



MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

12 The Esplanade – PO Box 150, Whitianga

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JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

3rd – 18th APRIL 2026

RULES

WELCOME TO THE 13TH MERCURY BAY JUNIOR 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 IGFA rules, NZSFC rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

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) and be under 18 on 18 April 2026.

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:

Registration will be held at the MBGFC Clubrooms on Thursday 2nd April after 11.00am Any entries received after 2nd April and during the competition can collect their starter packs from the office. The office hours are 9-4pm Monday to Friday. Teams "fishing in" may register from 2nd -18th April during office hours

There will not be a briefing for this tournament.

4. FISHING IN

"Fishing in" is permitted in this tournament.

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

5. LEAVING PORT

Teams may leave port at any time.

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

Categories for prizes: ages 0-12 and 13-17 as at 18 April 2026

Tuna (All species)

Kingfish

Snapper

Kahawai

Trevally

Marlin All age categories

Yellow Tail Mackerel (ages 0-5yrs)

You can weigh 1 of each species per day but only the heaviest will count for the final prizes.

9. MINIMUM FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES

| | | |
|----------------|------|---------------------------------|
| Striped Marlin | 90kg | (Billfish Moratorium Agreement) |
| Kingfish | 75cm | (MOF limit) |
| Snapper | 40cm | (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 61 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 6.00am on Friday 3rd April and must stop Saturday 18th April at 15.00. there is no playing out a fish after 15.00.

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.

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) 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 or tagged and released giving the vessels name and the area from the Sponsors Grid map.

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 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 photos clearly showing the tag in place must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.

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) Saturday 4th April – Friday 18th April the weigh station is open by appointment, please call the weighmaster to organise a time. Ph: 021 02562849

f) Saturday 18th April the weighstation is open from 1400 to 1700 round the back of the clubrooms.

17. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 17.30pm on Saturday 18th April. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

18. PRIZE GIVING: Held in the in the Blue Lagoon on Saturday 18th April at 1800

19. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

Gate Prize: valued at \$10,000 – you must present at prizegiving to WIN!

(a) SPECIES (By Weight)

Age Category 0 – 12

| | |
|----------|---|
| Snapper | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Kahawai | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Trevally | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Kingfish | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Tuna | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |

Age Category 13-17

| | |
|----------|---|
| Snapper | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Kahawai | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Trevally | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Kingfish | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
| Tuna | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |

Age Category 0 – 5:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Yellow Tail Mackerel | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd |
|----------------------|---|

All Age Categories:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Marlin – heaviest | 1 st |
| Marlin - T&R | 1 st , 2 nd |

Landbase Category:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Snapper – heaviest | 1 st |
| Kahawai – heaviest | 1 st |
| Kingfish – heaviest | 1 st |

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.

“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