



# Waikato Sport Fishing Club

## Fishing Rules

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### Season & Location

Season 1 July – 30 June  
Fishing Area NZ 200 mile EEZ

### Age Groups

Small fry – through to age 11 at July 1<sup>st</sup> each season  
Junior – 12 – 16 yrs at July 1<sup>st</sup> each season  
Adult – 17 yrs of age and over at July 1<sup>st</sup> each season

### Weigh Station Locations

Raglan Club, Bow Street Raglan  
Fish City, Kahikatea Drive, Hamilton  
Oamaru Bay Tourist Park, 440 Colville Rd, Coromandel  
Residence of Warren Swetman, by appointment only, phone 027479 8337

All fish for weighing **MUST** be presented to the Weigh master by the angler in person.

Anglers presenting fish at the weigh station are required to have the rod, reel, line/trace, Lure and Hooks and gaff used in the landing of the fish must be presented for inspection by the Weigh master.

The Weigh master may require a line sample for testing.

### Tournament Rules

Prizes won at WSFC Tournaments cannot be **exchanged, or redeemed for cash** at Sponsors Retail Shops or by WSFC. Prizes are final. The distribution of prizes within your team is the team's responsibility. Set your ground rules before you fish as WSFC will not get involved.

### Catch Recording

#### Catch Cards

Must be completed fully and correctly with first and last name (not initials) before fish are presented to the Weigh master.

#### Catch List

The Angler shall be responsible for ensure all catch cards for weighed and tag and released fish are sent to the records officer via email (catchcards@waikatosportfishing.co.nz) or mailed to the club post office box (P.O Box 9036 Hamilton).

Catch cards must be received by the records officer no later than 14 days after the end of the season (July 14<sup>th</sup>).

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### Courtesy Weighing

#### *WSFC Members obtaining Courtesy weighs at other clubs*

Waikato Sportfishing Club (WSFC) members, may have their fish courtesy weighed at the weigh station of any other club affiliated with the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

Anglers must present TWO (2) of the weighing club's completed catch cards.

One catch card will be given to the angler and **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING THE CATCH CARD TO THE WSFC RECORDS OFFICER.** The second copy of the catch card shall be retained by the weigh master of the weighing club and the fish shall be included in the weighing club's catch list for statistical purposes.

#### *Non- Members obtaining Courtesy weighs at WSFC Weigh Stations*

Non Waikato Sportfishing Club (WSFC) members, who are members of a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council affiliated Club may have their fish courtesy weighed at the WSFC weigh station.

Anglers must present TWO (2) completed WSFC catch cards

One catch card will be given to the angler and the other catch card must be returned by the Weigh master to the WSFC records officer. The fish shall be included in the WSFC catch list for statistical purposes.

### SPECIES MINIMUM WEIGHT/Length

<b>Marlin</b>	90kg
<b>Broadbill</b>	- must exceed line weight
<b>Kingfish</b>	- minimum of 0.75 metre in length

### Records & Trophies

All financial members of the WSFC are eligible to break existing or set new Club records providing IGFA and WSFC rules are observed. Fish can be weighed at the WSFC weigh station or elsewhere in New Zealand providing a courtesy weigh is carried out and the angler forwards a copy of the Catch Card to the WSFC Records officer. Fish **DO NOT** have to exceed the breaking strain of the line.

### First Sport Fish of the Season

Fish must be weighed or tagged and released to be recognised as first of the season.

### Pins

Silver miniatures of the species caught shall be issued to all annual trophy winners for the heaviest of each species.

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### Trophies

#### Records

All financial members of the WSFC are eligible to be awarded trophies providing the catch has been recorded on the WSFC database.

It is the responsibility of the angler to be aware of any potential NZ or World records their fish may be eligible for. They must notify the weigh master of their intention to claim any NZ or World Record. It is the responsibility of the angler to process any New Zealand or World Record – the weigh master will weigh and measure the fish, record the lengths of all tackle involved (on the record claim form), the angler then has to prepare the claim form and line sample, as well as photos and also get this confirmed by a JP. The angler is then responsible for submitting the claim.

A listing of current records will be held at the weigh station.

The Records officer will identify potential new club records upon receipt of a qualifying catch card and may request a sample of the line used for verification of the line class used.

The Current Club Records shall be published annually in the September edition of the Club newsletter.

Most “heaviest fish” trophies will be awarded for fish regardless of line weight. Weighed fish must make line weight to be eligible for “points” trophies. Points shall not be awarded unless the fish scores over 100 points.

A list of trophies with condition and winner shall be published annually in the Club’s July newsletter together with a list of trophies not awarded and their conditions.

#### Points Allocation

Points shall be awarded to individual anglers and boats for all qualifying fish weighed and tagged & released. Points will accumulate towards annual individual angler and boat totals.

#### Points Formula

Points per Fish = Fish Weight x 100 / Breaking Strain of Line

e.g. 60kg fish on 24kg line  
 $60 \times 100 / 24 = 250$  points

#### Tag & Release of Fish

Broadbill, Marlin, Yellowfin Tuna, Mako Sharks, Blue sharks (over 5kg), and Kingfish (over 75cm) are subject to a MFish scientific tagging programme and will gain points towards season tallies for individual and boat trophies. A fully completed MFish tag card and a fully completed WSFC catch card must be presented to the records officer.

All catch cards for Tagged fish must be accompanied with a PHOTO showing the TAG in the FISH to be eligible for Club Trophies or Records.

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### *Points for Tagged & Released Fish*

Broadbill & Marlin	600
Sharks	100
Kingfish	50

### **Mutilated Fish**

Fish must not be mutilated during the course of landing or boating the fish, in such a way as to hinder the fighting ability of the fish. Refer to IGFA and NZSFC rules for further guidelines.

Fish must be presented for weighing in the best possible condition, and must not be frozen.

### **Permissible mutilation**

#### *Natural Mutilation*

A fish with a healing or aged wound shall not be classed as mutilated as the wound was not inflicted during the course of the fight.

#### *Iki Spiking*

Iki spiking is encouraged and is not classified as mutilation.

#### *Bleeding & Gutting of Fish*

Bleeding of fish to improve food quality is encouraged and bled fish are eligible for Club, World or New Zealand records.

#### *Fin Clipping*

One or more Fins may be clipped for identification purposes.

### **Day Membership**

Day Memberships shall be available for the One Base tournament only and conditions for day membership shall be set out in the One Base tournament rules.

### **Transport of Fish**

Fish may be transported to the weigh station by any method or combination of methods. It is the responsibility of the angler to ensure that fish arrive in good condition and are removed after weighing.

### **Line Testing**

The angler must specify the breaking strain of the line used in a catch when either a full spool or tippet of monofilament or Dacron is used. If a line over-tests it will be moved up to the appropriate line class. If it under tests it will not be moved down.

When Braid is used without a tippet, the line class shall be recorded as "Braid".

### **IGFA Rules & NZSFC Rules & By Laws**

Where not specifically covered by these rules, all fish must be caught under the IGFA Rules and NZSFC Rules & By Laws. It is the responsibility of every angler to have a full understanding of these rules and to fish by them.

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Braided lines may be used for NZSFC and IGFA records but must test below the stated line class as required by NZSFC and IGFA rules.

### Disputes

Any disputes regarding fish caught and the awarding of pins and trophies must be made in writing to the Committee of the WSFC by 30<sup>th</sup> of September of the year following the season of capture. Disputes will be dealt with by a sub-committee appointed for that purpose and their decision will be final.

Last Updated: October 1, 2018

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