

Newcastle Game Fishing Club Inc.

Fishing Rules & By-Laws (Adjusted 2019)



NEWCASTLE
GAME FISHING CLUB

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Newcastle Game Fishing Club Inc.

Fishing Rules & By-Laws

1. RULES OF FISHING

Shall be fished in accordance with the "Rules of the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) and New South Wales Game Fishing Association (NSWGFA) at the time of capture or tag & release shall apply.

2. FISHING YEAR

- (a) **Summer Competition**
Opens – The First Sunday in September.
Closes – At the conclusion of fishing on Monday of the long weekend in June.
Competitions within the Summer Competition
 - (a) Summer Competition Capture Point score
 - (b) Summer Competition Tag & Release Point score
 - (c) Mid-Week Capture Point score
 - (d) Mid-Week Tag & Release Point score
- (b) **Winter Competition**
Opens – At the conclusion of fishing of Summer Competition
Closes – on the Saturday prior to Opening Day of the Summer Competition
Competitions within Winter Competition
 - (a) Winter Competition Capture Point score
 - (b) Winter Competition Tag & Release Point score
- (c) **Coastal Waters Competition**
Fishing days eligible for coastal waters trophies are those days fished outside of NGFC grid map 365 days a year. Exempt from this rule are points accumulated traveling to and from a NSWGFA sanctioned tournament. (See rule 3c)

3. FISHING POINT SCORE DAYS – SUMMER COMPETITION

- (a) Point score days shall be conducted on Saturday & Sundays & all Public Holidays with the exception of **Christmas Day** or such other days as the Committee may from time to time determine. (Refer Rule 7).
- (b) Where a boat or angler is representing *NGFC* in a *NSWGFA* sanctioned tournament or *NGFC* competition within NSW coastal waters then these days of the *NSWGFA* sanctioned tournament or *NGFC* competition will be deemed to be normal competition days for personal and boat point scores and point scoring trophies (with such exceptions as defined).
- (c) Boats travelling from home port on a normal *NGFC* Summer Competition day to compete in a *NSWGFA* sanctioned tournament and representing *NGFC* will be eligible for boat and personal summer points, as long as these captures are weighed on certified scales and the capture/tag certificate is signed by an official of the tournament in which the boat is entered (refer to Rule 18b).
- (d) Boats fishing sanctioned *NSWGFA* tournaments and fishing from home port and representing *NGFC* must comply with:
 - (i) Fish are caught within NSW Coastal Waters.
 - (ii) * Must comply with rules of that tournament and any disputes must be lodged with that Tournament Committee as per tournament rules, the Tournament Committee's decision shall be final.
 - * If a cut off time to be at the weigh station is in place for the last day of fishing and a vessel does not make this cut off time then these points will be applied to mid week point score so long as the capture(s) /tag(s) meet all other rules of the tournament.
 - (iii) Fish must be weighed on certified scales as set down by GFAA rules.
 - (iv) If no certified scales are available, a certificate of accuracy for the scales on which the fish was weighed must be produced before point score will be allowed. (A photocopy will suffice).

- (v) A capture certificate must be completed and duly signed by the Weigh master of the tournament and handed to *NGFC* Secretary or Capture Recorder **within 14 days of the capture or tag**.
 - (vi) Point score allocated as per day of capture or tag.
 - (vii) Vessels fishing away from the Club's port must complete a capture certificate for each tag & release, clearly recording the tag number, fish species and position of tag & release. In addition, all fields of information must be completed on the capture certificate for captures and tags (refer Rule 18)
- (e) Vessels travelling back to *NGFC* home port after representing *NGFC* at a sanctioned tournament and travelling from the sanctioned tournaments port on a summer point score day will be eligible for boat and personal point score (refer Rule 18).
- (f) **AWAY DAYS** - A *NGFC* registered boat may fish a maximum of **15** normal competition days for boat and personal point score, away from *NGFC* ports on "Summer Point Score" days but **MUST** be fished within the **NGFC Grid Map**. Any days fishing out of our grid map points will be allocated to "Coastal Waters Trophy" point score only, not including fishing in a sanctioned tournament where the boat and angler is representing *NGFC* in a sanctioned *NSWGFA* tournament. The skipper is to notify the club via a **Club Committee Member** of their intention to fish an away day **prior** to the vessel putting to sea. Failure to do this will result in points for Capture or Tag being allocated to mid-week competition and the committee's decision shall be final. Capture / Tag certificates must have the event field marked as away day Summer Point Score with the name of the Committee Person notified prior to fishing and the port that was fished out of. Ports eligible for away days are any ports that are affiliated with *NSWGFA*.
- (g) No *NGFC* Boat / Personal Point Score or *NSWGFA* / **NORTHERN ZONE** personal or boat trophies will be allowed for boats or anglers who fish a non-sanctioned *NSWGFA* tournament.

4. FISHING POINTSCORE DAYS – MID-WEEK SUMMER COMPETITION

All days and times other than those covered in Rule 3 and Rule 8 with the exception of **CHRISTMAS DAY – which is a non-fishing day**.

5. FISHING POINT SCORE DAYS – WINTER COMPETITION

Can be caught at any time, seven (7) days a week within the *NGFC* grid map & outside of the Summer Competition / Summer Mid Week Competition dates. Vessels fishing *NSWGFA* sanctioned tournaments will be eligible for boat and personal points only. Vessels can also nominate away days for boat and personal points as set down for summer point score.

6. TAG & RELEASE COMPETITIONS

- (i) **Summer Competition** – A completely separate competition for Capture & Tag & Release – both of equal standing and both follow the same rules.
- (ii) **Winter Competition** – A completely separate competition for Capture & Tag & Release – both of equal standing and both follow the same rules.

7. INTENTION OF FISHING

- (a) All vessels must nominate their intention to fish on a particular day before proceeding to sea. If contact cannot be made with the sked boat for that day or another NGFC boat before proceeding to sea then contact must be made with Marine Rescue with the intention of the days fishing summer or mid week point score. Failure to make contact with any of the parties mentioned before proceeding to sea will automatically be deemed mid week point score and or suffer a points penalty deemed by the committee.
- (b) Members on weekend work rosters may make application to the Committee to fish for Summer Point score during weekdays providing these days are nominated in the application & must be clearly marked on the capture / tag cards. These days are limited to a choice of two 2 days per week as per **Rule 3 – Fishing Point score Days**.

8. FISHING TIMES – SUMMER COMPETITION

- i) 7.00 am to 4.10 pm Eastern Standard Time OR
7.00 am to 5.10 pm Eastern Summer Time.
- ii) Where boats or anglers are competing in NSWGFA sanctioned tournaments representing NGFC where fishing times of the competition have been extended, the additional time will be allowed for Club point score.
- iii) In NGFC competition all fish hooked prior to the end of fishing time are allowed to be “played out”, but must be reported to the “Duty Boat” of the day, before end of fishing is called.
- iv) Failure to report fish hook-ups or captures/tags before end of fishing will make captures/tags ineligible for Club point scores and trophies. The decision of the Committee in these matters shall be final.
- v) Boats cannot start burleying or trolling before the allotted times for Summer Competition i.e. a boat cannot burley and fish Mid-Week and then start fishing Summer Competition. If a boat starts burleying or trolling before the allotted Summer Competition times then the points for that day will be ineligible for summer point score.

9. FISHING AREAS FOR CLUB POINT SCORES AND TROPHIES

- (a) **Boats must leave and return to club port of Newcastle, unless fishing one of the allocated 15 days fishing from another port (see rule 3F)**
- (b) Boats must fish inside the NGFC Gridmap.
- (c) Anglers and boats fishing away from NGFC port competing in a NSWGFA sanctioned tournament and representing NGFC shall be entitled to personal and boat point scores.
- (d) All fish captured **must** be weighed at NGFC Weigh Station at Newcastle Yacht Club where practical, unless fishing an allocated “Away Day”. **NOTE: It is the skippers responsibility to make contact & arrangements with the weighmaster of the “Away Port” to weigh a fish or adhere to any potential record claim procedures.**

10. WEIGHING OF FISH FOR CLUB POINT SCORE & TROPHIES

- (a) The boat shall have arrived at the Club's port from the area where the fish would have been boated, on the day of capture or tag. In certain circumstances fish brought to the Club's port to be weighed in by a boat not being the boat concerned with the capture(s) may be considered by the Committee for inclusion in the relevant point score and/or awards. The boat concerned shall advise the “Sked Boat” of its intention and reason for transferring the fish following capture. If no attempt is made to advise the “Sked Boat” or base the Committee reserve the right to exclude this capture(s) from point score and trophy awards.
- (b) A fish must be hooked, fought and secured on the same vessel.

- (c) Fish must be weighed on the day of capture. If not, a written explanation must be submitted with a signed and completed capture certificate to the NGFC Committee for their consideration. The Committee's decision will be final.
- (d) Fish must be weighed by the weigh master, a member of the Committee or Honorary weigh master. If none of these are available then all financial NGFC members will be regarded as responsible weigh persons as long as the member did not fish on the boat weighing the fish on that day. In the event of a World, Australian and NSW record claim, the capture **MUST** be weighed and checked by the Weigh Master and Committee person.
- (e) Fish must be weighed on certified scales.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the vessel concerned to arrange for weighing of fish under this regulation.
- (g) All fish captured **must** be weighed at NGFC Weigh Station at Newcastle Yacht Club where practical, unless fishing an allocated "Away Day".
NOTE: It is the skippers responsibility to make contact & arrangements with the weighmaster of the "Away Port" to weigh a fish or adhere to any potential record claim procedures.
- (h) Any crew found to leave the Weigh Station dirty will be penalised 2,000 pts. Any breach of this regulation must be reported within seven (5) days in writing to the Committee of NGFC.
- (i) Boats must give weigh master adequate notice of intention to weigh fish.

11. ANGLERS / BOATS ENTITLED TO FISH FOR CLUB POINT SCORE & TROPHIES

- (a) Anglers who are financial members of NGFC. A financial member is a member who has paid his/her membership fee prior to the capture or tag of fish for which point score is claimed.
- (b) Anglers who have completed an application form for membership duly nominated by financial members and the application form together with the payment is in the hands of the Committee prior to the time of departure for fishing, shall be entitled to fish for point score and trophies, providing the application is accepted by the Committee at their next meeting.
- (c) Honorary and Life Members shall be entitled to compete for club trophies and club point score.
- (d) Visiting members (non-club members) are allowed to weigh in or tag ONE (1) fish per season only and that no personal points will be allowed for that fish, but points may be claimed for the boat if the owner wishes.
- (e) Boat point score will only be allowed to boats registered with NGFC prior to the capture or tag of a fish for which point score is claimed.
- (f) Personal Point Score – Club members may fish from boats not registered with the club for personal point score but the boat must be registered with a GFAA affiliated club. When fishing from a non-registered boat, the member must inform the Committee or "Sked Boat" of the day of his/her fishing intentions and captures/tags.
- (g) Duel Membership – Where a member or boat is registered with two (2) or more Game Fishing Clubs, point score or trophy entitlements will not be recognised unless the members nominate to fish for NGFC prior to commencement of fishing. Furthermore, an angler or boat may not register his or her capture or tag with more than one (1) Game Fishing Club. The boat and angler must register his or her capture/tag with the same Club.
- (h) A boat owner/s who replaces their boat during the season with another boat will be eligible to retain their current point score if the new boat is registered and a "Boat Registration & Safety Declaration" form has been completed with the Club by the same owner/s of the boat being replaced.

12. ANGLERS & BOAT OWNERS WHO ARE NOT ENTITLED TO FISH FOR POINT SCORE OR COMPETE FOR ANGLER / BOAT TROPHIES

- (a) Club members whose fees are in arrears.
- (b) Anglers who have not paid the membership fee prior to fishing

13. LINE AND BACKING

1. The use of backing is permissible. (Note: there is no restriction on the type or size of backing used as long as it is Monofilament, Multifilament, Lead Core Multifilament but not Wire.)
2. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 5 Metres of the line preceding the double, leader and hook. This section must be comprised of a single homogenous piece of line (for record claims, 16 Metres of the single line must be supplied).
NOTE: Small Fry shall be under the age of eleven (11) years when the capture is made. Junior anglers shall be under the age of sixteen (16) years when the capture is made.

14. CAPTURE POINT SCORE

NOTE 1: Grey Nurse Sharks are a protected species and **MUST NOT** be captured or tagged.

NOTE 2: White Sharks - The incidental hooking fighting, tagging and releasing of a white shark in Commonwealth waters (outside 3nm from shore), is permitted for scientific purposes and tag and release points will be awarded in all tournaments including club point score. This species cannot be targeted.

NOTE 3: Hammerhead Exception - Capture category to expel capture of Great Hammers and Scalloped as per NSWGFA rules.

Eligible Species – Capture	
Marlin	Black, Blue, Striped
Sharks	Blue, Hammerhead (see above Note 3), Mako (all), Porbeagle, Thresher (all), Tiger, Whaler (all)
Other Game Fish	Sailfish, Shortbilled Spearfish, Broadbill, YellowfinTuna, Bigeye Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Southern Bluefin Tuna, Dogtooth Tuna, Longtail Tuna, Albacore, Wahoo, Spanish Mackerel, Yellowtail, Kingfish, Cobia, Barracuda, Mahi Mahi. Junior Personal Pointscore & applicable trophies only: Striped Tuna & Kawa Kawa

15. FORMULA FOR CALCULATION OF CAPTURE POINT SCORES

Weight of fish (kgs) squared x the factor, divided by the line class used equals calculated points

$$\frac{\text{Weight of fish (kgs)}^2 \times \text{the factor}}{\text{line class used}}$$

Line Class	4kg	6kg	8kg	10kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
Factor	29.5	19.5	14.5	11.5	7.5	4.6	3	1.7

- (a) Marlin and Broadbill will score double calculated points
- (b) Yellowfin & Southern Bluefin Tuna & Other Game Fish will score triple calculated points
- (c) Sharks excluding Blue Sharks will score half calculated points
- (d) Blue Sharks will score one quarter calculated points
- (e) All Sharks are not eligible for point score on 4kg line

MAXIMUM POINT SCORES Maximum points to be allocated for Capture on: 4kg, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg = 15,000 pts + 1 point per kilo on 15kg, 24kg, 37kg, 60kg = 20,000 pts + 1 point per kilo

16. MINIMUM WEIGHTS

Marlin	a minimum of 70kg on line classes 4kg to 10kg and a minimum of 90kg on 15kg line class and over.
Sharks	a minimum of 70kg on line classes 6kg to 10kg; a minimum of 90kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg and 130kg on 60kg line class.
Yellowfin Tuna & 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.
Other Game Fish & Broadbill	Minimum weight to be equal to line class.

SHARKS – No capture points will be awarded for sharks on 4kg line.

17. TAG & RELEASE POINT SCORE (EFFECTIVE AS OF THE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2019)

Following are the only tag & release points that may be used by NSWGFA – affiliated member clubs.

	4-10kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
MARLIN					
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	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
OTHER BILLFISH					
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
SHARKS - minimum 100cm					
*Shark - Blue	3,125	2,875	2,500	2,125	1,875
*Shark - Hammerhead (Smooth Only)	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
TUNAS					
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
MISCELLANEOUS					
Narrow Barred (Spanish) Mackerel	625	575	500	425	375
Wahoo	625	575	500	425	375
*Yellowtail Kingfish - minimum 70cm	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
JUNIOR POINTS ONLY					
Tuna - Kawa Kawa	13	12	10	9	8
Tuna - Striped - Catch & Release Only	13	12	10	9	8

- The maximum number of *Yellowtail Kingfish and *Mahi Mahi tagged and released by one angler be limited to five (5) of each species per day, with a maximum of ten (10) of each species per boat per day shall also apply.
- All sharks tagged & released must measure a minimum of 100cm in length.
- Yellowtail Kingfish tagged & released must measure a minimum of 70cm in length & 60cm for Mahi Mahi
- *Striped Tuna and *Kawa Kawa are eligible species for **JUNIOR PERSONAL POINT SCORE AND APPLICABLE TROPHIES ONLY** in club competitions and tournaments.

18. CAPTURE CERTIFICATES AND TAG & RELEASE CARDS

- (a) Must be in the hands of the Secretary or Capture Recorder within **7 days** of the date of the capture or tag & release. Failure to comply with this rule could mean disqualification of the fish for point scoring purposes.
- (b) If competing in an away NSWGFA sanctioned tournament and fishing away from the club port representing NGFC, then capture certificates and tag cards must be in the hands of the Secretary or Capture Recorder within **14 days** of capture or tag & release.
- (c) All capture certificates must be fully completed and duly signed by the Weigh Master and Checker. The Committee reserves the right to reject a capture certificate that has not been completed in accordance with the above rules.
- (d) All tag & release cards **MUST** be returned to the club Secretary or the Capture Recorder with a **fully completed** Capture Certificate.
- (e) If the Recorder receives an incomplete Tag Card and Capture Certificate, the Recorder will return such cards and certificates to the Skipper. The Skipper to return the corrected cards and certificates to the Recorder still adhering to the timeframe rules aforementioned.

19. TROPHIES TO BE COMPETED FOR:

Additional trophies may be added to this list at the discretion of the Committee and will be published on the Newcastle Game Fishing Web site. All trophy fish must be weighed at NGFC weigh station with the exception of rule 3 (f) **NOTE:** If a junior angler turns 16 years of age during the current season and has point score in both the junior and senior section, then these two point scores can be added together for overall angler.

(a) Winter Competition

May be fished for seven (7) days a week from the Club Port as per rules.

- (i) Heaviest Tuna
- (ii) Heaviest Shark
- (iii) Heaviest Marlin
- (iv) Heaviest Other Game Fish
- (v) Champion Junior Angler – Capture
- (vi) Champion Junior Angler – Tag & Release
- (vii) Champion Adult Angler – Capture
- (viii) Champion Adult Angler – Tag & Release
- (ix) Champion Boat Capture
- (x) Champion Boat Tag & Release

(b) Land Base Trophies

May be fished for anytime within boundaries of the NGFC Gridmap

- (i) Champion Angler Capture
- (ii) Champion Angler Tag & Release

(c) Fly Fishing Trophies

Fished on normal Summer Competition days from clubs port as per rules.

NGFC – Champion Boat Tag & Release

(d) Mid-Week Trophies

May be fished for anytime outside normal Summer Competition hours and must be fished for at club port + not nominated or over allocated amount of away days.

- (i) NGFC Heaviest Marlin
- (ii) NGFC Heaviest Shark
- (iii) NGFC Heaviest Other Game Fish
- (iv) NGFC Champion Male Capture Angler
- (v) NGFC Champion Lady Capture Angler
- (vi) NGFC Champion Junior / Small Fry Capture Angler
- (vii) NGFC Champion Male Tag & Release Angler
- (viii) NGFC Champion Lady Tag & Release Angler
- (ix) NGFC Champion Junior / Small Fry Tag & Release Angler
- (x) NGFC Champion Boat – Capture
- (xi) NGFC Champion Boat – Tag & Release

(e) NGFC Champion Boat Billfish

Total Billfish tagged / captured and may be fished for 7 days a week within the NGFC Gridmap.

(f) Monthly Awards (Boat Trophy)

Highest point scoring boat in both Capture & Tag & Release for each month.

(g) N G F C – 1st Marlin tagged for season (Boat trophy)

May be tagged at any time inside NGFC Grid Map

(h) NGFC – 1st Marlin captured for season (Boat Trophy)

May be tagged at any time inside NGFC Grid Map

(i) NGFC – Last Marlin Tagged for the season (Boat trophy)

May be tagged at any time inside NGFC Grid Map

(j) N G F C - Last Marlin captured for the season (Boat Trophy)

May be tagged at any time inside NGFC Grid Map

(j) Capture Seasonal Awards

May be tagged at any time from **Club Port & inside NGFC Grid Map**

- (i) NGFC Largest Kingfish
- (ii) NGFC Largest Jewfish
- (iii) NGFC Largest Snapper

(k) Summer - Capture – Boat & Angler Trophies

Fished on normal Summer Competition days as per above-mentioned rules

- (i) NGFC Heaviest Other Game Fish
- (ii) NGFC Heaviest Tuna
- (iii) NGFC Heaviest Tiger Shark
- (iv) NGFC Heaviest Mako Shark
- (v) NGFC Heaviest Hammerhead Shark
- (vi) NGFC Heaviest Marlin
- (vii) NGFC Champion Small Fry Angler Capture
- (viii) NGFC R/up Small Fry Angler Capture
- (ix) NGFC Champion Junior Angler Capture
- (x) NGFC R/up Junior Angler Capture
- (xi) NGFC Champion Lady Angler Capture
- (xii) NGFC R/up Lady Angler Capture
- (xiii) NGFC Champion Male Angler Capture
- (xiv) NGFC R/up Male Angler Capture
- (xv) NGFC Overall Champion Angler Capture
- (xvi) NGFC Overall Champion Boat Under 21' Capture
- (xvii) NGFC R/up Champion Boat Under 21' Capture
- (xviii) NGFC Overall Champion Boat Capture
- (xix) NGFC R/up Champion Boat Capture

(l) Summer - Tag & Release – Boat & Angler Trophies

Fished on normal Summer Competition days as per above-mentioned rules

- | | | |
|---------|------|--|
| (i) | NGFC | Most Tag & Released Other Game Fish by a Boat |
| (ii) | NGFC | Most Tag & Released Other Gamefish by a Junior / Small Fry |
| (iii) | NGFC | Most Tag & Released Sharks by a Boat |
| (iv) | NGFC | Most Tag & Released Marlin by a Boat |
| (v) | NGFC | Most Tag & Released Marlin by a Junior / Small Fry |
| (vi) | NGFC | Champion Small Fry Angler Tag & Release |
| (vii) | NGFC | R/up Small Fry Angler Tag & Release |
| (viii) | NGFC | Champion Junior Angler Tag & Release |
| (ix) | NGFC | R/up Junior Angler Tag & Release |
| (x) | NGFC | Champion Lady Angler Tag & Release |
| (xi) | NGFC | R/up Lady Angler Tag & Release |
| (xii) | NGFC | Champion Male Angler Tag & Release |
| (xiii) | NGFC | R/up Male Angler Tag & Release |
| (xiv) | NGFC | Overall Champion Angler Tag & Release |
| (xv) | NGFC | Overall Champion Boat Under 21' Tag & Release |
| (xvi) | NGFC | R/up Champion Boat Under 21" Tag & Release |
| (xvii) | NGFC | Overall Champion Boat Tag & Release |
| (xviii) | NGFC | R/up Champion Boat Tag & Release |

(n) NGFC Novice Junior / Small Fry

Presented to a Club Junior or Small Fry Angler who has either captured or Tagged a fish & would not be receiving any other trophy for that season.

(o) NGFC – Heaviest Broadbill

May be fished for 7 days a week and from any NSW port.

(i.e. 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the full twelve months).

The Committee reserves the right to designate any trophy.

Note: All NGFC trophies listed are not perpetual trophies.

20. SAFETY RULES – NGFC REGISTERED VESSELS

- (a) All Club vessels must carry minimum safety equipment as set out by the **CURRENT** Maritime Authority regulations.
- (b) All Club vessels must carry a registered compliant **406 Mhz** EPIRB.
- (c) All Club vessels must be fitted with an operating VHF radio.
- (d) All vessels initially must have completed and signed a "Safety Declaration Form" to be registered with NGFC. This is to be forwarded to the club Secretary. The vessel or anglers fishing from the vessel will not be eligible for any point score or trophies until the safety declaration form has been received. If there have been changes made to the vessel other than what was originally detailed, the Skipper or Owner must inform the club Secretary and Boat Registrar of these changes to the original information provided with a new photograph if required.
- (e) The Committee reserves the right to inspect any Club vessel at any time. If any vessel is found in breach of the NGFC Safety Rules and / or the statutory requirements of the Maritime Authority the committee will apply a penalty to that vessel.
- (f) NGFC registered vessels: Skippers / Boat Owners will on subsequent renewal of their membership, sign on their membership renewal form a declaration that their vessel currently meets and will maintain throughout the season all NGFC Safety Rules and Maritime Authority statutory requirements and that the information is true and correct providing any changes of information promptly to NGFC also insurance policy number and expiry date is to be provided at this time.

21. FISHING GEAR

- (a) The Weigh Master and the Club Committee reserve the right to sample and test game fishing line used by Club boats for point score captures / tags, also checking of any tackle used for game fishing in the capture/tag, gaffing and boating of a fish. Non-compliance with this rule could lead to disqualification of capture / tag and the Committee's decision will be final.
- (b) Fishing tackle must comply with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) and NSWGFA rules.

22. ORANGE FLAG

An orange flag measuring 16" x 20" can be flown warning other vessels that they are fighting a fish. Any vessel causing the loss of your fish, whilst you are flying this flag may be protested against. All protests must be in writing within seven (7) days to the Committee of NGFC. The Committee's decision will be final.

23. RADIO SCHEDS

- (a) The Base station of NGFC shall conduct all NGFC transmissions on VHF Channel 80 where possible with 27MHz Channel 27.940 as a backup (27MHz optional).
- (b)
 - (i) Radio Scheds will be conducted on VHF Channel 80 on each point scoring day if 3 or more boats are fishing. If less than three (3) boats are fishing then they MUST communicate 2 hourly with each other and/or the Marine Rescue.
 - (ii) Radio Scheds will be conducted at 30 minutes past the hour every two hours starting at 7.30am-Eastern Summer Time & 8.30am Eastern Standard Time.
 - (iii) Vessels will notify Marine Rescue before heading to sea with their intention to fish and notify the sched boat at the earliest opportunity once the sched boat has been nominated for the days fishing.
 - (iv) Vessels will report on each Radio Sched accurately their position using the NGFC Grid Map. In the event a grid map is not available, the vessel must provide water depth in fathoms and position in relation to known land marks or preferably a GPS position if available. Fishing report for the period since the last sched using the 000 system, anglers name and line class. On the last sched, vessels must report total captures and / or tags for the day with an estimated time of arrival back in port. Vessels must report any late hook ups to the sched boat prior to the end of fishing to be eligible for summer point score.
- (c) In the event of vessels at sea & not willing to conduct Radio Scheds, the NGFC President or Committee person will nominate a vessel.
- (d) All vessels must report on each radio Sched with the correct information. In the event of a vessel not reporting or giving false information, the Skipper will be required to give an explanation to the Club's Committee, and this could result in a points penalty being imposed.
- (e) All vessels must sign off when they have returned to inshore waters with the "Sched Boat" of the day or Standby Base and Marine Rescue.
- (f) Completed sched sheets must be returned to the club within seven (7) days.
- (g) Failure to comply with any of these Radio Sched rules could result in a points penalty being imposed and the Committee's decision will be final.

24. JUNIOR MEMBERS

Junior members will not fish any Club event unless accompanied by an Adult with the exception of Juniors fishing from land-based positions. A Junior is an angler who has not reached the age of 16 years.

25. MINIMUM NUMBER TO FISH

Minimum number of two (2) persons must be on any boat participating in any NGFC competition to be eligible to score points.

26. UNWANTED FISH

All unwanted fish must be disposed of in an appropriate manner, well clear of the heads. If this rule is not adhered to the Committee has the right to take whatever action they feel is appropriate & the Committee's decision shall be final.

27. FISHING AWAY AT TOURNAMENTS

It is expected when NGFC members are participating in NSWGFA sanctioned away tournaments representing NGFC, they conduct themselves in a manner befitting their Club. If a complaint is received from the host Club of this tournament regarding any NGFC member, the Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action and the Committee's decision will be final.

28. FISHING RULES/BY-LAWS

As well as the reprinting of the club fishing rules / by-laws each year, these fishing rules are to be revised at the end of the Summer Season each year at a meeting, to see what our requirements are and whether these rules are to be updated or changed. We are to fish by these rules without changes until the following revision at the end of the season. If a member wants to place a notice for a change of or addition to any fishing rule during the season, the motion will be noted and placed on the agenda for the revision of fishing rules at the end of that season. All Government Statutory requirements must be complied with including minimum fish size and bag limits.

29. BOAT WASH

The Committee may impose a penalty of up to 2,000 points if any vessel causes damage to any other vessel or property caused by excessive boat wash in the harbour of Newcastle. Any breach of this regulation must be reported within seven (7) days in writing to the NGFC Committee.

30. NSWGFA INTERCLUB COMPETITION – SELECTION OF TEAMS

The selection of NGFC teams to fish the Interclub Competition will be determined by NGFC Committee at that time.

31. MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

Who may have an interest or who may appear to have an interest in a dispute or consideration before the Committee, shall excuse himself or herself from voting or officiating at such dispute or consideration, but are free to talk on the subject under discussion and give his or her opinion or observation.

32. DEFINITIONS

Home Port

Newcastle Harbour.

Visitor

A person who has not previously been a member of NGFC.

Junior / Small Fry

The above are eligible for male or female trophies unless the trophy states Adult Male or Adult Female. The exception to this is when Champion Angler trophies are being competed for when Small Fry, Junior, Male, Female and overall trophies are available, the angler trophies will be awarded to the respective class.

33. INTENT OF THE RULES

In the case of a dispute the NGFC Fishing Rules/By-Laws the NGFC Committee's decision shall be final