

Australian Anglers Association State Boat Angling Championship 2008-2009

TOURNAMENT RULES

SUMMARY OF KEY DATES AND TIMES.

Competition Day	: Saturday 21st March 2009
Early Nominations	: Up to 16 th March 2009
Late Nominations	: From 0730 to 0900 hours on the competition day
Sign-on	: From 0600 to 0900 hours
Club Teams Nominated	: Prior to 0730 hours
Competition Start	: At 0730 hours
Bags in Truck/Coolroom	: By 1630 hours
Sign Off	: By 1700 hours
Skipper Safety Discs	: Returned by 1700 hours
Weigh-in	: Commences 1730 hours
Presentations	: At approximately 1930 hours

Note: The above times are all 1 hour later than is usual due to daylight saving.

1. FIELD DAY OFFICER.

The Field Day Officer has complete charge of the Competition and is empowered to report any Competitor, whom he considers has breached the rules, to the Disputes Committee.

2. NOMINATIONS.

All competitors must be financial members of a Club affiliated with the Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc. No non-affiliated Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc. person is allowed to skipper or crew a competition boat other than a trophy donor. No charter boats are permitted.

All competitors must have nominated prior to the start. Late nominations will be accepted on the day from 0730 hours until 0900 hours. A late nomination fee will apply after 16th March 2009. Early Nomination fees will be \$20.00 for seniors (Ladies and Mens) and \$15.00 for Juniors and Veterans. Late fees will be \$25.00 for seniors and \$20.00 for Juniors and Veterans.

All Club Teams must have nominated prior to the start at 0730 hours. No separate fee is applicable.

3. SIGN-ON AND BRIEFING.

A Briefing Sheet will be handed to each competitor when they report to the sign on area to confirm their nomination prior to the starting time. The sign-on area will be attended from 0600 hours until 0900 hours and will be at the Hillary's Public Boat Ramp near the Fisheries Yard (Please remember to bring money for the boat parking which is \$6 as of now but can change prior to the event and Skippers disc of \$10 refundable).

4. START PROCEDURE.

The competition will start at 0730 hours by notification over the radio on frequency Mhz 27.90 and VHF16. All competitors should log on with the Whitfords Sea Rescue Group VJ6LQ on Channel 90 or VHF 16. All competitors must have SIGNED ON. No boat shall proceed beyond the designated area defined by Cardinal Markers outside the Hillarys Marina prior to 0730hrs.

5. FINISH PROCEDURE.

The fish truck will be positioned at the sign on area near the Fisheries yard in the Hillary's Northern car park near the boat ramp at the Hillary's Yacht Club (HYC) (where all boats will launch) and marked with the AAA Banner, and will be padlocked at **1630 hours**. All bags must be tagged, zip tied and deposited in the fish truck by this time. Tags and zip ties will be provided. Late bags are automatically disqualified unless extenuating circumstances are allowed.

6. SIGN OFF.

The sign off will be near the Fish Truck at the original sign on area (behind Fisheries yard in Boat Car Park) and after 1630hrs at the Hillary’s Yacht Club at the weigh in area, until 1700hrs. All competitors MUST sign off and return safety discs by 1700 hours. Remember also to sign off with Whitfords Sea Rescue.

7. WEIGH-IN.

The weigh-in will be conducted at the Weigh in area nominated by the HYC in the grounds of the HYC Clubrooms commencing at 1730 hours. After each bag has been weighed, bags shall be removed immediately by the competitor, who is then responsible for presenting their fish with tags for weighing at the separate scales for the largest of species prizes.

Fish left in bags, at the weigh in area for longer than 30mins after being weighed will be subject to disqualification.

8. POSTPONEMENTS.

In the event of inclement weather, a decision shall be made by the Field Day Officer and the nominated Safety Officer from each participating Club regarding cancellation of the event. If cancellation is likely, a meeting of the above will be called at 0700 hours where a decision will be made by majority vote. If a strong wind warning is current for the area at 0430 hours on the competition day, the competition for that day shall be automatically cancelled.

The competition may be temporarily postponed due to unforeseen circumstances on the day. If this looks likely, a briefing of all skippers will be advised on the morning. If the event is cancelled for the day, the competition will be re-run on the following day. If it is cancelled on this following day, the competition will be cancelled, till the following year.

9. POINT SCORES.

All class winners will be arrived at by points awarded based on the number of eligible species weighed plus 4 points per kilogram of total bag weight. **Only 1 of each eligible species may be weighed.** Species points are as follows:

<u>No. of Species</u>	<u>Points Value</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
1	7	7
2	8	15
3	9	24
4	10	34
5	11	45
6	12	57
7	13	70
8	14	84
9	15	99
etc	etc	etc

In the event of competitors scoring equal points, the competitor with the greater number of species shall prevail. Should they still be equal then the heaviest average weight per fish will be the determining factor.

In the event of any fish being hooked in or through the mouth by more than one competitor, the points attained for that fish must be shared.

Club Captains are responsible for checking, signing and receiving their Club’s receipts prior to removing their bags from the weigh-in area.

10. BAG LIMITS AND ELIGIBLE SPECIES.

Each competitor may only **weigh ONE fish** of the nominated species groups below. Any more than one fish of any listed species or unlisted species will disqualify the bag. Bags must contain only fish caught by the competitor weighing in, and must be washed and identified with the competitor's tag. Bags containing undersize or protected fish will be automatically disqualified.

Fish that have their necks broken will be pushed back into original shape and must be 1cm longer than the listed minimum size. Note this **does not** apply to gilled and/or gutted fish, and fish with the throat cut for bleeding, as long as the neck has not been broken.

- Notes :
1. That a maximum of 8 category 1 (High Risk) may be caught per boat with 2 to 4 people on board.
 2. Sharks exclude all Wobbegong, Carpet, Port Jackson, Cat, Leopard, White Pointer, Grey Nurse, Speartooth and Tiger Sharks.
 3. West Coast Fishing Rules, as outlined in the Recreational Fishing Guide (West Coast Region) published by the Department of Fisheries, imposes the following mixed daily bag limit restrictions:
 - a. Category 1 (High Risk) – 4 fish per angler
 - b. Category 2 (Medium Risk) – 16 fish per angler
 - c. Category 3 (Low Risk) – 40 fish per angler

The category for each species is listed above. Competitors with more than the mixed daily bag limit will be disqualified.

Eligible species, with reference to Sea Fishes of Southern Australia (Barry Hutchins and Roger Swainston) and *The Marine Fishes of North Western Australia* (Gerald R. Allen and Roger Swainston), are:

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Minimum Size (mm)</u>	<u>Cat.</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Baldchin Groper	400	1	491
Barracuda	500*	1	435
Bream - Black	250	2	309
- Yellowfin	350	2	308
Cod - Breaksea	300	1	228
Cod - (Other Serranidae)			
- Wirrah	300	1	212-215
- Grey Banded	300	1	232
- Chinaman	300	1	233
- Estuary Cod	400	1	235
- Others	300	1	216-227, 229, 231,
All: Max. size 30kg or 1000mm		1	234
Cobia	750	1	274
Cobbler (includes Catfish)	430	1	89-91
Coral Trout	450	1	<i>Northern book 318</i>
Dart	200	3	287, 288
Emperor - Red	410	1	<i>Northern book 502</i>
Emperor - Spangled	410	1	315
Emperor - Blue-Lined	320	1	<i>Northern book 529</i>
- Others	280	1	<i>Northern book 525-527, 530-534</i>
Flathead	300	2	194-206
Flounder	250	2	615-619
Foxfish	300*	3	441, 442
Garfish	200*	3	119-124
Goatfish	250*	2	323-327
Herring	200*	3	307
Herring - Giant	200*	3	63
Harlequin	200*	1	230
Dhufish	500	1	247
King George Whiting	280	2	270

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Minimum Size (mm)</u>	<u>Cat.</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Leatherjacket	250	2	627-652
Mackerel			
- Spanish, narrow-barred	900	1	589
- Spanish, broad-barred	750	1	<i>Northern book 955</i>
Mackerel - Shark,	500	1	587
- Spotted,	500	3	590
- Qld School	500	3	<i>Northern book 957</i>
- Others	200	3	586, 588
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish)	500	1	304
Mulloway	500	1	316
Pigfish	300*	3	440
Pike - Long-finned,	300	2	263,
- Striped Seapike	300	2	437,
Snook	300	2	436
Queen Snapper	410	1	425
Salmon	300	1	305
Samson Fish	600	1	300
Yellowtail Kingfish	600	1	298
Amberjack	600	1	301
<i>(Note - A maximum of 10kg will be allocated regardless of whether fish weighs more)</i>			
Shark	1000*	1	1-3, 18, 22-33, 35-38
<i>(Note - A maximum of 10kg will be allocated regardless of whether fish weighs more)</i>			
<i>(Note Whalers over 700mm interdorsal fin length protected)</i>			
Snapper - Pink	450	1	310
Snapper - Red or Swallowtail	300	1	142-145
Sweetlip	300*	3	322, <i>Northern book 507-513</i>
Sweep (incl. Moonlighter)	300*	3	351-354
Tailor	300	2	273
Tarwhine (Silver Bream)	250	2	311
Trevally			
- Giant,	250*	1	280
- Golden	250*	1	284
- Other (incl. Skipjack)	250	2	278, 279, 281-283, 285-290, 292-293
Tuna			
- Southern Bluefin	200*	1	600
- Yellowfin	200*	1	599
- Bigeye	200*	1	601
- Bonito	200*	2	592-594
- Others (incl. Albacore)	200*	2	595-598, 602
Wahoo	900	1	591
Whiting - Yellowfin	200*	2	269
- Others	200*	3	264, 266-267

11. ANGLING LIMITS.

A competitor must not use more than two (2) rods or handlines at any one time and each rod or handline must not have more than two (2) hooks (A flight of hooks to be considered as one hook). A competitor may use any gauge line. Trolling is allowed at the skipper's discretion. A competitor must hook and land their own fish, but may receive assistance in gaffing, gilling or landing which does not entail the assistant handling his rod, reel or line. No power winches, set-lines, drop lines, traps or hooks on marker floats to be used by competitors. Possession of any drop lines or set lines on any boat will lead to immediate disqualification of all competitors on that boat

12. SAFETY.

SIGNING ON AND OFF.

All competitors must sign on immediately prior to Start and receive the Bag Tags and skippers their Safety Disc. Sign on will commence at 0600 hours. A refundable \$10 deposit will be required for the safety discs. **To assist refunds, please bring a \$10.00 note.**

All skippers to return discs and sign off by 1700 hours, The sign off will be near the Fish Truck on the Boat Ramp and after 1630hrs at the HYC Sign on area, **Refunds will cease after this time.**

SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Safety equipment (as per Navigable Waters Regulations) must be carried by all boats and may be subject to inspection by the Department of Transport.

Each Club, having members participating in the event, shall appoint a person to act as their Safety Officer. This person shall be responsible for their Club members only. The appointment of the Safety Officer shall be made prior to the event and be notified on the Team Nomination Form.

Two way radio Mhz 27.90 is the operating frequency throughout the day. Boats should log on with the Whitfords Sea Rescue Group on Channel 90 or VHF channel 16. **Frequency MHz 27.96 or VHF73 strictly for boat to boat communication.**

Please Note: As of the 1st January 2009 EPIRBs are to be of the 406MHz range only (Digital)
Recreational Skippers Tickets (RST) are now compulsory, please ensure your nomination form has your RST Certification number inputted.

SKIPPER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

It is the responsibility of the skipper of each participating vessel to make themselves aware of the current weather forecast and sea conditions before putting to sea. It is also the responsibility of each skipper to be confident with their own ability to safely handle their vessel in the conditions forecast. It is highly recommended that the skipper regularly recheck the forecast throughout the day.

13. BOATS.

All boats MUST BE 4.2 metres (14ft) minimum length or over. Charter boats are not permitted.

14. DISPUTES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.

ANY dispute must be reported to the Field Day Officer no later than ten (10) minutes after the completion of the weigh-in. The Disputes Committee shall adjudicate on all disputes within these rules and their decision shall be final. Any competitor found to breach the rules shall be liable to disqualification.

The Disputes Committee will be chaired by the Field Day Officer and shall comprise one (1) member from each participating Club, nominated prior to the event on the Team Nomination form. If the dispute directly involves that person, a substitute for that Club may be elected. The verdict shall be decided by majority vote.

15. ALTERATION TO RULES.

The organising committee shall have the power to vary the rules or arrangements to contribute to the smooth running of the competition.

16. LIABILITY.

All competitors and persons taking part in the competition do so entirely at their own risk and the Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc. and/or the Organising Committee will not be held responsible for any loss or damage sustained by any competitor or any other persons to their persons or effects.

17. BOUNDARIES.

No limit, but all boats must leave from the HYC nominated launching area, although to minimise congestion, boats may wait for the start time within the confines of the area nominated in rule number 4. No boat shall leave this area prior to the start time (*Please keep the passage between the inner and outer harbour clear for working vessels to enter and exit uninhibited*)

18. CLUB TEAMS.

Clubs may nominate any number of teams in the following classes, prior to the start of Competition.

MENS TEAM	Maximum of seven (7) Competitors.
LADIES TEAM	Maximum of four (4) Competitors.
VETERANS TEAM	Maximum of four (4) Competitors.
JUNIORS TEAM	Maximum of four (4) Competitors.

For Mens Team Scoring, the best six (6) results to count, 7th result is not to be included in the score.

For Ladies, Veterans and Juniors Team Scoring, the best three (3) results to count, 4th result is not to be included in the score.

Juniors to be over TEN (10) years and under SIXTEEN (16) years of age on 1st August 2008. Veterans to be FIFTY FIVE (55) years or over on 1st August 2008.

19. TROPHIES PRESENTATION.

Trophies will be presented at the HYC Clubrooms at approximately 1930 hours (7:30pm).

Club Captains are to report to the Competitions Officer 30 minutes prior to the presentations to confirm their Club's results.

20. BAGS.

All fish to be weighed must be presented in a hessian or cloth based bag. The use of plastic, woven plastic or woven fibreglass bags is prohibited. Fish presented in buckets or eskies will not be weighed.

21. CONDITION OF FISH.

Any fish presented in a rotten, badly deteriorated or generally unfit for consumption state shall not be eligible for weigh-in. Fish must be whole and washed.

Fish that have their necks broken will be pushed back into original shape and must be 1cm longer than the listed minimum size. Note this **does not** apply to gilled and/or gutted fish, and fish with the throat cut for bleeding, as long as the neck has not been broken.

Note: Each club to ensure weighed bags are removed from the weigh in area as soon as practicable (no later than 30 minutes after that bag has been weighed and appropriately looked after, see note 23,

22. SPECIES PRIZES.

The Field Day Officer may request an examination of any or all fish that have won Heaviest of Species prizes. Fish that were part of a disqualified bag cannot win Heaviest of Species prizes.

23. DISCARDING FISH.

All participants are required to observe the responsible fishing practices set out in the Association's Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct.

Any Competitor found to have knowingly discarded whole fish caught during any Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) event shall be disqualified from competing in any future Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) events for a period determined by the Disputes Committee.

Disqualification from the event concerned may be retrospective, and all winners, results and awards affected by that disqualification will also be amended retrospectively if and as required.

24. PROTESTS.

Protests regarding the final points or allocation of prizes and trophies must be reported to the Field Day Officer within thirty (30) minutes of the conclusion of the presentations. After 30 minutes has elapsed, no claim will be allowed nor will the Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc. alter any results.

25. FACILITIES.

Breakfast will be available from 0500hrs near the sign on area; evening meals will be available with refreshments from the HYC premises prior to and during the presentations.

Parking is at a premium but available.