

Whakatane Sportfishing Club Inc

Club by-laws

July 2020



WHAKATANE SPORTFISHING CLUB INCORPORATED

CLUB BY-LAWS

GENERAL

The following By-Laws are authorised by the Constitution of the Whakatane Sportfishing Club (Inc) Rule 13 (c). Any financial member except affiliate and social members may request alteration to any of these By-Laws by submitting the proposed alteration, in writing, to the Secretary. The submission is to be signed by no less than three other financial members except affiliate and social members. The proposed alteration shall then be considered by the Committee at the next meeting.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The members of the club shall be those persons who are enrolled as members, together with such other persons who, having made application in the manner prescribed by the committee, are accepted by the committee, and have paid the appropriate fees.
- (b) The Classes of membership are:
 - (i) **LIFE MEMBERS**
Shall be persons who have rendered special services to the Club over a period of years, shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting upon a recommendation from the Committee and shall be deemed to be financial members.
 - (ii) **SENIOR MEMBERS**
Shall be persons aged seventeen (17) and over on the 1st day of July in each year unless that person qualifies for student membership.
 - (iii) **STUDENT MEMBERS**
Shall be persons aged Seventeen (17) and who are under the age of Twenty three (23) on the 1st day of July of the current financial year and who are school pupils or enrolled in a full time course of study at a Tertiary Institution. On leaving school or full-time study or reaching the age of Twenty-three (23) such members will become senior members in the following year. Student members are eligible for senior awards and trophies etc.
 - (iv) **JUNIOR MEMBERS**
Shall be persons aged sixteen (16) and under on the 1st day of July in each year and shall be entitled to financial membership excluding voting rights. When a junior member becomes seventeen (17) their membership shall convert to Student or Senior membership as appropriate in the following year.

(v) **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Shall be persons who have rendered special services to the Club and shall be appointed by the Committee for one year only at a time and shall be deemed to be financial excluding voting rights.

(vi) **AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

Shall be persons who have paid a reduced membership, set annually, which entitles such members to restricted benefits as per the Constitution. An Affiliate member may become a day member as per (9) of this section.

(vii) **SOCIAL MEMBERS**

Shall be persons who have paid a reduced membership, set annually, which entitles such members to restricted benefits as per the Constitution. A Social member may become a day member as per (9) of this section.

(viii) **SUMMER MEMBERS**

Shall be persons who have paid a reduced membership, set annually, which entitles such members to restricted benefits as per the Constitution. A Summer Member may become a day member as per (9) of this section. Summer Membership shall begin on the 1st day of December and expire on the 31st day of May.

(ix) **DAY MEMBERS**

Shall be persons who have paid such subscription as may be current and such membership shall be valid for the period from the date and time nominated by the applicant on the application form supplied by the Club.

(x) **FAMILY MEMBERS**

Shall include a maximum of two Senior members and their children who are Junior members.

2. FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Financial Members shall comprise all Life, and Honorary Members during the period of their appointment.
- (b) All Senior, Student, Junior, Family, Social and Affiliate Members who have paid their subscription within the membership year and deemed financial from the payment date of the subscription.
- (c) Only Life, Senior and Student members qualify to hold office in the Club and vote at meetings.
- (d) Financial members shall be entitled to equal rights and full benefits of Club membership except as provided under Rule 1(b).
- (e) Membership (excluding Day and Summer Membership) shall begin on the 1st day of August on any one year and expire on the 31st day of July the following year.

3. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- (a) Any person wishing to become a member of the club shall make application on the form provided from the club.
- (b) Every application must be signed by the financial proposer and seconder.
- (c) All such applications must be accompanied by the current dues of the club before they can be considered for acceptance.
- (d) The Committee shall retain the privilege to accept or decline any person making application for membership.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Subscriptions generally:
 - (i) Subscriptions shall be paid in advance and shall become due for payment on the 1st day of August in each year.
 - (ii) Summer subscriptions shall be paid in advance and shall become due for payment on the 1st day of December each year.

5. SUBSCRIPTION LAPSES

Members whose subscription has lapsed shall be deemed unfinancial and will not be eligible for any of the benefits of financial members.

6. FINANCIAL AND FISHING YEAR

- (a) The Club's financial year shall begin on the 1st day of June on any one year and expire on the 31st day of May the following year.
- (b) The Club's fishing year shall be from the 1st day of July on any one year and expire on the 30th day of June the following year.

7. DISCIPLINARY POWERS

All members shall be amenable to the Constitution and By-Laws of the club.

8. CLUB TROPHIES

- (a) Only financial members except affiliate and social members are eligible for any club annual or tournament trophy not classed as open.
- (b) Day and Summer Members catches are eligible to count for "Boat Tally" trophies only in IGFA points or "Most of" categories.

- (c) Unless stated otherwise trophies are for Game fish species only which exclude kahawai, trevally, skipjack tuna and snapper.

9. TOURNAMENTS

Any Financial Member except Affiliate and Social Members, or if eligible to enter any Day or Summer Member, may participate in any tournament not classed as open. When an entry fee has been set, only those who meet the full criteria may take part in the tournament.

10. OPEN TOURNAMENTS

- (a) An open tournament is one which is classed as "open" and only anglers who meet the full entry criteria may enter.
- (b) Tournament fees shall be paid by entrants in respect of any tournament classed as open.
- (c) Only those persons who have paid the appropriate fees for any open tournament shall be eligible to take part in the tournament.
- (d) A person competing in open tournaments who weigh fish in for that tournament shall be eligible for any club record or trophy classed as open.

11. TOURNAMENT HOURS

On such days that the committee notify members as being tournament days, the hours will be stated in the rules for each separate tournament.

12. WINTER TOURNAMENTS

- (a) Winter tournaments may be run under more relaxed rules than those normally applied.
- (b) Fish must be caught on rod and reel unless otherwise specified.
- (c) Longlines, nets or any bulk fishing method must not be used for winter tournaments.

13. TACKLE

- (a) ULTRALIGHT tackle covers the following line classes: 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg.
- (b) LIGHT tackle covers the following line classes: 4 kg, 6 kg, 8 kg.
- (c) MEDIUM tackle covers the following line classes: 10 kg, 15 kg.
- (d) HEAVY tackle covers the following line classes: 24 kg, 37 kg, 60 kg.
- (e) Reference NZSFC Fishing Rules and Regulations (2019). Equipment and Backing. Current IGFA rules apply.

14. SALTWATER FLY TACKLE

- (a) Tippet line classes are 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 4 kg, 6 kg, 8 kg and 10 kg.
- (b) A certificate will be awarded to the first gamefish of each species caught on each tippet class.
- (c) Further certificates will be awarded for a fish exceeding the previous heaviest fish by 1.0 kg.

15. GILL NETS

Club Members may not use any form of anchored Gill net except:

- (a) Nets intended to catch flounder set on sand or mud.
- (b) Nets intended to catch mullet set in inner harbour or estuary areas.

16. SPECIES – MINIMUM WEIGHTS & SIZES

- (a) -

Species	Ultra light	Light	Medium		Heavy	
			10 kg	15kg	24-37 kg	60kg
Line Class	1-2-3 kg	4-6-8 kg	10 kg	15kg	24-37 kg	60kg
Kahawai	2kg	2kg	2kg	2kg	N/A	N/A
Trevally	2kg	2kg	2kg	2kg	N/A	N/A
Dolphin Fish	2kg	5kg	5kg	5kg	5kg	5kg
Skipjack Tuna	2kg	5kg	5kg	5kg	5kg	5kg
Albacore	Must exceed line class		10kg	10kg	10kg	10kg
Spearfish	Must exceed line class		10kg	10kg	10kg	10kg
Big eye Tuna	Must exceed line class		10kg	15kg	15kg	15kg
Yellowfin Tuna	Must exceed line class		10kg	15kg	15kg	15kg
Bluefin Tuna	Must exceed line class		10kg	15kg	15kg	15kg
Yellowtail Kingfish	Must exceed line class & 1 metre		10kg	15kg	15kg	N/A
Blue Shark	Must exceed double line class		40kg	40kg	60kg	150kg
Bronze Whaler Shark	Must exceed double line class		40kg	40kg	60kg	150kg
Hammerhead Shark	Must exceed double line class		40kg	40kg	60kg	150kg
Mako Shark	Must exceed double line class		40kg	40kg	60kg	150kg
Thresher Shark	Must exceed double line class		40kg	40kg	60kg	150kg
Tiger Shark	Must exceed double line class		40kg	40kg	60kg	150kg
Black Marlin	90kg – for all line classes					
Blue Marlin	90kg – for all line classes					
Striped Marlin	90kg – for all line classes					
Broadbill	90kg – for all line classes.					
Snapper	Must exceed 35cm in Length, up to 15kg line class					

- (b) All fish must exceed the minimum weight, length or line class whichever is the lower, providing fisheries Regulations are complied with.
- (c) Where no line class exemption applies, the fish must exceed the minimum weight or length at all times.
- (d) These rules should not deter any angler from making a legitimate record claim in respect of the individual line class. It is the angler's responsibility to make a record claim or a legitimate catch.
- (e) The minimum weights & lengths should not encourage the catching of relatively small fish on light tackle.
- (f) The practise of tagging & releasing of all species regardless of weight is encouraged. See section on Tagging.

17. HOOK UP FLAG

- (a) The official flag for any boat playing a fish is a square black and white chequered flag and is to be flown from the right or starboard outrigger or radio aerial.
- (b) All boats must remain clear of any boat flying this flag unless otherwise requested for assistance by the skipper of the boat playing the fish.

18. CATCH FLAGS

- (a) The following flags are the clubs official catch flags that will be normally flown from the left or port side outrigger or radio aerial and only when that particular species of fish has been landed and the boat is returning to port:

(i) Billfish	White fish on a blue background
(ii) Shark	Black fish on a red background
(iii) Tuna	Blue fish on a white background
(iv) Yellow Tail	Green fish on a white background
(v) Unidentified Species	Yellow flag
(vi) Tagged Fish	Black T on a yellow background

19. WEIGH STATION

- (a) The club's official weigh station is located at Whakatane however:-
 - (i) Club members may have their catch courtesy weighed at the weigh station of any other NZSFC affiliated club within the area of chart 54 and still qualify for club pins, certificates and trophies except during tournaments other than the NZSFC Nationals.

- (ii) It is the club member's responsibility to get their catch card and photos of their catch to the WSFC for processing.
 - (iii) During the NZSFC contest, members who are entered for the Whakatane Sportfishing Club and fishing elsewhere, may weigh at any NZSFC affiliated weigh station in NZ to qualify for club pins, certificates and trophies.
- (b) In the case of tag and released gamefish caught outside the chart NZ area 54, a tag and release certificate will be issued to club members only.
 - (c) Information on how to contact the weighmasters will be displayed in the vicinity of the weigh station.

20. WEIGHING AND TAGGING OF FISH

- (a) All fish must be caught in accordance with IGFA, or NZSFC rules unless otherwise stated.
- (b) It is the angler's responsibility to ensure that all details on the catch and weigh sheet are fully and correctly filled in before signing them and presenting them at the time of weighing.
- (c) All members are to co-operate with the weighmasters.
- (d) Upon request, anglers presenting fish and/or catch cards to the weighmaster must have available for inspection, if requested, the rod, reel, lure, trace, hooks, gaffs and lines etc used to land or tag the fish.
- (e) Anglers are responsible for the removal of any fish that are brought to the weigh station. Fish must not be left at the weigh station.
- (f) Fish must not be disposed of by members by either dropping them into the river or its immediate vicinity or placed on another boat without the owner's prior approval.
- (g) Fish must not be broken down at the weigh station or in the immediate vicinity.
- (h) Any disputes arising from the weighing or tagging of fish must be brought to the weighmasters attention at the time of presentation of the fish or catch card or both. If the Weighmaster deems that there is sufficient doubt on the identification of the fish species, the catch card will be stamped "provisional". If not satisfied the angler may file a written complaint witnessed by the crew. This written complaint must be in the hands of a committee member on the day in question or as soon as possible. All complaints will be handled by the clubs Disputes Committee. The clubs Disputes Committee will consider both the catch or tag card and/or the provisional catch card together with the associated complaint and all evidence. The catch or tag card shall be either amended and/or certified as correct together with confirmation of the fish species by the clubs Disputes Committee whose decision will be final.
- (I) Anglers who are not financial members of a club affiliated to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council must pay the appropriate record fee.

21. COURTESY WEIGHINGS

- (a) Members of other clubs affiliated to the NZSFC or members of the Whakatane Sportfishing Club who are courtesy weighing for another affiliated club are entitled to weigh fish at our weigh station.
 - (i) They will be presented with a weigh sheet but will not be entitled to any pins, certificates, trophies or any club award.
- (b) Anglers who are not members of the Whakatane Sportfishing Club or any other club affiliated to the NZSFC may have their fish weighed on the payment of a fee set at the AGM.
 - (i) They will be issued with a weigh sheet but will not be eligible for any pins, certificates, trophies or any club award.
- (c) Courtesy weighing must be at a time convenient to the weighmaster.

22. PINS AND CERTIFICATE AWARDS

- (a) There are three sections as follows: Men's, Ladies, Juniors.
- (b) Only current financial members (except Affiliate, Social and Summer members) and Day Members (provided the non-member(full) levy is paid) are eligible for Pins and Certificates. A catch card must be completed in full by the angler and signed by the Weighmaster, the catch card must then be filed with the club before the catch can be deemed eligible for a Pin or Certificate or both.
- (c) **ULTRALIGHT TACKLE** 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg.
 - (i) A certificate and pin will be awarded to the first gamefish of each species that exceeds either the minimum weight, length or the breaking strain of the line.
 - (ii) Further pins and certificates will be awarded for a fish exceeding the previous heaviest by 0.2 kg.
- (d) **LIGHT TACKLE** 4 kg, 6 kg, 8 kg.
 - (i) A certificate and pin will be awarded to the first gamefish of each species that exceeds either the minimum weight, length or breaking strain of the line.
 - (ii) Further pins and certificates will be awarded for a fish exceeding the previous heaviest by 0.5 kg.
- (e) **MEDIUM TACKLE** 10 kg - 15 kg.
 - (i) A certificate and pin will be awarded to the first gamefish of each species that exceeds the minimum weight, length or the breaking strain of the line.
 - (ii) Further pins and certificates will be awarded for a fish exceeding the previous heaviest by 1.0 kg.
- (f) **HEAVY TACKLE** 24 - 37, 60 kg
 - (i) A certificate and pin will be awarded to the first gamefish of each species that exceeds either the minimum weight length or the breaking strain of the line.
 - (ii) Further pins and certificates will be awarded for a fish exceeding the previous heaviest by 5.0 kg.

- (g) Pins and Certificates will be awarded for **Blue and Bronze Whaler Sharks** as follows:
 - (i) **ULTRALIGHT AND LIGHT TACKLE SECTIONS**
A pin and certificate will be awarded to the first gamefish of either species that exceeds double the breaking strain of the line.

Further pin and certificates will be awarded for a fish exceeding the previous by 2.0 kg.
 - (ii) **MEDIUM AND HEAVY TACKLE SECTIONS**
A pin and certificate will be awarded to fish of each species which exceeds either 100 kg or the club line class record.
- (h) **SNAPPER**
 - (i) A pin and certificate will be awarded for the heaviest snapper of the season for Men, Lady and Junior in Ultralight, Light and Medium sections.
- (I) For the purpose of pins and certificates the following species do not qualify as gamefish:
 - (i) Kahawai;
 - (ii) Trevally;
 - (iii) Skipjack Tuna
 except in the case of a NZ or World Record.
- (j) **NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING COUNCIL RECORD**
A Silver pin with imitation Ruby eye will be presented by the Club for any NZSFC record.
- (k) **INTERNATIONAL GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION "WORLD" RECORD**
 - (i) A Gold Pin with imitation ruby eye will be presented by the Club for any I.G.F.A. World record.
 - (ii) If an angler catches two I.G.F.A. World records on the same day for the same species the Club will present one Gold pin with an imitation Diamond eye.

23. ANGLING RECORDS

- (a) All anglers are responsible for being aware of all records that their fish could be eligible for.
- (b) The Committee will be responsible for the recording and processing of any fish that may be eligible for any club, New Zealand or World record. The Committee will endeavour to keep anglers as fully informed on current records as possible. A listing of current records will be held at the weigh station.
- (c) Only current financial members (except Affiliate and Social members) Day and Summer Members (provided they have paid the non-member (full) levy) are entitled to hold any Club Records.

24. FIRST GAMEFISH

A certificate will be awarded by the club to an angler catching their first gamefish. It is the angler's responsibility to ensure that **FIRST FISH** is entered on the weigh sheet. Excludes courtesy weighs.

25. BOAT AND ANGLER WEIGHT OR POINTS SPECIES

- (a) The following species of fish do not qualify for weight or points trophies for anglers or boats unless otherwise specified:
 - (i) Kahawai;
 - (ii) Trevally;
 - (iii) Skipjack Tuna; and
 - (iv) Snapper.

- (b) The IGFA formula for calculation of points is:
$$\frac{\text{Weight of fish} \times 100}{\text{Breaking strain of line}}$$

26. TAGGING OF FISH

- (a) The club wishes all anglers to tag and release any species of gamefish that does not exceed either the minimum weight, length or the line class on which it was caught. A tag certificate will be issued for billfish and a further certificate will be issued for each fish caught in any one day by an angler.

- (b) To be considered as a tagged and released fish the leader must be taken in hand and the fish tagged and released. The hook or hooks must be **DISENGAGED** from the fish or the leader **CUT AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE**.

- (c) **TOURNAMENTS**, trophies, or prizes specifically for tagged fish will be identified as such. In all other cases certificates will be issued for a tagged fish.

- (d) A tag card must be completed by the angler and presented to the weighmaster prior to the final weigh in time as applicable for the day or tournament finish. A tag sheet will be completed identifying the fish as tagged.

- (e) On receipt of tag & release cards the following member angler/boat points will be awarded to:
 - (i) All tag / release marlin; (striped, blue, black) 400points
 - (ii) All tag / release sharks;
(hammerhead, mako, bronze whaler,
blue, thresher and tiger sharks) 50points
 - (iii) All tag / released yellowtail (kingfish) 50 points

- (f) For disputes resolution refer to rule 20. Weighing and Tagging of fish (h).

27. ACCESS TO CLUBROOMS AND FACILITIES

- (a) Any financial member of the club may have access to the clubrooms at any time for lawful purposes pertaining to the club activities, by arrangement with the Club Manager or President, in accordance with our club licence.
- (b) NO ANIMALS are allowed in the clubrooms.
- (c) Members will be freely admitted to the clubrooms during normal hours as determined by the committee, except:
 - (i) If a door charge has been levied.
 - (ii) A private function outside of normal hours, where admission to members shall be by consent or invitation of the function host.
 - (iii) Any other occasion as determined by the Committee
- (d) Under no circumstances can any person under the age of 18 years purchase any alcohol. Persons under 18 years of age can drink alcohol within a supervised area provided that any alcohol is purchased for them by a parent or legal guardian. The Whakatane Sportfishing Club does not promote underaged drinking.
- (e) Members families will be admitted to the clubrooms provided they are under that members control.
- (f) Members must carry their Membership Cards with them when they are in the clubrooms and must present them on request.
- (g) No member of the Club or visitor to the Club, without the permission of a committee member or staff member may enter any area of the Clubrooms regarded as secure. These areas include behind the Bar, the Manager's Office if not attended, Club storage areas or any area under lock and key.

28. CONDUCT

- (a) All members and visitors shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner of decorum and behaviour. Offensive language, intoxication, threatening behaviour or any action that causes offence or embarrassment to any member or bona-fide guest are not acceptable.
- (b) Courtesy shall at all times be displayed to the staff of the Club when they are performing their normal duties. Any dispute should be directed to the Club Manager or the President. Abuse of the staff will not be tolerated.
- (c) The Club Manager, Bar Manger or Acting Bar Manager or a member of the Committee are empowered to request a member or visitor offending these rules to leave the Club premises. Where such action is taken a written report is required to be made to the Committee.
- (d) Should any member have a complaint against the conduct of any other person in the clubrooms then that complaint shall be directed to the Club Manager or a Committee Member.

- (e) Should any person involved in any complaint not be able to reach an amicable agreement, then the Club Manager or Committee Member shall ensure that the complaint is dealt with in accordance with the Constitution.

29. DRESS

A reasonable standard of dress will be worn in the clubrooms that are not likely to cause offence or embarrassment to other members.

30. EMPLOYEES

- (a) All employees shall be responsible to the President of the club or whoever the President may nominate.
- (b) Any employee who has any complaint against any member shall direct that complaint to the President or the Presidents nominee, or in the absence of either, the Senior Vice President or the Junior Vice President.
- (c) Any member who has any complaint against any employee shall direct their complaint along the same channels as Section 30(b).
- (d) Failing an amicable agreement on any complaint the person receiving that complaint shall ensure that the complaint is dealt with in accordance to the Constitution by submitting the complaint in writing to the Secretary.

31. FUNCTIONS

The clubrooms shall be open from time to time as prescribed by the Committee and in accordance with our licence. Members shall be duly notified by the Committee throughout the year as to when these functions will be held.

32. CLUBROOM HOURS

The Committee may from time to time vary normal clubroom hours. Members will be advised of any changes by newsletter.

33. VISITORS

- (a) Any member introducing a visitor to the clubrooms must ensure that the visitor has signed the Visitor's Book situated at the main entrance or bar.
- (b) All visitors shall be subject to the rules and by-laws of the club whilst they are in attendance.
- (c) Any member introducing a visitor shall be responsible for that visitor's conduct.

- (d) Any person who is a member of another club that is affiliated to the NZSFC or the IGFA shall be accorded the courtesy of being that of a full member of the club during the period of their visit. Such persons are not eligible to win any club annual trophy not classed as open.

34. PHOTO'S

Providing agreement is sought from the subjects and the photo is of a general fishing or weighing nature the club reserves the right to use or reproduce any photos in its possession for whatever purpose the Committee decides.

35. SALE OF GOODS

Members or visitors may not sell goods in the clubrooms without the express permission of the Committee.

36. AMENDMENTS

All members will be notified by newsletter of any alteration, addition or amendment to these By-Laws.

37. BY-LAWS INSPECTION

A copy of the By-Laws will be available at the club for any member to read.

