



The 2016 EDEN OPEN GAME FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES



The Eden Sport & Game Fishing club invites all financial members of clubs affiliated with NSW GFA, GFAA or ANSA to participate in the 2016 Eden Open Game Fishing Tournament to be held at Eden on the 18th, 19th & 20th of March 2016.

1. VENUE

All boats must launch from Twofold Bay on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the exception that travelling boats which may depart from their home port on Friday but must enter tournament boundaries prior to fishing and members of the Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club may launch from Merimbula Lake, however refer to rule 14 "Weigh Station". The Eden Fishermen's Recreation Club will be the venue for all Tournament functions.

2. ENTRIES

Entries are to be made by submitting the accompanying entry form with fees as listed on the entry form, together with the details of insurance as stated in Rule 5, to:

The Secretary, Eden Sport & Game Fishing Club,
PO Box 466, Eden N.S.W. 2551.

3. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee of the Eden Sport & Game Fishing Club will be the sole adjudicators of the Tournament and its rules. Their decision shall be final. Clarification may be sought from NSW GFA by any team or individual if required.

4. TEAMS

Teams will comprise of not less than two registered anglers per vessel with no maximum. The captain and all the crew must be registered in the Tournament, and must be a financial member of a NSW GFA, GFAA or ANSA affiliated club, as indicated above. **Proof of membership may be required.** Eden Sport & Game Fishing Club membership is available for any angler who is not a member of an affiliated Club.

5. INSURANCE

Each vessel entered in the Tournament is to provide all Insurance details, including Liability Cover for property damage and personal injury as per entry form "VESSEL DETAILS".

6. TOURNAMENT BRIEFING

A Tournament Briefing will be held at the Eden Gardens Country Club, Princes Hwy, Eden, NSW at 7:30 pm on Thursday 17th March 2016. Registrations will be accepted from 6:00pm. Competitors are respectfully requested to have finalized registrations by 7:00pm thank you. All team captains and / or a team representative must be present at the briefing, unless prior arrangements have been made with the tournament committee.

7. FISHING RULES

All tag & release and captures must be made in accordance with N.S.W GFA & GFAA rules and regulations, as are in affect at the time of this tournament.

Statutory requirements – All anglers must carry saltwater fishing licences (if applicable). Bag limit and restrictions must also be adhered to. All competitors are reminded that it is an offence to tie any vessel to objects, such as wave riders, FADs or fish trap buoys. Burleying must not commence prior to 7:00am each day. The use of identifiable Marlin carcasses is prohibited for the use as tethered burley. Burley secured under floats is prohibited.

Circle hooks only are permitted to be used for live baiting and trolling natural baits (whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected). Except in the case of targeting Narrow Barred Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Commerson*).

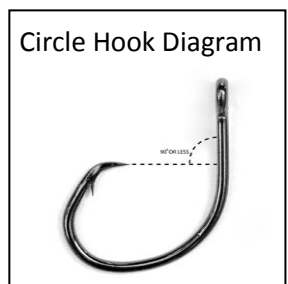
NB: no points to be scored for any species caught while using live baits and /or trolling natural baits with "J" hooks

CIRCLE HOOK DEFINITION

*A hook with **the point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank** of the hook.*

In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished, only the first fish fought by each single angler will be eligible for point scores.

The method of releasing a tagged fish. – the hook is to be removed or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish.



8. LINE CLASSES

The use of braid fishing line is not permitted in this Tournament.

Eligible line classes are as follows: 4 kg, 6 kg, 8 kg, 10 kg, 15 kg, 24 kg, 37 kg, and 60 kg.

9. MINIMUM WEIGHTS

Marlin:

4 - 10 kg line classes: 60 kg. 15 kg and over line classes: 80 kg. for **Junior and Small Fry anglers only &**

4 - 10 kg line classes: 70 kg. 15 kg and over line classes: 90 kg. for all **Senior Anglers**

Sharks:

6 - 10 kg line classes: 60 kg. 15 - 37 kg line classes: 80 kg, 60 kg line class: 120 kg for **Junior and Small Fry anglers only &**

6 - 10 kg line classes: 70 kg. 15 - 37 kg line classes: 90 kg, 60 kg line class: 130 kg for all **Senior Anglers**

Yellowfin & Southern Bluefin Tuna:

Seniors - 15 kg on line classes up to and including 15 kg line, equal to line class for over 15 kg line. Juniors equal to line class in all cases.

Other Game Fish: equal to line class.

10. TRANSFER OF ANGLERS OR CREW

The transfer AT SEA of any person or persons from one vessel to another for the purpose of assisting with the capture or tag and release is not permitted at any time during the conduct of this tournament. The transfer AT SEA of any person or persons, fish, and tackle from one vessel to another for the purpose of returning to the weigh station for any reason during the conduct of this tournament is not permitted.

In the event of a vessel being forced to withdraw, team captains may submit a written application for approval by the tournament committee to transfer the whole crew or part crew to another vessel which is already registered in the tournament, in the event that their vessel is being forced to withdraw from the entire tournament due to mechanical or electrical defects, or any other reason preventing that vessel from completing the tournament. However, this will forfeit all accumulated boat points for that vessel.

Anglers may not affect a capture or tag and release on any other vessel than the vessel he/she is registered on. Captured fish, tag and release card, angler all equipment used in the capture or tag must be presented to the weigh station on the vessel on which the capture, tag and release was effected and may not be transferred to another vessel, however in the case of an emergency situation the tournament committee may at their discretion allow the transfer of an angler/fish and equipment used to effect the capture or tag.

11. POINT SCORE

Tag & Release points shall be awarded as per the NSW GFA Line Class Tag & Release point score for the eligible list of species that is in effect at the time of this tournament. All fish must be released in accordance with NSW GFA rules and regulations that are in effect at the time of this tournament. A copy of the point score is included at the end of these rules.

A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured to the fish and the fish is released back into the water alive.

Anglers must use the 'Billfish Only' Tag, to tag all Billfish species.

Time & Line Class is to be printed on tag card. If no time is listed the time will be deemed to be as at end of fishing. If no line class is listed the fish will be deemed to be tagged on 60kg line.

Catch & Release of Striped Tuna and Mackerel Tuna (Kawa Kawa) are for junior personal points only, **same points apply** however these points are not eligible for team point scoring. Each fish caught should be recorded on a GFAA measure and release card however measured length is not required.

Measure & Release of Yellowtail Kingfish are for junior personal points only; these points are not eligible for team point scoring. A GFAA Measure & Release card is to be used to record Yellowtail Kingfish (under 70cm) release information. Points shall be awarded as per the NSW GFA Line Class Measure & Release point score.

NB Maximum numbers apply to:

Yellowtail Kingfish – 5 per angler per day max of 10 per boat per day

Mahi Mahi - 5 per angler per day max of 10 per boat per day

NB Minimum lengths apply to:

Yellowtail Kingfish – 70cm

Sharks (all eligible species) – 100cm

Capture points shall be awarded using the N.S.W. GFA factor system: Points = Kg weight of fish squared x factor / line class.

Factors are:

Class	4 kg	6kg	8kg	10kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
Factor	29.5	19.5	14.5	11.5	7.5	4.6	3.0	1.7

Double points are awarded to Marlin and Broadbill.

Triple points are awarded to all other billfish and game fish.

One quarter points awarded to Blue Sharks

One half points awarded to all other Sharks

No points shall be awarded to shark captures on 4 kg line.

Species list for Capture points will be same as Tag & Release.

Captures on line classes up to 10 kg shall score a maximum of 15000 points, plus 1 point per kilo of the weight of the fish. Captures on line classes 15 kg and over shall score a maximum of 20000 points, plus 1 point per kilo of the weight of the fish.

No sharks will be weighed with a restrictive device on its jaws or a choker in place. Sewing up of a shark's jaws will disqualify capture.

12. FISHING BOUNDARIES

Tournament fishing boundaries are:

East of Tathra 36°42'S (Grid 1J on the sched map) to the North.

East of Disaster Bay 37°21'S (Grid 1V on the sched map) to the South.

To 150°33'E (Grid 13 on the sched map) to the East

Vessels traveling by sea must enter Tournament boundaries and sign on with tournament base prior to the commencement of fishing, and sign off when leaving. Vessels failing to do so may be disqualified.

13. FISHING TIMES

Friday 18th: 7.00am to 5.00pm, **Saturday 19th:** 7.00 am to 4.00 pm, **Sunday 20th:** 7.00 am to 4.00 pm. Fish that are being fought and notice has been given to Tournament base prior to the close of fishing on all days may be played out. However, on Sunday, all captures and tag cards must be in the confines of the weigh station 5.00 pm. There will be no exception to this deadline.

14. WEIGH STATION PROCEDURES

All fish are to be weighed and tag & release cards are to be presented on the day of capture at the official weigh station at Quarantine Bay. Once boats enter the vicinity of the weigh station, they are under the control of the tournament official at the weigh station, boats must have completed and have ready for presentation all equipment used to effect the capture or tag and release and applicable paperwork. The weigh station will open at 3.00 pm on Friday and Saturday, until the return of all boats. On Sunday the weigh station will open at 2pm. All captures and/or tag & release cards and all equipment used must be in the confines on the weigh station by 5.00 pm.

15. SALE OF FISH

Competitors are reminded that NSW Fisheries prohibits the sale of any fish captured. Such fish shall be ineligible for any trophies or awards. Anyone found to have sold or bartered their catch will be disqualified from the tournament.

16. FISH HANDLING

All fish should be removed from the weigh station after weighing. Competitors (and boat crew) must not clean or fillet fish or remove shark jaws in the vicinity of the weigh station, or at any time near any beach or harbour foreshore area. Fish must be taken to a fish cleaning station or to private property to be cut up. In the event of any shark or marlin being given away for eating, only the fillets may be given and the remaining carcass is the responsibility of the skipper and crew. Unwanted fish must be taken at least 2nm outside the port and disposed of an appropriate manner. Failure to comply with these rules will invoke a penalty against the offending boat.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

All vessels must have as a minimum, a serviceable 27 MHz or VHF marine radio. Tournament base will conduct radio communications in accordance with the N.S.W. GFA *Guidelines for Radio Skeds for Tournaments*. Tournament base will open at 6:00am and continue to operate until all vessels are accounted for each day. All vessels must sign on with tournament base prior to commencement of fishing and sign off on return. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Radio skeds will be conducted by tournament base at two hourly intervals, commencing at 8.10 am. This will be done on channel 27.94 and a VHF channel 22.

When responding to tournament base, teams must give the following information **in this order**. Team number, team name, position from grid map provided for this tournament, and then report your status. Reporting is to be done using the zero, zero, zero system (strikes, hookups, captures or tag & release).

All fish must be **accurately** reported to tournament base immediately upon the capture or tag & release being affected.

A 10 minute silence period must be observed immediately prior to the close of fishing to allow for reporting of late hookups.

It is the responsibility of boat captains to ensure that their radios are in sound working order. Any boat that suffers a breakdown in radio communications must make contact with another boat, by other means, to have them advise tournament base of the problem; then return immediately to port for repairs. If a boat fails to report to tournament base on two consecutive radio skeds, then a search will be instigated by the statutory authorities at the boat owner's expense.

18. SAFETY

The seaworthiness of vessels is the responsibility of the captains and their crew. Vessels putting to sea do so at their own risk. Safety equipment as specified by the N.S.W Waterways Authority Regulations must be carried as a minimum standard. The Eden Sport & Game Fishing Club accepts no responsibility or liability for any loss or damage to any person, property, personal injury, or death, howsoever occasioned at any time during this tournament. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of the day's fishing, the tournament committee will announce a decision if the remainder of the day is to be cancelled. The ultimate decision to return is with the competitors, and the tournament committee accepts no responsibility for the decisions made by individuals in regard to the tournament. The declaration of a gale warning by the appropriate government weather authority will automatically require the cancellation of the Tournament. If this occurs whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to return to port immediately. In the event of the tournament being cancelled in part or whole, fish caught and reported prior to this time, will be eligible for trophies. Fish hooked, or landed after this time will not be eligible for trophies.

19. PROTESTS

Protests are to be made in writing, signed by the team captain, and lodged by 7:00pm each day. All protests must be submitted by 5.30pm on Sunday. No protests will be considered after the commencement of the trophy presentations.

20. TOURNAMENT TROPHIES

In the event of a tie, the first angler / team to accumulate the winning amount of points, or to capture the heaviest fish, will be deemed the winner (first past the post). Count backs will be based on the time of tagging or capture. If no time is stated on the appropriate return, then the time shall be set at the close of fishing for that day. **No single fish can take out more than 2 prize categories**

TAG & RELEASE CATEGORIES	CAPTURE CATEGORIES
Highest point scoring Team	Heaviest Marlin
Highest point scoring Trailer Boat less than 7 metres	Most Meritorious Marlin*
Most T&R points by a team – Marlin*	Heaviest Tuna**
2nd Most T&R points by a team – Marlin*	Most Meritorious Tuna**
Most T&R points by a team – Tuna**	Heaviest Shark
2nd Most T&R points by a team – Tuna**	Most Meritorious Shark
Most T&R points by a team - Shark	Heaviest Other Game Fish***
2nd Most T&R points by a team - Shark	Most Meritorious Other Game Fish***
Most T&R points by a team – Other Game Fish***	Heaviest Game Fish – Junior
Highest Point Scoring Junior overall.	Most Meritorious Game Fish – Junior

* Blue, Black and Striped Marlin only

** Includes all eligible species of Tuna – Bigeye, Southern Bluefin, Yellowfin and Albacore

*** Includes Short Billed Spearfish, Sailfish, Broadbill Swordfish, Kingfish and Mahi Mahi

21. CONDUCT

It is an expectation that all participants will conduct themselves in a reasonable and courteous manner to Tournament Officials and other Competitors at all times throughout the Tournament. Penalties for misconduct may include disqualification from the Tournament. The Tournament Committee may, on its own initiative, investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the tournament. The Tournament Committee may invoke penalties of loss of points or disqualification of fish, angler, boat or team where misconduct is deemed to have taken place. All competitors are reminded that as members of a club they are regarded as representatives of their club. As such, any unbecoming behaviour reflects adversely on the club and, indeed, on all game fishers. Hence, the tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in such circumstances.

22. All Tournament decisions and rulings are final and binding on all tournament entrants.

23. TOURNAMENT FUNCTIONS

THURSDAY 17/3/2016

Registrations, and tournament briefing from 6:00pm at the Eden Gardens Country Club. Briefing will commence at 7:30pm Sharp.

SATURDAY 19/03/2016

Tournament Dinner: 7:00pm at the Eden Gardens Country Club, Princes Hwy, Eden NSW

SUNDAY 20/3/2016

Presentation of trophies at the Eden Gardens Country Club: 6:00pm.

24 CONTACTS:

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