



Exmouth Game Fishing Club
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AIBT Tournament Rules & Regulations (last updated 10.03.17)

12th - 15th March 2017. Proudly hosted by Exmouth Game Fishing Club.

- 1. Regulations:** AIBT 2017 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 on registration. Failure to do so will require angler to join EGFC.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Fishing area:** All Tournament competitors must fish within 60 nautical miles of the EGFC Clubhouse, from a boat at sea, with a minimum of two anglers on board. All other safety requirements apply.
- 5. Lines:** 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. IT MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 5 METRES IGFA RATED LINE CLASS TOPSHOT. (For record purposes 16m continuous of your line/backing including the 5m of IGFA line is required). Note: Any fish brought in for a record will not count towards the tagging points for this event.
- 6. Points** will be awarded as follows across all line classes:

T&R Marlin/Broadbill 500 points
T&R Sailfish/Spearfish 400 points

There are 3 separate line class sections:

1kg-10kg line class has no depth restrictions
15kg-24kg line class must fish outside the 100 meter contour line
37kg-60kg line class must fish outside the 250 meter contour line

Teams may fish in any line class or across multiple line classes

7. Awards:

Champion Team Overall - E.W Palmer Trophy
Champion Team Runner up - Moreton Bay Trophy
Champion Angler - Mal Ramsay Trophy
Champion Team T&R 1kg-10kg
Champion Team T&R 15kg-24kg
Champion Team T&R 37kg-60kg

8. Tag and Release: This is a Tag & Release Billfish only tournament.

All details of tagged fish, ie. species, estimated weight, angler's name, boat name, line class, and time of tagging, must be logged with Radio Base as soon as possible after release.

Sked sheets will be provided for each team in their tournament bag to record billfish raised, hooked and tagged. Each boat will be asked to give their daily sked at time of log off.

Tag cards, FULLY COMPLETED, must be lodged with the weigh-master during the official weigh-in times on the day of tagging unless otherwise arranged with the tournament weigh-master. Latitude and longitude must be accurate to degrees and minutes or two decimal places. One member of the team, or a representative, must sign the capture receipt at the recorders station.

Billfish are to be tagged with NSW DPI tags. These tags have an orange tag card. No other tags will be accepted and these tags are available from EGFC.

9. Section winners will be decided by:

- a) Boat/Angler with the highest total of Tag and Release points.
- b) In the event of a tie on points the Boat/Angler with the lowest average line class.
- c) If still tied the Boat/Angler achieving the points first according to the time of TAGGING logged with Radio Base.

10. Live Bait: When live bait fishing for billfish, anglers cannot use off-set circle hooks or J hooks. In line circle hooks are to be used.

11. Exmouth Gulf Tag and Release limits: Billfish can only be tagged on 1kg to 10kg inclusive line classes to accrue points if tagged inside Exmouth Gulf.

Exmouth Gulf: All waters south and east of a line drawn from North West Cape to SW tip of South Muiron Is. to NW tip of South Muiron Is. to SW tip of North Muiron Is. to NW tip of North Muiron Is. to Peak Is. to Observation Is. to Tubridgi Point.

12. Juniors: A Junior Angler is a person who has not attained the age of 16 years prior to the commencement of the tournament.

13. Communications: All boats must be fitted with an operational VHF radio system and are required to log on and off each day of the tournament. Tournament radio coverage will be exclusively VHF. 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.

14. Fishing Times:

8am - 4pm Monday and Tuesday	Gantry hours 5pm-7pm
8am-3pm Wednesday	Gantry hours 4pm-6pm
Presentation 7pm Wednesday	

No line is to be in the water 15mins 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 Radio Base and be acknowledged. A boat may continue to fight a fish after lines out if they have notified Radio Base. Weigh-in time restrictions still apply. All other boats are to observe radio silence during the last 15 minutes of lines in.

15. 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 gantry. 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 at which the fish was weighed or 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.

16. **Sanctuary zones:** If a competitor is charged by Fisheries WA or DEC with fishing in a sanctuary zone they will be disqualified from the competition for that day. No other protests relating to sanctuary zones will be heard.

17. **Boat Auction:** Champion Boat Tag and Release Billfish.

The winner will be the person that purchases the boat that achieves the highest tag and release billfish points score based on the following formula:

- Marlin/Broadbill - 500 points
- Sailfish/Spearfish - 400 points

In the event of a tie on points, the boat with the lowest average line class will be declared the winner.

If still tied, the boat achieving the tags first, according to the time of TAGGING logged with Radio Base, will be declared the winner.

The winner of each Boat Auction division will receive 50% of the Boat Auction pool. The runner-up will receive 30%. EGFC will retain 20%.

Boat auction monies will not be refunded after the hammer falls. All boats are bought on an as is basis.

Boat Auction buyers will be asked to sign for the amount reached at auction immediately after the hammer falls and must pay the money owing prior to the commencement of the event.

18. **Conduct:** All competitors will participate in a sporting manner and embrace the ethics of game fishing. All Billfish and Gamefish offal must be returned to the ocean. The Committee reserves the right to penalise any Boat 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.

19. **Cyclones:** In the event that a cyclone approaches the Exmouth area during the AIBT tournament all fishing will be suspended once a "Yellow Alert" has been declared. Fishing will recommence once the "All Clear" has been given, provided sea conditions are deemed fishable by the committee. If no further fishing is possible the leading boats/anglers at the time of the Yellow Alert will be declared the winners.

Please refer to our wind policy on our website, in case of cancellation.

EGFC advise all competitors to have appropriate insurance for the event, including travel, accident and boat. This is the responsibility of the skipper and team, not EGFC Inc.

20. **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.