in which case these YCMBT rules shall apply. It is the responsibility of each angler to be familiar with these YCMBT rules and the I.G.F.A. rules. All registered anglers must also comply with all applicable Federal and Florida laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits, speed limits, etc. Any infractions of the applicable rules will disqualify the registered angler(s) and boat from the entire tournament, and any disqualified angler(s) will not be entitled to any refund.

**2. Bait and Tackle:** Fishing with live bait is permitted. No chumming with whole or cut fish is allowed after check out and during tournament fishing hours. Only ground chum may be dispersed from tournament vessels between checkout and the end of official fishing time. The use of live bait daisy chains is not permitted. For purposes of this YCMBT, the leader shall not exceed a maximum length of fifteen (15) feet. Competing anglers are required to fish exclusively with YCMBT endorsed circle hooks when fishing with live or dead bait. The use of traditional "J" hooks is permitted only when fishing with unbaited artificial lures. Hooks must have no offset. Hooks must not be altered in any manner whatsoever. The only eligible circle hooks are tournament-approved, non-offset circle hooks. The YCMBT reserves the right to inspect angler tackle at any time. Any fish caught on any other hook type will be disqualified. Any fish caught on a hook found to have been altered in any manner will be disqualified.

**3. Boats:** Any type or size of boat may be used in the tournament. Boats are divided into two classes based on the engine type: Outboards and Inboards. Boats with "inboard/outboard" engines are considered "Inboards". A boat must declare its status as an Outboard or Inboard boat during registration. Registered anglers may substitute boats with the approval of YCMBT officials, but for the purpose of any awards that are dependent on boat class, fish caught on one class boat cannot be transferred to a different class boat.

**4. Anglers and Lines:** Only registered anglers may fish in this tournament. Unregistered anglers may not be substituted for registered anglers. Registration for the two-day tournament closes at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday March 22, 2012. Registration for the one-day tournament closes at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2012. No boat shall fish more than four lines in the water during official fishing time regardless of the number of registered anglers on board.

**5. Eligible Species:** The eligible billfish species in this YCMBT are sailfish, white marlin, blue marlin, broadbill swordfish, and spearfish. The eligible funfish species in this YCMBT are dolphin, wahoo, kingfish and tuna (yellowfin, blackfin and bluefin only). All boats are required to have a current Federal Tuna Permit, or the newly required Highly Migratory Species Permit (HMSP). (See Rule #1). Permits can be obtained through the NMFS at 888-872-8862 or www.nmfspermits.com).

**6. Hooking Fish:** Each eligible fish entered in this YCMBT must be hooked and caught by a single registered angler only. No person may hook a fish, or assist in hooking a fish in any manner, and then turn the rod with the hooked fish over to the registered angler who ultimately enters the fish. If multiple strikes occur on separate lines, and if a single registered angler is capable of hooking and catching more than one of the fish without the assistance of any other person, then each of such fish may be eligible for entry by such angler subject to the other rules of this YCMBT. The use of a rod holder to hook a fish is permitted provided that no person other than the registered angler who ultimately enters the fish touches the rod or reel once the fish is hooked. For purposes of this YCMBT, a fish shall be considered "hooked" at the time the fish strikes, runs with or eats the bait, regardless of whether the reel is engaged or in free spool mode and regardless of whether the rod is being held or is in a rod holder.

**7. Radio Channels:** VHF channel 82 shall be the primary radio channel during this YCMBT and VHF channel 78 shall be the alternate channel. The primary radio channel is reserved for all official YCMBT announcements and angler reports of hookups and releases as described in Rules #21 and #24. The alternate channel should be used for other discussions. All references to "the radio" throughout these YCMBT Rules shall refer to the primary radio channel unless notified otherwise by the YCMBT radio committee.

**8. Daily Checkout:** All boats fishing the YCMBT must be visually checked out by YCMBT officials each day. The check-out points are as follows: for even numbered boats, the southwest corner of the Miami Beach Marina bulkhead facing Government Cut; and for the odd numbered boats, the stake boat anchored on the south side of Government Cut. YCMBT officials will be on duty at the check-out points from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. each morning. All boats shall prominently display their boat numbers so that the number is clearly visible to the YCMBT officials on duty. Idle zones from the check points are: (1) east to the fishing pier on the north side of the cut; (2) west to pilot boat dock; (3) north to MacArthur Causeway. YCMBT officials will also be accessible on the radio to confirm visual check-out. After checking out, boats may proceed to their chosen fishing site to await the official start of fishing. Boats may not be transported by trailer to another location after check-out. After 8:00 a.m., any boat wishing to be eligible for the day's fishing must be visually checked out with the YCMBT officials at Miami Beach Marina fuel dock. No boat should inhibit the passage of any large ships, including cruise and freight, into or out of Government Cut. In case of breakdown, another boat may be substituted only after approval by YCMBT officials.

**9. Official Fishing Time:** The official fishing time on Friday is 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday is 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Official fishing time begins with the YCMBT official radio announcement broadcast on channel 82 (see Rule #7) of "lines in the water" and ends with a "lines out of the water" announcement broadcast on the radio. All registered anglers on any boat with lines in the water before or after official fishing time — except when fighting a fish that has been reported to the YCMBT radio committee as described in Rules #21 and #24, and except when fishing for bait as described in Rule #12 — will be automatically disqualified from the entire tournament.

**10. Territorial Limits:** The fishing limits of this YCMBT are the waters of the U.S. from Hillsborough Inlet to Carysfort Light no more than twenty-five (25) miles offshore. All registered anglers must return to the weigh station at Miami Beach Marina by the prescribed hour in Rule #11 in their assigned boat.

**11. Weigh-in:** The weigh station will be at Miami Beach Marina. All boats with fish to be weighed or with releases to be entered must proceed directly to the weigh station at the end of official fishing each day. Registered boats must be back to Miami Beach Marina inside the basin to report his or her fish before 6:00 p.m. on Friday and before 5:00 p.m. on Saturday for fish to count.

**12. Bait Fishing:** Registered anglers and crew may fish for their own live bait at any time, but all bait fishing must be in compliance with the chumming restrictions in Rule #2.

**13. Protests:** Registered anglers may protest any alleged violation of these rules. All protests must be delivered in writing to the weighmaster on the day of the protested catch before the end of the weigh-in that afternoon. All protests will be considered by YCMBT officials, whose decisions are final based on their sole discretion. Any member of the YCMBT Board of Directors who is entered in the tournament shall temporarily resign his/her position on the Board during the running of the YCMBT to avoid any conflict of interest.

**14. Weather:** YCMBT officials may cancel any tournament day if, in their best judgment, unsafe conditions exist at sea for the average boat entered. No refunds of any sort will be made for any cause in the event of such cancellation. If any day (or any portion thereof) is "weathered out", the YCMBT results will be final based on the results of the official fishing time that can be completed. Notice of cancellation and/or resumption of fishing will be broadcast on the radio at 7:30 a.m. A determination permitting fishing by YCMBT officials should not be interpreted to mean that the YCMBT ensures the safety of any registered angler or occupant of any boat.

Registered anglers must make their own judgments whether to fish under the prevailing weather conditions based on the size and seaworthiness of their boat, their seamanship skills and any other relevant factors.

**15. Entry Forms:** Every prospective angler in this YCMBT must submit a fully completed entry form together with all required fees to be considered for acceptance and registration in the tournament. The entry form must designate whether the angler is participating in the two-day tournament for billfish and funfish awards, the two-day funfish boat division for funfish awards only, or the outboard only one-day tournament. YCMBT officials reserve the right to refuse entry to any prospective angler, with or without cause, in their sole discretion. The YCMBT shall return all entry fees tendered by any prospective angler whose entry is refused. Entry fees received after March 12, 2012 must be in the form of cash or cashier's check.

**16. Photographs:** In consideration for the YCMBT's acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler specifically agrees and consents that the YCMBT may use any photograph in which he or she appears for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material, without compensation or restriction of any kind.

**17. Polygraphs:** In consideration for the YCMBT's acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler specifically agrees and consents to voluntarily submit to a polygraph examination or examinations, to be conducted by a polygraph examiner selected by the YCMBT, on any day and at any time until all prize winners and awards are determined and announced. Further, each registered angler agrees to obtain the agreement and consent of each and every occupant of the boat from which he or she fishes during the tournament (including but not limited to the captain and crew) to submit to a polygraph examination or examinations as described above. The method and conduct of all polygraph examinations, and the interpretation of the results thereof, shall be in the sole judgment of the polygraph examiner appointed by the YCMBT, whose opinion shall be final. If any registered angler or occupant of a vessel refuses to submit to a polygraph examination, or if any registered angler or occupant gives a response which, in the sole opinion of the polygraph examiner, is untruthful, then all registered anglers on the boat shall be immediately disqualified without further notice from the YCMBT. Any registered angler so disqualified shall not be entitled to any prize, award, or entry fee refund.

**18. Hold Harmless:** All registered anglers and non-registered occupants of their boats enter and participate in this YCMBT voluntarily and at their own risk. In consideration for the YCMBT's acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler, for his or her heirs, executors, and administrators, agrees to release, hold harmless and indemnify the YCMBT, its officers, managers, directors, agents, polygraph examiners, sponsors, donors, the city and county where the event is held, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournament, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, fees or expenses which he or she may have against any above-described party, or which his or her captains, crew members, family members, companions or non-registered occupants of their boat may have, arising out of or in any way connected with his or her participation in this YCMBT, including any injury or death suffered by any registered angler, boat captains, crew members, family members, companions or other occupants of any boat, and including any damage to vessels and equipment, which occurs during or in conjunction with the event. Each registered angler understands and agrees that this release specifically includes and waives any claims based on libel, slander, negligence, action or inaction of any above-named party. Each registered angler further understands and agrees that this release specifically includes and waives any claims arising from the YCMBT's use of any photographs as described in Rule #16 and from the YCMBT's administration of or interpretation of any polygraph as described in Rule #17.

**19. Etiquette:** YCMBT officials encourage all registered anglers and crew members to behave in a professional manner at all times before, during, and after official fishing time so as to not tarnish the valuable reputation of this YCMBT or any

of its sponsors. Any or all registered anglers on any boat may be disqualified from this YCMBT if, in the sole discretion of YCMBT officials, unprofessional fishing conduct has occurred, including but not limited to: (a) deliberately fouling or cutting another boat's fishing gear, such as lines in the water or kites in the air; or (b) interfering with or impeding another boat's drift, position, or ability to hook and/or fight fish, such as setting up a drift or casting too close to the other boat's spread.

## B. BILLFISHING RULES

**20. Releasing Billfish:** All billfish must be released. A billfish shall be considered a "release" only when the leader or swivel attaching the fishing line to the leader touches the rod tip or when the mate touches the leader, provided the angler's intent is to release the fish.

**21. Reporting Billfish:** The YCMBT committee boat must be notified on the radio immediately after a registered angler releases a billfish except during the last 15 minutes of each day, during which time all fish must be reported upon being hooked. All reports must include the assigned boat number and angler letter. No billfish shall be eligible, without exception, unless the YCMBT committee boat has acknowledged the information provided over the radio and given a confirmation number to the angler. Boats which cannot make radio contact with the YCMBT committee boat for any reason should contact another boat for a relay.

**22. Photographic Verification:** None required.

**23. Scoring:** Registered anglers will receive 200 points for each release of an eligible billfish. Each boat will be provided with release cards which must be completely filled out, signed by the entire crew aboard the boat, and delivered to the weigh station by boat only each day for releases to count. The species of billfish, time of release, confirmation number, boat number, angler name and letter are mandatory on the card. In the event of an exact tie, the registered angler/boat accumulating the most points first, as determined by the YCMBT radio log book time entries for each release confirmation number, will be the winner.

## C. FUNFISH RULES

**24. Reporting Funfish:** Funfish do not need to be reported upon being boated. However, during the last 15 minutes of official fishing time each day, all fish must be reported on the radio upon being hooked.

**25. Scoring:** Prizes will be awarded for the heaviest eligible funfish species measured to the nearest 1/4 pound. A ten pound minimum weight will be in effect for all eligible species in all funfish categories. No more than three (3) of each eligible funfish species may be weighed per boat daily in all funfish categories. All fish must be brought to the weigh station by boat only. Each boat will be provided with tail tags which must be completely filled out, signed by the entire crew aboard the boat and affixed to the fish's tail for the fish to count. The angler's name, designated letter and assigned boat number are mandatory on the tag. In the event of an exact tie, the first fish weighed in will be the winner.

**26. Funfish Boat Entry:** An alternative, per-boat entry fee is available to any prospective group of anglers who desire to compete only for funfish awards on the same boat. Upon registration, the designated captain of any boat electing the per-boat entry for funfish must register all individual anglers who will fish only for funfish awards on his or her boat during this YCMBT. A maximum of four lines may be fished regardless of the number of registered anglers on board. All such "boat entry" anglers are only eligible for the funfish awards, but registered anglers aboard boats entered in the Billfish Division are also eligible to win those funfish awards in addition to any billfish awards. No angler who is registered on a boat participating in the Billfish Division may fish on the same boat as "Funfish Boat" entry anglers.

## D. JUNIOR DIVISION

**27.** Any angler age 11 - 16 may fish in the Junior Division. Junior anglers will still be eligible for all other awards. Entry in the Junior Division is voluntary and must be declared on the entry form to entitle the angler to win Junior Division awards. Junior anglers must be accompanied by an adult registered angler. No more than two junior anglers per registered adult shall be allowed on any boat.

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## E. PEE WEE DIVISION

**28.** The Pee Wee division of the YCMBT is an introduction level division, intended to allow young anglers to enjoy our event along with their family. Pee Wee anglers must be less than eleven (11) years of age on the last day of this event. Entrants in this division will compete only against fellow Pee Wee anglers. They will only be eligible for Pee Wee division awards. Pee Wee anglers may receive limited assistance in moving rods to a fighting position as well as to prevent loss of tackle. We at the YCMBT know that this allowance will not be abused.

## F. ADDED-VALUE OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

**29.** The YCMBT offers six “added value” optional categories for boats registered in the two-day tournament. All YCMBT rules apply, and scoring in each of the six categories will be in accordance with the applicable YCMBT rules for billfish or funfish. Fees to enter these optional categories are on a per-boat basis and are in addition to the YCMBT boat entry fees. Participating boats must register for the added value optional categories of their choice at or before tournament registration. Entry fees received after March 12, 2012 must be in the form of cash or cashier's check. Fifteen percent (15%) of the gross entry fee in each category will be donated to conservation. The remaining eighty-five percent (85%) will be awarded and divided in each category as described in Rules #30 through #36. Actual cash prize amounts of each category are dependent on the number of boats entering that category. All prizes will be paid by check at the awards presentation.

**30. The \$3K Hook-Up.** The “\$3K Hook-Up” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. The winning boat will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing boat throughout the two-day tournament. Entry fee is \$3,000 per boat. The award for the \$3K Hook-Up will be distributed on a winner-take-all basis.

**31. The Pot of Gold.** The “Pot of Gold” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. The winning boats will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing boat throughout the two-day tournament. Entry fee is \$1,000 per boat. Awards for the Pot of Gold will be distributed for first, second and third places on a fifty percent (50%), thirty percent (30%) and twenty percent (20%) basis.

**32. Inboard Daily:** The “Inboard Daily” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. Daily winners will be declared each day of official tournament fishing. The winning Inboard boats will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing Inboard boat each day of the two-day tournament. Entry fee is \$1,000 per Inboard boat. The total net entry fees available for awards will be allocated evenly among each day of official fishing. Awards for the Inboard Daily will be distributed for first and second places each day on a sixty percent (60%) and forty percent (40%) basis of the daily award allotment.

**33. Outboard Daily:** The “Outboard Daily” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. Daily winners will be declared each day of official tournament fishing. The winning Outboard boats will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing Outboard boat each day of the two-day tournament. Entry fee is \$1,000 per Outboard boat. The total net entry fees available for awards will be allocated evenly among each day of official fishing. Awards for the Outboard Daily will be distributed for first and second places each day on a sixty percent (60%) and forty percent (40%) basis of the daily award allotment.

**34. The Half-Day Daily:** The “Half-Day Daily” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. The winning boats will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing boat in the two-day tournament twice each day at the following intervals: on Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and then from 12:01 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and then from 12:01 p.m. to 3 p.m. Billfish points during each of the four intervals will be determined by the time entries for each release confirmation number as recorded in the YCMBT radio log book. Entry fee is \$500 per boat. The total net entry fees available for awards

will be allocated evenly among each of the four half-day intervals throughout the YCMBT. Awards for the Half-Day Daily will be distributed on a winner-take-all basis during each half-day interval.

**35. Kettle of Fish:** The “Kettle of Fish” will seek the same eligible funfish species as the YCMBT. The winner will be determined by the heaviest combination of funfish accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing boat, or the heaviest single fish caught by a registered angler on a competing boat, whichever is greater, throughout the two-day tournament. A ten pound minimum weight will be in effect for all eligible species. No more than three (3) of each eligible funfish species may be weighed per boat daily. Entry fee is \$300 per boat. Awards for the Kettle of Fish will be distributed for first, second and third places on a fifty percent (50%), thirty percent (30%) and twenty percent (20%) basis.

## G. THE OUTBOARD ONLY ONE-DAY BLAST

**36.** The YCMBT will hold a one-day tournament on Saturday March 24, 2012 during the two-day tournament. Only outboard boats may register in the one-day tournament. The one-day tournament will seek the same eligible billfish and funfish species as the YCMBT, and all YCMBT “General”, “Billfish” and “Funfish” rules apply to the one-day tournament. Registration, check-out, weigh-in, and the awards ceremony for the one-day tournament will be conducted simultaneously with the same events for the two-day tournament and will continue until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2012. Outboard boats registered in the one-day tournament are not eligible for the prizes in the two-day tournament, and boats registered in the two-day tournament are not eligible for the prizes in the outboard only one-day tournament. **37.** The YCMBT offers three “added value” optional categories for outboard boats registered in the one-day tournament. All YCMBT rules apply, and scoring in each of the three categories will be in accordance with the applicable YCMBT rules for billfish or funfish. Fees to enter these optional categories are on a per-boat basis and are in addition to the one-day tournament boat entry fees. Participating boats must register for the added value optional categories of their choice at or before tournament registration. Entry fees received after March 12, 2012 must be in the form of cash or cashier's check. Fifteen percent (15%) of the gross entry fee in each category will be donated to conservation. The remaining eighty-five percent (85%) will be awarded and divided in each category as described in Rules #38 through #40. Actual cash prize amounts of each category are dependent on the number of boats entering that category. All prizes will be paid by check at the awards presentation.

**38. One Day Billfish Bonanza:** The “One Day Billfish Bonanza” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. The winning outboard boats will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing one-day tournament boat. Entry fee is \$500 per boat. The award for the One Day Billfish Bonanza will be distributed on a winner-take-all basis.

**39. One Day Billfish Blast:** The “One Day Billfish Blast” will seek the same eligible billfish species as the YCMBT. The winning outboard boats will be determined by the combined total billfish points accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing one-day tournament boat. Entry fee is \$200 per boat. Awards for the One Day Billfish Blast will be distributed for first, second and third places on a fifty percent (50%), thirty percent (30%) and twenty percent (20%) basis.

**40. One Day Kettle of Fish:** The “One Day Kettle of Fish” will seek the same eligible funfish species as the YCMBT. The winning outboard boats will be determined by the heaviest combination of funfish accumulated by all registered anglers on each competing one-day tournament boat, or the heaviest single fish caught by a registered angler on a competing one-day tournament boat, whichever is greater. A ten pound minimum weight will be in effect for all eligible species. No more than three (3) of each eligible funfish species may be weighed per boat. Entry fee is \$200 per boat. Awards for the One Day Kettle of Fish will be distributed for first, second and third places on a fifty percent (50%), thirty percent (30%) and twenty percent (20%) basis.

