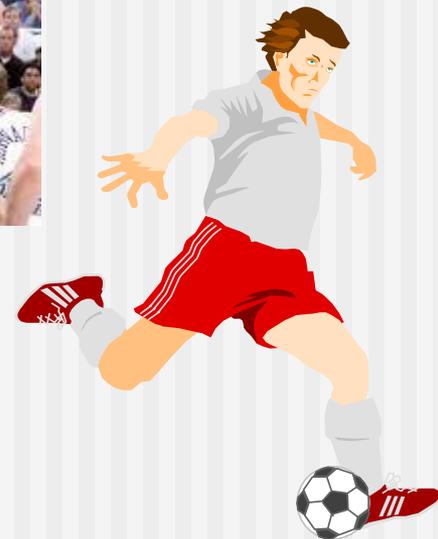


Competing According To The Rules





**Event? - Blue Marlin
Tournament**

Date? - June 14, 2010

Location? - Big Rock, NC

Prize? - \$1 million

For this fishing team, the \$1-million prize is the one that got away!



Angler Andy Thomossan (left) and Capt. Eric Holmes stand beside the 883-pound blue marlin that they caught during the contest.

They thought they had won the \$1-million prize, only to learn they were **disqualified** because one of the men on the team didn't have a North Carolina fishing license.

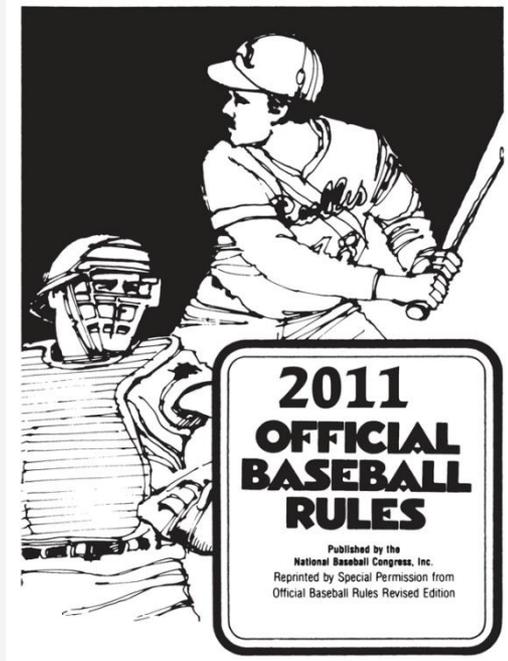
Competing According To The Rules

***"An athlete is not crowned
unless he competes
according to the rules"***

2 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

Competing According To The Rules

- We can easily understand the necessity of competing according to the rules!
- Football, soccer, golf, baseball, basketball, etc.



Competing According To The Rules

- *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven will enter.”* (Matthew 7:21)
- *“However, let us keep living by that **same standard** to which we have attained.”* (Phil. 3:16)
- *“Anyone who goes too far and **does not abide in the teaching of Christ**, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”* (2 John 9)

**Let's Look At
Some Who Did
Not Compete
According To The
Rules:**

Apollos

Acts 18:25

*“This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John.**”*

Some Galatians

Galatians 4:10-11

“Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. ¹¹I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.”

The twelve men at Ephesus

Acts 19:4-5

“Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

The Jews of Jesus' day

Matthew 15:9

*“But in **vain** they do
worship me, teaching for
doctrines the
commandments of men.”*

Many who will be disappointed at the judgment

Matthew 7:21, 23

*“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²³...I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**”*

Some Who Do Not Compete According To The Rules **Today:**

- **Those who teach you can reach heaven by good works**
- **Those who say you can be saved by *“faith only”***
- **Those who practice sprinkling and pouring in the place of immersion**
- **Those who fail to observe the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week**

Some Who Do Not Compete According To The Rules **Today:**

- **Those who are “off & on” – not diligent in their service to God**
- **Those who substitute a different kind of music for what God authorized**
- **Those who use human schemes to finance the work of the church**
- **Those who turn the work of the local church over to human institutions**
- **Those who fail to assemble for worship**

Competing According To The Rules

- **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

- Are you competing according to God's rules?

- James 4:4;
2 Cor. 6:14-18;
Romans 12:13

- **HAVE YOU OBEYED THE GOSPEL?**

