

# **MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)**

**12 The Esplanade – PO Box 150, Whitianga**

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## **WINTER TUNA TOURNAMENT**

**4 July – 29 August 2026**

### **RULES**

# WELCOME TO THE 2026 WINTER TUNA TOURNAMENT

**SPONSORED BY  
THE STUNNED MULLET, OKUMA,  
BONZE LURES, COASTLINE EXCAVATION  
PJ BUILDERS and KITCHEN FX**

## **1. GENERAL**

Please read your rules and make sure you understand them. If there are any matters that need clarification please ask the tournament convener.

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.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

All anglers must be current financial members of Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc (MBGFC) or an affiliated NZSFC club. Day membership for any days of the tournament will suffice, provided that this is arranged and paid for prior fishing.

**It is the skipper's and/or angler's responsibility to ensure that any membership is up to date and paid for. MBGFC will not be checking this prior to the tournament, and any fish caught by anglers not meeting this eligibility requirement will be disqualified from the tournament.**

**NOTE:** A commercial vessel must provide a particular approval form under Section 111(1)(a) of the Fisheries Act to the Club office before going fishing.

## **3. TACKLE**

All tackle used **MUST** comply with NZSFC regulations.

It is the angler's responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.

#### **4. ELIGIBLE SPECIES**

Tuna                      ALL Species

You can weigh 1 fish per species, per day, per angler but only the heaviest tuna per angler will count for the Tuna prizes.

#### **5. FISHING AREA**

NZ 200 mile EEZ. NB. Fish must be weighed at the MBGFC weigh-station.

#### **6. FISHING TIMES:**

Fishing must not commence until midnight on 4th July 2026 and all catch cards must be in the weighmasters hands by 1730 on 29th August 2026.

#### **7. SINGLE & MULTIPLE STRIKES:**

- (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.

#### **8. WEIGH IN**

##### a) Catch cards

**ALL** sections **MUST** be filled in **BEFORE** fish are brought to the Mercury Bay weighstation. First and last name must be written in full, not initials.

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

- ##### 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) 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 no responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weighmasters for any failure to do so.

d) On the last day (Aug 29), fish, catchcards, and tackle must be in the weighmasters hands **by 1730.**

## **9. POINTS**

a) No Points in this competition only by weight (no line class)

## **10. DISPUTES**

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1800 on 29th August 2026. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

## **11. PRIZEGIVING**

Prizegiving will be at 18.30pm on Saturday 29th August 2026

## **12. PRIZE ALLOCATION:**

Prizes will be CASH and offered as follows

(a) **ALL Species**                      1<sup>st</sup> \$3000 + 20% of total entry pool +Prize Pack  
Sponsored by: The Stunned Mullet, OKUMA, BONZE Lures, Coastline Excavations,  
PJ Builders and Kitchen FX

2<sup>nd</sup> 30% of total entry pool

3<sup>rd</sup> 20% of total entry pool

4<sup>th</sup> 15% of total entry pool

5<sup>th</sup> 10 % of total entry pool

Admin      5% of total entry pool

1 fish per species, per day, per angler but only the heaviest tuna per angler will count for the Tuna prizes.

If two or more fish of equal weight become eligible for a prize the relevant prize will be shared equally.

**Category Prizes** – Sponsored by: The Stunned Mullet, OKUMA, BONZE Lures, Coastline Excavations, PJ Builders and Kitchen FX

(b) **Last Tuna Weighed**

(c) **Heaviest Junior U17 Weighed**

(d) **Heaviest Lady Angler Weighed**

(e) **Average Weight S/S**

Average Weight – boat sweepstake optional (\$50)

1 x fish per species, per day, per angler can be weighed. The average weight of all fish weighed, (by all anglers) will determine the average weight winner, or closest to that weight.

**13. WHARF:**

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

**14. 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 briefing notes, tournament rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules. In the event that there is any discrepancy between these rules, the order of priority is as above (briefing, then tournament rules etc)

“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.

**RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

**NOTICE TO OWNERS & SKIPPERS OF VESSELS FISHING  
IN THE  
MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC) 2026  
WINTER TUNA TOURNAMENT**

To assist in the efficient day to day running of its activities the Club will provide Base Radio Station facilities for vessels fishing our tournaments and contests.

Game Club/Office phone number: 07 866 4121  
Weighmasters Duty Phone – please call/not text Mobile 021 0256 2849

It is therefore required that all vessels registering for these activities be equipped with an efficient VHF radio capable of accessing the Club’s working frequencies on Channel 61.

Except in an emergency all radio transmissions should be made by certified operators and a good standard of procedure is requested.

In the case of emergency or to lodge trip reports, please contact Coastguard directly on VHF Channel 63

With changes to the legislation on marine radio usage being considered stations are regularly being monitored by radio inspectors with attention being given to VHF repeater usage or perhaps their misuse. It is in all our interest to do the job right.

**GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING**