



2024 HOT CURRENT TOURNAMENT RULES

ENTRIES

1. Anglers entering the tournament must be financial members, or life members of a club affiliated with NSWGFA or GFAA or a bona fide member of IGFA and be able to produce proof of membership. There must be a minimum of 2 anglers per boat with a maximum limit to the number of anglers on each boat to comply with NSW Waterways Authority vessel capacity plate. **Note: The Skipper or any person involved in affecting capture or Tag and Release must be a paid angler.**
2. **ENTRY FEES.** \$225.00 adult angler, \$100.00 junior angler, \$60.00 small fry. Includes GST, presentation dinner ticket, tournament shirt and 4 raffle tickets for each adult entry only.
3. **ENTRIES CLOSE** 18:00 hrs (6.00pm) Wednesday 31st January 2024.
4. **LATE ENTRY.** Entries, alterations and/or additions to entries (boats and anglers) must be registered before the tournament briefing on Thursday 1st February 2024 and will be accepted only at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. **NOTE: There may be a \$100.00 "Late Entry Fee" for each boat entry submitted after 18:00 hrs (6.00pm) on Wednesday 31st January 2024.**



TOURNAMENT RULES

5. **RADIO LOG ON.** All boats must log on to Tournament Base before commencement of fishing at 07:00 hrs (7.00am).
6. **LEAVING AND ENTERING PORT.** Boats must leave Coffs Harbour port on each Tournament Day and return to Coffs Harbour port on completion of fishing. The safety of competing boats and crews is considered paramount. Any boat in transit and not present at opening day start is required to enter the Harbour and report to Tournament Base before leaving to commence fishing. All boats must report by radio to Tournament Base on return to port. If unable to make radio contact, then they must make contact with another competing boat and have them relay Tournament Base before going to moorings. Failure to report on return to port will invoke a penalty or loss of points for the day by the boat concerned (a minimum of 5000 capture points and 5000 Tag and Release points penalty will apply).
7. **FLAGS.** All boats are to display the appropriate Capture and/or Tag and Release Flags on return to port.
8. **MISCONDUCT.** The Tournament Committee may on its own initiative investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the Tournament. The Committee may invoke penalties or loss of points or disqualification of fish, angler, or boat where misconduct is deemed to take place.
9. **COURTESY.** All anglers, particularly boat captains, are asked to display a degree of courtesy regarding burley trails and troll patterns behind boats. All anglers are reminded that as members of a Club they are regarded as representatives of their Clubs. As such any unbecoming behaviour reflects adversely on the Club. Hence the Tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.
10. **PROTESTS.** Any protests relative to Captures or Tag and Release must be submitted in writing by the Skipper to the Tournament Director. Protests must be lodged no later than 20:00 hrs (8.00pm) on the day of the incident concerned except on the last day when the time limit will be 16:00 hrs (4.00pm) on 4th February 2024. The decisions of the Tournament Committee are final. Each protest must be accompanied with \$200.00 fee (refundable in the event of a successful protest).
11. **TIES.** In the event of a tie for a prize category, the angler or boat to reach the winning score first will be deemed to be the winner on the count back system.
12. **BAD WEATHER.** That the declaration of a Gale Warning by the appropriate government weather authority will automatically require the cancellation of any tournament or event conducted under the auspices of the New South Wales Game Fishing Association and its member clubs. In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to cease fishing immediately and return to port.
13. **CANCELLATION WILL ONLY APPLY UNTIL GALE WARNING IS LIFTED** To avoid taking unnecessary risks in the event of bad weather, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the day will be a competition day or not. Boats should establish early morning contact with Tournament Base or members of the Tournament Committee at the Weigh Station. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of fishing then the Tournament Committee will confer and will decide whether the competition will be called off for the remainder of the day. Any fish captured/tagged prior to the tournament being called off would be eligible for the competition. The ultimate decision on return to port remains with the competitors. The Committee accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals whether to put to sea or not, having regard to the committee's decision on the suitability of the day.



- 14. **INDEMNITY.** The Coffs Coast Game & Sport Fishing Club accepts no responsibility for actions by entrants in this Tournament and shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to any property or person during the Tournament. In that regard all competitors indemnify the Tournament Director, Tournament Committee, Tournament Coordinators, the Coffs Coast Game & Sport Fishing Club, and all voluntary workers against any claim for loss or damage to property or person.
- 15. **NSW GFA MEDIA POLICY.** All participants in the tournament are reminded to strictly observe the requirements of the NSW GFA Media Policy. Any MEDIA RELEASE, POLICY or any MAJOR ISSUE MUST go through the NSW GFA President. Also, NO INDIVIDUAL ANGLER/MEMBER should approach the media or answer any queries from the media, if approached that person should contact their Club President with the details who will then carry out the requirements of the NSW GFA Media Policy.

FISHING RULES

The 2024 Hot Current Tournament will be fished under the ‘Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations’ of the NSWGFA and GFAA as are in effect at the time. NOTE: Line Class Tag and Release rules also are published by NSWGFA and will apply. Both the time and line class must be listed on the tag card. If there is no time, then the time of tag will be deemed to be at end of fishing or when the last fish is tagged whichever is the latest and if there is no line class listed then the line class will be deemed to be 60kg.

- 1. In addition to the NSWGFA Point Scores, Fishing Rules and Minimum Weights will apply. 1. CAPTURES. Must be accompanied with completed capture certificates to be handed to the Weigh Person at the Weigh Station upon return to Harbour. Points shall be awarded using the current scoring NSWGFA ‘factor’ system.
- 2. MEASURING OF FISH. All competitors must use the Weight/Length curve graph in determining the estimated weight of fish. A copy of the Weight/Length curve graph is included in tournament kit bags.
- 3. NO SHARKS to be weighed with restrictive device on jaws. Sewing up of shark jaws will automatically disqualify capture. No shark will be weighed with a choker in place.
- 4. LINE CLASS TAG AND RELEASE. All tag cards must be completed and handed to the Weigh Person at the Weigh Station immediately on return to Harbour on the day of capture along with a completed Certificate of Capture/Tag and Release as supplied to all entries in the tournament.
- 5. BILLFISH TAGS. Anglers must use the “Billfish Tag” to tag all billfish species. This is the only tag that will be recognized for billfish in this tournament. Billfish tags not to be used for any other species.
- 6. CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY are permitted to be used for live baiting and trolling natural bait whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected. No points will be scored for any species caught while using live baits and/or trolling natural baits with ‘J’ hooks – except in the case of Narrow Barred Mackerel.



less back

CIRCLE HOOK DEFINITION: A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or towards the shank of the hook.

- 7. RELEASING TAGGED FISH. The method to be used for releasing tagged fish – the hook is to be removed or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish.
- 8. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final.
- 9. FOR BLUE MARLIN TAG AND RELEASE PRIZE SECTION VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE MUST BE PROVIDED WITH ITEM OF THE DAY. The tournament committee decision shall be final. Any decision by the Tournament committee to disallow a marlin for this category DOES NOT disqualify the fish from all other point score categories.



8. **DISPOSAL OF FISH.** Unwanted fish may not be left at the Weigh Station but must be taken by captor's boats and sunk at sea outside 30 fathoms. Fish should be disposed of in an appropriate manner. Competitors must not clean or fillet fish or remove shark jaws in the vicinity of the Weigh Station or beaches frequented by the public. No fish can be disposed of in a marine park. Penalties will be imposed for any breaches of these rules.
9. **SALE OF FISH.** Competitors are reminded that it is illegal for recreational or unlicensed anglers to sell their catches. The following rule has been adopted by the Association "That any fish weighed for NSWGFA Trophies shall not be sold. Such fish will be ineligible for any trophies or awards of the Association."
10. **FISH HANDLING.** In the event of any shark or marlin given away for eating, only the fillets may be given and the remaining carcass is the responsibility of the skipper and crew.
11. **BAG LIMITS.** All anglers must obey the current NSW Fisheries laws on bag limits.
12. **KAWA KAWA AND STRIPED TUNA FOR JUNIORS.** These species are eligible for junior point score trophies and prizes but WILL NOT be totalled in any boat point score or boat trophies.
13. **SHARK AND MARLIN MINIMUM WEIGHTS** for Senior Anglers and Junior/Small Fry Minimum Weights:

SENIOR ANGLERS

Marlin: A minimum of 70kg on line classes 4Kg to 10kg and a minimum of 90kg on 15kg line class and over.

Sharks: A minimum of 70kg on line classes 6kg to 10kg, a minimum of 90kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg, and 130kg on 60kg line class.

TIGER SHARKS

Line classes 6-10kg min 120 kg

Line classes 15-24kg min 200 kg

Line classes 37-60kg min 250 kg

BLUE SHARKS

Line classes 6-10kg min 100kg

Line classes 15-24 kg min 125 kg

Line classes 37-60 kg min 150kg

JUNIOR/SMALL FRY ANGLERS TO REMAIN ON THE BELOW MINIMUM WEIGHTS

Yellowfin Tuna: 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line, and for junior anglers equal to the line class in all cases.

Southern Bluefin tuna: 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line, and for junior anglers equal to the line class in all cases.

Marlin: a minimum of 60kg on line classes 4Kg to 10kg and a minimum of 80kg on 15kg line class and over.

Sharks: a minimum of 60kg on line classes 6kg to 10kg, a minimum of 80kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg, and 120kg on 60kg line class.

Other game fish and broadbill: minimum weight to be equal to line class



OPERATIONS

As per NSW GFA Guidelines for Radio Schedules for Tournaments as are in effect at the time.

- 1. COMMUNICATIONS.** 'Tournament Base' will operate on VHF channel 81 from 06:30 hrs (6.30am) until all vessels have returned to port and signed off. Tournament Base will announce "Start Fishing" each morning and will relay latest weather information whenever available. Radio schedules will be conducted every two (2) hours with the first Sched at 09:10 hrs (9.10am) and final Sched at 17:10 hrs (5.10pm) on Friday and Saturday, First Sched on Sunday will be 08:10 hrs (8.10am) with last Sched at 14:10 hrs (2:10pm). If a vessel(s) is still at sea fighting a fish after the last Sched, the base, when it is clear of sign offs should contact the vessel(s) hourly noting their grid position until signed off. Grid maps will be supplied to all vessels to report position on each Sched. Boats are required to log on each day with tournament base providing (i) Boat Number. (ii) Boat Name. (iii) Number of persons on board prior to leaving the Harbour.
- 2. REPORTING PROCEDURES.** On each day, boats will be called in numerical order and will sign on by reporting the following: (i) Boat number (ii) Boat name (iii) Position in reference to grid map (iv) Fishing activity (Traveling, anchored, drifting, trolling) (v) Accurate fishing report using the "0 0 0" system, (i.e. Strikes, Hook-ups and Captures) plus details of species, Tag and Release or Capture (with estimated weight), line class, anglers name and number. If possible, boats are to give Species for Strikes and Hook-ups which are not landed. Tournament Base will acknowledge each Sched by repeating the report so that the competitors will be aware of all reports. Following Sched shall be as above less P.O.B. Last Sched as above but will include E.T.A. (Estimated time arrival in port).
- 3. RADIO SILENCE.** Boats must maintain radio silence for 10 minutes before FINISH FISHING TIME to allow for all reports of late hook-ups. All boats are to sign off with Tournament Base when they enter port at the end of their days fishing before proceeding to their moorings.
- 4. AVOID RADIO CHATTER.** All boats are requested to avoid chatter on tournament frequencies. If competitors wish to talk to each other, please use frequency 27MHz channel 96 and leave the Tournament frequencies clear for safety and/or business only.
- 5. FAILURE TO REPORT ON SCHEDULES.** It is mandatory for all vessels to report on each Sched. Failure to report on two consecutive Schedules or within two hours of the last Sched will activate an emergency procedure. A penalty of 5000 Capture points and 5000 Tag and Release points will be imposed on boats failing to report on two consecutive Schedules unless a satisfactory explanation is given.
- 6. VESSEL RESPONSIBILITY.** (i) Vessels must answer each Sched with the required details. (ii) If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it must return to port and notify radio base of their actions by other means (phone etc). Remember that if two Schedules are not answered the emergency procedure will be activated. (iii) All boats MUST log on before they commence fishing. Any boats not logged on will be deemed to be not fishing.
- 7. WEIGH IN TIME** will be from 17:00 hrs (5.00pm) daily except for Sunday, when the Weigh Station will operate from 14:00 hrs (2.00pm). On the final day, "Cease Fishing" will be called at 14.00 hrs (2.00pm). All boats must have returned to the inner Harbour by 16:00 hrs (4.00pm).
- 8. FISHING AREA:** The fishing area for the tournament is as outlined on the Tournament Sched Map. Northern boundary 29 degrees and 51 minutes Southern boundary 30 degrees and 45 minutes.



PENALTIES

PENALTIES WILL APPLY TO BOTH CAPTURE AND TAG AND RELEASE POINTS for:

1. **BRIEFING:** Non-attendance – loss of 2000 capture and 2000 Tag and Release points.
2. **FISH DISPOSAL:** Failure to dispose of fish carcasses in a manner acceptable, cleaning or dissecting fish in inner Harbour, on beach or nearby – loss of points for the day of 5000 Capture and 5000 Tag and Release points, whichever is greater.
3. **MISCONDUCT:** Penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Committee – (up to disqualification).
4. **SALE OF FISH:** Disqualification from Tournament.
5. **FAILURE TO REPORT** on two consecutive Schedules: loss of 5000 Capture and 5000 Tag and Release points.
6. **FAILURE TO ATTEND OR OBSERVE START REGULATIONS:** Loss of 1000 Capture points and 1000 Tag and Release points (other than genuine reason, at Committee's discretion).
7. **FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE NSW GFA MEDIA POLICY:** loss of 2000 Capture and 2000 Tag and Release points.
8. Notwithstanding the above penalties, the Tournament Committee reserves the right in any circumstance to disqualify any Capture, Tag and Release, Angler, or Boat for disregarding any Tournament Rule or Instruction.

PRESENTATION

At the conclusion of the Tournament on Sunday 4th February 2024, an Award Presentation Dinner will be held at Jetty Beach House commencing at 6.00pm.

At this function the provisional winners will be announced and presented with Tournament Trophy Mementos. Boat Captains/anglers are encouraged to purchase their dinner tickets for themselves and friends when filling out Entry Forms.

All additional Presentation tickets must be paid for no later than 6pm Thursday 1st February: Adult \$60.00, Junior and Small fry \$30.00.

TOURNAMENT RULES ARE BINDING ON ALL COMPETITORS AND OFFICIALS.