



Exmouth Game Fishing Club Tournament Rules and Regulations

Woodside Australian Junior Billfish Tournament

1. Regulations: All EGFC tournaments must be fished within WA Department of Transport and WA Department of Fisheries rules and regulations.

2. Membership: The Woodside Australian Junior Billfish Tournament is a non-sanctioned event so anglers and crew are not required to be a current member of the Exmouth Game Fishing Club or a club affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia.

3. Participation: Only registered anglers may fight a fish during the tournament. Anglers will fish only from the boat on which they registered. 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: The tournament will take place over the best two out of the tournament schedule of three possible days of fishing which will be determined via the current weather forecast and announced at the Briefing Night.

Lines in/out are scheduled as 8am-4pm both days, however, these times may altered to align fishing with the best possible weather. Therefore, fishing times will be confirmed at the tournament 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. Any vessel that is hooked up, or hooks up within 15 minutes 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.

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

6. Lines: The Woodside Australian Junior Billfish Tournament is a non-sanctioned event so there is no restriction on type or class of line that may be used.

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. Free Release: The Woodside Australian Junior Billfish Tournament is a catch and release tournament.

Any billfish hooked will be deemed caught and eligible for tournament points when the leader is touched by any registered member of the crew.

Following the release, the team must complete a Measure & Release Card (as issued by the EGFC Weigh Master) to record full details of the catch and release, and register the catch with tournament Radio Base as soon as possible after release.

Fully completed Measure & Release Cards must be lodged with the Weigh Master on the day of capture during the official weigh-in times unless otherwise arranged with the Weigh Master under extraordinary circumstances only. The angler and a witness to the tagging must sign the capture receipt at the recorders station.

If teams fail to return fully completed Measure & Release Cards for any catches by the end of official weigh in-times on the last day of the tournament, those catches will automatically be disqualified.

9. Winners: Section winners will be decided by:

a) Team with the highest total of points;

b) In the event of a tie, the Team achieving the points first according to the time of release logged with Radio Base.

Points will be awarded as follows:

Sailfish/Spearfish - 400pts

Marlin/Broadbill - 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. 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 sighted fishing in a sanctuary zone and/or 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.