

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

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SUZUKI TOP TEN TUNA TOURNAMENT

6th January 2024

to

13th JANUARY 2024

RULES

WELCOME TO THE 3rd SUZUKI TOP TEN TUNA TOURNAMENT

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.

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. 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 at the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Office on Friday 5th January 2024 from 1100.

Starter packs will contain tournament rules, sponsors material and other useful information.

There will be no briefing for this tournament.

4. FISHING IN

"Fishing In" is permitted in this tournament for teams from other clubs.

"Fishing In" teams must register as early in the week as is practical.

5. LEAVING PORT

Teams may leave port after registration if they wish and stay at an overnight ANCHORAGE.

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:

- Northern Bluefin Tuna
- Pacific Bluefin Tuna
- Southern Bluefin Tuna
- Bigeye Tuna
- Yellowfin Tuna
- Albacore
- Slender Tuna
- Skipjack

One of each species per angler per day. This applies to the date of catch (as per the catch card), not the date of weighing.

9. MINIMUM WEIGHTS

All Species – 5kgs

10. RADIO

Contest Channel	Channel 65 Gamebase
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:

0600 Saturday Jan 6th till 1600 Saturday Jan 13th

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.

This tournament is an eight day event, it is expected that all teams won't fish all eight days. Teams should consider weather conditions as a major factor when deciding whether or not to go fishing.

13. START AND STOP FISHING:

Fishing must not commence until 0600 on Saturday 6th Jan and must stop at 1600 on Saturday Jan 13th.

In the case of a fish being played at stop fishing, radio notification must be given prior to stop fishing.

14. 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

15. REPORTING:

- (a) Gamebase 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 likely to be weighed should be called in to Gamebase when boated giving the vessels name and the area from the Sponsors Gridmap.
- (c) There will be a daily sched at 1500 when vessels with fish to weigh can contact Gamebase with their catch & ETA.

16. WEIGH IN

a) Catch 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. Line Weight and Sponsors name must be included.

Team number and angler numbers must be clear.

PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON CATCH CARDS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT.

Use the catch recording sheets at the back of these rules **AT THE TIME** to help get details correct.

- b) Along with the **FULLY COMPLETED** catch 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.

- c) The Weigh Station is open from 1630 to 1930 on days one to seven and 1530 to 1830 on day eight. Any extension to these hours is at the discretion of the weighmasters

On day eight unless a fish is being played at stop fishing, anglers must have their fish and catch cards in the weighmasters hands by 1830. The location of a boat at stop fishing must take into consideration its steaming time to the weighstation. For a fish being played at stop fishing to be eligible for prizes in this tournament it must be at the weighstation by 1900.

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.

17. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1900 on day eight Saturday 7th Jan 2023.

The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

18. PRIZEGIVING:

Will be held in the Clubrooms or Blue Lagoon at 2000 on Saturday 7th January.

19. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

Prizes will be awarded to the anglers catching the ten heaviest eligible fish regardless of line weight as follows:

1 st	\$3000.00	6 th	\$700.00
2 nd	\$2000.00	7 th	\$550.00
3 rd	\$1000.00	8 th	\$450.00
4 th	\$900.00	9 th	\$350.00
5 th	\$800.00	10 th	\$250.00

If two or more anglers catch fish of equal weight they will each receive the average of the relevant prizes.

None of these 10 cash prizes will be drawn. There will be other drawn prizes at prize giving

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

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR TEAMS TO DECIDE BEFORE YOU GO FISHING HOW PRIZE MONEY WILL BE SHARED. MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB INC WILL NOT GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR DOMESTIC DIFFERENCES!

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.

"ANCHORAGE" – Vessels must be attached to the seabed by an anchor or mooring, in a depth of not more than 20m.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING