

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

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OKUMA OPEN

17 – 24 FEBRUARY 2024

RULES

WELCOME TO THE OKUMA OPEN 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. 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 or NZSFC 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.

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.

As MBGFC members (other than solo entries) are required to be eligible to fish the Nationals, anglers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the rules of the Nationals (such as eligible line weight for target species), and fish in such a manner that their catch will be eligible to be entered in the Nationals.

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 Friday, 16 February from 1100 -1915, with briefing in the Blue Lagoon at 1930 sharp.

At least one team member should attend and all team members are urged to attend to give sponsors maximum exposure. "Fishing In" teams are excused. 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 permitted in this tournament.

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

5. LEAVING PORT

With the exception of teams 'Fishing In', any team leaving port before the conclusion of the briefing, will not be eligible to enter any fish in the tournament, that have been caught within 24 hours of the start of the briefing.

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 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)

Mahimahi

Kingfish

Snapper

Kahawai

Trevally

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

NB. The Nationals allows three of each species per angler per day.

9. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:

Marlin 90kg (Billfish Moratorium Agreement)

Kingfish 75cm (MoF Rule)

Snapper 37cm (about 1kg) (Club Tournament Rule)

Trevally 37 cm (about 1kg) (Club Tournament Rule)

Apart from these restrictions there are no minimum weights, i.e. Fish do **NOT** have to go line weight in this tournament.

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:

Fishing must not commence until 0600 on Saturday 17 Feb and must stop at 1400 on Saturday 24 Feb. 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.

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. STRIKES: (Single and Multiple)

- (i) When a strike occurs, the angler(s) must immediately remove the rod(s) from the rod holder(s), while 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.
- (iv) Fish left on rod holders while others are fought must be self-disqualified.

14. 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 billfish & tuna should be called in to Gamebase when hooked up, boated, tagged or lost giving the vessels name and the area from the Sponsors Grid map. Smaller species can be notified during the sched.
- (c) There will be a sched at 1400 each day when vessels with fish to weigh can contact Gamebase with their catch & ETA.

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 weigh station. 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 weigh masters such as gaffs, tail ropes, any securing ropes used to transport the fish to the weigh station.

A FISH IS NOT DEEMED TO BE CAUGHT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN WEIGHED (or tagged).

- c) Digital videos clearly showing the tag in place as well as the fish being released and swimming away must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.

d) Weigh masters 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 weigh masters for any failure to do so.

- e) The weigh station is open from 1700 to 1830 on days one to seven. Any extension to these hours is at the discretion of the weigh masters.
- f) The weigh station is open from 1400 to 1600 on Saturday Feb 24.

On Saturday Feb 24, unless a fish is being played at stop fishing all anglers must have their fish, catchcards and tackle in the weighmasters hands by 1600. 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 weigh station by 1630. No such dispensation applies in the Nationals however. 1600 is their cut off at the weigh station.

17. POINTS

a) Fish weighed will gain points as follows: **FISH WEIGHT X 100**
LINE WEIGHT

b) Marlin and Broadbill that have been tagged and released in accordance with these rules will each gain 450 points. **There will be no points for tagged and released shortbill spearfish**

18. LINE TESTING

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.

19. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1700 on Saturday 24 February. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

20. PRIZE GIVING:

Saturday 24 February 2024 in the Blue Lagoon at 1930.

21. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

In the event of a tie the winner will be the first recorded caught. (as per the catch card)

Billfish Category

Open Section
(By Weight)

Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Broadbill

1st, 2nd

Striped Marlin

1st, 2nd

Shortbill Spearfish

1st

Tag and Release Billfish Team

The three teams tagging and releasing the most billfish (excluding spearfish) will receive prizes. In the event of any ties, fish recorded first caught will determine the winners.

Tuna Category

Open Section
(By Weight)

Tuna (Bluefin, Bigeye, Yellowfin)

1st, 2nd

Open Section

Open Section
(By Weight)

Albacore

1st, 2nd, 3rd

Skipjack

1st, 2nd, 3rd

Mahimahi

1st, 2nd,

Kingfish

1st, 2nd, 3rd

Snapper

1st, 2nd, 3rd

Kahawai

1st, 2nd, 3rd

Trevally

1st, 2nd, 3rd

Light Section

Light Section
(1-10)kg
(on Points)

Tuna (all species combined)

1st, 2nd

Kingfish

1st, 2nd

Snapper

1st, 2nd

Kahawai

1st, 2nd

Trevally

1st, 2nd

NB: Prizes will not be drawn if fish are not caught

CHAMPION TEAM - LIGHT TACKLE (On Points)

Each team will have only their highest points scoring fish of each species eligible for this prize.

CHAMPION TEAM - OPEN SECTION (On Points)

Each team will have only their highest points scoring fish of each species eligible for this prize.

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

22. WHARF:

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

23. 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 weigh station. **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 weigh masters and the angler signed off on the catch card.

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

"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