



2025 WSFC Open Tournament

15th -22nd February Rules

Please read these rules thoroughly. We need a set of rules to keep everyone safe and to ensure everyone has a fair chance. If you have any questions or matters arising please note them and ask them at the briefing.

TOURNAMENT CONVENOR: John Ludwig 027 279 9016

1. Eligibility & Entry

- a. Teams, Any Number but a minimum of two, all teams must consist of at least one person over the age of 18 on the vessel at all times.
- b. If for any reason an angler wants to change vessels at any time, permission must be first sought and granted by the tournament committee.
- c. All anglers competing must be full financial members of a club affiliated to the NZ sportfishing council **OR**
- d. For a fee of \$20, non-affiliated anglers may become members of the Whakatane Sportfishing Club for the duration of the tournament.
- e. It is the responsibility of the skipper and / or anglers to ensure that any membership is up to date and paid for, WSFC will not be checking this prior to the tournament ,any fish caught by anglers not meeting this eligibility requirement will be disqualified.
- f. Media and sponsors may be permitted on vessels at the sole discretion of the tournament committee.
- g. Noncompliance of these rules may result in the team being disqualified from the tournament or any future tournament.
- h. Acceptance of all entries will be at the sole discretion of the tournament committee.
- i. Any matters not specifically covered in these rules will be covered by briefing notes, WSFC Rules, NZSFC Rules or IGFA Rules. In the event that there is any

discrepancy between rules / instructions, the order of priority will be: Briefing notes, Tournament Rules, WSFC Rules, NZSFC Rules, IGFA Rules

- j. 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.

2. Times and Restrictions

- a) Start fishing time is 0600 on **Saturday 15th February 2025**, bait fishing prior to this time will be accepted.
- b) Final weigh in & catch card drop off is **16.00 on Saturday 22nd February** at the Whakatane weigh station.
- c) Vessels may launch from **any** port or boat ramp but fishing is strictly permitted to **marine chart 54**, you may be asked by tournament committee to prove location of catch either by G.P.S coordinates (eg: photo of chart plotter) or photo/video location.
- d) **Bar Crossings**, It is always the Skippers responsibility to cross a bar at any time. If in doubt do not go out.

- 3.** Skippers MUST attend the briefing at the Whakatane Sportfishing Club at 7.30pm on 14th February 2025 and sign the skipper attendance sheet prior to leaving. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

4. Jet skis

- a) Jet Ski fishing is allowed with one person per ski being accepted, provided a minimum of two jet skis remain in close proximity to each other at all times while fishing.

5. Fishing & Tackle

- a) All fishing will be from boats or jet skis, there are no shore or kayak sections.
- b) All tackle MUST comply with IGFA and NZSFC regulations. it is the angler's responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.
- c) The tournament committee reserve the right to inspect all vessels, tackle and equipment, the tournament committee also reserve the right to keep any fish weighed.

6. Weigh in, Catch cards & Tag cards

- a) All fish, anglers, gear and tag certificates/weighbooks must be presented to the weigh station before 1600 on the last day of the tournament, all fish to be weighed must be brought over the Whakatane Bar to be weighed and/or checked at the weigh station. **REMEMBER ALL FISHING IS RESTRICTED TO CHART 54**
- b) An official fish capture & weight recording certificate (catch card) must be filled out for ALL Fish before arriving at the weigh station. All sections must be filled in, first and last name must be written in full, not initials
- c) Providing false information on catch cards will result in disqualification.
- d) Along with the fully completed catch card and or tag card each angler must present rod, reel, lure and or terminal tackle which the fish was caught on.
- e) The angler must be present at the weigh station, you cannot weigh in a fish on someone's behalf.
- f) A fish is not deemed to be caught until it has been weighed (or tagged)
- g) **Game fish only**, you must take a Digital video or photo (video preferred) of releasing the fish which **must** be date and timed stamped. This video or photo must be shown to the weighmasters when the tag cards & catch cards are presented at the weigh station. This photo or video must also be emailed to Tournaments@wsfc.co.nz
- h) Releasing **Tuna**, the same ruling above is required except without tagging the fish. You may tag Tuna if you wish for club points etc but for the purposes of this tournament you will not be required to tag tuna, you will need to have clearly show the fish in your videos of release.
- i) All photographs become the property of the Whakatane Sportfishing Club
- j) All catch cards must be in the hands of the weigh master no later than 16.00 on Saturday 22nd February 2025.
- k) Weigh Station Hours will be 15.00 to 1700 daily with exception of Saturday 22nd February 14.00 to 16.00 outside these please phone **Les 027 692 6375**

7. Species & Minimum weights

- a) **Species** – Blue, Black & Striped Marlin, Broadbill Swordfish, Short Bill Spearfish, Mahi Mahi, Tuna (all Species, except Skipjack), Snapper, Kingfish, Trevally.
- b) **Minimum weights / Lengths** – Marlin & Broadbill 90kg, Tuna 15kg, Short Bill Spearfish 15kg, Mahi Mahi 5kg, Kingfish 1meter, Snapper 40cm. Trevally 35cm.
- c) Trevally, Snapper and Kingfish, two per angler per day can be weighed.

8. Catagories / Prizes

- 1st Heaviest Striped Marlin \$1,000.00
- 1st Heaviest Tuna (all species except Skipjack) \$1000
- 1st Heaviest Other Billfish \$1000.00
- 1st Heaviest Kingfish - \$1000.00
- 1st Heaviest Snapper - \$1000.00
- Team most tag & Release \$1000.00
- 1st Heaviest Albacore - \$ 500.00
- 1st Heaviest Mahi Mahi \$ 500.00
- 1s Heaviest Trevally \$ 500.00
- **Champion Team on Gamefish Points,**
1st 70% of jackpot purse. (if entered)
2nd 20% of jackpot purse (if entered)
3rd 10% of jackpot purse (if entered)
- **Snapper Jackpot,**
1st 70% of jackpot purse. (if entered)
2nd 20% of jackpot purse (if entered)
3rd 10% of jackpot purse (if entered)



Haddocks Spraypainters and Panelbeaters \$5000 cash draw, open to all anglers in this tournament. five names will be drawn and go through to the final draw at the awards night 2025.

9. Champion Team on Gamefish Points & The Jackpot

- a) Champion team on gamefish points is points-based category in which you can combine weighed fish and tag / released fish. Refer to page 88 of the NZSFC

yearbook for catch restrictions. The species in this section and Their value if **Tagged/ released** are as follows.

- **Marlin 600 points (includes blue, black, striped)**
 - **Broadbill Swordfish 600 points**
 - **Short bill Spearfish 100 points**
 - **Tuna (all species except albacore / skipjack) 150 points**
 - **Yellowtail Kingfish 25 points**
- b) Each angler can weigh 2 fish per species per day. Points for weighed fish will be allocated as follows
$$\frac{\text{Fish weight} \times 100}{\text{Line weight}}$$
- c) Any team may win the champion team on gamefish points but to win the money in the purse you must be entered and have paid the \$100 to enter the Gamefish jackpot when paying your tournament entry fee.
- d) 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.

10. Snapper Jackpot

- a) The snapper jackpot for the Tournament is on a voluntary basis.
- b) The snapper jackpot is \$50 per ANGLER and has to be paid at time of entry.
- c) If any anglers in the top 3 have not entered the snapper jackpot the prizes will shift down to the next heaviest snapper / angler that has entered the jackpot

12. Prize Giving

Final Prizegiving will be held in the club rooms at **7.30pm** on Saturday 22nd February.

13. Disclaimer, Complaints & Protests

- a) Whether or not to fish is not the responsibility of the Whakatane Sportfishing Club and must be based solely on the team's own judgement, taking into

consideration the prevailing conditions, the seaworthiness of their vessel, the status of the safety equipment on board, and the crews seamanship skills.

- b) In the event of an emergency on the water, participants are to notify the Coastguard emergency VHF channel 16 at first instance. Whakatane Coastguard can be contacted on VHF 18, Waihou Bay Coastguard VHF 65, Tauranga Coastguard VHF 01.
- c) All boats must carry correct size life jackets for all passengers. It is compulsory for all crew members on recreational vessels to wear life jackets while crossing the Whakatane River Bar.
- d) Any Protest must be filed in writing and delivered to the tournament convenor. The tournament committee will then consider the protest.
- e) Any protest relating to the weighing of fish is to be brought up with the weigh master before the fish is removed from the weigh station.
- f) Any protest against the Whakatane Sportfishing Club will be heard by a mutually agreed third party. In all other protests the tournament committee decision is final and binding.
- g) All participants agree and accept to: Enter this tournament at their own risk. That boating and fishing involves some risk. Not to hold tournament organisers, officials, sponsors, or any other person involved with the tournament liable for any loss or injury to a person or any equipment incurred during the tournament. Notwithstanding any representation made, it shall be the responsibility of all participants to ensure that the provisions of all statutes, ordinances, regulations, and by-laws related, but not limited, to boating and fishing are complied with.

TIGHT LINES