

Exmouth Game Fishing Club

Tournament Rules and Regulations

Billfish Bonanza 2018

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. Participation & Registration: All anglers/participants 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.

Only registered anglers may fight a fish during the tournament. Anglers will fish only from the boat on which they registered.

Only GFAA affiliated 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.

At least one member of each registered team must attend the Tournament Briefing which will begin at 6:30pm, Thursday October 25th.

4. Fishing Area: All Tournament competitors must fish within 60 nautical miles of the EGFC Clubhouse, with a minimum of two anglers on board.

5. Fishing Times: Lines in is 8am on all days. Lines out will be 5pm on Friday and Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. 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 prior to close of gantry on the day the fish is caught. Gantry times are 6pm-8pm on Friday and Saturday, and 5pm-7pm on Sunday.

6. 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.

If backing is used, the mainline must be 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).

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. Pro & Amateur Sections: A Pro team will be deemed as any team skippered by a professional charter operator.

Any team not skippered by a professional charter operator will be deemed an Amateur team, but can elect to nominate as a Pro team.

A team may only enter either the Pro or Amateur sections, but both Pro and Amateur teams are eligible to and automatically entered into the Overall sections.

9. Special Release Conditions: All billfish caught inside Exmouth Gulf (see Exmouth Gulf limits, section 11) shall be 'free released' without the need to place a tag.

All billfish caught outside Exmouth Gulf must be tagged using NSW DPI Gamefish Tagging Program tags, as per standing GFAA regulations.

These special release conditions are being conducted on a trial basis and as such, stand for the 2018 Billfish Bonanza only.

10. Free Release:

Any billfish hooked within Exmouth Gulf waters 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 GFAA Measure & Release Card (as issued by the EGFC Weigh Master) to record full details of the catch and release.

All details of caught fish, i.e. species, length, estimated weight, angler's name, boat name, line class, and time of release, 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.

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

11. Exmouth Gulf Free Release Limits: Billfish can only be tagged on 1kg to 10kg inclusive line classes to accrue points if caught 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 to Tubridgi Point.

12. Tag and Release: Any billfish caught outside Exmouth Gulf must be tagged using NSW DPI Gamefish Tagging Program tags (as issued by the EGFC Weigh Master), as per standing GFAA regulations.

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.

Fully completed tag cards must be lodged with the Weigh Master during the official weigh-in times on the day of tagging unless otherwise arranged with the Weigh Master. The angler and a witness to the tagging must sign the capture receipt at the recorders station.

13. Point Scoring: This is a catch and release only event for billfish species. Points will be allocated as follows:

T&R Sailfish/Spearfish 1-15kg line 400pts 24-60kg line 200pts

T&R Marlin/Broadbill 1-15kg line 500pts 24-60kg line 400pts

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.

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

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Sanctuary Zones: If a competitor is charged by Fisheries WA or Parks & Wildlife 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.

18. Conduct: All competitors will participate in a sporting manner and embrace the ethics of game fishing. All fish 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. 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 will be notified by radio daily.

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.



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