

# **MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)**

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## **KUBOTA BILLFISH CLASSIC**

**17-19 MARCH 2022**

**RULES**

# **WELCOME TO THE 3<sup>rd</sup> KUBOTA BILLFISH CLASSIC 17-19 MARCH 2022**

## **1. GENERAL**

The purpose of this tournament is to make sure you all have a good time and an equal chance to win some excellent prizes.

To that purpose we have a set of rules. Please read them and make sure you understand them. If there are any matters that need clarification please note them and ask at the briefing.

Any matters not specifically covered by these rules will be covered by IGFA rules, NZSFC rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

**ENTRY** and registration in the tournament constitutes acceptance of the rules by **ALL** participants, and an agreement to abide by **ALL** judges decisions.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend the rules, should it be deemed necessary in the interest of the Tournament.

Competitors participate in the tournament at their own risk. MBGFC does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament. Leaving port is at the sole discretion of the skipper and crew at all times.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

All anglers must be current financial members of Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc (MBGFC) or an affiliated NZSFC Club. Proof must be provided. Day membership to MBGFC will suffice.

NOTE: A commercial vessel must provide a particular approval form under Section 111(1)(a) of the Fisheries Act for the Tournament dates to the Club office before going fishing.

## **3. REGISTRATION & BRIEFING:**

Registration will be held at the MBGFC Office on Wednesday, 16 March from 1100 until 1915 with briefing in the Clubrooms at 1930 sharp.

At least one team representative should attend.

All rules and/or clarifications as well as additional instructions given at briefing are deemed to be known and accepted by all participants whether present or not.

## **4. FISHING IN**

Fishing in is not permitted in this tournament.

## **5. LEAVING PORT**

Teams **may not** leave port until the shotgun start.

**THIS RULE MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO AND WILL BE ENFORCED ON DAY ONE.**

## **6. FISHING AREA**

The area covered by our Sponsors Grid:

|                    |           |         |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| Northern Boundary: | Latitude  | 35°50'  |
| Southern Boundary: | Latitude  | 37°30'  |
| Western Boundary:  | Longitude | 175°30' |
| Eastern Boundary:  | Longitude | 177°    |

## **7. TACKLE**

All tackle used **MUST** comply with IGFA and NZSFC regulations.

It is the angler's responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.

Line classes are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

## **8. ELIGIBLE SPECIES**

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Billfish | (All species) |
| Tuna     | (All species) |

## **9. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:**

|                |      |                                 |
|----------------|------|---------------------------------|
| Striped Marlin | 90kg | (Billfish Moratorium Agreement) |
| Tuna           | 5kg  |                                 |

## **10. RADIO**

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Contest Channel    | Channel 61 Kubota Base |
| Boat to Boat       | Channel 6 & 8          |
| Coastguard         | Channel 63             |
| Continuous Weather | Channel 20             |
| Marina             | Channel 61             |

For safety reasons it is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessels have operational VHF radios.

## **11. FISHING TIMES:**

Fishing must not commence until after the shotgun start on Thursday 17 March at 0730 and must stop when 'stop fishing' is announced at 1600 on Sat 19.

In the event of a fish being played at stop fishing radio notification must have been given prior to stop fishing.

## **12. WEATHER:**

In the event of bad weather the Tournament Committee reserves the right to make one or more of the following decisions:-

- (a) postpone the start on any day
- (b) cancel fishing on any day
- (c) restrict the fishing area on any day

Confirmation will be on channel 61 at 0600 on any day affected. If in doubt call Kubota Base.

### **13. MULTIPLE STRIKES:**

If a multiple strike occurs with more fish than anglers, the team must not present any fish caught on rods that were not immediately removed from the rod holders. The same angler may not present more than one fish (the first chronologically) from a multiple strike.

### **14. REPORTING:**

- (a) Kubota Base is not a search and rescue channel.  
If you wish to be monitored by Coastguard for reasons of safety at sea you should log a trip report on Ch 63.  
In the event of an emergency call Coastguard on Ch 63.
- (b) All fish should be reported on hook-up and when boated, tagged or lost on channel 61. Reports must give vessel name and the area from the Sponsors Grid map. If out of radio range vessels must report catches when back in range.

### **15. BILLFISH TAGGED AND RELEASED:**

Billfish must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process.

### **16. WEIGH IN**

- (a) Catch cards & Tag cards  
**ALL** sections **MUST** be filled in **BEFORE** fish are brought to the weighstation. First and last name must be written in full, not initials.  
**Latitude and longitude must be entered on tag cards.**  
Team number and angler numbers must be clear.  
**PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON CATCH CARDS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT.**
- (b) Along with the **FULLY COMPLETED** catch card and/or tag card each angler must present the rod, reel, lure and or terminal tackle which the fish was caught on, and anything else required by the weighmasters such as gaffs, tailropes, any securing ropes used to transport the fish to the weighstation.  
**A FISH IS NOT DEEMED TO BE CAUGHT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN WEIGHED (or tagged).**
- (c) Digital videos clearly showing the tag in place must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.
- (d) Weighmasters Indemnity  
It is the anglers responsibility to present all cards and equipment when weighing in, **NOT** the weighmasters. If any of the required equipment is not in the hands of the weighmasters along with the completed catch card and fish by the close off time, the fish will not be accepted as being on time.  
No responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weighmasters for any failure to do so.

- (e) The weigh station is open from 1530 to 1830 on Thursday and Friday. Any extension to these hours is at the discretion of the weighmasters.
- (f) The weigh station is open from 1530 to 1800 on Saturday.  
*On Saturday unless a fish is being played at stop fishing all anglers must have their fish, catch cards and tackle in the weighmasters hands by 1800. The location of a boat at stop fishing must take into consideration its steaming time to the weigh station.  
In the case of a fish being played at stop fishing radio notification must be given prior to stop fishing. For such a fish to be eligible for prizes in this tournament it must be at the weighstation by 1900.*
- (g) Lines may be tested at the weigh station. Lines that over test will be moved up to the appropriate line class. Under testing lines will **NOT** be moved down.

## **17. DISPUTES**

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1915 on Saturday night. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

## **18. PRIZE GIVING:**

Saturday 19 March 2022 with prizegiving scheduled to start at 1930.

## **19. PRIZE ALLOCATION:**

Prizes will be offered as follows:-

- (a) Last Man Standing Draw - Kubota RTV-XG850 Utility Vehicle
- (b) **Heaviest billfish \$70,000**  
If two or more fish are of equal weight the prize will be shared equally.
- (c) Last Man Standing Draw of any anglers who have tagged billfish.
  - J C Walker Transport High Flier Sportfishing Kona Tag Prize  
\$5,000 cash and 4 days fishing in Kona, Hawaii
- (d) Last Billfish tagged in tournament
  - Walker Barrier Hire Hakula Lodge Prize  
\$5,000 cash and 2 days fishing in Vava'u Tonga
- (e) Jimmy Buffit Yacht Management Tuna Section
  - Heaviest Tuna \$5,000 cash
- (f) Champion Team on Billfish Points
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$20,000 plus 70% of Jackpot purse (if entered)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 20% of Jackpot purse (if entered)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> 10% of Jackpot purse (if entered)

If any team or teams in the top 3 have not entered into the jackpot, the prizes will shift down to the next highest points scoring team or teams that are entered into the jackpot.

Each team will have only their highest points scoring billfish of each species eligible for team totals. All tagged & released billfish including spearfish will count however.

Points will be allocated as follows:-

Tagged Marlin & Broadbill 450 points  
Tagged Shortbill Spearfish 100 points

Weighed billfish  $\frac{\text{fish weight} \times 100}{\text{Line weight}}$

(g) Additional spot prizes will be added closer to the tournament date.

All prize winners will need to provide identification, i.e. passport, driver's licence may be asked for.

N.B Prizes presented in error at Prizegiving remain the property of the Club and must be returned for correct allocation upon notification with seven days.

## **20. WHARF:**

Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc will not be responsible for any harbour, wharf or berthage charges.

## **21. TERM DEFINITIONS**

"TAIL ROPES" - A tail rope is any rope used in either or both the capture of the fish and securing the fish for transport to the weighstation. **NO** "Tail rope" may exceed 9.14m in length.

"RULES" - Includes all rules written herein, IGFA Rules, NZSFC Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or any changes and additions made by MBGFC during the Tournament.

"WEIGHT" - The weight of a fish as deemed correct by both the weighmasters and the angler signed off on the catch card.

"CAUGHT" - A fish is not deemed to be caught until it is weighed or tagged.

*GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING*