



TGFA TOURNAMENT RULE REQUIREMENTS

Introduction: The Tasmanian Game Fishing Association (TGFA) oversees the sport of game fishing in Tasmanian waters conducted by five (5) Clubs. The five (5) Clubs, The St. Helens Game Fishing Club (SHGFC), The Tuna Club of Tasmania (TCT), The Game Fishing Club of Northern Tasmania (GFCNT), The Southern Gamefish Club (SGC) and the Sports Fishing Club of Tasmania (SFCT), each conduct one or more major tournaments, either solely or as a joint effort with other clubs. As these tournaments grow in stature, and with new tournaments likely to be planned, there is a need for the standardisation of rules and entry conditions for tournaments. The “sanctioning” of tournaments allows each entrant to a tournament to see that the tournament is authorised by the TGFA and is conducted under the consistent rules and ethics as set down by the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) and the TGFA.

Tournament Guidelines:

1. Where possible, all sanctioned tournaments should be at least a fortnight apart and incorporated into a TGFA calendar of events that is developed in a consultative manner by the TGFA as early as possible each year after the AGM.
2. TGFA clubs have traditionally provided and supported prize structures that reward anglers or teams of anglers for their sporting efforts. This is within a culture fostered on respect and conservation of fisheries. Prizes are provided with support of business that support the sport of recreational game fishing. We compete under an understanding and within a culture of respect and privilege in fisheries like the conservation dependant Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery. Large cash prizes are likely to draw criticism from observers of the sport and question our ethical motivations. Generally large cash prizes are not supported for sanctioned tournaments. Clubs wishing to offer cash prizes should be prepared to prosecute a case for support from the TGFA.
3. Blue Sharks are a poor-quality eating fish. The TGFA supports clubs hosting sanctioned tournament where Blue Sharks are eligible for Tag and Release only.

Tournament Requirements:

1. All Tournaments will be open to full financial members of game fishing clubs affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA).
2. The fishing rules of the GFAA together with the TGFA tournament rules and requirements and any conducting club's rules will be the only rules applicable.
3. Any rule used by the conducting club must not contradict the intent of GFAA or TGFA rules.
4. A minimum line class of 2kg and a minimum fish weight of 4kg for will apply.
5. State bag, possession and boat limits are applicable, clubs may set less for weigh in if they so desire. High grading will not be tolerated.
6. The current Tackle Regulations of the GFAA will be applicable.
7. All Tournaments must incorporate a point score system which incorporates and encourages the Tag and Release (T & R) of fish.
8. Kill only Tournaments will not be sanctioned by the TGFA.

9. The current tag and release point score values as stipulated in TGFA Tag and Release Policy will be the only Tag and Release Point Score system used.
10. The TGFA Tag and Release Policy will be circulated to Tournament Officials and Tournament participants at each Tournament.
11. ALL vessels must return tags (used and unused) at the end of a Tournament. A deposit fee as set by the TGFA is applicable.
12. All fish tagged must be photographed with date/time camera and tag placement as per specifications on card shown by NSW DPI. See picture on card for correct placement for each species for points to be awarded in sanctioned events.
13. All Tournaments must incorporate a point score system for a capture component of a Tournament using the following formula: **Fish weight x 100 x fighting factor divided by line class.**
Standardised Fighting Factors will be circulated to Tournament Officials at each Tournament, Fighting factors for Capture Point Score calculations:
All Tuna 1.5
All Marlin 1.2
Broadbill 2.2
Shark Blue .5
Shark Mako 1.0
Shark Hammerhead 1.0
14. All fish will be weighed gilled and gutted, except Sharks, which will be gutted only. If in the opinion of the angler, the fish is a potential record, the fish can be weighed whole then taken away for cleaning and then re-weighed for the Tournament. At the request of the angler or the weigh master and with both in agreeance, 10% of the whole weight may be deducted off the fish rather than being taken away for cleaning and reweighing.
15. Any offal disposed of in an unacceptable manner will result in immediate disqualification of the offending team or angler.
16. The TGFA may sanction Tournaments providing an application to conduct a tournament is tabled and approved at the TGFA meeting prior to the scheduled holding of the tournament. Such applications will include the proposed dates, angling rules, prize categories and regulations.
17. All tournaments will include categories for adult male, adult female, junior and small fry anglers. In the event of a Gender or Age Specific Tournament the preceding categories shall apply only to the Gender or Age specified in such a Tournament.
18. Other states wishing to conduct Tournaments within Tasmanian waters will notify the TGFA of the details of the Tournament seeking approval.
19. The TGFA and the GFAA will not accept any record application generated from within a tournament not sanctioned by the TGFA, other than in an internal Club event.
20. The following minimum weights will apply to all TGFA Sanctioned Tournaments and all TGFA affiliated Club events. Minimum Weights: All fish weighed must equal or exceed the line class being used. For all Billfish- 60kg minimum. For Sharks- 60kg minimum.
21. A standardised form of Indemnity will be included in each Tournament Entry Form:
Please accept our entry for the (name of Tournament). I/We agree to the Rules as published. In consideration of your accepting Me/Us as a Competitor/s or Guests, I/We absolve the (Name of Tournament) Organiser, Tournament Committee, Officers and Members, their Staff, Executive, Volunteers, Assistants and Concessionaires, the (Name of Club), their Officers and Members, its Staff, Executive, Assistants, Volunteers and Concessionaires, any Sponsors, their Officers and Members, Staff, Executive, Volunteers and Concessionaires as such from any liability whatsoever and howsoever arising from my/our involvement (whether on-shore or out at sea and including any liability resulting from the acts or omissions of my/our boat owner/skipper/deckhand or other employees) in the Tournament, and I/We indemnify you and agree to keep you indemnified against all claims, damages, costs and losses that may be claimed or awarded against you or that you may suffer resulting from injury or loss to us or my property of mine/ours invites, or licensees or guests. No nomination form will be

accepted until all team participants have signed this indemnity and complete such details on the nomination form. Should any nomination form be accepted prior to such completion and signature, the nomination is subjected to signature of this indemnity and completion of the details on this nomination form as and when requested by the (Name of Club). All Teams, by their signature, declare that they have the appropriate Insurance cover. I/We give consent to Clubs verifying my membership status.

22. A standard clause to be included in all Sanctioned Tournament Entry Forms worded as follows-“Copies of Insurance Policies must be attached to all Tournament Entry Forms”.
23. Multifilament lines (Braid) may only be used in sanctioned contests with a minimum of five meters of homogenous line (monofilament) directly preceding the double, leader & hook.
24. Each Tournament will have a set fishing area which may be varied or reduced in size according to weather or other safety needs. Fishing beyond the area will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification
25. A copy of the Emergency Plan to be used for the tournament is to be submitted with the application and a copy is to be provided to all vessels participating in the event.

These rule requirements provide the basis for the sanctioning of Tournaments conducted by Clubs affiliated with the Tasmanian Game Fishing Association and the Game Fishing Association of Australia.

All Tournaments conducted in Tasmanian waters by TGFA affiliated Clubs must incorporate the requirements before sanctioning will be given by the TGFA Executive.

All sanctioned Tournaments will display the TGFA Sanctioned Tournament logo on the Tournament Brochure.

(Revision 1st September 2026)