

Exmouth Game Fishing Club Tournament Rules and Regulations

Woodside Australian Junior Billfish Tournament

1. Regulations: All EGFC sanctioned tournaments will be fished within current Game Fishing Association of Australia, WA Department of Transport 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. Participation: Only registered anglers may fight a fish during the tournament. Anglers will fish only from the boat on which they registered. Only GFAA members may participate in any act which directly contributes to the tag and release of a fish during the tournament. They are, driving the boat, tagging fish, running out lines, retrieving lines, clearing teasers or taking the leader. These participants must be registered on the entry form. Each team must have a minimum of two participants.

4. Fishing area: All Tournament competitors must fish within 60 nautical miles of the EGFC Clubhouse.

5. Fishing times: Lines in is 8am-4pm both days. The best two out of the tournament schedule of three possible days of fishing will be determined via the current forecast and announced at the Briefing Night. All anglers and at least one crew member from each team must attend the Briefing Night.

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 fifteen 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. All other boats are to observe radio silence during the last 15 minutes of lines in.

Tag cards must be presented on day of capture at the weigh station by close of weigh in times.

6. Lines: 24kg is the heaviest line class that may be used. All competitors are to use IGFA pre-tested monofilament or braid only.

7. Juniors & Small Fry: A Junior Angler is a person who has not attained the age of 16 years prior to the commencement of the tournament. A Small Fry Angler is a person who has not attained the age of 11 years prior to the commencement of the tournament.

8. Tag and Release: All details of tagged fish, i.e. 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. Tag numbers are not to be logged with Radio Base. Each boat will be asked to give their daily sked at time of log off, consisting of billfish raised, hooked and tagged.

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 under exceptional circumstances only. The angler and a witness to the tagging 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 and are available from the EGFC. No other tags will be accepted.

9. Winners: Section winners will be decided by:

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

Points will be awarded as follows:

T&R Sailfish/Spearfish 1-24kg line 400pts

T&R Marlin/Broadbill 1-24kg line 500pts

10. Live Bait: When fishing natural baits (either dead or live) for billfish, anglers cannot use J hooks or offset circle hooks. In-line circle hooks only are to be used. J hooks are still permitted when fishing lures for billfish.

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 is defined as all waters south and east of a line drawn from North West Cape to the south-west tip of South Muiron Island, to the north-west tip of South Muiron Island, to the south-west tip of North Muiron Island, to the north-west tip of North Muiron Island, to Peak Island, to Observation Island and to Tubridgi Point.

12. 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 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.

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 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 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 team is charged by Fisheries WA or the Department of Biodiversity, Attractions and Conservation Parks & Wildlife with fishing in a sanctuary zone, they will be disqualified from the competition for that day.

If a team 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 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.

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 Communication will be essential for this event and anglers notified by radio daily.

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.