

2017 Yamaha Contender Miami Sportfish Tournament Rules

A. GENERAL RULES

1. Applicable Rules and Laws: I.G.F.A. rules shall apply to this Yamaha Contender Miami Sportfish Tournament ("YCMST") except where they are inconsistent with these YCMST rules that follow, in which case these YCMST rules shall apply. It is the responsibility of each angler to be familiar with these YCMST 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. The YCMST Board of Directors reserves the right to change, add or amend any of the following rules at any time and notify participants of any such changes no later than the Captain's Meeting.

2. Check-out and Territorial Limits: No checkout is required. Boats may depart from any inlet. Fishing is permitted only in United States waters.

3. Anglers, Boats and Lines: Only registered anglers and boats may fish in this YCMST. Boat entry fee includes four anglers. Additional anglers may be purchased with no limit. Boat and angler substitutions must be made with the express approval of YCMST officials before the 7:00 a.m. start of official fishing time on Saturday, May 6, 2017. No limit exists on the number of lines that may be fished from a registered boat.

4. Bait, Tackle and Chumming: Fishing with live bait, dead bait and unbaited artificial lures is permitted. When fishing with live or dead bait, competing anglers are required to fish exclusively with non-offset "tournament approved" circle hooks. The use of traditional "J" hooks is permitted only when fishing with un-baited artificial lures. Any fish caught on a non-compliant hook shall be disqualified. Registered anglers and crew may fish for their own live bait before or during official fishing time. The only chumming permitted during official fishing time is with ground chum. The use of live bait daisy chains and live bait chumming is prohibited at all times.

5. Eligible Species: The eligible funfish species in this YCMST are dolphin, kingfish, wahoo, cobia, tuna (yellowfin, blackfin and bluefin only) and mutton snapper. 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). The eligible billfish species in this YCMST are sailfish, white marlin, blue marlin, broadbill swordfish, and spearfish. 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.

6. Hooking Fish: Each eligible fish entered in this YCMST 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.

7. Radio Channels: VHF channel 82 shall be the primary radio channel during this YCMST and VHF channel 78 shall be the alternate channel. The primary radio channel is reserved for all official YCMST announcements and angler reports of hookups or fighting fish during the final fifteen minutes of official fishing time as described in Rule #8. The alternate channel should be used for other discussions.

8. Official Fishing Time: The official fishing time of this YCMST is Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Official fishing time begins with the YCMST radio announcement of "lines in the water" and ends with a radio announcement of "lines out of the water". If any registered angler has a line in the water before or after official fishing time, the boat will automatically be disqualified from all prizes with the following two exceptions: first, when fighting a fish that has been reported to the YCMST radio committee as described in Rule #9; and second, when bait fishing before official fishing time as described in Rule #4.

9. Reporting Fish: Registered boats do not need to report any fish when hooked, caught and/or released with the following exception: if an angler hooks a fish or is otherwise fighting a fish during the final fifteen minutes of official fishing time, the boat must notify YCMST officials on the radio. All such reports must include the assigned boat number and angler letter. If out of radio range, the boat must obtain a radio relay. Cell phone reports are not permitted.

10. Weigh Station: The weigh station will be open at Miami Beach Marina only from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. All registered anglers with fish to be weighed or with billfish releases to be entered must arrive at Miami Beach Marina in their assigned boat and must be standing at the weigh station by 6:00 p.m. with their fish and/or billfish release cards for their fish to count.

11. Scoring: Scoring for top boats and angler awards is based on the total combined weight of a maximum of three (3) funfish of each eligible species per boat, plus fifteen (15) points for each billfish release with a maximum of three (3) billfish releases per boat. Eligible funfish shall be weighed to the nearest tenth-of-a-pound a ten (10) pound minimum, except for mutton snapper, which is a five (5) pound minimum weight. For funfish, 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 boat that was first to weigh in a fish will be the winner. For billfish, each boat will be provided with release cards which must be completely filled out with the species of billfish, boat number, and angler name and shall be signed by the entire crew aboard the boat.

12. Protests: Registered anglers may protest any alleged violation of these rules. All protests must be delivered in writing to the weighmaster by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. All protests will be considered by YCMST officials, whose decisions are final based on their sole discretion. Any member of the YCMST Board of Directors who is entered in the tournament shall temporarily resign his/her position on the Board during the running of the YCMST to avoid any conflict of interest.

13. Weather: YCMST officials may cancel all or part of the fishing day if, in their best judgment, unsafe conditions exist at sea for the average boat entered. No refunds will be made in the event of a weather cancellation. The YCMST 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. A determination permitting fishing by YCMST officials should not be interpreted to mean that the YCMST 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.

14. Entry Forms: At least one angler or the boat captain must complete and sign the entire YCMST entry form as the authorized agent of all registered anglers on the boat and represent that every angler and occupant has read, understood and agrees to all YCMST rules. All tournament participants agree to submit to polygraph examinations at the request of YCMST officials.

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15. Photographs: In consideration for the YCMST's acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler specifically agrees and consents that the YCMST 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.

16. Polygraphs: In consideration for the YCMST'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 YCMST 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 YCMST, 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 YCMST. Any registered angler so disqualified shall not be entitled to any prize, award, or entry fee refund.

17. Hold Harmless: All registered anglers and non-registered occupants of their boats enter and participate in this YCMST voluntarily and at their own risk. In consideration for the YCMST'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 YCMST, 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 YCMST, 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 YCMST's use of any photographs as described in Rule #15 and from the YCMST's administration of or interpretation of any polygraph as described in Rule #16.

18. Etiquette: YCMST 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 YCMST or any of its sponsors. Any or all registered anglers on any boat may be disqualified from this YCMST if, in the sole discretion of YCMST 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 speed.

19. Junior Division: 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.

20. Pee Wee Division: Any angler under the age of 11 years may fish in the Pee Wee Division, which is an introduction level division intended to allow our youngest anglers to enjoy YCMST event along with their family. 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 YCMST know that this allowance will not be abused.

B. ADDED-VALUE OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

21. Top Boat Prize Structures: Cash prize structure for 1st place through 6th place boats is based on boat participation in the tournament.

22. The YCMST offers eleven "added value" optional categories for boats registered in the tournament. All YCMST general rules apply. Scoring will be calculated as provided in Rule #11. Fees to enter these optional categories are on a per-boat basis and are in addition to the YCMST boat entry fees. 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 #22 through #27. 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.

23. Super Sportfish: The "Super Sportfish" will seek the same eligible funfish and billfish species as the YCMST. The winning boat will be determined by the combined total points of all funfish weighed and billfish released. Entry fee is \$1,000 per boat. The award for the Super Sportfish will be distributed on a winner-take-all basis.

24. Sportfish Jackpot: The "Sportfish Jackpot" will seek the same eligible funfish and billfish species as the YCMST. The winning boats will be determined by the combined total points of all funfish weighed and billfish released. Entry fee is \$500 per boat. The awards for the Sportfish Jackpot will be distributed on a fifty percent (50%), thirty percent (30%) and twenty percent (20%) basis.

25. Kettle of Fish: The "Kettle of Fish" will seek the same eligible funfish species as the YCMST. The winning boats will be determined by the combined total points of all funfish weighed. No billfish release points count. 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.

26. Triple Decker: The "Triple Decker" will seek the same eligible funfish species as the YCMST but requires at least three of the five species to win. The winning boat will be determined by the combined total points of the three heaviest funfish – no more than one per species. Entry fee is \$300 per boat. The award for the Triple Decker will be distributed on a sixty percent (60%) and forty percent (40%) basis. Any prize money not awarded will roll over to next year's pot.

27. Heavyweight Champion: The "Heavyweight Champion" will seek the same eligible funfish species as the YCMST. The winning boat will be determined by the heaviest single fish weighed. Entry fee is \$250 per boat. The award for the Heavyweight Champion will be distributed on a winner-take-all basis.

28. Heaviest Fish of Each Species: There are six separate added value categories, one for each of the eligible funfish species in the YCMST. The winning boat will be determined by the heaviest single fish weighed per species. Entry fee is \$100 per boat per species. The award for the Heaviest of each species will be distributed on a winner-take-all basis for each category entered. ■