

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

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30 JANUARY 2027

RULES

***Anglers must be wearing their wristbands and be present to be eligible for any lucky or drawn prizes at both briefing and prizegiving**

WELCOME TO THE
2027
LADIES 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 constitute 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 for the Tournament dates to the Club office before going fishing.

3. ENTRY, REGISTRATION & BRIEFING:

Entry and registration are two separate steps. Entry is completed beforehand to enter the competition. Registration takes place at the Blue Lagoon on Friday 29th January from 11am, where entered anglers can check in and confirm their details and collect their boat starter pack and the tournament information.

Briefing starts at 1830 in the Blue Lagoon.

*__Anglers must be wearing their wristbands and be present to be eligible for any lucky or drawn prizes at both briefing and prizegiving__

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.

There will be no "fishing in" in this tournament.

4. LEAVING PORT

Teams **may not** leave port until briefing is completed.
Teams may leave port after briefing if they wish and stay at an overnight ANCHORAGE.

5. 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°

6. 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.

7. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

One of each species per angler.

Marlin and Shortbill Spearfish
Tuna (Yellowfin Tuna, Big Eye, Bluefin Tuna)
Kingfish
Albacore
Skipjack
Snapper
Kahawai
Trevally

8. MINIMUM FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:

Striped, Blue, Black Marlin	90kg
Kingfish	75cm
Tuna	5kg
Snapper	50cm
Kahawai	50cm
Trevally	40cm

Apart from these restrictions there are no minimum weights, i.e. Fish do **NOT** have to go line weight in this tournament.

9. 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.

10. FISHING TIMES:

Fishing must not commence until 0500 on Saturday 30 January and must stop at 1600. In the event of a fish being played at stop fishing radio notification must have been given prior to stop fishing.

11. WEATHER:

In the event of bad weather the Tournament Committee reserves the right to make one or more of the following decisions:-

- Firstly – restrict the fishing area
- If that is not an option, postpone the date
- If the postponement date is subsequently deemed unfishable, cancel the tournament
- If the tournament is cancelled all prizes will be drawn for competitors to collect at their own cost.

In the event of postponement, all competitors will be in the draw for the car prize. Competitors must be present at prizegiving to be eligible to win spot prizes.

Confirmation will be announced at briefing. If in doubt call Gamebase.

12. 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

13. 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) Marlin and Tuna should be called in to Gamebase on hook-up and when boated, tagged or lost giving the vessels name and the area from the Sponsors Gridmap.
DO NOT CALL IN SMALLER SPECIES. THEY CAN BE NOTIFIED IN THE SCHED.

(c) There will be a sched at 1300 when vessels with fish to weigh can contact Gamebase with their catch & ETA.

14. MARLIN TAGGED AND RELEASED:

Marlin must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process.

15. 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 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 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) The weigh station is open from 1430 to 1730 on Saturday.
Unless a fish is being played at stop fishing all anglers must have their fish, catchcards and tackle in the weighmasters hands by 1730. The location of a boat at stop fishing must take into consideration its steaming time to the weigh station.
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 prizes in this tournament it must be at the weighstation by 1800.

16. LINE TESTING
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.

17. DISPUTES
The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1830 on Saturday night. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

18. PRIZEGIVING:
Will be held in the Blue Lagoon **starting at 1900 (7 p.m.)**
Anglers must be present and wristbands must be worn for eligibility for drawn prizes.

19. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

(a) **SPECIES (By weight)**

Marlin and Shortbill Spearfish	1st, 2nd, 3rd	Skipjack	1st, 2nd, 3rd
Tuna (Yellowfin, Big Eye, Bluefin)	1st, 2nd, 3rd	Snapper	1st, 2nd, 3rd
Kingfish	1st, 2nd, 3rd	Kahawai	1st, 2nd, 3rd
Albacore	1st, 2nd, 3rd	Trevally	1st, 2nd, 3rd

In the event of a tie the winner will be the first recorded caught as per the catch card.

(b) **TAG & RELEASE**
All marlin tagged and released will participate in a draw for one of three prizes.

N.B Prizes allocated in error at prize giving remain the property of the club and must be returned for correct allocation upon notification within seven days.

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

21. REFUNDS:
No refunds are available for this tournament - once you have entered the tournament, refunds will only be available if you can find someone to replace you. MBGFC have already committed to allocation of all funds from entries through the purchase of prizes.

22. 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