



## BLUE WATER CLASSIC

17, 18 & 19 February 2022



### Tournament Rules

#### 1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Entry rights belong solely to the **team captain**. The team captain's entry is not transferable. The team captain must be on the boat during the whole tournament.
- b. Entry to the tournament is for **teams only**, not individual anglers.
- c. A team shall comprise of no less than two, and not more than six anglers per boat per day.
- d. Any change to team members prior to or during the tournament will require the approval of the tournament committee before fishing.
- e. All anglers competing in the tournament must be financial members of the Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club or of a Club affiliated to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.
- f. Any Boat or Boat name change prior to or during the tournament will require the approval of the tournament committee before fishing.
- g. For a fee of \$20.00 anglers may become members of the MMSFC for the duration of the tournament.
- h. Only registered anglers who meet the above criteria are permitted on boats entered in the tournament.

#### 2. ENTRIES

- a. The number of entries will be limited to approximately 220 anglers including fishing sponsors. Any excess Entries will be placed on stand-by pending any cancellations and if none, the captain will be notified and the entry refunded.
- b. Entry fees of \$100.00 per angler. If paid by **31/10/2021**, anglers will be eligible for early payment prize draw.
- c. Entries not paid for by **30/11/2021** will forfeit their positions and these positions will be made available to those on stand by. **No additional anglers can be added to the entries after the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**
- d. Team member name (excluding the team captain) changes are allowed up until 6pm on the evening of Briefing – Wednesday 16th February 2022.
- e. There will be no angler entry fee refunds after February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.
- f. In the event that the tournament is shortened or cancelled there will be no refunds of entry fees paid.

#### 3. FISHING IN

- a. On the Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 only boats with permission from the tournament committee, may leave ports other than Tauranga and begin fishing no earlier than 12.01am (0001hrs).
- b. Please note Rule 5a and 6a still applies for boats fishing in.

#### **4. TOURNAMENT TIMES**

- a. The tournament will take place from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022 inclusive.
- b. The tournament will start at 12.01am (0001hrs) Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Fishing will be continuous until 2.00pm (1400hrs) Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- c. WEIGH IN Thursday - 5.00pm (1700hrs) ... 6.30pm (1830hrs) (**note 10b**)
- d. WEIGH IN Friday - 5.00pm (1700hrs) ... 6.30pm (1830hrs) (**note 10b**)
- e. WEIGH IN Saturday - 2.00pm (1400hrs) ... 4.00pm (1600hrs) (**note 10b**)
- f. FISHING WILL FINISH - 2.00pm (1400hrs) ... Saturday
- g. PRIZE GIVING - 6.00pm (1800hrs) ... Saturday at **MOSC**
- h. **SUNDAY WILL BE HELD AS A SPARE DAY IF DAYS OF THE COMPETITION ARE CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER. THIS WILL BE THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES DECISION ONLY.**

#### **5. TOURNAMENT BRIEFING**

- a. All Skippers **MUST** be present at the tournament briefing.
- b. Where the Skipper is **NOT** a team member, the Team Captain must also be present at the tournament briefing.
- c. Tournament briefing will take place at **MOSC at 7.00pm** (1900hrs) on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS will be the Mt Ocean Sports Club, Salisbury Wharf.

#### **6. FISHING AND TACKLE**

- a. Fishing area will be as per tournament grid map area - Chart 54.
- b. All fishing will be from boats.
- c. All team members must fish from the same boat. If for any reason a team wishes to change boats, permission must be first sought and granted by the tournament committee.
- d. All fish must be caught on rod and reel in compliance with IGFA, NZSFC and MMSFC rules and bylaws.
- e. Any team caught fishing inside the Mayor Island Reserve area will be disqualified from the tournament. You may play a fish in the reserve (this does not apply to Kingfish) if it was hooked outside the reserve area.
- f. All spreader bars must be on a separate leader or a break-a-way system.
- g. The tournament committee or the weigh master reserves the right to inspect all fish, tackle and equipment used.
- h. Maximum line class is 60kg.
- i. Any commercial or bulk fishing method equipment, including nets and long lines, or tackle except traces or leaders exceeding 60kg discovered on board, will result in the team being disqualified from the tournament.
- j. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic or electronically driven reels and any device which gives the angler an unfair advantage.
- k. ALL hook-ups and species landed in the Billfish, Tuna, and Kingfish sections must be immediately reported to tournament HQ via Ch.66. NB - ALBACORE and SKIPJACK ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS REQUIREMENT. Fish not reported under this rule may be disqualified. Note the minimum weighable sizes under section 9.
- l. All species tagged in the Billfish and Shark section must be immediately reported to tournament HQ via Ch.66.
- m. **Fish not reported under this rule will be disqualified.**
- n. All tackle and equipment used in hooking, fighting and landing the fish must be brought to the weigh station for inspection.

## 7. TAG & RELEASE

- a. No tag pole shall exceed 2.44m (8ft) in length.
- b. During tagging the pole must be kept in hand at all times.
- c. The fish should be alongside the boat and under control so the tag can be placed correctly.
- d. In the event of a fish being tagged the leader must be in hand when the tag is inserted into the fish, once the tag is in and photos taken, remove the hooks or cut the leader as close as possible to the hook.
- e. Completed Tag and Release cards and catch cards accompanied by independent verification ie: photo, video or a witness from another boat must be registered with the weigh master.

## 8. SPECIES

- a. BILLFISH SECTION: Black, Blue, Striped Marlin and Broadbill
- b. TUNA SECTION: Yellow Fin, Northern/Southern Bluefin, Big Eye
- c. KINGFISH SECTION
- d. ALBACORE SECTION
- e. SKIPJACK SECTION
- f. MAHI MAHI SECTION
- g. SPEARFISH AND WAHOO SECTION
- h. TAG & RELEASE SECTIONS
  - i. All Billfish T & R will be entered into a pool and be eligible in five draws for a prize.
  - ii. Only Shark species as recognised by NZ Sport Fishing Council. T & R will be entered in a pool and be eligible in three draws for a prize.

## 9. MINIMUM WEIGHABLE FISH SIZES

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. BILLFISH SECTION    | minimum of 90kg         |
| b. TUNA                | minimum of 15kg         |
| c. KINGFISH            | minimum of 1m in length |
| d. ALBACORE            | minimum of 4kg          |
| e. SKIPJACK            | minimum of 3kg          |
| f. MAHI MAHI           | minimum of 4kg          |
| g. SPEARFISH AND WAHOO | minimum of 3kg          |

## 10. WEIGHING IN

- a. Each angler must complete a catch card for all fish, including tag and release, before presenting fish to weigh master.
- b. The angler, rod, reel, trace, lure, gaff, tag pole and a witness to the catch must be present at the time of weighing.
- c. Catch cards must be in the hands of the weighing officials no later than 6.30pm (1830hrs) Thursday and Friday and no later than 4.00pm (1600hrs) Saturday to be recognised for the tournament.

***Fish may be weighed in prior to weigh in times (4 d,e,f) on request to Tournament HQ (by radio or phone). Weighing will be available from 9.00am until close off each day, at the weighmaster's discretion and availability.***

- d. All fish must be weighed at Salisbury Wharf, Mount Maunganui.
- e. All fish must be weighed from the boat or with all team members present, unless directed by the tournament committee.
- f. For weigh in after stop fishing on final day, only angler and gear required, not boat or full team.
- g. All fish must be presented for weigh in, in a fresh condition.
- h. Frozen fish or fish not freshly caught and presented for weigh in will result in the fish being disqualified from the tournament. Mutilated fish will not be weighed.
- i. For Albacore and Skipjack. Only the three fish per angler per species per day will be accepted for weigh in.

- j. For Kingfish only two fish per person per day will be accepted for weigh in.
- k. In the event of two or more fish having equal weight the first fish weighed will be deemed first for recognition and others will follow in sequence.
- l. All fish weighed will be credited to the MMSFC.
- m. All fish weighed will be marked to identify that they have been weighed.
- n. No fish will be weighed if already weighed or recognised for any other Tournament.
- o. Completed Tag and Release cards and catch card accompanied by independent verification ie: photo, video or a witness from another boat must be registered with the weigh master.

**11. TOURNAMENT PRIZES AND PRIZE GIVING**

- a. FIRST to FIFTH Heaviest Billfish (See section 8 above)
- b. FIRST to FIFTH Heaviest Tuna (See section 8 above)
- c. FIRST to FIFTH Heaviest Kingfish (See section 8 above)
- d. FIRST to FIFTH Heaviest Albacore (See section 8 above)
- e. FIRST to FIFTH Heaviest Skipjack (See section 8 above)
- f. FIRST to THIRD Heaviest Mahi Mahi (See section 8 above)
- g. SPEARFISH AND WAHOO will be recognised with prizes.
- h. Tag and Release Billfish. Five prizes will be drawn from the Pool. (See section 8 above)
- i. Tag and Release Shark: Three prizes will be drawn from pool. (See section 8 above)
- j. The recipient or a nominee (as advised to the Committee by the recipient) must claim all prizes, or they will become the property of the MMSFC.
- k. Prizes that are not won will be drawn.
- l. Angler MUST be present to win spot prizes.
- m. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to reallocate prizes.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Full information will be given at the tournament briefing but all boats must have an operational VHF and cell phone.
- b. The only official communication with tournament HQ from a boat will be VHF Ch66. If difficulties do occur cell phones may be used. Channel 66 will be monitored from 0730hrs to 1900hrs Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February; and from 0730hrs until 1500hrs Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February.
- c. Each boat will be supplied with a sponsor’s grid chart and all boats must use this chart to give their positions on radio unless they are involved in an emergency.
- d. Radio round up times Ch66.
 

Thursday 1000hrs	Friday 1000hrs	Saturday 1000hrs
1400hrs (2pm)	1400hrs (2pm)	1200hrs (12pm)
1800hrs (6pm)	1800hrs (6pm)	Stop Fishing 1400hrs (2pm)
- e. Each boat will be called in alphabetical order and will report position and catch up-date.
- f. All boats outside VHF coverage area will be required to call by cell phone 15 minutes after radio round up times. It will be acceptable to contact base via other boats.
- g. **Headquarters’ call sign will be “Mount Sport”.**
- h. Fish hooked and landed between 1930hrs Thursday and 0730hrs Friday will be reported to HQ as part of the Friday 1000hrs round up, and fish hooked and landed between 1900hrs Friday and 0730hrs Saturday will be reported to HQ as part of the Saturday 1000hrs round up.
- i. All boats must report in on return to base on Saturday.

**13. SAFETY**

- a. In the interest of safety, the tournament committee reserves the right to:
- b. Require all skippers to sign boat register, regarding safety before leaving port.
- c. Delay the start of the tournament.
- d. Shorten the duration of the tournament.
- e. In the event of an emergency, any boat having to use a port other than Mt Maunganui with fish to weigh, or use any unrecognised port at all, must immediately, or as soon as possible, notify the

tournament committee on VHF Ch66. Failure to do so may result in the fish or team, or both being disqualified from the tournament.

- f. Skippers must advise the tournament committee of port of departure at briefing registration if not leaving from Tauranga.

#### **14. PROTESTS**

- a. Any protest concerning the validity of a tournament catch must be filed, in writing, signed by the Team Captain and delivered to the tournament committee or Weighmaster no later than 7.00pm (1900hrs) on the Thursday and Friday or no later than the end of weighin being 4pm (1600hrs) on the Saturday.
- b. Any protest relating to the weight of, or manner of weighing a tournament catch must be made to the weigh master before the fish is removed from the weigh station.
- c. All decisions made by the tournament disputes committee (a committee of two nominated by the tournament committee) will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. The tournament committee shall not be obliged to provide reasons for decisions.
- d. As part of the tournament committee, a disputes committee (comprising the two members designated in 14c plus the weigh master) will handle protests.
- e. The Tournament Committee reserves the right investigate any breaches of the rules arising and proven subsequent to the tournament conclusion and may result in the team or angler/s being disqualified from future tournaments.

#### **15. GENERAL**

- a. The Mt Maunganui Sport Fishing Club wishes to once more thank and acknowledge all of our generous sponsors and welcomes all anglers in the hope that they have a safe and enjoyable Tournament.

