



## **Code of Conduct**

The underlying spirit of game fishing is that the skill of the angler is pitted against the instinct and strength of the fish/shark. The angler, by using the lightest line against the biggest and strongest fish in the highest ethical spirit of fishing, provides a Game fish with every chance for its survival.

To facilitate the conservation of Game fish stocks, anglers should endeavour to tag and release Game fish in excellent condition where these Game fish will not create records, win tournaments and/or be used for consumption. Where Marlin are targeted for Tag and Release, the use of heavier tackle is recommended to ensure the Marlin is in good condition when released.

The rules of the New South Wales and Australian Gamefishing Association and Kiama Game Fishing Club Inc are to be strictly adhered to.

### **1. Fishing Days**

The Point Score competitions will commence from the first full weekend in September and each weekend up to and including the 31<sup>st</sup> August the following year. This includes all Public Holidays.

**Summer Point Score** will be held on every weekend, from first full weekend in September to last full weekend in May the following year.

**Winter Point Score** will be held on every weekend, from first full weekend in June to the last full weekend in August in the same year.

**Peter Goadby (Tag and Release)** will be for weekdays only that are not Summer or Winter Point Score competition days, commencing from first week days in June to 31<sup>st</sup> May the following year.

**Additional Point Score days** will include all Southern Zone sanctioned tournaments plus Wollongong. A maximum of 3 days will be included in the Points core commencing from the first day of the tournament competition, eg, Must be entered in the tournament (Friday, Saturday and Sunday or Saturday, Sunday and Monday).

The **NSW Interclub** at Port Stephens (weekends only), will also be included as part of the Summer Points core competition for those members competing in this tournament.

**Southern Zone Pointscore days** are held on the second and fourth weekends of every month.

**Note:** To be eligible for points in all Point Score competitions **boats must log on and off with Marine Rescue**. Plus be part of any skeds that are conducted by Marine Rescue and/or Tournament base. \*Refer Radio Procedures (6).

### **2. Fishing Times**

Fishing on Summer and Winter Point Score days will be from **0600hrs Saturday until 1800hrs Sunday**. No Burleying shall commence before the nominated starting time (bait may be gathered before this time). Where a fish is hooked but not boated before 6pm, it may be played out and will be eligible for the Point Score. The hook up must be notified to the Marine Rescue or any other club boat available to relay to Marine Rescue, before 6pm.

### **3. Areas for fishing for Pointscore Trophies**

- 3.1 a) On Point Score days, registered boats with the KGFC may fish between **Stanwell Park (34:14:00)** to the North and **St George Headland, Jervis Bay (35:15:00)** to the South.
- b) All captures must be weighed on the **certified scales**. Where possible, on scales provided by KGFC and located at the Gantry at Kiama Harbour. An exception will be made for boats fishing in Tournaments listed on the club's fishing calendar that are required to use the host club's weighing facilities.
- c) The **capture certificates**, properly completed, must be in the hands of the secretary or recorder not later than the **fourth day of the following month** from the date of capture. It is the responsibility of the angler to make the necessary arrangements with the secretary, or in their absence, the recorder. For points to be eligible for Southern Zone, certificates must be to the recorder by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
- d) *The time of tagging or capture must be included on the Capture certificate* otherwise the close of fishing that date will be recorded.
- 3.2 When fishing in a sanctioned tournament, which is listed in the club's fishing calendar, it is permissible to fish within the host's club fishing boundaries.
- 3.3 For the **purpose of Club Record Captures**, the capture shall be deemed acceptable if it is:
- a) Captured in accordance with the NSWGFA and GFAA rules and
- b) Captured in the Kiama Gamefishing Club area as per 3.1 a), on any day of the year.
- c) Captured whilst representing KGFC in the following tournaments and *in accordance with 3.1a*:
- Wollongong
  - Shellharbour
  - Kiama
  - Shoalhaven
  - Huskisson

#### **4. Point Score (Captured Fish) and Line Class**

Point Scoring will be in accordance with the NSWGFA Rules and will be determined from the method adopted at the time.

The minimum line class acceptable for the KGFC Point Score trophies is **4kg** except for sharks, which is **6kg**.

- a) The current factor system is
- |                       |
|-----------------------|
| 4kg x 29.515kg x 7.5  |
| 6kg x 19.524kg x 4.6  |
| 8kg x 14.537kg x 3.0  |
| 10kg x 11.560kg x 1.7 |

For calculation purposes points shall be scored as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Factor X (Weight of Capture}^2\text{)}}{\text{Line Class}}$$

- b) Blue Sharks will be *one quarter of the above points*.
- c) All other sharks will score *half the above score*.
- d) Billfish will score *double points*.
- e) All other game fish will score *treble points*.
- f) The maximum amount of points on all line classes up to and including 10kg will be 15,000 and on 15kg and over will be 20,000.
- g) Any fish scoring the maximum points will have one point per kilo of weight added to the maximum Point Score.
- h) Minimum weight of Sharks will be 60kg for line classes' 10kg and under, 80kg for line class 15kg, 24kg and 37kg; 120kg for 60kg line class. (An exception applies to Land Based Game captures where sharks must be equal to line class or better.)
- i) Minimum weight of Marlin will be 60 kg for line classes' 10kg and under, and 80kg for line class 15kg and over. (An exception applies to Land Based Game captures where marlin must be

- equal to line class or better.)
- j) Minimum weight of Other Game Fish is equal to the line class used, except for Yellowfin Tuna where 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to the line class for over 15kg line and for junior anglers equal to the line class in all cases.
  - k) A Shark or Marlin will be disqualified if, after it takes a bait or lure, it is not struck by use of the rod by the angler. "Burley Potting", where the crew hooks and traces the shark before it has the chance to be struck by the use of rod by the angler, is strictly prohibited. Teasing of Marlin to the boat, then feeding them bait and gaffing before striking with the rod is also forbidden.
  - l) The use of identifiable Marlin or Marlin products is prohibited for use as a *tethered burley*.
  - m) Burley secured under a float is prohibited.
  - n) All tackle used in the capture must be presented to the Weighmaster. Eg: rod & reel, trace, lure, gaffs and tail rope etc.

## Club Records

Minimum weights for club records are as follows:

Marlin and Shark: 60kg for line class 10kg and under; 80kg for line class 15kg and over. (An exception applies to Land Based Game captures where marlin and sharks must be equal to line class or better.)

Yellowfin Tuna is 15kgs on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line and for junior anglers equal to line class in all cases. Other Gamefish is equal to line class.

Minimum line class for club records is 6kg for sharks and 4kg for marlin, Yellowfin tuna and other Game fish.

This rule applies to all members irrespective of sex and/or age.

## Guidelines

- I. *If a Marlin or Shark appears to be close to the relevant minimum weights then Tag & Release is the only option.* For anglers who are not sure about estimating weights, information is included in the Australian Game fishing Journal and similar publications based on a scale relevant to types of marlin are to be used (Type of Marlin, length and girth).

### FOR 10KG AND UNDER

60kg Black marlin	190cm
60kg Striped marlin	210cm

### FOR 15KG AND OVER

80kg Black marlin	212cm
80kg Striped marlin	230cm

\*All these measurements are taken from fork of tail and bottom jaw

Marking the sides of your boat with measurement marks, makes it easier to be accurate.

- II. Should the capture of a Marlin or Shark appear to the Weighmaster to be undersized, the Weighmaster will then measure the capture using the above-mentioned formula. Should the calculation show the estimated weight to be within 5 kg's of the minimum weight, then the Capture will be weighed to ascertain the correct weight. Otherwise, the Weighmaster will refuse to weigh the Marlin/Shark.
111. **Weighing of all Captures on club scales will only occur on Kiama Gamefishing Club Inc. Point Score days and during the Kiama Gamefishing Club Tournament.** The only exception to this rule will be when a capture is obviously a Club Record on the relevant line class and may be weighed on any day of the week.

- IV. It is the responsibility of the anglers to present all tackle and equipment used in the capture for checking by the Weighmaster. Tackle and equipment used must meet all the criteria as per club and N.S.W.G.F.A. Rules.

Where the Shark, Marlin, Yellowfin tuna or other Gamefish does not meet the weight for club records, they will not be eligible for weighing on club scales unless the following criteria is met:

The angler can confirm to the Weighmaster that the Marlin, Shark, Yellowfin tuna or other Game fish will be either/and or a potential N.S.W., Australian or IGFA record. This will be based on the current records at the time of capture and weights formulas in the Australian Game fishing Journal.

**It is the responsibility of all club members to read and be familiar with the club and NSWGFA rules.**

- V. All captures weighed on club scales must be done by the Weighmaster or Assistant Weighmaster. In the absence of these people the Weighmaster can delegate another member of the committee to weigh the Marlin, Fish or shark.
- VI. *No club records to be claimed for tackle under 4kg.*

*The weighing of undersize fish is prohibited by the club and the N.S.W. Gamefishing Association to prevent criticism within the community that will be prejudicial to our sport.*

## **5. Tag and Release**

Areas of fishing are in accordance with point 2 & 3.1(a).

Rules for Tag and Release will be in accordance with NSWGFA Tag and Release rules and Point Score in force at the time. *Limit numbers for Yellowtail Kingfish & Mahi Mahi (Dolphin Fish) are 5 per angler and 10 per boat per day.*

## **6. Radio Procedure**

### **Signing On**

- 1) Boats fishing on any Point Score day **must sign on with Marine Rescue** on either 27meg or VHF, before heading to sea. VHF is the preferred option.

You will have to give the following details: -

- Boat name or allocated number from Marine Rescue
- Estimated time of return to port
- Number onboard
- Fishing destination

*Note: Should you wish to extend your time on the water you **must** advise Marine Rescue.*

- Safety channels should be monitored whilst on the water.  
*Note: channel 88 on 27meg and or channel 16 on VHF. 27meg sets have a dual watch facility allowing simultaneous monitoring.*
- Marine Rescue on 27meg channel 90 and VHF channel 67 or check with a mobile phone.
- Should a boat radio or radios become unusable, that boat may continue fishing only if contact can be maintained with Coastguard by mobile phone. (Use the Kiama Gamefishing Club Inc. communication list) If no contact can be maintained, that boat **must** return to port immediately.
- To be eligible for both Capture and Tag and Release points/awards in Summer and Winter

Point Scores, boats must log on and off with Marine Rescue for every day fished and be part of the daily skeds on weekends, where skeds are conducted by Marine Rescue and in Game Fishing Competitions. If a boat is out of radio range with Marine Rescue that boat must relay sked details via another boat.

### Signing Off

- a) All boats **must sign off with Marine Rescue**, once they are back at the harbour or ramp, using the same channels as mentioned above or by mobile phone. (Marine Rescue Port Kembla can be contacted on 42 744 455.)
- b) **Failure to sign on and off with the Marine Rescue organisation will result in the loss of all points for the day.** Costs to the skipper may be incurred from the Marine Rescue organisation and other agencies if a search is conducted due to failure to sign on and off and/or extend fishing time. Repeated infringements will result in cancellation of membership to Kiama Gamefishing Club Inc

### Guidelines

- a) Weather conditions should be checked with a Marine Rescue organisation prior to heading to sea. (It is advisable to check the weather before leaving home on Internet)  
Always use the boating weather forecasts, do not rely on general forecasts from radio and television news. The strength of the wind and its direction, plus size of the swell and impending changes in the weather are of critical concern for your safety. *“No fish is worth risking your life and that of your crew”*
- b) Every boat must have a Kiama Gamefishing Club Inc. grid chart onboard.
- c) Marine Rescue will be supplied with a copy of the grid chart.

***It is the responsibility of the Skipper to ensure the safety of their crew and boat.*** The Kiama Gamefishing Club Inc. accepts no responsibility for the safety of any boat or member who fishes in conditions beyond the capability of the boat and/or skipper.

*Note: The Kiama Gamefishing Club Inc. recommends our members join Marine Rescue Port Kembla. Boat and car details are then on record, no matter where you fish, you will be allocated an identifying number for easier sign on and off procedure. Cost to join either organisation is minimal and forms can be obtained at club meetings.*

## 7. Trophies

- a) All trophies will be awarded on merit to the Capture or Tag & Release deemed most eligible and/or the specific details designated for that trophy by the committee.
- b) Every angler must be a financial member of the Kiama Gamefishing Club at the time of Capture or Tag & Release to be eligible for trophies.
- c) Fish must be Captured or tagged & Released on a Point Score day as defined in Rule 1 and 2.
- d) ***For Land based Game trophies (Capture and Tag and Release), plus the Trophy for Heaviest Snapper on 10kg and under, the days for fishing are: every day, from the first weekend in September to the last weekend in May each year.***
- e) Fish must be captured within the club boundaries as defined in Rule 3.1 and 3.2.
- f) All awards for Point Score competitions shall come under the heading of Trophies.
- g) For **Snapper** trophy 10kg & under only, **braid** line may be used.
- h) **Monofilament lines that meet IGFA specifications are to be used for all Trophies, Point Scores and Records** except Snapper 10kg and under trophy.
- i) All tackle used to Capture and Tag & Release must meet criteria of NSWGFA as detailed in relevant publications at the time, to qualify for Club trophies.

## **8. Weigh Station Etiquette**

**Failure to comply with the following rules will result in the disqualification of Captures**

- a) Disposal of Fish and Sharks. Skippers are responsible for the disposal of their captures. Fish or sharks not required for eating or burley should be taken two miles to sea and disembowelled before dumping.
- b) The Skipper must ensure that any blood, offal etc. is to be removed from the area around the Weighstation and is left as clean as possible.
- c) Should there be any reason for delay in dumping of sharks or fish, eg. mechanical, sea conditions or other difficulties, the Weighmaster and President must be contacted immediately to arrange assistance.
- d) It is an offence for an amateur angler to sell fish or to give fish to a licensed professional angler.
- e) Please note that there are heavy fines for dumping fish in any harbour (EPA).**
- f) Any member who brings the Club into disrepute by not following the above mentioned rules will be subject to disciplinary action as decided by the Club Committee.
- g) Members must be aware that their actions may also bring Game Fishing into disrepute. Where this occurs, that member may have their membership cancelled at discretion of Committee.

## **9. Disqualification of Capture and/or Membership**

There must be a meeting of the Committee to discuss the proposal to disqualify the capture and/or a membership. The Skipper whose Marlin, Fish or Shark that is proposed to be disqualified will be advised seven (7) days prior to the meeting of the committee and have the right to present their case at the meeting. The same procedure applies to an individual, where an inappropriate act occurs that brings the Club into disrepute, will cause Membership to be reviewed by the Committee.

## **10. NSWGFA Tag and Release Rules and Guidelines**

1. All GFAA angling rules and equipment regulations apply until the fish is tagged and released.
2. Tag poles must not exceed 4.47m (15ft) overall in length.
3. The Tag Pole or holding device must be in the hand when the fish is tagged.
4. One or more persons, in addition to the person holding the leader, may tag or assist in tagging and releasing the fish.
5. A fish is considered tag and released when the tag is secured to the fish and the fish is released back into the water alive.
6. Billfish Only tags are the only tag to be used on Billfish. These Billfish Only tags are not to be used on other species.

## **11. Multiple Tagging**

The multiple tagging of the same fish from the same boat on the same day is illegal.

In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish fought will be eligible for all Point Scores or records in N.S.W. waters.

### **The following acts will Disqualify a Tag and Release**

- a) Failure to comply with GFAA angling rules and equipment regulations or Tag and Release rules.
- b) Failure to comply with all other regulations that disqualifies a capture.
- c) Use of gaff (other than release jaw gaff for the purpose of tagging).
- d) No tag and release points shall be awarded unless GFAA approved tags are used.

