



The 12th Spot On Shimano Australia Day Shark and Game Fish Challenge



**Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania, 24th January 2026
Conducted by The Tuna Club of Tasmania Inc.**



CONTEST SCHEDULE
TGFA Sanctioned Contest



BRIEFING: Friday 23rd January 2026

Contest briefing at the Clubrooms (Pirates Bay Jetty) commencing 7.30pm.

A representative from each team must attend the briefing, at which time the Entry Pack will be provided.

FISHING: Saturday 24th January 2026

Fishing Commences from 7.00am until 3.00pm.

Weigh-in from 4.15pm until 5.00pm.

Presentation of Prizes from approximately 6.00pm.

Food and refreshments available for purchase from the Clubrooms.

CONTEST PRIZE CATEGORIES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY ONE PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED TO EACH FISH

- **Heaviest Shark of the Contest by an Angler**
- **Highest Tag and Release Point Score Boat of the Contest – Shark Only**
- **Highest Tag and Release Point Score Boat of the Contest – Other Gamefish Only**
- **Highest Tag and Release Point Score by an Adult Male Angler – Sharks Only**
- **Highest Tag and Release Point Score by an Adult Female Angler – Sharks Only**
- **Highest Tag and Release Point Score by a Junior Angler – Sharks Only**
- **Highest Tag and Release Point Score by a Small Fry Angler – Sharks Only**
- **Highest Point Score Shark by an Adult Male Angler**
- **Highest Point Score Shark by an Adult Female Angler**
- **Highest Point Score Shark by a Junior Male Angler**
- **Highest Point Score Shark by a Junior Female Angler**
- **Highest Point Score Shark by a Small Fry Male Angler**
- **Highest Point Score Shark by a Small Fry Female Angler**
- **Heaviest Swordfish of the Contest by an Angler**
- **Heaviest Marlin of the Contest by an Angler**
- **Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna of the Contest by an Angler**
- **Heaviest Other Gamefish of the Contest by an Angler**

CONTEST RULES

Authority

The Contest is conducted by the Tuna Club of Tasmania Incorporated.

Contest/Weather Committee

The Contest / Weather Committee consists of : Jeremy Cashion, Shane Kube, Steve Lichtendonk, Stuart Nichols & Robin Banks (subject to change).

Entries

One official Entry Form per Team must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Tuna Club of Tasmania Incorporated , Post Office Box 507 Sandy Bay 7006 by no later than Friday 16th January 2026.

Contest Entry Cost is \$50.00 per Adult & \$25.00 per Junior/Small Fry Angler
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Late entries **may** be considered, and if accepted **will attract a late penalty of \$100** per boat.

Official Entry Form may be reproduced.

If the entire event is cancelled due to bad weather no refunds will be given (due to expenditure already incurred by the club). Prizes remain the property of the Owners/Sponsors of the Contest.

Team and Angler Qualifications

Anglers must be current Members of a Game Fishing Club affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA). Presentation of current Membership cards may be requested.

The Contest is open to one Team per boat. Teams must consist of a minimum of two Anglers, but not more than six Anglers.

Fishing Rules

The Contest shall use the current Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) rules, read in conjunction with Tasmanian Game Fishing Association (TGFA) rules and these Contest rules.

All vessels must leave and Return to Pirates Bay whilst participating in the Contest.

Any vessels that do not comply with this rule **WILL** be disqualified.

Number of Rods and Minimum/Maximum Line Class

Any number of rods may be fished, but in the case of multiple strikes only four fish may be played at any one time.

Anglers are reminded that only fish hooked on rods, which are picked up immediately after the strike are eligible for Record Claims.

Minimum line class is 2kg for all sections of the contest.

Under new TGFA Sanctioning guidelines Multifilament lines (braid) may only be used in Sanctioned contests with a minimum of sixteen (16) meters of homogenous line (monofilament) directly preceding the double, leader and hook

Fishing Boundaries

The Contest fishing boundaries are the perimeter of the Grid Map.

The Grid Map is supplied in the Entry Pack, which is distributed at the Briefing session.

Use this Grid Map in place of any previous Grid Maps issued.

Fishing Times

Saturday - Commencing at 7.00am until 3.00pm

No lines are to be put in the water before the official start time of 7.00am.

All lines are to be wound in at the finish of fishing at 3.00pm.

No Berleying for Sharks shall commence before the official starting time of fishing.

The President shall announce that fishing can begin.

Tuna Base will advise the conclusion of fishing

Any angler playing a fish at the designated finishing time may, with the permission of Tuna Base continue fighting that fish.

Safety Regulations

All vessels are required to comply with safety and equipment regulations as prescribed by Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST).

It is mandatory for all competing boats to submit a **Vessel Detail Form** with the Entry Form.

Tasmania Police may be in attendance checking safety equipment and adherence to regulations.

The safety check list on the entry form must be filled out and signed by the skipper or team captain for the team to be entered into the contest.

Marine Radio Control and Skeds

All vessels are to be equipped with radios capable of contacting Tuna Base at Pirates Bay, or relay via Tas Maritime Radio or Another Vessel.

Tuna Base Marine Radio Frequencies used will be VHF Channel 73 .

Tuna Base will contact all vessels at ten minutes past each hour of the day, please have your grid position information ready, it is the onus of each Skipper to contact Tuna Base direct.

Any angler fighting a fish at the designated finishing time may, with the permission of Tuna Base continue fighting that fish.

Tas Maritime Radio , Relay Assistance

If Tuna Base does not make contact, it is the onus of the Skipper to then wait for the end of each Tuna Base radio sked for Tas Maritime Radio's Call for Radio Relay Assistance back to Tuna base.

Reporting Procedure for Radio Skeds

All vessels will Log on prior to leaving Pirates Bay with the following details:

- Vessel name
- Number of persons aboard

On the FIRST and each subsequent HOURLY sked vessels will report the following:

- Vessel name/ Boat Number
- Position as a grid reference, preferably using the phonetic alphabet
- **Number & type of fish captured**
- **Number & type of fish tagged and released**

On the FINAL sked vessels will report the following:

- Vessel name/ Boat Number
- Position as a grid reference preferably using the phonetic alphabet
- **Number & type of fish captured**
- **Number & type of fish tagged and released**
- Estimated time of arrival at Port.
- Advise Tuna Base if you still have a fish in play and request permission to continue playing that fish

Upon Returning home to Pirates Bay vessels will report the following:

- Vessel name/ Boat number
- Officially sign off with Tuna Base. The Skipper **MUST** receive acknowledgement that they have made contact with the Radio Operator. If radio contact is not made, the Skipper is to report in person to the Radio Room and sign off.

If a vessel fails to log off on return to Port, by Radio or in person, the vessel, its Skipper and Crew WILL be disqualified from the Tournament immediately.

Failure to Report on Skeds:

It is mandatory for ALL vessels to report on each sked. Failure to report on **two (2)** consecutive skeds WILL result in an Emergency Procedure being instigated.

If a vessel is found to not have a legitimate reason for not answering on two skeds, the vessel, its Skipper and Crew WILL be disqualified from the Tournament immediately.

Boats wishing to talk to each other are asked to use alternative channels and keep the designated VHF Channel 73 clear for skeds & base communication

Minimum Weight Requirements for Tasmanian Game Fishing Association (TGFA) Sanctioned Tournaments

All Tuna weighed must equal or exceed line class being used for the capture, however all

fish must have a minimum weight of 4kg.

All Sharks have a minimum weight requirement of 60kgs.

All Marlin have a minimum weight requirement of 60kgs

Capture Limits

For conservation purposes each angler can weigh a maximum number of 2 fish including the below capture limits.

Each team can weigh a maximum of 1 Billfish.

Each team can weigh a maximum of 2 Sharks.

Each team can weigh a combined maximum of 4 Southern Bluefin, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna.

Or only **2 Southern Bluefin if over 1.5 metres , as per State possession , bag and boat limits.**

Contestants are responsible for the correct weighing and recording of the weight of their fish.

The Weigh Master and a member of each fishing team must sign the Ticket.

Incorrect Tickets will not be considered for scoring.

All fish are to be weighed-in within 45 minutes of the commencement of weigh-in time, unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Weigh Master(s).

Weighing of Fish

The Contest Committee will appoint the Weigh Master(s).

All fish are to be weighed at the Weigh Station situated at Pirates Bay.

The net weight recorded shall be the weight used for scoring purposes.

All fish will be weighed on the certified Tuna Club's digital scales.

Fish will only be weighed-in gilled and gutted or sashimi style. **(Sharks are to be gutted only)**

If, in the opinion of the Angler, the fish is a potential Record or for their own Club requirements the fish may be weighed whole, then taken away for cleaning, and then re-weighed for the Contest.

Fish must also be presented in a suitable unbloodied and un mutilated state so a positive image is portrayed. This must also include photos.

Anglers should expect their fishing equipment to be inspected for GFAA rule compliance and present this on request. The Weigh Master(s) may require an additional small incision to be made on sashimi style presentations so a gut inspection is possible. No additional values will be added for cleaned fish.

After weighing it is the Angler's responsibility to immediately remove fish from the Weigh Station area. No cleaning or filleting of fish shall take place in the vicinity of the Jetty or the Tuna Club Rooms or Car Park. **Fish are to be cleaned at sea only.**

Fish frames and offal must not be disposed of in a manner that allows it to wash up on the shore. Frames and offal must be disposed of in a manner that does not bring the sport, the club and the contest into disrepute. Teams not complying will be disqualified and or refused future entry to contests.

Scoring

Scoring of fish for points shall be as follows:

CAPTURE:
$$\frac{\text{Weight of fish} \times 100 \times \text{Fighting Factor as per Scorebook List}}{\text{Divided by Line Class}}$$

Sharks will not attract points in the capture section.

TAG and RELEASE: Points are allocated as follows:

Billfish	20,000 points	
Southern Bluefin Tuna	10,000 points Must be a min 150cm in length
Southern Bluefin Tuna	5,000 points Must be a min 60cm in length
Yellowfin Tuna	5,000 points Must be a min 60cm in length
Mako Shark	1,000 points Must be a min 100cm in length
Blue Shark	500 points Must be a min 100cm in length
Albacore Tuna	100 points Must be a min 60cm in length

Striped Tuna are not to be tagged and points will not be awarded

Disputes

The Committee reserves the right to re-classify, refuse entry to any individual or team, settle any disputes and make decisions or variations relating to the conduct of the Contest. In all cases any decision made will be binding and final.

The Committee reserves the right to test line classes, randomly check rods, reels and tackle and place observers on any boat.

Any protest must be lodged with the Contest Committee in writing within 45 minutes of the close of fishing

Traffic Management & PWS Events Authority

The Tuna Club has a Special Events Authority to help manage the parking and public access to the lower car parking area during the Tuna Light Line Comp. We wish everyone to have a great time, and be safe and for everyone to go home happy after the event.

Please be aware there are other users and allow an extra 10 or 15 minutes as there may be congestion due to high numbers of boat trailers using the ramps and parking facilities. Head lights should be turned off when launching your boat on the ramp before dawn. This makes it easier for other users to see and not be blinded when backing down to the adjacent ramps. Please be careful when backing your trailer, small children and at times tourists may walk in front or behind your vehicle and trailer as they are not use to what we do each time we are at the ramp. (Don't be scared to use the car horn)

Please take instructions from the Car Parking Attendants when entering the lower Car Park. They are there to help you get your boat into the water ASAP and are attempting to stop any congestion or Car Park bottle necks from taking place. **NO RAMP RAGE PLEASE !!**

Vessels returning to Pirates Bay are requested to keep the lower landing on the big jetty and the landing jetty on the south side of the main ramp clear as much as possible and use courtesy as there are multiple users including a number of commercial operators who need access to these facilities as well as contestants.

Toilet facilities are provided adjacent to the lower Car Park a short distance from the Club Room. All contest participants are asked to use these facilities, remembering Tasmanian Game Fishing is on public display at this event and a positive image can only assist our sport. Good luck every one.

Please make sure you support and Thank Our Sponsors if you get an opportunity to meet them.

NO Sponsors , No Event !!

