

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

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KUBOTA BILLFISH CLASSIC

14-16 MARCH 2024

RULES

WELCOME TO THE 5th KUBOTA BILLFISH CLASSIC 14-16 MARCH 2024

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 briefing notes, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules or IGFA Rules. In the event that there is any discrepancy between any rules/instructions, the order of priority will be: Briefing Notes, Tournament Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules, IGFA Rules.

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. Day membership for all three days of the tournament will suffice, provided that this is arranged and paid for prior to the commencement of the tournament. **It is the skipper's and/or angler's responsibility to ensure that any membership is up to date and paid for. MBGFC will not be checking this prior to the tournament, and any fish caught by anglers not meeting this eligibility requirement will be disqualified from the tournament.**

This is an important rule, we expect team captains to check evidence that anglers on their team meet this criteria. **Regardless of any announcements made during or after the tournament, prize money will not be paid until and unless this eligibility requirement can be proven.**

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 for three days at the MBGFC Office starting from Monday 11 March from 0930 until 1600 daily, with briefing on the northern reclamation adjacent to the marina at 1930 sharp on Wednesday 13 March. 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: 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

8. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Billfish (All species)

Tuna (All species)

Mahimahi

Kingfish

9. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:

Striped Marlin 90kg (Billfish Moratorium Agreement)

Tuna 5kg

Kingfish 100cm

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 14 March at 0730 and must stop when 'stop fishing' is announced at 1600 on Sat 16.

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

12. WEATHER:

The tournament will not be cancelled due to weather. Whether or not to fish is not the responsibility of MBGFC, and must be based solely on the teams own judgement, taking into consideration the prevailing conditions, the seaworthiness of their vessel, the status of safety equipment on board, and the crews seamanship skills. The tournament is a three day event, as little as one day of fishing or part thereof constitutes a complete tournament.

13. STRIKES (SINGLE AND MULTIPLE):

- (i) When a strike occurs, the angler(s) must immediately remove the rod(s) from the rod holder(s), while the crew clear the rest of the gear.
- (ii) If the number of fish in a multiple strike equals or exceeds the number of people on the boat, gear may be cleared prior to fighting the fish.
- (iii) Once an angler has fought one fish from a multiple strike, whether that fish is caught or lost, they must not present a subsequent fish from the same multiple strike.

Fish left on rod holders while others are fought must be self-disqualified

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. Fish intending to be tagged and released must be released as soon as practicable.

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, which must be date and time stamped, and clearly showing the tag in place as well as the fish being released, must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.

MBGFC reserves the right to request that the original recording device (phone, camera, etc) that generate the image, be immediately surrendered in order that the date and time stamp can be officially validated.

- (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 1500 to 1930 on Thursday and Friday. Any extension to these hours is at the discretion of the weighmasters.

- (f) The weigh station is open from 1500 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 1900 on Saturday night. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

18. PRIZE GIVING:

Will be on the northern reclamation adjacent to the marina and will be on Saturday 16 March 2024 with prizegiving scheduled to start at 1930.

19. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

Prizes will be offered as follows:-

- (a) **Gate Prize / Last Man Standing Draw** - Kubota U48G Excavator
- (b) **Heaviest billfish \$350,000**
If two or more fish are of equal weight the prize will be shared equally.
- (c) **Champion Team on Billfish Points**
- 1st 70% of Jackpot purse (if entered)
- 2nd 17% of Jackpot purse (if entered)
- 3rd 8% of Jackpot purse (if entered)
(remaining 5% allocated to administrative fees)

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

In the event of a tie, the prize will be shared equally

Each team will have only their highest points scoring weighed 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 $\frac{\text{fish weight} \times 100}{\text{Line weight}}$

- (d) **Heaviest Tuna \$10,000**
If two or more fish are of equal weight the prize will be shared equally

- (e) **Heaviest Mahimahi** \$10,000
If two or more fish are of equal weight the prize will be shared equally
- (f) **Heaviest Kingfish** \$10,000
If two or more fish are of equal weight the prize will be shared equally
- (g) **First Billfish Tagged each day**
Day 1 4x Shimano Tiagra 50W Combo's
Day 2 4x Shimano Stella 20,000 Combo's
Day 3 4 x Shimano Tiagra 50W Combo's
- (h) **Last Billfish Tagged**
\$10,000 cash plus 4 nights accommodation and 2 days fishing for up to 4 people in Vavau, Tonga
- (i) **Jackpot Draw** - Every Jackpot entry equals 1 entry into the draw
\$10,000 cash plus 3 nights accommodation and 2 days fishing in Guatemala for up to 4 people
- (j) **Tagging Draws** – every tagged billfish equals 1 entry into the following five (5) draws
1. 10,000 cash plus 4 nights accommodation and 3 days fishing for up to 4 people in Kona, Hawaii
 2. Helicopter flights plus 3 nights accommodation and 4 days hunting at Lottin Point
 3. Free Boat Refit/Repairs to the value of \$10,000
 4. Free antifoul and prospered to the value of \$8,000
 5. 2 days fishing for up to 6 people out of Tauranga
- (k) Lots of other spot prizes as well as our tournament clothing draw for the trip to the Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia

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. REFUNDS:

Once you have entered the tournament, refunds will only be available if your team is able to be replaced. MBGFC will endeavour to find a replacement from the waiting list and other means but there are no guarantees. MBGFC have already committed to allocation of all funds from entries.

21. PRIOR TO THE ENTRIES CUT-OFF POINT

The organisers, in conjunction with some sponsors, have pre-purchased a small number of entries that will be used for promotional purposes closer to the event. Teams fishing the tournament that have gained entry by this method, are deemed to be a valid entry.

22. 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