MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

12 The Esplanade, Whitianga
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LADIES BLUE

1 Dec 2026 – 31st March 2027

RULES

WELCOME TO THE 2026-27
LADIES BLUE

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, NZSFC Rules or IGFA 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, IGFA 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. 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 to the Club office before going fishing.

3. 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°

4. TACKLE

All tackle used **MUST** comply with 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.

5. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Billfish	(All species)
Tuna	(All species) except Skipjack

6. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:

Striped Marlin	90kg	(Billfish Moratorium Agreement)

7. RADIO

Contest Channel	Channel 65 Gamebase
Boat to Boat	Channel 6 & 8
Coastguard	Channel 63
Continuous Weather	Channel 20

For safety reasons it is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessels have operational VHF radios.

8. FISHING TIMES:

Fishing must not commence until 0600 on 1st Dec 2026. Stop fishing is at 1700 on 31st March 2027.

9. STRIKES: (Single and Multiple)

(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.

10. BILLFISH TAGGED AND RELEASED:

Billfish must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process. Tagged and released shortbill spearfish will **not** count towards tag and release points.

11. 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 & Longitude must be entered on tag cards.

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 videos clearly showing the tag in place as well as the fish being released and swimming away 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 no responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weighmasters for any failure to do so.

12. POINTS

a) Fish weighed will gain points as follows:

$$\frac{\text{FISH WEIGHT X 100}}{\text{LINE WEIGHT}}$$

b) Billfish tagged and released will gain points as follows:
Marlin & Broadbill – 450 points

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.

13. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1600 on 31st March 2027. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

14: PRIZEGIVING

Prizegiving will be held in the clubrooms Saturday 4th April at 6pm

15. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

Prizes will be CASH and offered as follows:

(a) **Billfish weighed** Heaviest 45% of total pool

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

(b) **Billfish Tag & Release**
35% of total pool won by the team (or teams) with the most T&R points

(c) **Tuna weighed** Heaviest 15% of total pool

(d) **Champion Team**
Overall Trophy for team scoring the most points.

Note:
If no fish are caught in one category, the prize money will be shared by the fish caught in the other category in the above ratio.

In the event that more than one team finishes on the same number of points, or the same weight, the prize will be shared equally.

If no fish are caught in the tournament, there will be three (3) drawn team prizes each of 33% of the total pool.

If teams are not present at the club's Prizegiving drawn prizes will be redrawn. All prize winners will need to provide identification, i.e. passport, driver's licence may be asked for.

16. WHARF:

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

17. 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