



# Port Hacking Game Fishing Club Inc.

## FISHING RULES FROM 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017

*These rules supersede all previous releases of the Fishing Rules.*

### 1. INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of these Rules, the following expressions will have the meanings assigned to them below:

1.1 "Additional Pointscore Day" means all days of the Port Hacking 100 and Port Stephens Interclub Tournaments, all days of Central Zone Tournaments and all or part of the days of any other Tournament/s which the Committee may decide to nominate and publish in a fishing calendar as a competition day/s for which points will accumulate towards a season point tally.

1.2 "The Club" means the Port Hacking Game Fishing Club Inc.

1.3 "Club Boat" means a vessel registered with Port Hacking Game Fishing Club Inc.

1.4 "The Committee" means The Committee of the Club.

1.5 "Competition Year" means the period 1 July to 30 June.

1.6 "G.F.A.A. Inc." means the Game Fishing Association of Australia Incorporated.

1.7 "Governing Association" means any or all of I.G.F.A., G.F.A.A. and N.S.W.G.F.A..

1.8 "I.G.F.A" means the International Game Fishing Association.

1.9 "Non Point Score Day" means all other times not consisting of "Fishing Time" on a Point Score Day as defined in Rule 10 hereof.

1.10 "N.S.W.G.F.A." means the New South Wales Game Fishing Association Incorporated.

1.11 "PHGFC Inc." means the Club.

1.12 "Point Score Day" means the categories of both Regular and Additional Point Score Days.

1.13 "RMYC" means the Royal Motor Yacht Club – Port Hacking.

1.14 "Regular or Normal Pointscore Day" means the first and third Saturday or Sunday of each month, or such other day/s as the Committee may decide to nominate and publish in the fishing calendar as a Point Score Day/s for which points will accumulate towards a season point tally.

1.15 Words imparting the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender.



## 2. INTRODUCTION

Except where specifically stated, The Port Hacking Game Fishing Club Inc. adopts and adheres to the Rules laid down by G.F.A.A. Inc. These Rules are set out in detail in the current edition of the Rule and Record Book published by G.F.A.A. Inc. which is distributed to every member of the Club, when made available by G.F.A.A. Inc.

## 3. GENERAL

Points shall be awarded for captures or tag and release of fish made by a financial or honorary member of any Game Fishing Club affiliated with G.F.A.A. Inc., fishing from any boat registered with the club.

## 4. HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary membership may be granted to any visitor as set out in Article 7(1) of the Constitution of the Club and quoted hereunder...

*“The President, after consultation with two members of the Executive Committee, or in the absence of the President any two members of the Executive Committee in consultation, may grant Temporary Honorary Membership to a person or persons for a period of not more than one month only.”*

On a Point Score Day it is the responsibility of the Skipper of the boat the Honorary Member(s) goes fishing on, to notify on the first radio sched of the day to the duty sched boat, the name(s) of the Honorary Member(s). Failure to comply with this will result in the loss of all points for the boat for that fishing day.

Honorary membership may also be granted on a non-Point Score Day if the Skipper of a registered Club Boat provides names of the Honorary Members to the Club Point Scorer by email or SMS before the start of fishing on the day. Honorary Membership in this circumstance will be for a once off 1 week period.

Honorary members are not eligible for individual angler trophies, but points scored count towards boat trophies.

## 5. LINE CLASSES

5.1 Line Classes are defined as the following:

Ultra Light Tackle 4kg and 6kg (NO sharks 4kg)

Light Tackle 8kg and 10kg

Medium Tackle 15kg and 24kg

Heavy Tackle 37kg and 60kg



5.2 In all instances, fish captured must be registered in the line class on which the capture was made, except in that instance where the line used breaks in excess of the line class claimed, and in this case it is automatically upgraded to the next class.

5.3 Due care should be taken by the angler if a Record Claim is contemplated, that G.F.A.A. Inc. requirements are met prior to cutting the line to provide the required sample. Refer the G.F.A.A. Inc. Record Book for details.

5.4 The Committee may at its discretion, at any appropriate time, subject any line used on any competing boat to a line breaking test and may examine and measure any terminal tackle or other relevant equipment.

5.5 Line classes cannot be upgraded for expediency of weighing a fish as captured in another class, i.e. a fish taken on 24kg line cannot be claimed and be weighed as a fish on 37kg for trophy or other purposes.

## **6. BOAT REGISTRATION**

6.1 The first official day of the Fishing Season is the Boat Safety Inspection Day. This day will be conducted at a place and time determined by the Committee. The Club Safety Form must be completed in full prior to inspection.

6.2 A boat that passes Safety Inspection will be eligible to be placed on the Club's Register.

6.3 Boats not meeting all the requirements of the Safety Officer, at the sole discretion of the Committee, may be permitted to compete for one calendar month after the initial inspection at which time the fault(s) must be rectified and the boat re-presented for final inspection. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the forfeiture of all points scored during that month and until the boat passes all the safety requirements.

6.4 All competing boats must be registered by 30th September of that Year, and if intending competing boats cannot attend the Safety Inspection Day, then it is the responsibility of Skippers to make necessary arrangements with the Safety Officer at a time and place wherever deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the Committee.

6.5 New boats entering the competition after the 30th September of that year, must be registered within one (1) calendar month of their first competition day. Failure to register within the prescribed time shall result in the forfeiture of all points.

## **7. PHGFC Inc. BOAT SAFETY REGULATIONS**

### **7.1 NSW ROADS AND MARITIME REGULATIONS**

All boats must comply with NSW Roads and Maritime Regulations as a minimum for the boat's class as well as the following items specified below.



## 7.2 SEAWORTHINESS

All vessels must be generally considered suitable, seaworthy and safe for game fishing in the opinion of the Committee. Their decision will be final.

## 7.3 MINIMUM LENGTH

Minimum of five (5) metres in length as well as meeting all other requirements determined by the Committee.

## 7.4 E.P.I.R.B.

Tested as working and with at least three (3) months recommended battery life before expiry.

## 8. USE OF RMYC FACILITIES

8.1 All club boat owners that use the RMYC Marina Facilities (i.e Boat Ramp, Berths, Weigh station) must be financial members of RMYC

8.2 Should any Club boat owner be suspended from the RMYC, his boat will be ineligible to compete during the period of suspension.

8.3 It is the responsibility of all members to ensure that they and their guests conduct themselves with proper decorum at all times whilst guests of the RMYC and whilst using their facilities.

8.4 At all times Club boats and their crews must keep noise to a minimum in and around the weigh-station and adjacent RMYC marina areas.

8.5 At the discretion of the Committee, Club boats and their crews and/or guests found to have brought the Club into disrepute may incur a penalty (See Rule 22)

## 9. POINT SCORE DAYS

9.1 On any nominated point score weekend. Vessels may **NOMINATE EITHER** Saturday or Sunday **ONLY** to fish.

9.2 Club Point Score Days shall be determined by the Committee, prior to the commencement of each Fishing Season.

9.3 Additional Point Score Days shall only apply to Club boats which have been specifically entered into and which comply with the conditions of the relevant "away" tournaments. On these occasions, Club boats which have not entered the specific Tournament shall be eligible for points only if the days of the relevant "away" Tournaments are also designated "home" Club Point Score Days.

## 10. FISHING TIMES

10.1 Fishing on normal Point Score Days shall commence at 0700 hours and finish at 1700 hours. No berleying shall commence before the appropriate starting time. Where a fish is hooked but not boated before finish time, it may be played and if captured or tagged and released will be eligible for



point scoring, as long as the sched boat has been notified prior to end of fishing being announced. (see Rule 17)

10.2 Fishing time on Additional Point Score Days will be those times nominated by the applicable Tournament Committee hosting a Tournament the subject of an Additional Point Score Day.

## **11. BOUNDARIES OF FISHING DURING POINT SCORE & NON-POINT SCORE DAYS**

In order to be eligible for points and trophies relating to Point Score Days only, the following is to be strictly adhered to:

11.1 On any Non-Point Score Day, Club Boats may fish from any port on the New South Wales coast but must fish inside Club Waters to be eligible for Club Trophies.

11.2 On any Additional Point Score Day, Club Boats entered in a Tournament the subject of an Additional Point Score Day must adhere to the fishing boundaries and conditions set by the applicable Tournament Committee hosting the said Tournament.

11.3 Rule 11.2 will not operate to prevent a Club Boat from claiming fishing points for the concluding day of such Tournament, where the Club Boat elects to return to Port Hacking and not the Tournament hosting Port.

11.4 Club Waters are from 33.35 Barrenjoey Lighthouse in the north, to Kiama Lighthouse 34.36 in the south.

11.5 During the period commencing the weekend before the 'Shootout' at Port Stephens, until the end of weekend after the Interclub Tournament finishes, Club Waters extend north to 32.17.500 for Club Boats entered in the Shootout and/or Interclub Tournament.

## **12. ELIGIBILITY FOR TROPHIES**

Provided Rule 11 is strictly adhered to, Financial Members (not honorary members) of the Club will be eligible for such trophies as are listed in the Club Trophy List on the following basis:

All trophies in the said Trophy List are only eligible for achievement occurring aboard a Club Boat and within those boundaries defined by Rule 11;

12.1 The Ernie Palmer Trophy is available for award for the heaviest marlin captured in any waters aboard any vessel; PROVIDED the angler claiming the trophy provides the Secretary or fish recording officer within two (2) calendar months from the date of capture, sufficient evidence of the capture and weight.

12.2 With regard to the exception created by Rule 12.3, all captures during the Competition Year must be weighed by a Weigh master appointed by a NSW G.F.A. Inc. registered Game Fishing Club at its weigh station, or if that is not possible, the weighing must be in accordance with the Rule laid down by G.F.A.A. Inc.

12.3 The weighing of a fish the subject of a claim for the Ernie Palmer Trophy shall be in accordance with Rule or where not possible, in accordance with the Rules laid down by I.G.F.A.



12.4 With regard to the exception created by Rule 12.1.5, all capture certificates properly completed MUST be in the hands of the Point Score Recorder NOT LATER THAN 14 DAYS from the date of capture or tag and release for Point Score and Non Point Score captures and tags, it being the responsibility of the angler to make the necessary arrangements with the Point Score Recorder. Failure to do so will result in the loss of those points.

12.5 In the event of a claim for a trophy resulting from fish captured or tagged and released between 20th June and 30th June of each competition year, it is the responsibility of the angler to have the capture certificate in the hands of the Point Score Recorder no later than the Sunday of the first week in July of the subsequent Competition Year.

### **13. POINT SCORE – CAPTURE**

13.1 The rules relating to Capture of fish are as determined by N.S.W.G.F.A. Inc. from time to time.

13.2 The formula for the calculation of the capture points is as follows:

POINTS = Weight of fish squared, times factor, divided by line class

Line Class Factors are as follows;

4kg – 29.5

6kg – 19.5

8kg – 14.5

10.kg – 11.5

15kg – 7.5

24kg – 4.6

37kg – 3.0

60kg – 1.7

13.3 Points awarded for the capture of Marlin or Broadbill will be double points calculated by the formula referred to in Rule 13.2.

13.4 Points awarded for the capture of Other Game Fish will be triple points calculated by the formula referred to in Rule 13.2.

13.5 Points awarded for the capture of all sharks other than Blue Sharks will be half points calculated by the formula referred to in Rule 13.2. In respect of the capture of Blue Sharks, points awarded will be one quarter points calculated by the formula referred to in Rule 13.2.



13.6 No points or trophies will be awarded for Shark captures on 4kg line class, however, Record Claims for Shark captures occurring on 4kg line will be received by the Point Score Recorder of the Club and subject to Rule 16, forwarded to the relevant Governing Association for processing.

13.7 The maximum points which will be awarded for any individual capture are as follows:

13.7.1 In respect of captures on line classes up to and including 10kg – 15,000 points plus one point per kilo of fish weight.

13.7.2 In respect of captures on line classes above and including 15kg – 20,000 points plus one point per kilo of fish weight.

13.8 Minimum Weights – As determined by N.S.W.G.F.A. Inc. or as amended from time to time by N.S.W.G.F.A. Inc.

13.8.1 Yellowfin Tuna – 15kg or Line Class whichever is greater and Line Class ONLY for Junior Anglers.

13.8.2 Marlin: 70kg – up to 10kg line

90kg – 15kg line & greater

13.8.3 Sharks: 70kg – up to 10kg line

90kg – 15kg line & up to 37 kg

130kg – 60kg line

13.8.4 O.G.F. – Minimum weight to be equal to Line Class.

Minimum Weights for Junior and Small Fry Anglers

13.8.5 Yellowfin Tuna: 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line, and for junior anglers equal to the line class in all cases.

13.8.6 Southern Bluefin Tuna: 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line, and for junior anglers equal to the line class in all cases.

13.8.7 Marlin: a minimum of 60kg on line classes to 4kg to 10kg and a minimum of 80kg on 15kg line class and over.

13.8.8 Sharks: a minimum of 60kg on line classes 6kg to 10kg, a minimum of 80kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg, and 120kg on 60kg line class.

13.8.9 Other Game fish and broadbill: minimum weight to be equal to line class.

13.9 Weighing of Gilled and Gutted Fish – The Club will accept gilled and gutted fish for points and trophies and record claims.



13.10 Sharks – NO SHARKS to be weighed with restrictive device on jaws. Sewing up of Shark jaws will automatically disqualify the capture. No Shark will be weighed with Choker in place or where a Choker has been used.

13.11 Selling of Fish – NO FISH SHALL BE SOLD OR TRADED.

## **14. TAG & RELEASE**

14.1 The rules relating to Tag and Release of fish are as determined by N.S.W.G.F.A. Inc. from time to time.

14.2 Effective from 20 July 1996, the rules relating to Tag & Release are as follows:

14.2.1 All G.F.A.A. angling rules and equipment regulation apply until the fish is tagged.

14.2.2 Tag poles must not exceed 4.57m (15ft) overall length.

14.2.3 The tag pole or holding device must be in the hand when the fish is tagged.

14.2.4 One or more persons, in addition to the person holding the leader, may tag or assist in tagging the fish.

14.2.5 The tag needle must not protrude more than 50mm from the end of the tag pole or tag holding device, nor shall it exceed 5mm in diameter.

14.2.6 A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured to the fish.

14.3 Effective from 20 July 1996, the following acts will disqualify a tag & release:

14.3.1 Failure to comply with G.F.A.A. angling rules and equipment regulations or tournament tag & release rules.

14.3.2 Failure to comply with all other regulations that disqualify a capture.

14.3.3 Use of a gaff (other than release/jaw gaff for the purpose of tagging).

14.4 Multiple Tagging of Fish:

The multiple tagging of any one fish previously tagged that day from the same boat is prohibited. Other fish previously tagged and released may be hooked, fought and brought to the boat in accordance with NSWGFA rules and tagged. This previously tagged fish may then be gaffed and brought to the weigh station for scientific purposes or released in accordance with NSWGFA Tag & Release rules. In both these situations Tag & Release points will be awarded.

The days points will be forfeited if a team is found guilty of breaching this rule.

The following are only species that are recognised by the Club for Tag & Release, and the respective points for same:





	4-10kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
<b>MARLIN</b>					
Marlin – Black	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Marlin – Blue	12,500	11,500	>10,000	8,500	7,500
Marlin – Striped	12,500d>	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
<b>BILLFISH and OGF</b>					
Broadbill Swordfish	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Sailfish	6,250	5,750	5,000	4,250	3,750
Shortbill Spearfish	6,250	5,750	5,000	4,250	3,750
<b>SHARKS (min length of 100cm)</b>					
Shark Blue	3,125	2,875	2,500	2,125	1,875
Shark Hammerhead (all)	3,750	3,450	3,000	2,550	2,250
Shark Mako(all)	3,750	3,450	3,000	2,550	2,250
Shark Porbeagle	3,750	3,450	3,000	2,550	2,250
Shark Thresher (all)	3,750	3,450	3,000	2,550	2,250
Shark Tiger	3,750	3,450	3,000	2,550	2,250
Shark Whaler (all)	3,750	3,450	3,000	2,550	2,250
<b>TUNA</b>					
Tuna Albacore	625	575	500	425	375
Tuna Longtail	625	575	500	425	375
Tuna Bigeye	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Tuna Dogtooth	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Tuna Bluefin & Southern Bluefin	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
Tuna Yellowfin	1,250	1,150	1,000	850	750
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
Narrow Barred (Spanish) Mackerel	625	575	500	425	375



Wahoo	625	575	500	425	375
Yellowtail Kingfish	310	290	250	210	190
Barracuda	31	29	25	21	19
Cobia	31	29	25	21	19
Mahi Mahi (Dolphin Fish)	31	29	25	21	19
<b>Junior Personal Points ONLY</b>					
Mackerel Tuna	13	12	10	9	8
Striped Tuna	13	12	10	9	8

## 15. WEIGHING & RECORDING AT P.H.G.F.C:

15.1 The Official Weigh Master will be in charge of the Weigh Station at all times. In the event of his absence or unavailability, the President or a member of the Committee will make the necessary arrangements for weighing.

15.2 The Club's Official Capture Form must be used to record all captures, with exception to a claim for the Ernie Palmer Trophy which must be made in accordance with Rules 12.1.5 and 12.3.

15.3 Prior to placing on the Jetty for weighing, all relevant forms must be completed fully, except for weight.

15.4 Captures will not be accepted for Club Trophies or Point Score unless they are made from boats which have been duly registered with the Club.

15.5 Fish may be recorded and weighed in the above manner for TROPHY AWARD fish between 1st July and 30th June of each competition year.

15.6 Special care must be taken so as not to have any blood, offal, etc. left on the weigh station or jetty. It is the responsibility of the Skipper to make sure these areas are cleaned up and that no annoyance is caused to members or other guests of the RMYC.

15.7 Capture flags and Club pennant must be flown at the weigh station.

15.8 All unwanted shark or game fish carcasses must be disposed of EAST of Jibbon Point ON THE DAY OF CAPTURE, OR THE MORNING AFTER. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF THAT DAYS POINTS.



## **16. APPLICATION FOR NSW, AUSTRALIAN or WORLD G.F.A. RECORDS**

The above claims must be in the hands of the Secretary within FOURTEEN days after capture and MUST be in accordance EXACTLY with the procedures as laid down by G.F.A.A. Inc. and MUST accompanied by the prescribed fee(s).

## **17. RADIO PROCEDURES**

17.1 Radio scheds will be held on VHF Channel 21, at 20 minutes TO the hour, with the duty boat calling the first sched at 0840 hours E.S.T. or D.S.T. All boats must answer scheds promptly.

17.2 All positions must be given by grid map reference taken from the club's current Grid Map. Details as to whether boat is Trolling, Drifting or Anchored must be given.

17.3 The 0,0,0 system of calling strike, hook-up and capture or tag and release will be used at all times. Details of Species, whether Tagged and released or captured – with estimated Weight, Line Class, and Angler's name must also be provided.