

Gosford R.S.L. Fishing Club (GRSLFC) Competition Rules – 2023 – Rev. 1

Definitions (in alphabetical order):

Bag Limit: means the number of eligible fish of any given species permitted to be weighed in as listed on the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart.

Brag Mat means a commercially available mat with markings in 1cm graduations with a 'stopper' at 0cm.

Broken Bay: means the geographical area west of a line from the southernmost tip of Box Head to the northernmost tip of Barrenjoey Point.

Competition: means any fishing event or contest between individual members of GRSLFC or GRSLFC members fishing as a club against other clubs.

Competition Weekend: means any weekend a competition is held.

Competition Year: means the period between the second Sunday in January to the second Sunday in December in a calendar year.

Disqualification: means the voidance of a member to be eligible for any points in a given competition on a competition weekend.

Eligible Fish Species: means fish listed on the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart.

Fish: means any species of fish, crustacean or cephalopods that are included in the eligible fish species list.

Fishing Boundary: means the geographic area from the northern breakwater of Swansea Channel New South Wales extending to the South Head of Sydney Harbour New South Wales.

Fishing Licence: means a current and valid recreational permit to capture fish in New South Wales as may be issued by the Department of Primary Industries or such other equivalent statutory body.

Home Competition: means any fishing event or contest between individual members of GRSLFC with the weigh-in conducted at Gosford RSL

Gilled: means the complete removal of the gills of a fish.

Gutted: means the complete removal of the intestines of a fish.

Inside Fishing: means fishing in the geographic area west of a line between the land mass between the northern breakwater of Swansea Channel New South Wales extending to the South Head of Sydney Harbour New South Wales. For the avoidance of doubt, "Inside" includes Lake Macquarie, Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Waters, The Hawkesbury River, Pittwater, Broken Bay and Sydney Harbour. Please note, a different inside boundary definition applies to competitions against the Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club. Refer to separate set of rules for that competition.

Juniors: means children who turn sixteen years old or are of a younger age during the current competition year.

Line Fishing: means the capture of fish by the use of a line or lines. For the avoidance of doubt, it excludes the use of any traps to capture fish.

Member: means any person who has complied with his or her financial obligation to GRSLFC or is otherwise entitled to membership of GRSLFC.

Outside Fishing: means fishing in the geographic area east of a line between the land mass between the northern breakwater of Swansea Channel New South Wales extending to the South Head of Sydney Harbour New South Wales. For the avoidance of doubt it includes land base fishing from any rock(s) or beach(es) not falling within the area defined under "Inside Fishing". Please note, a different outside boundary definition applies to competitions against the Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club. Refer to separate set of rules for that competition.

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Points: means competition points awarded in accordance with these rules and in accordance with the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart.

Roed: means the complete removal of eggs from a fish.

State Fishing Rules: means the legislation and regulations in force under statute or common law that apply to all recreational anglers in the state of New South Wales.

Size limit: means the size limit of fish on the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart measured in accordance with any method of measurement allowed in the State Rules at the weigh-in.

Weigh In: means the event whereby fish are presented to be weighed for scoring at a competition at the conclusion of the competition weekend.

Competition Rules

1. **General:**

- a. The GRSLFC will conduct competitions in accordance with these rules.
- b. These Rules may be amended by way of resolution at the Annual General Meeting or by of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting or as otherwise permitted under the Constitution of GRSLFC.
- c. All GRSLFC competitors must be financial members of Gosford RSL Fishing Club.

2. **Competition fishing times:**

- a. For home competitions (ie when no other clubs are involved) competitions will commence at 6pm Fridays and conclude at 3pm on Sundays on competition weekends.
- b. The Brisbane Waters Combined Fishing Clubs competition start and finish times are 6am Saturdays and 3pm on Sundays respectively.
- c. The start and finish times for competitions against the Grange Hotel Bloody Seagulls Fishing Club are 6pm Fridays and **2pm** on Sundays respectively.
- d. The start and finish times for competitions against the Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club are 6am Saturdays and **2pm** on Sundays respectively.

3. **Fishing Rules:**

Please note that separate Rules and Species Size and Bag Limits charts are applicable for the Brisbane Waters Combined Fishing Clubs competition and competitions against the Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club. Also note that when fishing against the Grange Hotel Bloody Seagulls Fishing Club and they are hosting, the Grange Hotel Bloody Seagulls Fishing Club Rules and Species Size and Bag Limits charts are applicable.

The rules hereunder are applicable to home competitions and also when our club is hosting the competition against the Grange Hotel Bloody Seagulls Fishing Club.

- a. All fish weighed in must have been captured within the fishing boundaries.
- b. All fish weighed in must have been captured by line fishing and otherwise in accordance with the State Fishing Rules.
- c. All fish weighed in must have been captured during a Competition Weekend, within the specified boundaries and within the competition commencement and conclusion times.
- d. Only fish caught by the member may be weighed-in by or on behalf of that member.
- e. For home competitions all fish to be presented for weigh-in shall be in the weigh-in area by **3pm** on the Sunday of the competition weekend. For competitions against the Grange Hotel

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Bloody Seagulls Fishing Club fish must be in the in the weigh-in area by **2pm** on the Sunday of the competition weekend.

- f. No member shall weigh-in without holding a current fishing licence unless they are exempt under the State Rules from being required to hold a fishing licence. An Executive Committee Member has the unfettered right to request to see the members fishing licence at any reasonable time during a competition weekend/ weigh-in and such request shall be complied with by the relevant member.
- g. Each competitor may use up to four rods or lines each, with no more than three hooks or gang hooks attached, or as directed by Department of Primary Industries regulations
- h. All fish weighed in must comply with the GRSLFC Species Size and Bag Limits chart.
- i. Only eligible species of fish may be weighed in.
- j. All fish weighed in must be gilled, gutted and roed with the exception of squid and any crustacean on the eligible species list.
- k. All fish weighed in must be dead, with the exception of any crustacean on the eligible species list, provided that such crustacean is made safe to handle by tying up or such other method that ensures it is safe to handle.
- l. No mutilated fish may be weighed in.
- m. All crabs must be caught by hook and line. The use of crab traps is not permitted.
- n. All fish weighed in must be contained in a separate container correlating to each individual member. For the avoidance of doubt, more than one member may place their fish in an Esky or such like container, provided that the fish of each individual member is separated by being contained in a plastic bag or the like. **Please note**, a separate set of rules apply to our competitions against the Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club. Under those rules, each competitor's catch must be in separate containers and iced down. (Separate plastic bags, each containing different angler's catches, in one esky is **NOT** acceptable).
- o. Each container must contain only eligible fish, ice or such other item necessary to cool the fish. No other foreign objects are to be contained in any container. A breach of this rule (in so far as it relates to foreign objects) shall result in disqualification unless the Weighmaster determines otherwise (noting the purpose of the foreign object rule is to ensure the safety of the Weighmaster).
- p. No member or other person may be in the weigh-in area unless their fish are being weighed in, or they are otherwise involved in the weigh-in process. A breach of this rule shall result in disqualification if the breach continues to occur following a warning from the Weighmaster, authorised Recorder or an executive committee member.
- q. Should a member be unable to attend the weigh-in, their catch can be presented for weigh-in by a third party. Please note that each member is allowed only three "proxy" weigh-ins each competition year.

4. Scoring of Competition Points

- a. Points will be scored in accordance with the weight of the fish as per the point system stated in the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart.
- b. One point per fish will be awarded in addition to any other applicable points.
- c. Fish caught Outside Fishing are to be weighed by the weigh master separately to fish caught Inside Fishing and recorded accordingly.
- d. Each member who fishes the competition weekend shall be awarded 20 points for fishing plus one point per fish and points per kilo of fish in accordance with the relevant Species

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Size and Bag Limits chart. A bonus 20 points shall be awarded for those who fish the competitions against the Grange Hotel Bloody Seagulls Fishing Club and Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club.

- e. Any member who fishes a competition and has nil catch and wishes to claim points for fishing the competition shall only be awarded the points by attending the weigh-in at the appropriate time and notifying the Weighmaster or Recorder that they fished.
- f. The Club Recorder shall record and maintain a register of “Club Record Fish” as per the GRSLFC Species Size and Bag Limits chart for the current competition year.
- g. The Club Recorder shall record and maintain a register of each member’s cumulative point score for the current competition year.
- h. No points will be awarded for a member’s catch unless they have been a member of the GRSLFC for at least twenty four hours prior to the announced commencement time of the completion weekend.

5. Catch and Release

It is not intended that catch and release will be used for a member’s entire catch. This option primarily offered to allow the release of larger fish to allow them to go forth and multiply.

Brag Mats issued by NSW Department of Primary Industries show length to whole weight conversion tables for twelve of our target species. The species are Yellowfin Bream, Dusky Flathead, Yellowtail Kingfish, Luderick, Mulloway, Mulloway, Snapper, Tailor, Tarwhine, Teraglin, Silver Trevally and Sand Whiting. Until tables are available for other species, catch and release will be limited to the species listed above.

In order to be eligible for points under this process you must do the following:

- a. Measure fish fork length from the fish’s mouth to the inner fork of the tail (where applicable). For species without a forked tail measure to the central tip of the tail. The fish’s tail must be presented open with a natural spread.
- b. Photograph the fish on the brag mat. The photo must be clear and in focus with the brag mat measurement markings clearly visible and legible. The photo must be taken square on with the whole fish in the frame.

The whole weight of the fish will be estimated based upon tables contained in the “Saltwater Fishing Guide”. For points scoring and “Board Fish” purposes ten percent will be subtracted from the whole weight of the fish to give an estimated gilled and gutted weight.

6. Disqualification

A member’s catch will be disqualified and no points awarded if:

- a. The member’s catch is not within the nominated weigh-in area prior to the nominated competition finish time, or
- b. The member’s catch includes fish of a single species which exceeds the bag limit listed in the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart, or
- c. The member’s catch includes fish which are smaller than the size limit listed in the relevant Species Size and Bag Limits chart, or
- d. The member’s catch includes fish, excluding squid and any crustacean on the eligible species list, which have not been gilled, gutted and roed, or
- e. There is a foreign object in the container holding the member’s catch, or
- f. In the opinion of the Weighmaster, the catch contains fish which have gone off, or

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- g. More than one member's catch is in the one container. By way of clarification, for the competition against the Bateau Bay Hotel Fishing Club each member's catch must be in a separate Esky. For all other competitions more than one member's catch can be in the one Esky provided that each catch is separated within individual plastic bags or similar, or
- h. The Club Executive Committee has reason to believe that the member's catch was taken outside the competition boundaries or fishing times.

Please note that the Weighmaster's decision on any disqualification is final.

7. Safety

- a. All boats must be fitted with all safety gear as specified by Roads & Marine Services.
- b. All radio equipped boats must log in with Marine Rescue Central Coast when departing the ramp and log off upon return.
- c. Any club member who goes out on another club member's boat shall do so at their own risk.
- d. Any member who cannot swim must be prepared to wear safety gear when advised by the Skipper.
- e. It is highly recommended that any member rock fishing wear a life jacket.

8. Home Competition Weekend Prizes

- a. The value of the prizes listed below may be varied by the Club Executive Committee.
- b. The junior member awarded the most points for their catch taken during the competition weekend shall receive either cash for the sum of \$25.00 or a voucher from a local fishing supplies store to the same value.
- c. The adult male member awarded the most points for their catch taken during the competition weekend shall receive either cash for the sum of \$50.00 or a voucher from a local fishing supplies store to the same value.
- d. The adult female member awarded the most points for their catch taken during the competition weekend shall receive either cash for the sum of \$50.00 or a voucher from a local fishing supplies store to the same value.
- e. A "Lucky Angler" shall be selected randomly from the anglers who fished the competition weekend, attend the weigh-in and did not win any of the prizes awarded above. The "Lucky Angler" shall receive either cash for the sum of \$50.00 or a voucher from a local fishing supplies store to the same value.