

COMPETITION FISHING RULES

1. DIVISIONS OF FISHING COMPETITIONS

- a. Beach-defined as fishing from a sandy beach into surf outside estuary boundaries
- b. Rock-defined as fishing from rocks under the influence of the sea.
- c. Estuary-defined as fishing estuarine waters as proclaimed by the Waterways Authority.
- d. Deep Sea-defined as fishing from a boat on the open sea.
- e. Fresh Water-defined as fishing beyond the influence of tides

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. All those taking part in A.F.A. competitions must be registered members of the A.F.A.
- b. Upon payment of an entry fee, where applicable, a member is eligible to compete for trophies and awards
- c. A junior is a person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the start of the competition.
- d. A veteran is a person who has attained the age of fifty five (55) years of age at the start of competition.
- e. All competitors must nominate in the open section of a championship. Juniors and Veterans must nominate for individual sections before the start of the competition.

3. BOUNDARIES

- a. Boundaries are to be clearly defined before the start of a competition.
- b. North to South boundaries do not apply for rock and/or beach competitions.
- c. Deep sea competitions are to be conducted seaward of estuary boundaries
- d. Estuary boundaries are for example.
 - (1) Sydney Harbour-West of a line between the wall of the Quarantine Reserve to Hornsby light to the south. All MSB Waterways restricted areas are out of bounds.
 - (2) Botany Bay-West of a line from the Eastern edge of Bare Island to the Captain Cook memorial at Kurnell. All MSB Waterways restricted areas are out of bounds.
 - (3) Port Hacking-West of a line from the concrete wall at Hungary point Cronulla to Bundeena Wharf. All MSB restricted areas are out of bounds
- e. Fishing in close proximity to sewage discharge outlets is permissible.
- f. Those competing in Luderick competitions must nominate rock or estuary before the start of the competition. Boundaries are as follows.
 - (1) Rock-Competitors must fish outside estuary boundaries.
 - (2) Estuary-refer to rule 5d.

4. WEIGHING IN

- a. Weighing in is to be conducted at a place nominated by the Chairman of the Angling committee or the captain of the outing.
- b. All fish submitted for weighing are to have been caught by the competitor claiming the catch and in accordance with the rules of the competition.
- c. All fish to be free from foreign matter
- d. Mutilated fish must exceed the minimum length for the species by three (3) CMS. If the neck of a fish is broken it will be considered mutilated.

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- e. Fish to be weighed in whole no allowance will be made for gilled and gutted fish. Fish must be fit for human consumption.
- f. Competitors are required to present their catch personally to the weigh master. If a competitor is unable to attend the weigh in, provision exists, at the discretion of the Angling committee, whereby he/she may call upon another to present their catch for them. This must be witnessed by another competitor.
- g. All fish presented are to be weighed on equipment nominated by the weighing official.
- h. All fish in the defined weighing area after the close of the competition must be presented to the weigh master.
- i. Bag limits must comply with current NSW Fisheries Regulations. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the competitors catch.
- j. All fish presented for weighing must equal or exceed minimum length for the species.
- k. Any competitor who intentionally or otherwise presents an undersized fish shall have twenty five (25) points deducted from his/her score, and fifty (50) points for two (2) undersize fish will result in disqualification of the whole catch.
- l. A competitor must not handle any part of his/her catch after it has been presented to the weigh master, until weighing has been completed, or with authorization by the weigh master.
- m. If the weigh master doubts the condition of any fish, or is of the opinion that a fish is undersized or has been frozen, he has the right to impound the catch and call a meeting of the angling committee, who shall adjudicate the matter.
- n. Fish will only be eligible for weighing at one competition. Duel competitions are not acceptable.

5. COMPETITION POINTS

- a. Points shall be allocated on the basis of ten (10) points per kilogram and one (1) point per fish. Points shall then be converted to a percentage with the winner of the competition receiving 100% and other competitors, in order of points, receiving a percentage of the winners catch, e.g.:
 - (1) Winner 25 fish 17.205 kg = 100%
 - (2) Runner up 20 fish 16.965 kg = 96.2%
- b. Where two or more competitors achieve equal points, he/she catching the most fish counting toward that trophy shall be adjudged the winner.

6. TIMINGS.

- a. Competitions start and finish times will be advised before the start of a competition. Such times should take into account long distances travelled by some competitors in order to compete.

7. CONDITIONS OF CAPTURE

- a. All fish must be caught within the boundaries set down for that competition.
- b. Fish must be taken on rod and reel or hand line using bait or artificial lure, and must be hooked played and landed by the competitor, with no other than netting or gaffing, when the fish has been brought to the boat or shore.

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- c. A maximum of four lines may be used by one angler, with a maximum of two (2) hooks or a flight of hooks attached to each. A flight of hooks is defined as being a number of hooks which are ganged or individually fastened to a line for the purpose of securing single bait.
- d. Lure casting. Artificial lures only are permitted. For the purpose of this Division, dropping the lure from the rod tip cannot be classified as casting.
- e. Trolling is prohibited. Casting from a boat making way is deemed as trolling (Definition: A Vessel is making way when it is under sail, engine power or being propelled by oars or paddles.)

8. PROTESTS

- a. Protests are to be submitted in writing to the Angling Committee, signed by the persons/s protesting.
- b. Protests lodged after the presentation of trophies has begun shall be considered invalid.
- c. In the case of no trophies being awarded on the day of competition, protests must be lodged within thirty (30) minutes after the official weigh-in has ceased.
- d. An adjudication or protest committee consisting of no less than five (5) members of the angling committee will consider the protest and the decision reached shall be final.

9. DISQUALIFICATION

- a. A competitor will be subject to disqualification if any competition rule is breached. Disqualification will be from that event only and no trophy or prize shall be presented. Further penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Angling Committee.

10. GENERAL

- a. Nominations for heaviest of species must be submitted to the Angling Committee within twenty eight (28) days from the capture date. Provision exists whereby the Angling Committee may consider late entries.
- b. In the event of a dispute as to identification of a species, Jack Pollards Encyclopedia of fishing (Grants Fishing of Australia) is to be accepted as the deciding authority.
- c. All fish are to be weighed whole unless otherwise stated. There will be no allowance for fish gilled and gutted.
- d. When a member of the A.F.A. who is also a member of another club enters a competition and competes against the A.F.A. any fish caught by him/her are ineligible for A.F.A. club point score records.
- e. fish caught and weighed during official outings shall be eligible for club records, board fish nomination and automatic registration for the fish of the month, if applicable. The onus is on members who have fished outside or away from the competition to still abide by rule 10j which follows latter
- f. Members may apply for recognition of a particular catch as a NSWAFCA record. Application forms are available from the Competition Secretary.
- g. Information required is length, weight, girth and location of capture. Also required is a colour photograph with the names of two (2) witnesses. The application is then required to be forwarded to NSWFCA Recording Officer within twenty-eight (28)

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- days of capture date. A list of existing records is held by the A.F.A. Recording Officer and is available on request.
- h. There must be no lines in the water before the official start time of the competition. Except for the purpose of catching live bait which may be caught until one (1) hour before start time.
 - i. A competitor shall not take unfair advantage by the use of a motorized vehicle outside of local council, government or national park rules or by-laws where the general public are normally allowed access, e.g.:
 - (1) Use of fire trails.
 - (2) Access in National Parks.
 - (3) Access to beaches beyond council limits.
 - (4) Access in council parks and reserves.
 - j. To be eligible for trophies in the club score, Competitors must catch one (1) fish in any one competition.
 - k. Fish of the month nominations must be submitted to the Angling Committee within seven (7) days from the end of the particular month, or the next Tuesday after the end of the month, whichever comes first.
 - l. All championship events are honour start.
 - m. Spinning and trolling permissible.
 - n. In rock events, competitors must fish from the ocean rocks only, outside estuary boundaries.
 - o. In beach events, competitors must fish from sandy beach only, outside estuary boundaries.
 - p. Competitors must not swim or use any form of flotation or mechanical device, or other measures to reach an off shore island which is not normally reached by walking.

11. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- a. Official points score Champion and runner-up trophies will be awarded to Open and junior champions in each of the five (5) divisions.
- b. Club Champion – The member who has accumulated the most competition points overall.
- c. The most meritorious Capture – The Angling Committee is empowered to award a trophy where a catch is considered to be meritorious.
- d. Rock V Boat Competition – Trophies will be awarded as follows:
 - (1) Biggest catch Rock.
 - (2) Biggest catch Boat.
 - (3) Biggest catch Overall.
- e. Bass Competition – Trophies will be awarded as follows:
 - (1) Champion
 - (2) Runner-up
 - (3) Biggest fish
- f. Luderick Competition- Trophies will be awarded as follows;
 - (1) Champion rock
 - (2) Champion estuary
 - (3) Biggest fish overall
- g. Trophies will also be awarded as follows:
 - (1) Biggest fish caught on a lure.
 - (2) Biggest fish caught on a live bait (note: nippers, blood worms and similar are not considered to be live bait)

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- (3) Biggest fish caught land based.
- (4) Highest ANSA point score.
- (5) Fish of the month.
- (6) Heaviest of species.
- (7) Tagging as per ANSA rules.

12.SMD TEAMS SELECTION

The four (4) best point scores from A.F.A. individual events shall make up the 'A' team. Subsequent teams (B, C, D, etc) shall consist of the next best in order of finish.

13. DISCLAIMER

These rules are not to be amended or changed after the fishing year has commenced. They may be revised and any amendments ratified by the start of the next fishing year.