



**Exmouth Game Fishing Club
Tournament Rules & Regulations
Exmouth Heavy Tackle Tournament 2023**

1. Regulations: All Exmouth Game Fishing Club (EGFC) tournaments will be fished within current Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA), Western Australia Game Fishing Association (WAGFA), WA Department of Transport, WA Department of Environment and Conservation, and WA Department of Fisheries rules and regulations.

2. Membership: All anglers must be a current member of Exmouth Game Fishing Club or a club affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia or International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) on registration. Failure to do so will require the angler to join EGFC.

3. Participation & Registration: Only registered anglers may participate in any act which directly contributes to the capture or tag of a fish during the tournament. They are, driving the boat, gaffing fish, tagging fish, running out lines, retrieving lines, clearing teasers or taking the leader. Anglers will fish only from the boat on which they registered. Permission to change boats once registered in the tournament must be applied for in writing to the EGFC Committee and each request will be adjudged on its merits. The Committee will meet ASAP after receipt of such application. The Committee's decision is final.

At least one member of each registered team must attend the Tournament Briefing which will begin at 6:00pm, Thursday December 7th.

4. Fishing Area: All fishing is to be conducted outside the 250m depth contour line. All Tournament competitors must fish within 60 nautical miles of the EGFC Clubhouse, with a minimum of two competitors on board.

5. Fishing Times: Lines in is 8am on all days. Lines out will be 5pm on Friday December 8th and Saturday December 9th, and 3pm on Sunday December 10th.

Lines for collecting bait may be fished before lines in each day, however, no line is to be in the water from 15 minutes prior to lines in, including bait jigs and teasers.

A radio call will be made at 15 minutes to lines out. At this time any vessel that is hooked up, or hooks up before lines out, must notify Heavy Tackle Radio Base and be acknowledged.

A boat may continue to fight a fish after lines out if they have notified Heavy Tackle Radio Base. All other boats are to observe radio silence during the last 15 minutes of lines in.

6. Communications: All boats must be fitted with an operational VHF radio system and are required to log on and off with Heavy Tackle Radio Base on each day of the tournament.

Tournament radio coverage will be exclusively VHF channel 21. A non-functional radio must be repaired before the affected vessel goes to sea the following day. Vessels failing to comply will be disqualified for that day.

7. Tag & Release Digital Catch Reporting: The 2023 Exmouth Heavy Tackle Tournament will use the Track My Fish for Tournaments phone app for all tag & release catch reporting. The Track My Fish app can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App Store, and competitors are advised to download the app prior to the Tournament Briefing night. All teams must log tagged fish on the Track My Fish app as soon as possible after the catch is completed for tournament points to apply.

Once the tagged fish is logged on the Track My Fish app, teams are required to announce the tagged fish to the tournament Radio Base reporting species, angler and line class only. Teams have up to 15 minutes post-capture to report a tagged fish to Heavy Tackle Radio Base.

Each boat will be asked to give their daily sked of billfish raised, hooked and tagged over the radio at the end of each day when logging off.

Training on how to use the Track My Fish app will be provided at the Tournament Briefing, and instruction manuals can be found at www.egfc.com.au.

8. Tag Cards: Tag cards, FULLY COMPLETED, must be lodged with the Weigh Master ON THE DAY OF TAGGING during the official weigh-in times (6pm-8pm on Friday and Saturday, and 5pm-7pm on Sunday).

All tag cards must lodged with the Weigh Master by tournament close 7pm Sunday December 10th. Failure to lodge all tag cards by close of tournament will result in disqualification.

One member of the team, or a representative, must sign a capture receipt at the recorders station at the time any tag card is lodged.

Billfish are to be tagged with NSW DPI tags only. No other tags will be accepted.

Tags are available from EGFC Weigh Master on the Briefing Night and during weigh-in times.

9. Lines: Only 37kg & 60kg line classes may be used.

All fish must be claimed on the line class on which they were captured. Backing can be used of an undetermined breaking strain in braid, dacron or monofilament.

If backing is used, a minimum topshot of 16 metres of IGFA rated line class topshot must be used (for record claim purposes, 16m continuous, single line is required).

Random gear checks will be conducted throughout the tournament.

10. Weigh-In: Fish may only be weighed at the official Weigh Station at the EGFC clubhouse during the weigh-in times of 6pm-8pm on Friday and Saturday, and 5pm-7pm on Sunday unless otherwise arranged with the tournament Weigh Master under exceptional circumstances only.

Weigh Station staff will input details of weighed fish onto the Track My Fish app for tournament points to apply.

Fish entered for the Heaviest Yellowfin tuna and Heaviest Other Pelagic Species sections do not need to meet minimum size of the line class used.

All fish must be presented at the Weigh Station on the day of capture. Fish must be in an edible condition or will be disqualified by the Weigh Master. Frozen or mutilated fish will not be weighed.

Anglers must present the fish, together with the rod and reel, at least 16m of line, and any double, leader, lure or hook arrangement used in the capture. All tackle must be removed from the fish by the angler before weighing.

The angler or a witness must sign the capture receipt at the recorder's station.

11. Tournament Sections: Tournament sections for the 2023 Exmouth Heavy Tackle Tournament are as follow -

- Champion Boat Overall (Highest Point Score)
- Runner-Up Champion Boat
- Most Tagged Blue Marlin
- Heaviest Weighed Marlin over 500 pounds, or minimum 288cm short length
- Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna
- Heaviest Other Pelagic Species Weighed Overall (non-billfish, non-shark)
- Heaviest Other Pelagic Species Weighed Day 1 (non-billfish, non-shark)
- Heaviest Other Pelagic Species Weighed Day 2 (non-billfish, non-shark)
- Heaviest Other Pelagic Species Weighed Day 3 (non-billfish, non-shark)
- Highest Point Score Boat Day 1
- Highest Point Score Boat Day 2
- Highest Point Score Boat Day 3
- First Marlin Tagged Daily
- Last Marlin Tagged Daily
- Most Meritorious Capture
- Best Dressed Team

Prize packages for each tournament section can be viewed on the EGFC website or Exmouth Heavy Tackle Tournament Facebook page.

12. Point Score: Champion and Runner-Up Boat Overall and Highest Point Score Boat each day winners will be decided by:

a) Boat with the highest total of Tag and Release points.

b) In the event of a tie, the boat achieving the points first according to time of tag.

Points will be awarded as follows:

SPECIES	POINTS
Blue Marlin	700 points each tagged or captured
Black & Striped Marlin	500 points each tagged or captured

Points will be awarded for any weighed marlin that reaches the minimum requirement of >500lbs or 288cm short length.

No points will be awarded for sailfish, spearfish or broadbill swordfish.

Most Meritorious Capture winner will be decided by the EGFC committee.

13. Protests: A verbal intention to protest must be made to the Weigh Master as soon as possible by the protestor. This is to enable the Weigh Master to preserve any evidence that may be needed by the Committee if the fish/ tag card is presented before the protestor can attend the Weigh Station.

All protests must be lodged with the Weigh Master in writing with a \$100 deposit which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

Protests must be lodged before the close of weigh-in on the day the fish was weighed or the tag card presented. No further protests will be accepted after completion of the weigh-in on the final day.

The Committee will consider all protests as soon as possible after receipt. The Committee's decision is final and the affected parties will be notified ASAP.

14. Sanctuary Zones & Exclusion Zones: If a competitor is charged by Fisheries WA or the Department of Biodiversity, Attractions and Conservation Parks & Wildlife with fishing in a sanctuary zone and/or sighted by a fellow competitor, tournament official or EGFC member fishing in a sanctuary zone, they will be disqualified from the competition for that day. If a competitor is sighted fishing within an oil & gas exclusion zone (500m radius of any offshore oil & gas structure), they will be disqualified from the competition for that day. No other protests relating to sanctuary zones and exclusion zones will be heard.

15. Conduct: All competitors will participate in a sporting manner and embrace the ethics of game fishing. All fish offal must be disposed of appropriately or returned to the ocean. The Committee reserves the right to penalise any team or angler by deduction of points or disqualification for part of, or the whole, tournament for conduct they consider detrimental to the competition or the EGFC.

16. Weather: Please refer to the EGFC weather policy for clarification on cancellation due to weather. This can be found on our website www.egfc.com.au.

Team skippers will be notified by text message and radio announcement of daily cancellations or suspension due to weather. However, each team's safety at sea remains the responsibility of the team skipper, regardless of weather forecast or tournament activities. In the event that a cyclone approaches the Exmouth area during the tournament, all fishing will be suspended once a 'Yellow Alert' has been declared or winds forecast exceed 26 knots. Fishing will recommence once the 'All Clear' has been given, provided sea conditions are deemed fishable by the EGFC committee. If no further fishing is possible, the leading boats/anglers at the time of the Yellow Alert will be declared the winners at the committee's discretion. The EGFC advises all competitors to have appropriate insurance for the event, including travel, accident and boat. This is the responsibility of the skipper and team, not the EGFC.

17. Disclaimer: The EGFC committee reserves the right to change any rule, regulation or section which it believes will enhance the Tournament.

The EGFC takes no responsibility for loss or damage to competitor's person, personal effects or vessel and competitors fish the tournament at their own risk.



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