HASTINGS DEERING

WEIPA BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

*The Weipa Billfish Club committee wishes to extend a warm welcome to all participating club members and visiting*

*anglers. This year the club is super excited to once again welcome Hastings Deering as naming rights sponsor.*

**ITINERARY & FISHING TIMES**

**Friday 4th October – Briefing / pizza @ Weipa Bowls Club**

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE TO BE FINALISED BY 17:00 ON WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2024.

Briefing **7:00pm -** All nominated teams to have at least one member present to collect nomination pack.

**Calcutta** - A cash only Calcutta will follow the briefing where all teams will be auctioned off in random order. The prize pool will be divided as follows: 50% winning bid; 30% second place; 10% third place and 10% to the club

**Saturday 5th October 2024**

 **NO BAIT GATHERING PERMITTED PRIOR TO THE SHOTGUN START – ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE TACKLE CHECKED AT THE WHARF PRIOR TO 6:45 AM**

 Compulsory shotgun start adjacent Gongbung point at **7:00am**

 Commence Fishing **8:00am**

 Cease Fishing **4:00pm**

**Sunday 6th October 2024**

 Commence Fishing **8:00am**

 Cease Fishing **4:00pm**

**Monday 7th October 2024**

 Commence fishing **8:00am**

 Cease Fishing **4:00pm**

**Tuesday 8th October 2024**

 Presentation night – **5:30pm** pre dinner drinks

**6:30pm** dinner followed by presentation – Weipa Bowls Club

The sked boat will call start fishing and cease fishing each day. Any fish hooked before cease fishing, of which the sked boat has been notified, may be played out and will be eligible for points. The only exception is on the last day where all activity books and tag cards must be in the hands of the weigh master at the boat ramp by **6:30pm.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

All team paperwork must be filled out in full and tag cards filled out correctly and submitted with QGFA activity books for each day of fishing**. *Incorrect paperwork shall result in a 1000 point penalty.***

**FISHING RULES**

GFAA rules apply. Anglers, skippers and all assisting crew must be current financial members of the Weipa Billfish Club Inc. (WBC) or a member of a club affiliated with GFAA. The WBC reserves the right to refuse entry to any person.

Teams MUST be familiar with GFAA rules regarding leader length and angling rules – tournament judges will be checking tackle throughout the tournament. Illegal tackle will result in disqualification of all accumulated points.

Team sizes are to be a minimum of 2, with a maximum of 4 anglers, and each team is restricted to one boat. Prizes are only allocated for teams up to 4 anglers.

The tournament is a billfish only (Marlin and Sailfish) tag and release tournament.

Each billfish tagged will be awarded with the following points:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LINE CLASS** | **10KG** | **15KG** | **24KG** |
| **SAILFISH** | 1000 POINTS | 900 POINTS | 600 POINTS |
| **MARLIN** | 1300POINTS | 1170 POINTS | 1000 POINTS |

In the event of a tie, the angler/team to reach the score first will be awarded the winner.

Line Classes – 10 ,15 & 24kg. Note: there are no bonus points for fishing lighter than 10kg and 24kg is max line class

permitted.

Fishing grounds – as per tournament map.

Points will be awarded when the following conditions are met:

***The* *fish is caught in accordance with all GFAA rules and tagged and released with NSW fisheries “Billfish Only” tags. Tagging with any other tag will result in disqualification of the fish. Tag poles are restricted to a maximum length of 15 feet. Note: time recorded is the time the fish is released.***

**Motherships/Slow Boats**

**Must be in writing no later than 1st October 2024**

At the discretion of the tournament committee, teams can apply to be exempt from the compulsory 07:00 shotgun start in Weipa harbour, instead starting from Boyd Bay (no further west of Boyd Point) at 08:00. The intention of this is to aid those with motherships or competing vessels incapable of reasonable speed. It is expected that any team granted this exemption still have at least one member present at the briefing for team registration and late rule updates.

**RADIO SKEDS**

In the interest of safety and event success, accurate radio skeds are compulsory for all teams and will be conducted on VHF channel 77. If the sked boat cannot be heard or reached, every effort must be made to relay a message via another boat. Inaccurate or missed skeds will incur a penalty of loss of all points for the day. Any vessel not reporting two consecutive skeds will invoke search and rescue efforts at their own expense. Any vessel logging off early shall be deemed as no longer fishing within the tournament for that day.

Radio skeds are to be reported with the team’s name, followed by location as per the supplied fishing map, followed by the activity score for billfish only. For example:

***Last Cast, Foxtrot 6, with a 3, 3, 2*** (first digit refers to the strikes, the second to hook ups and the third to tagged billfish)

**SKED TIMES— 09:30am | 12:30pm | 15:30pm**

A radio silence period shall be observed from the end of the last sked each day until the call of cease fishing at 4.00pm to allow for late hook-up calls. All hook ups during this period must be called immediately to qualify for playing out after cease fishing. Any team not observing sked rules will be deducted their full days points.

**FIRST MARLIN & SAILFISH TAGGED DAILY**

The first marlin and sailfish tagged for each day of the tournament is eligible for a prize and **MUST** be immediately called in to the sked boat. Once this has occurred, no other reporting is required until the official radio skeds.

**HEAVIEST OF EACH OTHER GAME FISH SPECIES**

Anglers can weigh a maximum of one (1) other game fish per day per species to be eligible for these awards. Other game fish **WILL NOT** score points towards an angler’s overall score.

Eligible species are: Longtail tuna, Spanish mackerel, Cobia, Dolphin fish and must be presented to the weigh-in in a gilled and gutted, fresh edible condition.

Weighing facilities will be available at Boyd Bay **5:30pm – 6:00pm** Saturday and Sunday and back in Weipa until **6:30pm** on Monday only at the Weipa boat ramp.

**DISPUTE COMMITTEE / PROTESTS**

Protests must be made in writing and handed to the weigh master who will forward to the dispute committee (comprising of members from 3 clubs) by close of weigh in on the Monday at **6:30pm**. No other form of protest will be accepted. The dispute committee’s decision will be final.

**TOURNAMENT CONDUCT**

The tournament committee reserves the right at any stage of the competition to eject, disqualify or deduct points from the individuals or teams who are deemed to have conducted themselves in a disrespectful manner and are deemed to have brought the sport of Gamefishing or the tournament into disrepute. In the event that an angler, or a team of anglers / crew / skipper are ejected no result or refund of fees will be entered into.

**LOCATION & FACILITES**

The nomination evening and presentation will be held at the Weipa Bowls Club. The Club provides licensed bar facilities. Your nomination fee will include pizza at the briefing and one meal per angler at the presentation night. Extra meals and drinks are available for purchase. Anglers are responsible for the provisioning of all food and beverages for their boats.

**WEATHER**

Bad weather – the decision to put to sea is entirely the responsibility of the skipper of the boat. The Weipa Billfish Club Inc. committee takes no responsibility for decisions made by individual boat crews who decide whether to put to sea or not. No allowance will be made for fishing time lost as a result of bad weather. The committee reserves the right to cancel any day/s due to bad weather.

**Prize** **Categories**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Champion Team | Runner Up Team | Third Place Team |
| Champion Male Angler | Runner Up Male Angler | Third Place Male Angler |
| Champion Female Angler | Runner Up Female Angler | Third Place Female Angler |
| Champion Junior | Runner Up Junior Angler | Third Place Junior Angler |
| First Sailfish Tagged Daily | First Marlin Tagged Daily | Last billfish Tagged Daily |
| Heaviest Mackerel | Heaviest Longtail Tuna | Heaviest Cobia |
| Heaviest Dolphinfish | Hard Luck Award | 9 x Angler Sked draws |
| Photo Competition | Visiting Angler | Meritorious Effort |