



Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club

Established in 1936

2020 Spring Striped Bass Tournament Tournament Outline, Rules and Awards

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and New Jersey's associated restrictions along with New Jersey's current regulations for recreational striped bass fishing, MRMTC has considered numerous options for holding the 2020 Spring Striped Bass Tournament including cancelling the tournament altogether. After much evaluation of the alternatives, MRMTC has decided to proceed with the tournament, albeit under a set of conditions that are considerably different than our striped bass tournaments of the past. The underlying theme in the discussions to proceed with the tournament was "how to conduct the tournament in a manner that minimizes chances for exposure to the COVID-19 virus for participants, tournament directors, dock personnel and others, and that complies with current COVID-19 restrictions." For the purpose of communicating to all MRMTC members the conditions under which the tournament will proceed, it was decided to prepare a single document which provides the Outline, Rules and Awards for the 2020 Spring Striped Bass Tournament.

COVID-19 Statement

The safety, health and well-being of our officers, trustees, members, families, friends, guests, and the general public will always be our primary goal. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposures at Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club (MRMTC) member events, tournaments and gatherings (functions), we have developed a MRMTC COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan. That plan is available for viewing at: mrmtc.com/covid19/

NJDEP/ NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife

COVID-19 Fishing Guidelines (April 3, 2020)

Consistent with Governor Murphy's orders that all New Jerseyans practice social distancing in order to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), **anglers must fish alone or with immediate family members and cannot fish in groups of any size (no matter how small), either on land or by boat. A minimum six-foot social distance between anglers must be maintained at all times.**

Anglers **MUST NOT** congregate in parking areas, boat ramps or at popular fishing locations. Conservation Police Officers, New Jersey State Park Police, and DEP staff are actively monitoring our parks and natural areas to ensure that individuals enjoying our natural resources are maintaining social distance. **Any groups encountered will be instructed to disperse to maintain social distance, and if they do not comply, tickets will be issued by law enforcement.**

Excerpts from Dave Golden, Director of NJ Fish & Wildlife YouTube Video

- A. Click Here for video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms3eLwoLiz4>
- B. Do not fish if you are not feeling well. Stay at home if you exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms listed on CDC website
- C. Fish close to home, reducing travel
- D. Fish by yourself or with members of immediate family members ONLY
- E. Maintain safe physical distance from other anglers and do not share gear
- F. Use your rod as an easy measure to provide a 6' distance
- G. Avoid crowds and groups
- H. Buy licenses online



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Tournament Outline

- A. Tournament Entry: Free
- B. Guaranteed Prize Money: \$1,250
- C. Fishing Days: Friday, May 22nd thru Monday, May 25th and Friday, May 29th thru Monday, June 1st
- D. Captains Meeting: None
- E. Calcuttas: None
- F. Registration: All members in good standing are automatically registered to fish the tournament
- G. Call In: Entrants are required to call-in their fishing day
- H. Awards: 3 largest striped bass by length

Tournament Rules

1. This tournament is a MRMTC member only tournament. Only MRMTC members and non-member guests are eligible to fish this tournament.
2. All members in good standing are automatically registered to fish this tournament.
3. Tournament participation is on a per boat basis. A member may fish on a member or non-member boat. In lieu of fishing on a boat, a member may fish from the shores of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.
4. Each boat may fish only one day. However, a boat may fish multiple days if the member's fishing "partner" is also a club member. The "partner" must be on board on the fishing day of their entry for any catches on that day to be eligible for award consideration.
5. Entrants must declare their fishing day by the time they leave Manasquan Inlet on their declared day of fishing. To declare a fishing day, a representative from the boat must call (732) 612-8052 and leave a message with the following information: Entrants name, boat name, fishing day, and day and time of call.
6. Boats must not depart Manasquan Inlet before 12:00 AM on their declared day of fishing and must return through Manasquan Inlet on the same day. Similarly, members fishing from shore must not commence fishing before 12:00 AM on their declared day of fishing.
7. In the event of a boat becoming disabled prior to leaving Manasquan Inlet, the entry may be transferred to a substitute boat and/or a substitute fishing day. The boat disability must be reported by calling (732) 612-8052 and leaving a message with the following information: Entrant's name, boat name, fishing date, nature of the boat disability, date and time of call.
8. In the event of a boat becoming disabled after leaving Manasquan Inlet, a substitute fishing day will be granted as long as the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. Fishing lines must not have been placed in the water.
 - b. The boat must return to Manasquan Inlet by 10 AM on the same day it departed.
 - c. A participant on the boat must call (732) 612-8052 as soon as the boat enters Manasquan Inlet and leave a message with the following information: Entrants name, boat name, fishing day, nature of the boat disability, date and time of call.
9. Awards will be made for the 3 largest striped bass based on length. NJ Division of Fish and Game Regulations stipulate that striped bass 38" and greater may not be kept. However, striped bass 38" and greater may be measured for awards



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consideration in this tournament so long as the fish is immediately released after its length has been determined and associated pictures taken. Requirements for submitting a fish's length for awards consideration are as follows:

- a. Determine striped bass length per the method specified in the following link: <https://www.fishinjersey.com/how-to-measure-gamefish/>
 - b. Two pictures of the fish are required as follows:
 1. Take a picture of the overall fish while being measured.
 2. Take a picture of the end of the fish as the length is being determined. The end of the fish and the measurement that is being submitted must be clear and legible in the picture.
 - c. Take a picture of a completed MRMTC Official Weigh Slip.
 - d. Electronically submit the three photos **via email to WIN@mrmtc.com**.
 - e. The email should be submitted immediately after taking the pictures as the time stamp of the email (time received at WIN@mrmtc.com) will be used as a tie-breaker. Earlier time on any particular day will take precedence over a later time.
 - f. The deadline for submitting lengths for awards consideration is 7:30 PM on each day of the tournament.
10. The official tournament radio channel is: VHF Channel 65.
11. All State, Federal and IGFA Rules and Regulations apply to this tournament except as follows:
- a. A fish may be hooked by anyone other than the angler provided the rod is immediately transferred to the angler after the hook-up. From that time forward, the angler must fight the fish alone until boated or released
 - b. The use of umbrella rigs and wire line while trolling for striped bass is permitted.
 - c. Snag and drop is not permitted. A snagged bait fish must be transferred to a single hook on another rod.
12. There is no limit to the number of rods used while fishing. The use of commercial fishing gear is not permitted.
13. In the interest of conservation, MRMTC encourages the use of circle hooks when using natural bait and/or natural bait/artificial lure combinations.
14. Fish caught on a member's boat during the course of a non-member charter trip are not eligible for award consideration regardless of who the angler is. Fish caught by a member who is being paid as a crew member, i.e. a mate, captain, etc. during the course of a fishing trip, are not eligible for any prize or trophy.
15. Prize Money will be paid by check and made out to the Entrant's name. Prize money will be distributed to the winners upon determining the official results.
16. The tournament may be altered, cancelled, postponed or extended to other dates at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
17. All interpretations of the Rules and decisions by the Tournament Committee are final.

As there is no captains meeting or official entry form, a members participation in the Spring Striped Bass Tournament will be automatically considered to be that members acknowledgement of compliance with the MRMTC General Disclaimer, as follows:

All boat owners, their crews, and anglers participate in the tournament voluntarily and at their own risk. They hereby agree to release and hold harmless the MRMTC, it's Officers, Trustees, Agents, and employees from and against all claims, Damages, losses and expenses – including all attorneys' fees incurred as a result of their suffering bodily injury, illness, death, economic loss, or property damage while participating in this tournament. By signing this agreement I acknowledge that I have liability insurance coverage for my vessel and crew. The decision to fish or not relative to weather or any other reason is at the sole discretion of the participants. The entrant may elect to withdraw from the tournament if they are concerned with weather related sea conditions. All entry monies will be fully refunded as long as an officer, a trustee, or a tournament committee member is notified prior to the time of the captains meeting. Participants must comply with all



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applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations. MRMTC assumes no responsibility in that or any other regard. Any non-complying fish will be disqualified. I agree to the aforementioned terms and conditions, and represent that anyone invited to fish on the boat entered, has been informed and has accepted accordingly. Participation constitutes acceptance of the aforementioned terms and conditions and that the crew has been notified of these and all applicable, state, federal and IGFA rules.

Tournament Awards

Guaranteed Prize Money for the tournament is \$1,250. The prize money will be distributed across the three longest striped bass as follows:

Largest Striped Bass	\$600
2 nd Largest Striped Bass	\$400
3 rd Largest Striped Bass	\$250

