

TOURNAMENT RULES

SHELLHARBOUR ANNUAL OPEN TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 13th and 14th 2010

1. Teams

Teams must be comprised of not less 2 anglers for boats up to 7 metres and minimum of 3 anglers for boats above 7 metres. Each boat will be given a number to be used for radio scheds.

2. Entries

Entries can be made by submitting a completed entry form together with the appropriate fees, as listed on the entry form, together with details of current insurance to: **The Secretary Shellharbour GFC, PO Box 4175, Shellharbour 2529.**

Entry forms are to be completed and submitted prior to Friday 5th February 2010 and will be eligible to enter the early entry prize draw. Insurance details for each vessel must also accompany any completed boat entry form. Anglers must be present at the tournament dinner on Saturday 13th February 2010 to qualify for the early entry prize and will have 5 minutes to collect the prize. If the prize is unclaimed in the allocated time the individual's right to claim the prize is forfeited and another name will be drawn until the prize has been claimed. All decisions by the Tournament Committee are FINAL and BINDING.

Late entries will be accepted at the briefing up until 7.30pm, Friday 12th February 2010, subject to a late entry fee of \$100.00 per boat. The Shellharbour Game Fishing Club reserves the right to refuse entry to the tournament.

All registered adult anglers must hold a current NSW fishing licence.

Junior / Small Fry anglers wishing to compete for trophies, other than those dedicated for juniors / small fry are required to pay the full entry fee. Refund of entry fees, other than for reason of bad weather and safety (see below), will not be considered after Friday 5th February 2010.

3. Insurance

Each vessel entered in the tournament is to provide current details of insurance covering third party property damage and third party personal injury cover, over 5 Million Dollars. All insurance details must be current to compete in this tournament.

4. Temporary Membership

Any person who is not a financial member of a club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, IGFA or ANSA will be required to pay a \$35.00 temporary membership fee, in addition to the tournament entry fee \$95.00. Temporary Membership is valid for the duration of the Tournament.

5. Tournament Committee

The committee of the **SHGFC** are the sole adjudicators of all aspects of the Tournament and Rules, and their decision will be final.

6. Venue

The Tournament headquarters will be at the **Shellharbour Workers Club**, Phone number 4296 7155, corner of Shellharbour & Pioneer Roads, with the weigh station at Cowrie Island, positioned next to Shellharbour boat ramp. Taxi Phone number 4229 9311.

7. Briefing and Presentations

The Briefing will be held at the Shellharbour Workers Club at 7.30pm on Friday 12th February 2010. At least one registered tournament angler from each boat must be in attendance at the tournament briefing. Late entries will be accepted from 6.00pm until the start of briefing at 7.30pm. No entries or crew changes will be accepted after start of briefing. Drinks are available at the bar and meals at the Bistro.

Tournament Dinner on Saturday evening in the Macquarie Room at the Shellharbour Workers Club from 7:30pm. Daily awards for Saturday will be presented after dinner followed by a raffle draw.

EXTRA DINNER TICKETS will cost \$35, per person.

Presentation of Trophies will be on Sunday afternoon at the Cowrie Island Shellharbour boat ramp. Presentation will commence at approximately 5.30pm. Other arrangements will be made for the presentation if weather conditions are not suitable at this location.

8. Travelling Boats

Travelling boats must not commence fishing until they are within the tournament boundaries and have contacted Tournament Base to log on. Any fish captured or T&R outside boundaries and fishing times will not be eligible in this tournament. **Please read radio schedule and fishing times for more information.**

9. Tournament Fishing Boundaries

Northern: East of Stanwell Park

Southern: East of Ulladulla harbour entrance

Western: Jervis Bay headlands

10. Fishing Times

Saturday 13th February 2010, 6am to 5pm

Sunday 14th February 2010, 6am to 3pm

Any fish hooked and notified to Tournament Base before finish of fishing (5pm) on Saturday may be played out after time and the weigh station will remain open until the last capture is presented. On Sunday any fish hooked and notified to Tournament Base before finish of fishing (3pm) may be played out after time but must be at the weigh station by 4.30pm to be eligible for tournament pointscore. This means that any boats with tag cards and/or captures for weigh-in, must be **inside Shellharbour harbour**, or if travelling by road, any registered angler aboard the claimant vessel on that day must present with tag cards or captures for weigh in at the **weigh station**, by 4:30pm sharp. Should there be congestion on the actual boat ramp awaiting vehicles with capture will be accepted provided they are within sight of the weighmaster from the weigh station location at 4.30pm sharp. Late fish may still be weighed at the discretion of the weighmaster but will **NOT** be eligible for tournament pointscore/prizes, **but may still be eligible for club or zone pointscore as per usual fishing rules / finish times.**

11. Weigh Station Times and Procedures

Saturday, 4pm until all boats return

Sunday, 2pm to 4:30pm

Captured fish and Tag & Release cards may be brought to the weigh station by land or sea along with equipment used for inspection and measurement. Capture details and tag and release cards must be presented to the weigh master along with completed capture and tag & release documentation daily. Capture books can be purchased for \$25. All tackle and equipment, including gaffs and tail ropes, used to effect the capture must also be presented for examination by the Tournament Judge. No sharks are to be weighed with restrictive devices on jaws. Sewing up of shark jaws shall automatically disqualify the capture. Fish that have been weighed must be removed from the weigh station area by the angler / boat. Failure to comply with these rules will cause that capture to be disqualified from the tournament. The cleaning of fish or the removal of jaws, bills or other trophy items is forbidden within site of the weigh station. Unwanted carcasses are to be taken **two nautical miles eastward of Bass Point** and cut open before being disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Note: MARINE PARKS ~ No fish is to be disposed of within NSW Marine Parks. Please be aware of any restrictions within Marine Parks

Please note that there are heavy fines for disposing of fish in any harbour.

Failure to comply will result in total disqualification from the tournament and no refunds will be granted.

12. Replacement of Boats and Anglers

Boats and anglers may not be replaced after 7.30pm on Friday 12th February unless by special application to the Tournament Committee. Anglers and crew of one boat may not assist the capture or tagging of a fish on another boat. Captured fish must be returned to port on the boat affecting the capture and may not be transferred to another boat before arriving at the port.

13. Safety

All vessels fishing the Tournament must be equipped with safety gear complying with the NSW Waterways regulations in force at the time. It is also advisable that an adequate (2 days) supply of food and water be carried on board.

SHELLHARBOUR GAME FISHING CLUB INC. SHALL ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ACCIDENT OR INJURY/DEATH OCCASIONED DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

14. Fishing Rules

The Tournament will be fished under the "Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations" of the NSWGFA & GFAA as are in effect at the time. This includes bag limits and requirements made enforceable by Fisheries. In addition, the NSW GFA pointscore Fishing Rules and Minimum weights shall apply

The competition is open to teams comprised of anglers who are financial members of any club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, IGFA or ANSA. In the case of any tie on points the decision will go to the first achievement of accumulated points, based on time. If no time is recorded it will be deemed to be caught 5pm Saturday and 3pm Sunday unless known to have been caught later.

Line Classes

4kg, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg, 60kg

Multi-filament lines cannot be used in this Tournament

Minimum Weights

Marlin must weigh a minimum of 60kg on line classes to 10kg and a minimum of 80kg on 15kg line class and over.

Yellow-Fin Tuna must weigh 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg, equal to line class for line classes over 15kg, and for Junior Anglers equal to line class in all cases.

Sharks must weigh a minimum of 60kg on line classes up to 10kg and a minimum of 80kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg, and a minimum of 120kg on 60kg line class.

Other Game Fish must weigh at least equal to the line class used.

Captures

Points shall be awarded using the current NSWGFA scoring "factor" system.

Points = Weight of fish in kg² x Factor

Line Class in kg

Factor	29.5	19.5	14.8	11.5	7.5	4.6	3.0	1.7
Line Class	4kg	6kg	8kg	10kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg

Points for Marlin and Broadbill captures to be **DOUBLE** the points as calculated from above. Points for Other Game Fish captures to be **TREBLE** the points as calculated for above.

Points for Shark (other than Blue Shark) to be **HALF** the points calculated from above.

Blue Sharks shall score **QUARTER** points calculated from above.

Tag and Release Rules

All Billfish **MUST** be tagged with the Billfish Tag. This is the only tag that will be recognised for Billfish in any tournament, competition, pointscore or trophy. **The Billfish Tag is for Billfish only pointscore (no other species)**

Tag and Release Guidelines

The Tag needle must not protrude more than 50mm from the end of the tag pole or tag holding device, nor shall it exceed 5mm in external diameter except for the NSW Fisheries "Billfish Only" tag. This needle must not protrude more than 76mm from the end of the tag pole or tag holding device, nor shall it exceed 8mm in diameter.

Tag and Release points shall be awarded for the species listed below and the GFAA / NSWGFA Rules and Tackle Regulations must be observed in order to be eligible.

NSWGFA Tag & Release POINTSCORE ~ EFFECTIVE 1ST August 2009

NSW T & R Species listing	Base Points	4-10kg Base+25%	15kg Base+15%	24kg BASE	37kg Base-15%	60kg Base-25%
Billfish						
Black Marlin	10,000	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Blue Marlin	10,000	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Striped Marlin	10,000	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Broadbill Swordfish	10,000	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Sailfish	5,000	6,250	5,750	5,000	4,250	3,750
Shortbill Spearfish	5,000	6,250	5,750	5,000	4,250	3,750
Sharks (minimum 100cm)						
Blue Shark	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Hammerhead	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Mako	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Porbeagle	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Thresher	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Tiger	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Whalers (all)	2,000	2,500	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,500
Tuna						
Albacore	500	625	575	500	425	375
Longtail	500	625	575	500	425	375
Bigeye	1,000	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Dogtooth	1,000	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Bluefin & Southern Bluefin	1,000	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Yellowfin	1,000	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Other Game Fish						
Spanish Mackerel	500	625	575	500	425	375
Wahoo	500	625	575	500	425	375
Yellowtail Kingfish	250	310	290	250	210	190
Barracuda	25	31	29	25	21	19
Cobia	25	31	29	25	21	19
Mahi Mahi	25	31	29	25	21	19
Junior angler points only						
Mackerel (Kawa Kawa)	10	13	12	10	9	8
Skipjack (Striped Tuna)	10	13	12	10	9	8

* **Note:** Mahi Mahi & Yellowtail Kingfish – maximum of 5 fish per person per day with a maximum of 10 per boat per day, each species.

** **Note:** Striped Tuna & Mack Tuna (Kawa Kawa) are eligible for JUNIOR / SMALL FRY **personal point score only**.

*** **Note:** Minimum length for Yellowtail Kingfish is 70cm

**** **Note:** Minimum length for Sharks is 100cm

Live Baiting

*** Circle hooks **ONLY**, are to be used for live baiting with the exemption of Narrow Barred Mackerel.

NB: No points to be scored for any other species caught using live baits with "j" hooks.

Maximum Points Limit

All Capture on Line Classes up to and including 10kg shall score a maximum of 15,000 points PLUS one point per kg of the fish weight. All Captures on line classes 15kg and over shall score a Maximum of 20,000 points PLUS one point per kg of the fish weight.

15. The Process for Disqualification

There must be a meeting of the Committee to discuss the proposal to disqualify the Capture / Tag & Release. The skipper whose **Fish** or **Shark** is proposed to be disqualified will be advised **one hour (1)** prior to the meeting of the Committee and have the right to present his or her case at that meeting.

16. Capture / Tag & Release Recording

Capture or Tag & Release returns **MUST** be completed and correct in all details prior to arriving at the weigh station. This includes the time of Capture or Tag and Release. Trophies will be awarded on the basis of the information given. Failure to record the time of Capture or Tag and Release on the return paperwork will result in the time being set at the end of fishing for the day and / or if no line class is listed the fish will be deemed to be tagged / captured on 60kg line. *** Verification of Capture or Tag & Release will be notified to your club by mail ASAP.

17. Non-registered Anglers

Any person who is not registered in the tournament must not assist in the Capture or Tag of any eligible species. Note that driving a boat is considered as assistance. Failure to comply will result in the disqualification of the fish.

18. Trophy Limit

A single fish, Capture or Tag & Release, will be included in a maximum of 3 winning categories only. The primary category will be determined by the Tournament Committee. The choice of the 3rd category will be offered to the Skipper/Crew concerned. That fish will then be removed from any remaining eligible categories.

19. Tag & Release Angler scoring highest number of points other Game Fish.

Tag & Release highest points other game fish by angler, will be won by the angler who accumulates the greatest number of points first, by time, of any species being targeted.

20. Radio Schedules

All Schedules will be via VHF channel 72. Boats without VHF will be required to relay over 27 MHz channel 94 with the following information as listed. Radio schedules will be conducted in accordance with the adopted "NSWGFA Guidelines for Radio Schedules for Tournaments" All competing vessels must be equipped with a serviceable VHF or 27MHz radio with at least channels 27.88, 27.94 & 27.96. "Tournament Base" will conduct radio schedules at 2 hourly intervals commencing at 8.10am on VHF. Tournament Base will also monitor channel 27 MHz radio and continue to operate both days until all vessels return to port or operations are handed over to the Volunteer Coast Guard. When responding to schedule calls from tournament base, teams are to give their team number followed by the vessel name and position from the grid map provided and their status. Vessels must sign on when leaving port or on the first schedule and sign off when entering port at the end of fishing. Vessels failing to do so may be disqualified for all or part of the tournament at the Committee's discretion. Reporting is to be by the three zero method (strikes, hook ups and captures) along with species, estimated weights*, line class and angler.

****** NOTE: ALL REPORTED CAPTURES MUST INCLUDE AN ACCURATE WEIGHT BASED ON MEASUREMENTS AS PER 2009 GFAA JOURNAL OR ESTIMATED WITHIN 20% OF ACTUAL WEIGHT ******
INCORRECTLY REPORTED CAPTURES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT

The reporting of a Tag & Released Marlin, which is eligible for the 1st Tag & Release Marlin section, must be reported to Tournament Base immediately upon the fish being tagged. **Reporting of all subsequent captures and tag & release to be done only during schedules, except for late hook ups after the 4.10pm schedule.**

Any boat experiencing a breakdown of radio communication is to immediately contact another boat in the vicinity, have them advise Tournament Base of the problem and return to nearest port for repairs. Please note it is now an offence by NSW law for a vessel to be more than 3 miles to sea without an operating radio. Any vessel failing to contact Tournament Base on two consecutive schedules will automatically activate a search by the relevant statutory authorities at the boat owner's expense.

21. Bad Weather and Safety

In the event of having unsatisfactory weather the tournament dinner and raffle will continue on the Saturday. If fishing times cannot be met in accordance with this tournament for **both** days a partial refund of the entry fee, \$50 senior and \$20 for junior / small fry will be granted.

A declaration of a Gale Warning by the appropriate government weather authority will automatically require the cancellation of the tournament. In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to cease fishing immediately and return to port. Any Captures / Tags effected prior to the cancellation of the tournament will be eligible for the tournament. It is the responsibility of the skipper and crew to decide whether to put to sea with regard to the weather conditions and the ability of the boat and crew to handle those conditions. Safety equipment as laid down by the NSW Waterways Authority regulations must be carried. The Shellharbour Game Fishing Club and the Committee accepts no responsibility or liability for the safety or conduct of competing anglers, loss or damage to any person, property boats and equipment, or personal injury or death at any time during the tournament.

22. Penalties

Breaches of these tournament rules, or rules & equipment regulations of GFAA & NSWGFA, shall result in loss of points and prizes or disqualification from the tournament as determined by the tournament committee.

23. Protests

Protests must be made in writing and presented to the Tournament Committee no later than 5.00pm Sunday 14th February 2010.