

# **MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)**

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## **LADIES BLUE**

**1 Dec 2024 – 25 Jan 25**

## **RULES**

# **WELCOME TO THE 2024-25 LADIES BLUE**

## **1. GENERAL**

Please read your rules and make sure you understand them. If there are any matters that need clarification please ask the tournament convener.

Any matters not specifically covered by these rules will be covered by briefing notes, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules or IGFA Rules. In the event that there is any discrepancy between any rules/instructions, the order of priority will be: Briefing Notes, Tournament Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules, IGFA Rules.

**ENTRY** and registration in the tournament constitutes acceptance of the rules by **ALL** participants, and an agreement to abide by **ALL** judges decisions.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend the rules, should it be deemed necessary in the interest of the Tournament.

Competitors participate in the tournament at their own risk. MBGFC does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament. Leaving port is at the sole discretion of the skipper and crew at all times.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

All anglers must be current financial members of Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc (MBGFC) or an affiliated NZSFC Club. Proof must be provided. Day membership to MBGFC will suffice.

NOTE: A commercial vessel must provide a particular approval form under Section 111(1)(a) of the Fisheries Act to the Club office before going fishing.

## **3. FISHING AREA**

The area covered by our Sponsors Grid:

Northern Boundary:	Latitude	35°50'
Southern Boundary:	Latitude	37°30'
Western Boundary:	Longitude	175°30'
Eastern Boundary:	Longitude	177°

## **4. TACKLE**

All tackle used **MUST** comply with NZSFC regulations.

It is the angler's responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.

Line classes are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

## **5. ELIGIBLE SPECIES**

Billfish	(All species)
Tuna	(All species) except Skipjack

## **6. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:**

Striped Marlin                    90kg                    (Billfish Moratorium Agreement)

## **7. RADIO**

Contest Channel	Channel 61 Gamebase
Boat to Boat	Channel 6 & 8
Coastguard	Channel 63
Continuous Weather	Channel 20

For safety reasons it is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessels have operational VHF radios.

## **8. FISHING TIMES:**

Fishing must not commence until 0600 on 1 December 2024. Stop fishing is at 1600 on 25 January 2025.

## **9. STRIKES: (Single and Multiple)**

- (i) When a strike occurs, the angler(s) must immediately remove the rod(s) from the rod holder(s), while crew clear the rest of the gear.
- (ii) If the number of fish in a multiple strike equals or exceeds the number of people on the boat, gear may be cleared prior to fighting the fish.
- (iii) Once an angler has fought one fish from a multiple strike, whether that fish is caught or lost, they must not present a subsequent fish from the same multiple strike.
- (iv) Fish left on rod holders while others are fought must be self-disqualified.

## **10. BILLFISH TAGGED AND RELEASED:**

Billfish must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process. Tagged and released shortbill spearfish will **not** count towards tag and release points.

## **11. WEIGH IN**

### a) Catch cards & Tag cards

**ALL** sections **MUST** be filled in **BEFORE** fish are brought to the weighstation.

First and last name must be written in full, not initials.

Latitude & Longitude must be entered on tag cards.

### b) Along with the **FULLY COMPLETED** catch card and/or tag card each angler must present the rod, reel, lure and or terminal tackle which the fish was caught on, and anything else required by the weighmasters such as gaffs, tailropes, any securing ropes used to transport the fish to the weighstation.

**A FISH IS NOT DEEMED TO BE CAUGHT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN WEIGHED (or tagged).**

### c) Digital videos clearly showing the tag in place as well as the fish being released and swimming away must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented.

d) **Weighmasters Indemnity**

It is the anglers responsibility to present all cards and equipment when weighing in, **NOT** the weighmasters. If any of the required equipment is not in the hands of the weighmasters along with the completed catch card and fish no responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weighmasters for any failure to do so.

**12. POINTS**

a) Fish weighed will gain points as follows:

$$\frac{\text{FISH WEIGHT} \times 100}{\text{LINE WEIGHT}}$$

b) Billfish tagged and released will gain points as follows:

Marlin & Broadbill – 450 points

Lines may be tested at the weigh station. Lines that over test will be moved up to the appropriate line class. Under testing lines will **NOT** be moved down.

**13. DISPUTES**

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1830 on 25 January 2025. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

**14: PRIZEGIVING**

Prizegiving will be held in the Blue Lagoon in conjunction with the Girls in the Bay Ladies Tournament on 25 January 2025 at 1900 (7.00pm). All entries into the Ladies Blue are eligible for drawn prizes in the Girls in the Bay competition. Anglers must be present and wristbands must be worn for eligibility for drawn prizes.

**15. PRIZE ALLOCATION:**

Prizes will be offered as follows:

(a) **Billfish weighed**      Heaviest      Club Trophy

If two or more fish of equal weight become eligible for a prize the relevant prize will be shared equally.

(b) **Billfish Tag & Release**

Total pool won by the team (or teams) with the most T & R points.

Club Trophy

(c) **Tuna weighed**      Heaviest      Club Trophy

(d) **Champion Team**

Overall Trophy for team scoring the most points.

**Note:**

In the event that more than one team finishes on the same number of points, or the same weight, the prize will be shared equally.

**16. WHARF:**

Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc will not be responsible for any harbour, wharf or berthage charges.

**17. TERM DEFINITIONS**

**“TAIL ROPES”** - A tail rope is any rope used in either or both the capture of the fish and securing the fish for transport to the weighstation. **NO** “Tail rope” may exceed 9.14m in length.

**“RULES”** - Includes all rules written herein, IGFA Rules, NZSFC Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or any changes and additions made by MBGFC during the Tournament.

**“WEIGHT”** - The weight of a fish as deemed correct by both the weighmasters and the angler signed off on the catch card.

**“CAUGHT”** - A fish is not deemed to be caught until it is weighed or tagged.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING