

Exmouth Game Fishing Club

Tournament Rules and Regulations

Sailfish Shootout

1. Regulations: All EGFC sanctioned tournaments will be fished within current Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA), 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. If an angler/participant is not a current member of a GFAA affiliated club, they will be required to join EGFC upon registration.

Only registered anglers may fight a sailfish 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/free release of a sailfish 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 November 5th.

4. Fishing Area: All Tournament competitors must fish within 60 nautical miles of the EGFC Clubhouse, with a minimum of two participants 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 15 mins 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 sailfish 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.

Fully completed tag or free release cards must be presented to the tournament Weigh Master during weigh-in times of 6pm-8pm on Friday and Saturday, and 5pm-7pm on Sunday.

6. Lines: All sailfish 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 conclusion of the tournament.

A Small Fry Angler is a person who has not attained the age of 11 years prior to the conclusion of the tournament.

8. Amateur Section: Any team not skippered or crewed by a professional charter operator or fishing out of a professional charter operator's vessel will be deemed an Amateur team and therefore, eligible to win the Amateur section.

Amateur teams are eligible for, and automatically entered into the Overall section.

9. Special Release Conditions: All sailfish caught inside Exmouth Gulf (see Exmouth Gulf limits, section 12) shall be 'free released' without the need to place a tag.

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

These special release conditions stand for the Sailfish Shootout tournament only.

10. Free Release: Any sailfish 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, and then register the catch with Radio Base reporting angler, and line class as soon as possible.

Fully completed GFAA Measure & Release Cards must be lodged with the Weigh Master 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 GFAA 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 and no points will be awarded.

11. Exmouth Gulf Free Release Limits: 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.

13. Tag and Release: Any sailfish 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. The team must complete the tag card and then register the catch on the ARFF Tacklebox app as soon as possible after release.

Once the catch is logged on the ARFF Tackle Box app, teams are required to announce the catch to Radio Base reporting team, angler and line class only. Teams have up to 15 minutes post capture to report a tagged fish to Radio Base.

Fully completed tag cards must be lodged with the Weigh Master 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 tag 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 and no points will be awarded.

14. Radio Base: All boats must be fitted with an operational VHF radio system and are required to log on and off with Radio Base 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.

Each boat will be asked to give a daily sked at time of log off each day, consisting of sailfish raised, hooked and tagged.

Radio catch reports and skeds do not constitute catch reporting for tournament purposes. All catches must be logged on the ARFF Tacklebox app as soon as possible after release for points to apply.

15. Point Scoring: This is a catch and release event for sailfish only. Points will be allocated as follows:

T&R Sailfish 1-10kg line 400pts 15-60kg line 200pts

Section winners will be decided by:

- a) Team with the highest total of catch 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 the release is logged on the ARFF Tackle Box App.

16. Hooks for Natural Baits: When fishing natural baits (either dead or live) for sailfish, 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 sailfish.

17. 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 tag/release 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 gantry at which the tag card presented. No further protests will be accepted after completion of the gantry times 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.

18. 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.

19. 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 team 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.

20. 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.

21. 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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