



# Exmouth Game Fishing Club Competition Rules & Regulations Search for Swords WA Competition

(updated 19.11.2020)

**1. Regulations:** All Exmouth Game Fishing Club (EGFC) competitions 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. Registration:** All competitors fishing the Search for Swords WA Competition must register a minimum of 24 hours BEFORE they begin fishing. New competitors may enter at any time during the competition's time span, but captures/tags will only count 24 hours from the date and time of registration.

Only registered competitors may participate in any act which directly contributes to the capture or tag of a fish during the competition. These include fighting fish, gaffing/landing fish, tagging fish, running out lines, retrieving lines or taking the leader.

Only recreational anglers may enter as a boat (i.e. fishing multiple anglers across the competition with tag and release score counting as a boat tally regardless of whether or not fish have been caught by different registered anglers).

Charter fishing operators may only enter individual anglers (i.e. boat registrations are not available and competition tag and release score only counts for individual anglers, not as a boat tally).

Vessels or anglers fishing from vessels undertaking commercial fishing operations are not eligible.

Go to: [www.egfc.com.au](http://www.egfc.com.au) to enter online.

**3. Fishing Area:** The Search for Swords WA Competition is a state-wide competition. Competitors may fish anywhere in Commonwealth waters within the Western Australian borders.

**4. Fishing Times:** Competition starts at midnight February 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until midnight July 31<sup>st</sup>. Any fish weighed in must reach an eligible weigh station (WAGFA or GFAA sanctioned) before the competition end. Details of tagged fish must reach the competition holder before the competition end.

**5. Scoring:** There are two ways to win the Search for Swords WA Competition. If a boat/angler breaks the current all tackle Western Australian record for broadbill swordfish, they will be declared the winner. If the current all tackle Western Australian record for broadbill swordfish is not broken during the competition period, then the boat/angler who tags the most swordfish (regardless of size or line class used) within the competition period will be declared the winner.

For a boat/angler to be awarded the win for a fish that breaks the current all tackle Western Australian record, that fish must be ratified as a state record by the Western Australian Game Fishing Association. The record must then stand until the competition end.

Please be aware that only current WAGFA/GFAA affiliated fishing club members are eligible to claim records, so all competitors must join either the Exmouth Game Fishing Club or their local WAGFA/GFAA affiliated club. Membership to the Exmouth Game Fishing Club is available online at: [www.egfc.com.au](http://www.egfc.com.au).

Each boat/angler will be permitted to take one swordfish during the competition period which will still count toward that boat/angler's tagged fish score. This is to allow for potential record claims, competitors wanting to take a swordfish to eat or competitors wanting to land their first ever swordfish.

In the event of a tie, either on total tags or weight of fish weighed in, the winner will be decided on count back of time of catch. In the event of the competition being won by a boat/angler breaking the WA all tackle swordfish record, the boat/angler leading on tagged fish will be awarded a runner-up prize.

**6. Catch Reporting:** To log a tagged fish, competitors must submit a copy of the fully completed tag card and at least one image of the fish to the competition holder via email: [events@egfc.com.au](mailto:events@egfc.com.au). The tag details must be submitted within one week from time of tagging, or by the competition end (whichever is the lesser period).

For a landed fish to be claimed as a Western Australian all tackle record, the fish must be officially weighed at a WAGFA/GFAA affiliated club offering certified scales. The record claim must be completed in full and lodged via your club, and must be submitted by the end of the competition. A boat/angler weighing-in a potential Western Australian all tackle record swordfish which they intend to submit for the Search for Swords WA Competition must notify the event holder via email: [events@egfc.com.au](mailto:events@egfc.com.au) of the capture of this fish within one week from time of capture, or by the competition end (whichever is the lesser period).

**7. Tag Cards:** Swordfish are to be tagged with NSW DPI tags only. These tags have an orange tag card. No other billfish tags will be accepted.

Tags are available from your club's Weigh Master. Tag cards, FULLY COMPLETED, must be returned to your club's Weigh Master and a copy submitted to the competition holder by the competition end. Failure to lodge fully completed tag cards will result in point score for that fish being forfeit.

**8. Protests:** The competition holder's decision on the winning boat/angler is final and no protests will be heard.

**9. 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.

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.

No other protests relating to sanctuary zones and exclusion zones will be heard.

**10. Conduct:** All competitors will participate in a sporting manner and embrace the ethics of game fishing. All fish landed must be processed and offal disposed of correctly.

The competition holder reserves the right to penalise any boat/angler by deduction of points or disqualification for part of, or the whole competition for conduct they consider detrimental to the competition or the EGFC/WAGFA/GFAA.

**11. Disclaimer:** The competition holder reserves the right to change any rule, regulation or section which it believes will enhance the competition. The competition holder takes no responsibility for loss or damage to competitor's person, personal effects or vessel and competitors fish the competition entirely at their own risk.