

# Fishing Competitions and Fishing Rules

**1.1** The club shall hold fishing competitions for members and visitors in accordance with the following rules.

## **1.1.1 Competitions (Other than Monthly Competitions)**

Competitions other than monthly fishing competitions shall be organized and conducted as determined by the Fishing committee to meet the objectives set out in Section 2 of the MOFSC Constitution.

### **Competitions (Monthly Competitions)**

- i. Competitions will be held monthly on a weekend with a minimum of 11 monthly competitions scheduled in each competition year.
- ii. Minimum of (5) competitors are required to constitute a Competition.
- iii. A member must attend a minimum of 4 monthly fishing competitions to qualify for the end of season prizes and trophies.
- iv. The Competition will be started at the prescribed time on the Saturday of the held event by sounding of the starting horn for at least 2 seconds.
- v. Should the competition not be held on the first scheduled weekend due to insufficient starters or inclement weather, it shall be postponed to an alternate weekend and if not held then for either of the previous reasons, shall be cancelled for that month.
- vi. Should the alternate weekend day not be suitable due to another Club fixture, the competition may be postponed to a suitable alternate weekend and the previous requirement will apply.
- vii. If unforeseen circumstances necessitate a change of Fixtures, such alteration shall be advised either as:
  - Notice Board
  - Newsletter
  - Local Press
  - Email

## **1.1.2 Starting Times (Generally)**

These shall be 0700 hrs. Or as otherwise determined by the Fishing Committee.

**NO COMPETITOR SHALL LEAVE BEFORE THE OFFICIAL STARTING TIME**

Competition start and finish times are signaled by the sounding of the horn and /or the Club Red Burgee on the flag pole will indicate that a competition is being held.

### **1.1.3 Control of the Competition**

- i. The competition is under control of the Rear Commodore Fishing.
- ii. The decision to proceed with the competition shall be made by the Rear Commodore Fishing and one member of the Fishing Committee.
- iii. Should a strong wind warning be current at the time then the competition will be recommended to be restricted to the Mandurah Estuary.
- iv. All boats competing must carry current relevant Government Department Registration and be fitted with safety equipment required by the authority for the distance at which the craft is operating offshore.
- v. The Rear Commodore Fishing, in consultation with a Fishing committee member has the right to cancel the competition at any time due to inclement weather or deteriorating conditions.
- vi. Should such a situation arise, Mandurah Water Rescue Group VMR611 will make a general broadcast to this effect.
- vii. Returning boats are requested to advise any boats in their immediate area.

### **1.1.4. Eligibility of Competitors**

- i. Ordinary Associate
- ii. Associate Member and Social Member
- iii. Youth & Junior Members -  
  
Accompanied by a parent or guardian/Junior membership is under 18 years for the whole of the Competition year, ie a junior who turns 18 yrs, before the last competition in a competition year will be listed as a senior.
- iv. Crew Members
- v. All Persons except for junior members must be paid entrants in the Competition.
- vi. Visitors / Honorary Members: Are eligible to fish but only three (3) times per competition year and conditions apply. Junior visitors are up to 17 yrs and not turning 18 yrs in the fishing season and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- vii. No member will be permitted to enter the monthly fishing competition with a visitor in his boat who has already used his three (3) yearly fishing entitlements.
- viii. Failure of the skipper to comply with listing all persons on board will result in disqualification of the boat.
- ix. All competitors must be amateur anglers only. No professional Fisherman or

Charter Boat Operators are permitted.

- x. All competitors shall read the rules pertaining to entry requirements and will be deemed to have done so in the event of ANY dispute.

### 1.1.5 Entry Cost and Registration

- i. Fishing Fees – Monthly \$10.00 or
- ii. Fishing Fees – Annually \$60.00
- iii. Honorary & Visitors \$10.00 per person
- iv. All Skippers and General Fishers must complete an annual registration form available from the office and on the website.
- v. All Skippers/Fishers must complete the necessary envelope form, ensure entry fees are paid for all anglers and place the envelope in the entry box before putting to sea or fishing from a land-based location. The envelope form must be filled in correctly STATING THE NAME OF EACH COMPETITOR and intended course or destination.
- vi. All Skippers/Fishers are to log-off with the weigh master at the Sunday weigh-in by 3.00 p.m. or other time as determined by the fishing committee. Fishers returning early or not attending the weigh-in must log-off by either;
  - placing a completed log off slip in the entry box or,
  - Telephoning or sending an SMS messages to the Rear Commodore Fishing or his/her delegate.
- vii. Fishers not attending the weight-in are deemed as being entrants of the competition but will not earn competition points for weighing-in nor species caught, unless granted an exception under rule 1.1.8 (assisting another boat) or been granted approval under rule 1.1.5 Entry Cost and Registration item (ix) Weigh-In Absentees. (Club Member Fishers)
- viii. All General fishers including Skippers shall fill in the Annual MOFSC Monthly Fishing Competition Form and via email. This registration must be done to both emails listed below (note rule 1.1.5 v) also applies:
  - [wba@mofsc.com.au](mailto:wba@mofsc.com.au)
  - [jhbooker@wn.com.au](mailto:jhbooker@wn.com.au)

SKIPPER/MEMBERS WHO DO NOT REGISTER BY CORRECTLY FILLING IN THE ENVELOPE OR BY EMAILING MAY BE DEEMED TO BE DISQUALIFIED.

- ix. WEIGH – IN ABSENTEES. (Club Member Fishers)

In the case, whereby a fisher member, hereafter called the fisher in a monthly Fishing competition is unable to attend the Sunday Weigh-In due to what is accepted by the Rear Commodore Fishing or his Fishing Committee delegate (the R/C), plus one other Fishing Committee member, as a legitimate reason, that fisher may give notice to the R/C of such a

situation and provide the R/C with the name of a member proxy who will be authorised to present the absent fishers bag to the Weigh-In.

The following conditions are to apply to such a proxy request:

1. The fisher must provide a reason for their inability to attend the Sunday Weigh-In on the reverse of the entry envelope, which must be lodged prior to the competition commencement. The only exception to the lodgment time is in the case of an unforeseen incident occurring after the competition commencement as covered under the Fishing Competitions and Fishing Rules.

The details to be submitted on the reverse of the fishing competition envelope are as follows:

- Member Fisher – Visitors are not eligible
- Proxy Member – All members qualify except visitors and juniors as the member has to be a responsible club member adult.
- Reason for the fisher's absence in line with the motion's acceptable legitimate reasons covered under item 2 of the rule.

It is the responsibility of the Fisher to ensure the R/C or his delegate are aware of the Fisher entering the monthly fishing competition using a proxy member at the weigh in.

2. An "acceptable legitimate reason" as tendered by a fisher will be considered on its individual merits. As a general guideline, a person rostered for employment at their workplace on a Sunday, or coming off or going onto night shift, would be considered legitimate. Such a commitment is nondiscretionary by the fisher. Such matters as milestone family birthdays, some religious functions and funerals will be considered at the discretion of the R/C.
3. Attendance at a family function will generally not be considered as a legitimate reason, a decision by the fisher in this situation is a discretionary one.
4. An appointed proxy must be a club member.
5. It is the responsibility of the absent fisher to ensure that their proxy is aware of the Fishing Rules of the MOFSC and all other relevant authorities.
6. Any error or omission made by the proxy will be treated as having been made by the absent fisher and acted by upon accordingly.
7. Absent fishers at the weigh in are not eligible for the Angler's draw nor the mystery fish prizes or any other prizes, awards that do not relate to the heaviest of the eligible fish species.
8. Any prize(s) won by the absent fisher will be presented to their proxy at the Weigh-In and neither the Fishing Committee nor the MOFSC accepts any liability for that prize from that point of time.

9. This clause does not prevent a fisher from competing for a part of the Sunday.
10. The R/C or his nominee and one other Fishing Committee member will adjudicate on the legitimacy of the request for a non-attendance prior to the commencement of Weigh-In.
11. The eligible fish in the fish bag submitted by the member proxy at the weigh in will be admissible in line with the Fishing Competition and Fishing Rules for fishing seasons end of year results and eligible for consideration regarding the end of season presentation awards, trophies and prizes.
12. This rule and amendments will commence from the beginning of the Fishing Season 2017 – 2018
13. A fisher who fished in monthly fishing competitions during one fishing season can only attend a maximum of 50% of the weigh ins by proxy in which they fished.
14. This rule only applies to Sunday weigh in's
15. A record sheet will be established and held in the front of the monthly data sheet records file this record will show the competition date, the Fishers full name, the proxy member, the reason for their absence and the approving RCF/Delegate and Fishing Committee Member.
16. Any fisher or member proxy entering the monthly fishing competition and violating this rule will be dealt with accordingly under the disciplines of the Fishing Competition and Fishing Rules.

#### **1.1.6 Communications**

- i. All competing boats are recommended to be equipped with a minimum 27 MHz marine radio. Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club recommends all skippers to have a VHF radio onboard their vessel.
- ii. Channel 91 for the duration of the Competition.
- iii. ALL BOATS ARE TO LOG ON AND LOG OFF WITH "MANDURAH WATER RESCUE VMR611" either with:
  - Channel 73 and 82 for VHF
  - Channel 91 for 27Mhz
- iv. DO NOT USE THIS CHANNEL FOR BOAT TO BOAT CONVERSATIONS.
- v. Boats equipped with VHF sets shall call on Channel 16 initially before being advised which channel to select by the operator.
- vi. From OCTOBER 1 until 1 JUNE hours of monitoring service 7 days a week 6.00am until 6.00pm.
- vii. From after 1 JUNE until SEPTEMBER 30, hours of monitoring service weekends and public

holidays ONLY 6.00am until 6.00pm.

### **1.1.7 Fishing Regulations and Ethics**

- i. All competitors WILL comply with the Fisheries Department Rules and Regulations, except in relation to minimum sizes of fish of which Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club have adopted as a standard for weigh-in (see species sheet).
- ii. All fish must be caught by a hand line, rod or manual winch with competitors using not more than two (2) rods or hand lines or manual winches each with not more than two (2) hooks attached (a set of ganged hooks will be determined as one set of hooks).
- iii. Fish caught by other means, e.g. speared, netted or set line will NOT be accepted.
- iv. Drop lines or hooks attached to a marker buoy are NOT allowed, also power winches are not allowed.
- v. No angler will alter the structure of a fish in any way nor implant any object within a fish to gain an advantage.
- vi. Any person detected of breaking Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Clubs Competition rules or weighing in fish other than their own, will be liable to disciplinary action as the Fishing Committee see fit and may include loss of prizes and points accumulated throughout the year.

### **1.1.8 Weigh In**

- i. Weigh in time will be 1500 hours on the Sunday of held event, or as otherwise determined by the Fishing Committee.
- ii. Any competitor not intending to return to the weigh in point by the times specified must radio their intentions to Mandurah Water Rescue VMR611 before the finishing time.
- iii. The Fishing Committee may alter the weigh in times on specific occasions and these alterations will be marked on the Notice Board before the start of the competition.
- iv. All boats must notify Mandurah Water Rescue on their return; failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- v. Fish must be inside weigh in enclosure prior to the scheduled weigh in time. Any fish presented after closing time will not be accepted.
- vi. The only exception to this rule will be for any boat assisting another boat. The accompanying boat shall be entitled to weigh in.
- vii. All weights and lengths must be checked by a member of the Fishing Committee. Only one (1) fish per species per person may be weighed in.
- viii. No fish will be accepted at the weigh in if presented in plastic bags (any kind) or plastic buckets. All fish shall be in wet Hessian or cotton bags or foam boxes (i.e. eskies) or plastic

tubs with ice on wet sack covering.

- ix. No frozen or fish presented in a state of decay will be accepted: this is at the sole discretion of the Weigh Master (the Weigh Master may change from competition to competition) No fish shall be distorted in any way (i.e. crimping of tails, gilling of fish) to meet minimum size requirements.

Other than provided by the two exceptions below, Fisher must be present at the weigh in to weigh in their fish.

Exception to this rule –

The weighing of fish belonging to competitors who are not present at the weigh in will take place only in the following circumstances:

- Where the competitor is on an accompanying boat assisting another boat, and providing the accompanying boats catch are at the weigh in area prior to completion of the weigh in;
- Where the competitor has suffered an injury and is seeking medical treatment and their fish are at the weigh in area prior to completion of the weigh in.

Each Fisher, other than the two exceptions above must deliver their catch for weigh in, in their own tagged bag as described below.

## **2 POINTS SYSTEM AND PRIZES**

The Anglers Draw is open to all Registered Competitors who must be present at the weigh in.

### **2.1.1 Members –ORDINARY, SOCIAL, YOUTH, JUNIOR AND CREW**

- i. All eligible fish weighed in count towards yearly aggregate weight, points and trophies or trophies for the heaviest fish of individual species for the year, e.g. heaviest scale fish of individual species for the year.
- ii. In the event of fish of equal weight competing for points or prize, first weighed in fish shall win.
- iii. 10 points to be allocated for each eligible fish species a competitor weighs in.
- iv. 10 additional points for the heaviest of each nominated fish species.
- v. 5 points for entering the competition.

### **2.1.2 Visitors/Honorary Members Competitors**

- i. Visitors and Honorary Members shall be eligible for all species prizes presented on the day.
- ii. Visitors and Honorary Members points are allocated for the Angler Champion held event.

### **2.1.3 Protests**

- i. Any protest relating to the weight or measurement of a fish must be made to the Weigh Master and Rear Commodore Fishing BEFORE the fish is removed from the Weigh Station.
- ii. All other protests should be made in writing within twenty-four (24) hours of when the dispute has occurred.
- iii. All protests will be decided by the Fishing Committee. Their decision shall be final and finding on all concerned.

### **2.1.4 Skippers Responsibility**

- i. All Skippers entering the day's event and going to sea have a duty of care to all persons on board the boat and each Skipper needs to carefully assess his ability and the seaworthiness of his boat before commencement.
- ii. The Skipper's acceptance of this requirement will be by his endorsement on the entry envelope.
- iii. It is strongly recommended that in relation to overnight fishing, boats pair up.
- iv. It is safe practice, that any boat proceeding beyond 10NM at night, must be in the company of one or more boats as Mandurah Water Rescue do not operate past 6.00pm.

### **2.1.5 General**

- i. All competitors will participate in a sports person like manner.
- ii. The Fishing committee reserves the right to penalize any boat/angler by a deduction of points or disqualification from the competition for conduct considered detrimental to the competition or the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club.
- iii. Club records may only be broken on competition days.
- iv. NO FISH CLEANING OR DISPOSAL OF OFFAL SHALL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE CLUB GROUNDS OR IN THE WATER ADJACENT TO THE CLUB.
- v. ALL COMPETITORS TAKING PART IN ANY OF THE CLUB EVENTS DO ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK.

### **2.1.6 Minimum Sizes Accepted at Weigh In for all MOFSC Competitions**

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM FISHING YEAR TO FISHING YEAR.

Types of fish NOT accepted as point scoring fish:

- Samson Fish
- Blue Groper



- Wobbegong Shark
- Port Jackson Shark (not accepted at all)
- Dusky Morwong
- Buffalo Bream
- Sea Carp
- Any member of the Eel family
- Gurnard or Scorpion fish
- All Rays: including Shovel Nose and Eagle Rays
- Any fish under the minimum lengths set by MOFSC.

Note: Some of the above fish may be entered for the Club records where nominated on the Club record board.

Competitors are requested to return to the water, fish not being weighted in or kept for their personal use.

Fish sizes will be governed by the legal sizes referred to in the current Western Australian Department of Fisheries Recreational Fishing Guide – West Coast region.

Where no eligible fish sizes are applicable the MOFSC Fishing Section will adopt a minimum size of 200mm.

Competitors are requested to return to the water, fish not being weighed in or kept for their personal use.

ANY COMPETITORS PRESENTING UNDERSIZED FISH WHICH ARE ILLEGAL BY FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SIZES FOR WEIGH-IN WILL HAVE THE WHOLE CATCH DISQUALIFIED.

FROM DEC 16 – OCT 14		FROM OCT 15 – DEC 15
FISH SPECIES		FISH SPECIES
Baldchin Groper		Squid
Breaksea Cod		Cobbler
Bream		Bream
Dhufish		Leather Jacket
Flathead or Flounder		Flathead or Flounder
Game Fish- See rule 2.1.7		Game Fish- See rule 2.1.7
Garfish		Garfish
Herring		Herring
King George Whiting		King George Whiting
Queen Snapper		
Shark		Shark
Skippy – Skipjack		Skippy – Skipjack
Snapper – Pink		Sweep
Tailor		Tailor & Snook
Whiting		Whiting

### 2.1.7 Minimum Sizes Accepted at Weigh In for all MOFSC Competitions

- i. Game Fish – WA Department of Fisheries sizes and rules apply (if no size is applicable refer to fishing competition minimum size 200mm.)

Game Fish Species	Sub-species
Bonito	
Mackerel	Grey, School, Shark, Spanish, Spotted
Mahi Mahi (Dolphin Fish)	
Marlin	Blue, Black
Sailfish	
West Australian Salmon	
Swordfish	
Tuna	Bigeye, Dogtooth, Longtail, Mackerel, Skipjack, Southern-Bluefin, Yellowfin
Yellowtail Kingfish	

### 3 Disclaimer

- 3.1.1 All those taking part in competitions conducted by Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club do so entirely at their own risk and responsibility.
- 3.1.2 The Mandurah Offshore Fishing And Sailing Club, any sponsor or any other party involved in the organization of any event disclaims any and every responsibility for any loss, damage, injury, to persons and things, both ashore and at sea, as a consequence of participation in any way in the competitions governed by these competition rules.

### 4 CODE OF PRACTICE

- Take no more than you need or can use.
- Understand and observe all fishing regulations.
- Support and encourage any activities that restore and enhance our fisheries and fish habitats.
- Remove rubbish to prevent pollution and to protect wildlife.
- Use established roads and tracks wherever possible.
- Take care when boating and anchoring to avoid damaging sensitive areas.
- Report environmental damage and pollution to the relevant authorities.
- Quickly and correctly return unwanted or illegal catch to the water.
- Use only legal tackle, attend your gear and value your catch.
- Obtain permission to enter land and respect the right of all who use the waterways.

## 5 GAME FISHING TOURNAMENTS

The Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club (Inc.) will adopt the Game Fishing Association of Australian Angling and Equipment Regulations as published by that organization and abide by the constitution of the Western Australian Game Fishing Association as an affiliate member of that association in respect of all organized Game Fishing Tournaments.