



# Exmouth Game Fishing Club Tournament Rules & Regulations Masters Tournament

*Last updated 26-8-2020*

**1. Regulations:** All 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:** As the Masters Tournament is a non-sanctioned event, competitors 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 on registration.

**3. Competing Anglers:** All anglers competing in the Masters Tournament must be 50 years of age or older. There are no age restrictions on crew members.

**4. Registration:** Only registered anglers or crew members may participate in any act which directly contributes to the capture or tag of a fish during the tournament. These include 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.

**5. 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 participants on board. All other safety requirements apply.

**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. 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).

**7. Weigh-In:** Gamefish (excluding billfish or sharks which are not eligible for weigh-in points) may only be weighed at the official weigh-in gantry during the times stated in the program.

Fish must be presented at the gantry on the day of capture unless otherwise arranged with the tournament Weigh Master. Fish must be in an edible condition or will be disqualified by the Weigh Master. Frozen 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 by the angler before weighing. The angler or a witness must sign the capture receipt at the recorders station. Fish will not be accepted for the tournament after the close of weigh-in on the final day.

**8. Tag and Release:** All details of tagged fish, i.e. species, estimated weight, angler's name, boat name and line class, 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.

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 due to extenuating circumstances.

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. Tag and Release Sections:** Tag and Release 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.

Points will be awarded as follows:

T&R Sailfish/Spearfish: 1-10kg line	500pts	15-24kg line	400pts	37-60kg line	300pts
T&R Marlin/Swordfish: 1-10kg line	600pts	15-24kg line	500pts	37-60kg line	400pts

Points accrued for tag & release sections are per tag, not per line class.

**10. Heaviest Other Gamefish Section:** Other gamefish include all GFAA recognised gamefish species, other than billfish or shark.

The winner of this section will be the largest fish weighed in. In the event of a tie on weight, the fish caught on the lowest line class will be declared the winning capture.

**11. Marlin Point Score:** Black, Blue and Striped Marlin will be considered one single species for point scoring purposes for Champion Team and Champion Angler sections.

**12. Hooks for Billfish:** 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.

**13. 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.

For the purposes of this tournament, 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, the north-west tip of South Muiron Island to south-west tip of North Muiron Island, the north-west tip of North Muiron Island to Peak Island, Peak Island to Observation Island and Observation Island to Tubridgi Point.

**14. 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.

**15. Lines in and out:** Lines in and out will be as printed in the tournament handout and notified at the briefing.

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 15mins 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.

**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 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.

**17. 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, 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.

**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 tournament, all fishing will be suspended once a "Yellow Alert" has been declared or winds forecast exceed 26knots. 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 at the committee's discretion. 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.

**20. Cancellation:** Please refer to our weather matrix for possible daily cancellations. Please see our cancellation policy for further details via our website: [www.egfc.com.au](http://www.egfc.com.au)

**21. Terms and Conditions:** Please refer to our terms and conditions for the event located on our website: [www.egfc.com.au](http://www.egfc.com.au)

**22. 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.