MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB INC

WELCOME TO THE 2nd Annual
Offshore Classic Game Fishing Tournament

Wed 3rd March – Sat 6th March 2027

Entry fee $1000.00 per boat

You are fishing as a team

Optional sweepstakes, winner takes all by species (weighed sections only)

Heaviest Marlin	(no Shortbill)	**$500**
Heaviest Broadbill		**$250**
Heaviest Tuna		**$250**
Heaviest Mahimahi		**$100**

ENTRIES

Entries and sweepstakes MUST be completed and paid for no later than Monday 1st March 2027. After this date entries and sweepstakes can only be paid for using cash, paid directly at the office, and will only be accepted BEFORE the briefing starts at 1930.

TOURNAMENT FISHING RULES

1. GENERAL

The purpose of this tournament is to make sure you all have a good time, and compete fairly in this competition.

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 the MBGFC office.
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 Convenor/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 Convenor/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, Convenors or Committee 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. ELIGIBILTY

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 Clubrooms on Tuesday 2nd March from midday and briefing at 1930 sharp.

At least one team representative **MUST** attend, and all team members are urged to attend to give any sponsors maximum exposure.
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.

Teams can depart after briefing to reach fishing grounds, but fishing cannot commence for tournament species before 6.00am Wednesday 3rd March

4. FISHING AREA

The area covered by the MBGFC Sponsors Grid:

Northern Boundary:	Latitude	35°50′
Southern Boundary:	Latitude	37°30′
Western Boundary:	Longitude	175°30′
Eastern Boundary:	Longitude	177°

5. 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, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

6. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Marlin (Blue, Black, Striped)	NO Short Bill Spearfish.
Broadbill	
Tuna	All species
Mahimahi	

7. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS.

Marlin	90kg
Broadbill	90kg
Tuna	5kg
Mahimahi	No minimum

8. RADIO

Contest Channel	Channel 61 Gamebase
Boat to Boat	Channel 6, 8 & 65
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.

9. WEATHER

The Tournament will not be cancelled due to weather. Whether or not to fish is not the responsibility of the MBGFC or organisers of the event, and must be based solely on the teams own judgement, taking into account the prevailing conditions, the seaworthiness of their vessel, the status of safety equipment on board, and the crews seamanship skills. The tournament is a 4 day event, as little as one day or part thereof constitutes a complete tournament

10. FISHING TIMES

Start fishing 6.00am Wednesday 3rd March
Stop fishing 3.00pm Sat 6th March

11. REPORTING

(a) Game base 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) Billfish and Broadbill should be called in to Gamebase on hookup and when boated, tagged or lost giving the vessels name, the area from the Sponsors Gridmap.

(c) There will be a sched at 1400 each day when vessels with fish to weigh can contact Game base with their catch & ETA.

12. HOOK UP FLAGS

On hooking up a fish which strips a significant amount of line, a signal flag should be displayed from the starboard outrigger, flagpole, aerial or other suitable position

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. Marlin and Broadbill TAGGED AND RELEASED

Marlin and Broadbill must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process. **Digital videos clearly showing the tag in place and the fish swimming away must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.**

15. WEIGH IN - At the wharf

The weigh station is open from 1600 to 1800 on days One to Three. Weighing fish after 1800 is at the discretion of the weighmasters.
The weigh station is open from 1430 to 1700 on day Four.

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 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 the 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 videos clearly showing the tag in place and the fish swimming away must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.

d) 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.

e) 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.

On Saturday 6th March, unless a fish is being played at stop fishing all anglers must have their fish, catch cards and tackle in the weighmasters hands by 1700. The location of a boat at stop fishing must take into consideration it's

steaming and/or towing time to the weigh station. At 1700 an official will collect catch cards from any anglers waiting in a queue at the weigh station. No further catches will be accepted.
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 recognition in this tournament it must be at the weigh station by 1730

16. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing within 30 minutes of weigh in on the day in question. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

17. PRIZE GIVING:

Held in the Club or Blue Lagoon Sat 6th March at 1930 sharp

Prizes
Any prizes not caught will be drawn
This tournament is based on "cash in cash out" of the entry money.

Heaviest Marlin		**25% of prize pool**
1st	65%	
2nd	35%	

Heaviest Broadbill		**20% of prize pool**
1st	65%	
2nd	35%	

Tagging, Marlin and Broadbill		**35% of prize pool**
First Marlin or Broadbill tagged	$2000	
Last Marlin or Broadbill tagged	$2000	

All tagged fish share equally in the remaining prize pool funds. **(if teams tag multiple fish, they will receive prize money for each fish)**

Heaviest Tuna		**15% of prize pool**
1st	30%	
2nd	25%	
3rd	20%	
4th	15%	
5th	10%	

Heaviest Mahimahi	**5% of prize pool**
1st	50%
2nd	35%
3rd	15%

18. REFUNDS

Once you have entered the tournament, refunds will only be available if your team is able to be replaced. MBGFC will endeavour to find a replacement from the waiting list and other means, but there are no guarantees. MBGFC have already committed to allocation of all funds from entries.

19. WHARF

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

20. 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.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING