



Proudly invites you to attend the

2024 EAST COAST CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th March 2024

- NGFC reserves the right to refuse entry to the Tournament.

ENTRY CUT-OFF

The cut off for entries will be **Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.30pm (including online registration)**
NO EXCEPTIONS !!

BRIEFING

Briefing is to be held at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC), Wickham commencing at **7:00pm on Friday 8th March 2024**. ****NOTE:** There will be an option to view the briefing on a Facebook link if you can't attend. A representative of the boat must comment their Boat Name as proof of participation. Skippers can download a sched map from the NGFC website until their bag is collected to be aware of the Tournament Waters.

TOURNAMENT FUNCTIONS

FRIDAY 8th March 2024: Briefing starts @ 7.00pm.

SATURDAY 9th March 2024: After Fishing - 7.00pm Start - Lucky boat draws throughout the night in the Tournament Function Room at the NCYC Club.
Heaps of giveaway prizes !!! You WILL NEED TO BE PRESENT to claim your prize otherwise it will be redrawn.

SUNDAY 10th March 2024: Morning breakfast from 5.30am
After fishing - All competitors & their families are welcome to come to the Newcastle Yacht Club for some Socialising.

WEDNESDAY 13th March 2024: Presentation dinner for the East Coast Classic Tournament - Starts at **6.30pm** at the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club.

FISHING TIMES

Saturday 9th March 2024 – 8.00am until 5.00pm.

Sunday 10th March 2024 – 8.00am until 5.00pm.

***NOTE:** ALL TAG AND RELEASE CARDS + CAPTURE CERTIFICATES MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE **NGFC** WEIGH STATION / GAMEFISH BASE IN THE YACHT CLUB OR SENT TO **david@askstringer.com.au** AT THE COMPLETION OF THE DAYS FISHING OTHERWISE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE DAYS FISH WILL OCCUR.

*****On Sunday ONLY, we will allow boats to return to an alternate port if desired.**

Boats returning to an alternate port on Sunday 10th March 2024 can submit Tag Cards & Capture Certificates via photos using either email or SMS to the point scorer, **David Stringer - support@itsfishing.com.au** or **0402 953738** by **8.00pm Sunday 10th March 2024**. Anglers are required to have a reply confirmation from Dave Stringer for verification.

*****To be eligible for the Capture Prizes, the weighing of a fish MUST be presented at the NGFC Weighbridge on both days before 8.00pm unless hooked up & fighting prior to Saturday "Stop Fishing". NOTE:** When submitting photos of tag cards & capture certificates from an alternate port, all documents must also include pictures of the paperwork, angler and all tackle used + **MUST** include evidence that they are back in Port and have not submitted the paperwork whilst still at sea. **NO EXCEPTIONS !!**

*****IMPORTANT.....**Tag & Release or Capture Points **WILL NOT** be awarded for Tag Cards or Capture Certificates presented or sent that are incomplete, not readable or have incorrect information listed.

NOTE: Any fish hooked and still being fought before the end of fishing on Saturday may be played out providing that Tag or Capture are completed & submitted as per above rules.

FISHING BOUNDARIES

Tournament boundaries are as follows -

Northern – 32' 24"S – 153' 0"E

Southern – 33' 30"S – 153' 0"E

As per NGFC Sched Map (in Tournament bag or as per NGFC Website)

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Contact details:	Tournament Director	Rob Hyland	0418 498598
	Vice President	Mathew Holliday	0431 783665
	Secretary	Tamara Reilly	0423 462879
	Committee	Scott Johnston	0431 293705
		Jason Hewitt	0431 182782
		James Norris	0413 641124

TEAMS / ANGLERS

The competition is open to all anglers who are financial members of any club affiliated with the NSWGFA, GFAA, ANSA or IGFA (permanent overseas residents only). Proof of financial membership must be produced if requested. There must be a minimum of two (2) registered adult anglers on board each boat under 8 metres and four (4) registered anglers on board each boat 8 metres and over. The maximum limit to the number of anglers on each boat shall be as per the limit imposed by vessel capacity plate.

***NOTE:** Any person involved in effecting a Capture or Tag & Release must be a paid angler. Includes if they are, driving the boat, gaffing fish, tagging fish, running out lines, retrieving lines, clearing teasers or taking the leader. **Any vessel found to be using a person not entered in the tournament assisting in a Capture or Tag and Release will be disqualified from the tournament. This includes ineligibility for any boat prizes not yet awarded at time of disqualification.**



REPLACEMENT OF BOATS AND COMPETITORS

No replacement of boats or competitors for whatever reason will be allowed after fishing has started. Anglers may not affect a capture or tag & release on any other vessel than the vessel he/she is registered on. Captured fish, tag & release card, angler all equipment used in the capture or tag must be presented to the weigh station on the vessel on which the capture, tag & release was effected and may not be transferred to another vessel, however in the case of an emergency situation the Tournament Committee may at their discretion allow the transfer of an angler/fish and equipment used to effect the capture or tag.

BERTHING & FUEL

Berthing will be made available **FREE OF CHARGE** for **2 days** to boats that have entered the tournament (berths are not unlimited). Days can be nominated – **Friday 8th, Saturday 9th or Sunday 10th March 2024**. Please call NCYC Marina on 49408188 or 0408 299512 to arrange your berth **once** you have paid & entered to secure your berth !

IMPORTANT - No berths can be booked until a completed & paid tournament registration is received by NGFC.

NOTE: This will be a first in first served basis, lots of available berths but not endless !
Extra days are available at own cost. *Discounted fuel will be available at the Marina.

***NOTE: Newcastle Harbour Warnings** - There is a no wash zone past the Honeysuckle wharfs and a 4 knot zone entering the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club Marina, a penalty will be imposed for each breach.

CANCELLATION OF TOURNAMENT

The declaration of a Gale Warning by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) will automatically require the cancellation of any tournament or event conducted under the rules of the New South Wales Game Fishing Association (NSWGFA) and its member clubs. Cancellation only applies until Gale Warning is lifted. In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to cease fishing immediately and return to port. If sea conditions are unsafe and/or a gale force warning is issued fishing will be cancelled. The decision to cancel will only be announced after the 4.10am forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology on the day of fishing. The tournament committee will use discretion on making this decision, which will be strongly supported by Coast Guard and Government weather watch authorities. In the event of the Tournament being cancelled in part or whole, fish tagged or caught and reported prior to the cancellation will be eligible.

SAFETY

All vessels fishing the tournament must be equipped with safety gear complying with the NSW RMS regulations in force at the time. It is also advisable that an adequate (2 days) supply of food and water be carried on board. All boats must comply with NSW Waterways regulations for safety equipment and the safety standards of the vessel's home Club. A "Boat Safety Rescue form" is included as part of the entry form and must be completed and signed by the Boat Skipper. All boats must carry a **406Mhz EPIRB** and have two working marine radios fitted one of which must be **VHF** frequency.

INSURANCE

Details of the insurance cover must be included on the boat safety section of the entry form. No vessel will be accepted without this information being completed.

The Newcastle Gamefishing Club Inc. shall accept no responsibility for any accident or injury occasioned during the tournament. The Tournament Committee or NGFC or any sponsor will not be liable for any loss or damage to any person, property, personal injury or death howsoever occasioned at any time during the 2024 East Coast Classic Tournament. All anglers participate entirely at their own risk.



RADIO COMMUNICATION

Radio schedules (scheds) will be conducted as per NSWGFA Guidelines for Radio Schedules for Tournaments. Inappropriate language will incur a loss of 2,000 Capture and Tag & Release points for each breach or disqualification from the tournament. All boats must log on with Tournament Base to be eligible for any points and trophies. Radio schedules shall be held on Ch80 (VHF) (this may change pending on conditions and circumstances) at **8.10am, 10.10am, 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm Saturday & Sunday**. Boats shall be called in numerical order, it is requested that each skipper answer promptly with their Location & fishing report. **Please call in as Captured/Tagged** has been completed. **NOTE:** - A tag is NOT complete until the fish has been released unharmed !! Use the schedules to call in your overall Captures/Tags for the Schedule period using the "000" system, i.e. Strike, Hook ups, Captures/Tags. Short length, girth measurement and estimated weight of any fish captured must also be supplied. Please note that all fish to be weighed must be measured for the short length at time of capture. Billfish are to be measured from the lower jaw to the fork of the tail (short measurement). Sharks and other game fish to be measured from the nose to the fork in the tail (short measurement). The length in cm must be reported at the time of capture along with estimated weight to game fish base using the weight to length curve graph (located in tournament bag). Any fish found to be more than 10% different from the measurement reported may be disqualified at the committee's discretion. Any fish hooked in the final schedule period **MUST** be reported immediately. A 10 minute period of radio silence is requested prior to "Stop Fishing" on each day to allow the report of late hook-ups. Tournament Base shall be on stand-by until all vessels have signed off. If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it must return to port and notify Tournament Base of their actions by other means (e.g. phone). Any boat missing 2 consecutive schedules will be deemed a missing vessel. If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it must return to port and notify Tournament Base of their actions by other means (e.g. phone). Failure to log off at end of each day will encounter disqualification of all tag & release points & captures for that day. Tournament Base Contact: Leanne Hoff 0418 570629. Only Tournament Sponsors will be recognised during the Tournament. Breach of Media Rule: Penalties will be at the discretion of the tournament committee.

LEAVING PORT

****ALL BOATS (INCLUDING TRAILER BOATS) MUST RETURN TO NEWCASTLE HARBOUR ON THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON OF THE TOURNAMENT AND MUST LEAVE FROM NEWCASTLE HARBOUR ON THE SUNDAY MORNING.**

Boats may fish from their home port on **Saturday 9th March 2024** but CANNOT commence burleying, trolling or fishing before the Tournament Base announces the official start of fishing at **8.00am** & is within the prescribed tournament fishing area.

If a boat is not at that time within the prescribed fishing area on all fishing days, it cannot commence fishing until such time that it is within the tournament fishing boundary.

On **Saturday 9th March 2024**, ALL boats (Including trailer boats), **MUST** return to Newcastle. On **Sunday 10th March 2024**, all boats (Including trailer boats), **MUST** leave via Newcastle Harbour but may elect to return directly to their home port after fishing. All boats **MUST** still effect a sign-off with Tournament Base. Failure to log off at end of each day will encounter disqualification of all tag & release points & captures for that day.

FISHING RULES



The Tournament will be fished under the “Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations” of the NSWGFA & GFAA as are in effect at the time. In addition, the NSWGFA Point Score Fishing Rules shall apply. The Competition is open to anglers who are bona fide members of any club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, ANSA or IGFA (permanent overseas residents only). Any ANSA member must fish on a NSWGFA Registered boat. In the event of a tie on any prize category the count back system will be used to determine the winner, i.e. the angler or boat to reach the winning score first will be deemed to be the winner. If no time is recorded it will be deemed to be caught at 5:00pm on Saturday 9th March 2024 and 5:00pm on Sunday 10th March 2024. All tag and release cards must be submitted with the time recorded to count for points. If no line class is listed on tag card it will be deemed to be 60kg.

Following are the tag & release points that may be used.

	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

MINIMUM WEIGHTS TO QUALIFY FOR TOURNAMENT TROPHIES



Billfish Capture – Only the Largest Billfish over 150kg is eligible for a tournament trophy.

Yellowfin Tuna Capture - Must weigh a minimum of 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg, equal to line class for over 15kg line and for Junior Anglers equal to line class in all cases.

Other Game Fish Capture - Must weigh at least equal to the line class used.

Shark Capture – Only the Largest Shark capture over 350kg is eligible for a tournament prize.

Junior / Small Fry – As per NSWGFA Rules - **NOTE:** Junior Anglers must be 11 years & under 16 years at commencement of briefing & Small Fry must be under 11 years at the commencement of the briefing.

MINIMUM LENGTH FOR TAGGING

Kingfish - 70cm to be eligible for Tag & Release points.

Mahi Mahi - 60cm to be eligible for Tag & Release points.

Sharks - must be a minimum of 100 cm to be eligible for Tag & Release points.

RULES FOR TAG & RELEASE

All billfish must be tagged with the Billfish Tag. This is the only tag that will be recognised for billfish in any tournament, competition, point score or trophy. The Billfish Tag is for billfish only point score (i.e. no other species). The tagging of other fish/sharks with billfish tags will render your points and or fish/shark ineligible and disqualified. In releasing a tagged fish, the hook is to be removed or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish. A fish is considered tagged & released when the tag is secured to the fish & the fish is released back into the water alive !

***Mahi Mahi & Yellowtail Kingfish** are to be a maximum of 5 fish per person per day with a maximum of 10 per boat per day, each species. **NOTE:** Striped Tuna, Mackerel Tuna (Kawa Kawa) are eligible for Junior, Small Fry personal pointscore and applicable trophies **only** & don't accrue for overall boat points.

For Juniors - Striped Tuna & Mack Tuna are for Measure & Release only, points as per NSWGFA rules.

PROOF OF TAGGED FISH

There must be evidence of every Tag & Released fish. This must be provided with the Tag Card if requested by a Tournament Official or the Tag & Release will be disallowed.

A Time / Date stamped digital photograph or video is acceptable.

LINE & BACKING

- a) 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).
- b) The catch shall be classified under the breaking strain 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).
- c) **NOTE: MULTIFILAMENT LINES ONLY ALLOWED WHEN USED AS BACKING**

LINE CLASSES - which will be recognised are 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg

CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY are permitted for live baiting and trolling natural baits. No points to be scored for any other species caught using live baits with j-hooks except narrow bared mackerel.

CIRCLE HOOK DEFINITION: A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank of the hook.



MEDIA POLICY/SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- a) Any MEDIA RELEASE, POLICY or any MAJOR ISSUE **MUST** go through the NGFC Tournament Committee
- b) FORUMS – Clubs and/or affiliated anglers are NOT to post any inaccurate or inappropriate information/photographs on forum sites.
- c) NO INDIVIDUAL ANGLER / MEMBER should approach the media or answer any queries from the media, if approached that person should contact the Tournament Director with the details, who will then carry out the requirements of the Tournament Media Policy.

PROTESTS

Any protest must be made in writing and presented to a member of the Tournament Committee by 8:00pm on Sunday the 10th March 2024. The committee's decision will be final.



WEIGH STATION

The weigh station will be open on **Saturday 9th March 2024** and **Sunday 10th March 2024** from **3.00pm** onwards. Provisions can be made to weigh a fish early by contacting Tournament Base. All rods, reels, gaffs, tag poles, tail ropes and traces must be produced for checking if directed. All Capture Certificates & Tag Cards **MUST** be prepared for presentation prior to approaching the weigh station. All Capture Certificates **MUST** be presented to the Weigh Master PRIOR to the weighing of any fish off the boat concerned. If line class has not been entered on certificates, it will be deemed to be 60kg line class.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in disqualification of captures.

***NOTE:** Disposal of Fish and Sharks – Skippers are responsible for the disposal of their captures. Fish not required for eating or burley must be taken **three (3) miles to sea** and disposed of in a manner appropriate. If these criteria are not met an immediate disqualification will be enforced. Leaving a Fish or Shark tied off to a boat in a harbour or mooring for a period of more than 24 hours since weighing is an offence. The President or member of the Executive Committee is to be notified of the situation, if immediate disposal is not possible.

The skipper must ensure that any blood, offal etc. is to be removed from the weigh station area and ensure the area is left in a clean a state as possible. Please note that there are heavy fines for disposing of fish in any harbour. In the event if any shark or marlin given away for eating, only the fillets may be given and the remaining carcass is the responsibility of the skipper.

NOTE: All fish will be marked for identification purposes by NGFC at time of weighing.

***NOTE:** All anglers must carry Saltwater Fishing Licences (if applicable). Bag limit and size restrictions must also be adhered to. All competitors are reminded that it is an offence to tie any vessel to objects such as wave riders, FADs or fish trap buoys.

MISCONDUCT

The Tournament Committee may on its own initiative, investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the Tournament. **NOTE:** If any unruly behaviour the night of the tournament presentation may face exclusion from the following tournament. The Fishing / Adjudication Committee may invoke penalties or loss of points or disqualification of fish, angler or boat where misconduct is deemed to have taken place.

All anglers, particularly boat captains, are asked to display a degree of courtesy regarding burley trails and troll patterns behind boats. All anglers are reminded that as members of a Club, they are regarded as representatives of their Clubs. As such any unbecoming behaviour reflects adversely on the Club. Hence the Tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.

SALE OF FISH AND SHARKS

It is an offence for unlicensed fishermen to sell fish or to give fish to a licensed fisherman in NSW. Any Fish captured in this Tournament cannot be sold. Such fish shall be ineligible for any trophies or awards of the Association.

THE PROCESS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

The Committee will meet to discuss the proposal of the disqualification of a Capture and or Tag & Release. The skipper whose fish or shark is proposed to be disqualified will be advised one (1) hour prior to the meeting of the Committee and have the right to present his or her case at that meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF TOURNAMENT RULES

By signing the application to enter and/or paying the entry fee(s), applicants will be deemed to have accepted the 2024 East Coast Classic Tournament rules without limitation or amendment. **Notwithstanding the above penalties, the Tournament Committee reserves the right in any particular circumstance to disqualify any capture, angler or boat for disregarding any Tournament rules or instructions.**

BOAT

SKIPPER'S SIGNATURE



TROPHY LIST FOR 2024 EAST COAST CLASSIC TOURNAMENT



TAG & RELEASE

- **1st PLACE / CHAMPION TEAM - \$7500 CASH + Trophy**
- **2nd PLACE / RUNNER UP CHAMPION TEAM - Trophy + TBA**
- **3rd PLACE TEAM - Trophy + TBA**
- **4th PLACE TEAM - Trophy + TBA**
- **5TH PLACE TEAM - Trophy + TBA**
- **6TH PLACE TEAM - Trophy + TBA**
- **MOST MARLIN TAGGED PAST 120 METRE DEPTH LINE / BOAT UNDER 8 METRES – Trophy + \$1200 Cash**
- **MOST MARLIN TAGGED PAST 120 METRE DEPTH LINE / BOAT OVER 8 METRES – Trophy + \$1800 Cash**
- **CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER: Trophy + TBA**
- **CHAMPION SMALL FRY ANGLER : Trophy + TBA**
- **HIGHEST POINTSCORE BOAT SHARK : Trophy + TBA**
- **HIGHEST POINTSCORE BOAT OGF : Trophy + TBA**

CAPTURE

- **HEAVIEST BILLFISH OVER 150KG - \$7500 CASH + Trophy**
- **HEAVIEST SHARK OVER 350KG - \$7500 CASH + Trophy**
- **HEAVIEST YELLOWFIN TUNA OVER 55 KG - \$1000 CASH + Trophy.** (if not claimed it will jackpot to the next tournament)
- **HEAVIEST OGF : Trophy + TBA**
(Note: must equal line class or above as per NSWGFA rules)
- **CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER (OGF Only): Trophy + TBA**
- **CHAMPION SMALL FRY ANGLER (OGF Only): Trophy + TBA**