

## **2024 BILLFISH BONANZA TOURNAMENT RULES:**

### **GFAA EQUIPMENT AND ANGLING REGULATIONS APPLY.**

1. Each team will consist of no more than 6 anglers and no less than 2.
2. There will be two line categories fished.
  - 8kg only for light tackle (light tackle points 7,500) noting light tackle zone is only in waters less than 150m deep.
  - 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg for heavy tackle (heavy tackle points 15,000) noting heavy tackle zone is only in waters greater than 150m deep.
3. Game base must be notified when changing line classes.
4. It is acknowledged that some skippers may also be anglers in which case they will have equal fishing time and opportunity as the other anglers.
5. A maximum of 2 predetermined rods set with either lures or natural dead bait may be in use at any one time by a single angler. (Clarification: 1 angler may not be on strike with more than 2 predetermined rods at any stage while trolling lures or natural dead bait).
6. A maximum of 1 predetermined rod set with live bait may be in use at any one time by a single angler. (Clarification: 1 angler may not be on strike with more than 1 predetermined rod at any stage while live baiting). The rod must not be handled by others including pitch baiting or setting.
7. In regard to rules 5 and 6. There must also be equal fishing "time" and "opportunity" for each angler. (Clarification: no one angler can maintain strike more than another).
8. Skippers may manoeuvre the boat to assist anglers.
9. Boat crews are not permitted to assist anglers in any other way than to tag and release or capture fish as per GFAA rules.
10. Hook-ups that go into overtime are permitted on Saturday only but must be radioed into game base prior to cease fishing. Overtime is not permitted on Sunday, with weigh-in cutoff at 5:00pm. No tag cards accepted after this time either.
11. Only NSW DPI Billfish tags are to be used, failure to use the correct tags will result in zero points being allocated for that fish. It is the responsibility of each competing team to provide their own tags. No points will be allocated for weighed billfish.
12. Capture points are as follows: fish weight x 100 divided by line class. Fish may be gilled and gutted and a 10% allowance will be made for this. However potential record claims must be presented intact.
13. Other species: a limit of 2 fish of any one species per angler per day. Any fish to weigh must be equal to or greater than line class. Eligible species are: Yellowfin Tuna, Longtail Tuna, Cobia, Mahi Mahi, Spanish Mackerel, Wahoo. QLD Bag /Possession limits apply.
14. Any tied trophy will be awarded to the angler or team recording their points total first.
15. The tournament committee will decide all trophy winners, that decision will be final. The club reserves the right to review the awarding of any trophy if a contravention of the fishing rules becomes apparent.
16. No fishing including bait fishing will be allowed prior to start fishing on day 1 only. Live bait collected during the tournament may be kept over for day 2. Collecting live bait before start fishing on day 2 is allowed. Teasers are considered fishing gear and may not be deployed before start fishing on either day.
17. Any protests are to be lodged on the day of the alleged incident. In the event of a protest a group will be formed from visiting clubs representatives and they will determine the merit of any such protest based on majority vote.
18. All anglers, skippers and crew participating in the tournament MUST be a current financial member of a club affiliated with either GFAA or QGFA. All participants will be asked to provide proof of current membership.
19. Mooloolaba Game Fishing Club Inc. reserves the right to refuse any application to participate in this tournament.
20. No transfer of anglers or fishing gear at sea is to occur in the event of boat breakdown. Teams may be disqualified for breaching this rule.
21. Teams are to clearly identify rod and reel combinations at the time of the hook-up, and these rod and reel combinations are to be presented for inspection. (Identification is up to the team but should be simple and easy to identify – eg, different coloured band or tape on each outfit.)

### **DISCLAIMER:**

By entering the Tournament, all Competitors, Crew and Spectators agree to indemnify and hold MGFC harmless from and against any costs, damages, expenses, legal fees and disbursements, claims, liabilities, actions, and causes of action thereon arising from or related to any claim or threatened claim by any person or entity arising from or related to the performance of the Tournament. All Competitors, Crew and Spectators agree that all limitations or exclusions of MGFC's liability, shall extend to and be for the benefit of those individuals and entities MGFC retains for performance of the Tournament, including but not limited to MGFC's officers, committee, directors and volunteers. Competitors, Crew and Spectators further agree they shall make no claims or take any proceedings whatsoever directly against MGFC's officers, committee, directors and volunteers, whether the claims arise in contract, tort or otherwise, and whether covered by insurance.

