

DENARAU GAME & SPORTS FISHING CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES 2017

A. TOURNAMENT RULES

B. CONTACTS

- a. President / Tournament Director, Mark Ellison - 9780189
- b. Chief Judge / Weigh Master, Bruce Powell - 9988914
- c. Secretary, Jared Wood 9994832

1. Eligibility

- (a) The Denarau Game and Sports Fishing Club (D.G.S.F.C.) will be holding The Fiji Classic Game Fishing Tournament on the 10th, 11th & 12th November; the following rules will apply to this tournament. The D.G.S.F.C reserves the right to withdraw its invitation at any time to any club, individual or entity.
- (b) A team shall consist of the following number of anglers: A minimum of 2 registered anglers per team. All anglers of the team must be members of the DGSFC, or any other fishing club either in Fiji or overseas (proof of membership required); they must become an Associate Member if they are not a member of a fishing club. (Associate fee for this competition \$75)
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt a minimum of 2 registered anglers must be on board the same vessel at all times during the tournament/competition.

The Fiji Classic Game Fishing Tournament is an International Tournament and will be conducted in accordance with IGFA rules. **The committee is the final and sole Authority on entries.**

- (d) Only team members shall fish from the boat during the Tournament. Non-anglers may ride along on the boat for the day but are not permitted to touch a rod, line or leader. (IGFA rules apply).
- (e) Team Captains shall be responsible for the eligibility of the Team and its members. The committee decision on any question of eligibility shall be conclusive.
- (f) No substitution of team members may be made after close of registration.

2. Entry Fee Payments

All fees and a signed liability release for all anglers in teams must be paid, signed and lodged in full before a Team competes in the Three day Tournament. This can be done electronically {EFT}, in person or via e mail. Registration times and location of registration are as published in the Schedule of Events. Additional entry fees are noted on the tournament's entry form for additional anglers per team registered for each of the tournaments. Entry forms must be filled out, submitted and paid for in full by the 8pm Thursday prior to the competition commencing. Entries after this time will be deemed a late entry and will be applicable for a late entry fee and time penalties.

The Entry Fees for the One Day competition is as follows:

Participating Angler \$300.00pp

Junior Angler \$150.00pp

The registration fee does not include Charter Boat Costs, or charter boat crew attending awards dinner

3. Registration/Briefing

Registration for the Fiji Classic Game Fishing Tournament will be held at the Club Container at Port Denarau from 6pm on the Thursday before the competition. Any team failing to register at the times designated must inform Tournament Headquarters (Contact President or Secretary) ahead of time to pre-register, or after, the registration dates and times. A penalty may be imposed for late registration. In the event the team does not register and does not make other arrangements to register at an appointed time, then the team will be delayed on the first day of fishing until one (1) hour after the start of fishing time, departure will be confirmed by visual sighting by Watchdog.

4. Briefing

The Captain of each team or the captain's designated representative (who must be a member of the team) **MUST ATTEND AND REGISTER** unless excused by the Tournament Director and the Chief Judge for justifiable cause. If the team does not register and or

attend the briefing then the team will be delayed one hour after the start of fishing on the first fishing day, departure will be confirmed by visual sighting by Watchdog.

5. Charter Boats / Private Boats:

Charter boats will be available for the Tournament and can be found at the marina at Port Denarau.

- (a) No team shall bare-boat charter a boat which holds an active commercial charter fishing permit in the Republic of Fiji.
- (b) Local Teams - may fish on boats that do not hold an active commercial charter fishing permit with the Republic of Fiji. These Private Boats shall be of type of construction that is seaworthy and, in the opinion of the Directors is outfitted in such a manner to reflect credit on the tournament.
- (c) All boats shall be equipped with an operating VHF radio transceiver with appropriate channels. All competing charter and private boats must be equipped with all safety equipment as published in the Fiji Maritime regulations relative to these vessels.

C. TOURNAMENT CONTROL

1. Tournament Control

Tournament Control is Watch Dog. VHF Radio Control will operate on **Channel 86**.

Scheduled VHF Radio round-ups will be held at 10:00, 12:00 & 3:00 pm. All hook-ups must be called in to WATCHDOG with location, angler and line class. Every boat MUST report in and give their location including the number of strikes, hook ups and landed fish tally at each scheduled Radio roundup time.

In the event that a tournament boat is unable to communicate via VHF Radio to Watchdog or another boat by relay, it must contact Watchdog on a mobile phone at all round up times. (Mobile Number to be distributed on the day of the competition).

All tournament boats must radio in to Tournament Control (Watchdog) prior to departing the Denarau Marina with total number of Passengers on board (P.O.B) and intended location details. Upon returning to the Denarau Marina at the end of each fishing day report as "Secure".

2. Safety

Emergencies, questions and problems should be relayed to Tournament Control. Tournament boats should abide by all rules. Safety should be kept foremost in all operations of vessels. (Including Life Jackets, and Flares.)

D. FISHING RULES

1. IGFA Rules

IGFA Rules and these Tournament Rules will apply to all catches.

2. Fishing Area:

The fishing area for this competition is furnished within the boundaries of the supplied chart.

3. Fishing Days & Time:

It is the intention of the committee to stage 3 days of fishing. Depending on weather conditions the committee has the right to alter, cancel or extend the fishing days and or times if necessary. All boats may depart Denarau Marina after 6am on day one, with fishing start time of 0700. Day 2 & 3 boats may depart at 4am. Start fishing for day 2 & 3 is 0700.

No team is permitted to fish or have baits in the water before 0700.

Stop Fishing will be at 1600 in the afternoon on all 3 days.

All boats must be inside the marina breakwater and **insight of Watchdog** before 5pm, failure to do either of the above will result in no fish caught being weighed for that team.

All fish must be hooked by the time of the stop fishing signal each day. If in the event a fish is still hooked up at the call of stop fishing on day 1 & 2, the angler may keep fighting the fish until fish is Tagged, Released, Boated or Lost. Tournament radio control must be notified and confirmed that the Team is hooked up prior to stop fishing signal being called and give their current location or the fish will be disqualified. On Day 3 of the tournament all boats must be sighted back in Port Denarau Marina at 1700hrs, No extra time will be granted for hooked anglers.

4. Rod, Reel, Terminal Tackle, Gaffs and Tag Poles:

Only fish caught on rod and reel, trolling or drift fishing, will qualify. Hand lines are permitted only for catching of bait. **Live bait may not be passed between boats and cannot be caught prior to the start of fishing.** All equipment must comply with IGFA rules including Gaff lengths.

5. Other Equipment:

Outriggers, Downriggers, Kites and Birds can be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The Leader or Double Line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device.

6. Tackle Classification

Fishing Line: No specific brand of fishing line is required; however, the line used should be IGFA listed line class in the following line class categories 60kg, 37kg, 24kg, 15kg, 10kg & 8kg. The new ruling introduced by the IGFA for the use of heavier line for backing and being connected to the main line applies for this competition.

Points will be awarded as follows:

60 kg line – 0.5 point per kg

37 kg line – 1 point per kg

24 kg line – 2 points per kg

15 kg line – 3 points per kg

10 kg line – 4 points per kg

8 kg line – 5 points per kg

7. Tag and Release:

To be counted as a tagged and released fish, the leader must be taken in hand and the fish tagged with NMFS or Billfish Tag, and Released. The hook or hooks must be disengaged from the fish or the leader cut as close to the hook/s as possible. The fish must be alive and capable of survival when released. **All Tagged and Released fish**

must be supported by a photograph or video taken showing the inserted tag.
Photographs must be presented at the time of weigh in to the presiding Judge.

In order to encourage proper handling of a fish after Tagging, the Tag number must be called in to Watchdog as soon as the Tag is placed. The Hooks should be disengaged or the Leader cut, then the Fish swum in the correct manner to revive it. Watchdog should then be advised that the fish has been properly released in good condition and advised of the anglers name, line class, location and tag number. The official time recorded will be the time at which the Tag was placed and called in.

The leader and tag card must be presented to the Judges at weigh in with the completed out Catch form.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A fish which has been gaffed cannot be tagged and released.

Any landed Marlin below 140kg will incur a penalty of 500 points.

Any landed sailfish below 30kg will incur a penalty of 250 points.

Any landed spearfish below 10kg will incur a penalty of 100 points.

SCORING

1. Weighed fish:

Points will be awarded as follows:

60 kg line – 0.5 point per kg

37 kg line – 1 point per kg

24 kg line – 2 points per kg

15 kg line – 3 points per kg

10 kg line – 4 points per kg

8 kg line – 5 points per kg

2. Tag and Release

Any Pacific Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Striped Marlin, Sailfish, or Short Bill Spearfish, regardless of weight, Tagged and Released in accordance with the Tournament Rules shall be awarded the following points.

Marlin – Any Line Test – 500 points

Sailfish – Any Line Test – 250 points

Short Bill Spearfish – Any Line Test – 100 points

All dead or any fish deemed by the crew to be dead, or injured sufficiently to cause death, must be boated and brought to the weigh in and treated as a weighed fish. Points will be awarded if (1) the Marlin weighs in excess of 140kg, or if (2) a Sailfish weighs in excess of 30 kg and (3) a Short Bill Spearfish weighs in excess of 10kg. Points will be awarded if the fish meets the qualifying weights.

3. Official Capture Time

The time of capture or tag and release will be the time recognized by official tournament radio control, “Watch Dog”.

In the event of ties in all team, individual, and charter boat trophies, awards, including bonus points, shall be made to the individual, team or charter boat that reaches the score first.

4. Minimum Weights

Minimum weight will apply to this tournament, and the minimum weights for species are as follows:

MINIMUM QUALIFYING WEIGHTS

Striped Marlin	- 140 kg
Blue Marlin	- 140 kg
Black Marlin	- 140 kg
Sailfish	- 30 kg
Short Billed Spearfish	- 10 kg
Yellow fin Tuna	- 10 kg
Skip Jack Tuna	- 6 kg
Mackerel Tuna	- 6 kg
Mahi-mahi	- 6 kg
Walu	- 8 kg
Wahoo	- 10 kg
Ogo / Barracuda	- 10 kg

E. WEIGHING, JUDGING & PROTESTS

All fish submitted for prizes shall be Judged, weighed and measured by the Judges and may have their stomach contents examined. All tackle used to capture or tag a fish may be examined and measured by a Judge. All fishing gear must be available for inspection for any DGSFC National World Record claim.

1. Weighing

To be eligible for points in the Tournament, all Fish must be presented in a fresh and edible condition and the use of ice for preservation of fish is **mandatory**. Mutilated fish will not be weighed.

The official scale for the Tournament is located at Cardo's, Denarau Marina. All fish must be weighed by the Weigh Master on his scale.

Each Angler MUST complete a CATCH RECORD FORM, furnished by DGSFC for each fish caught boated or tagged and released. All information required from the angler must be placed on the catch record form, in English, before the fish is turned over for weighing and measuring and before Tackle is turned over to the Judges. A witness to the catch must sign the catch record form. The Angler shall exhibit the lure; rod, reel, gaff and terminal tackle upon request from the weigh master. You shall also furnish, upon request, the names of all persons witnessing the catch. All fish presented to be weighed need to have a tail tag with the anglers name and the line class the fish was caught on.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BOATS MAY BE RANDOMLY INSPECTED FOR IGFA RULE COMPLIANCE.

2. Judging

The Judges may, on their own initiative, investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the tournament. They shall also have the right to disqualify any capture or Tag and Release following examination and measurement of tackle and investigation of any capture or Tag and Release. For the purposes of the tournament any disqualified team or fish will not be weighed.

In the event that after testing by the Judges, the fishing line or backing tests above the class breaking strain claimed on the catch record, that capture or tag and release will be disqualified and no points will be awarded.

3. Protest:

Any protest, concerning the validity of any catch, shall be filed in writing, signed by the team captain and addressed to the Judges and delivered to the Chief Judge not later than Midnight on the day of the catch. The decision of the majority of the Judges panel shall be final.

4. Infractions:

Any person, including charter boat captains found guilty of not complying with the rules may be disqualified from participation in future Denarau Game and Sports Fishing Club Tournaments.

F. BROKEN DOWN VESSEL

In the event of a breakdown, the boat shall immediately call Watchdog and notify them of their location and GPS coordinates so a rescue can be implemented. Eligible fish on the **rescue vessel** will be weighed on return to port. The broken down vessels catch will be taken into consideration as to whether, its position was close enough to reach port in the allocated time and conditions.

G. INDEMNITY

All registered anglers and guests participating in this tournament enter voluntarily and at their own risk. In consideration for the acceptance of his or her entry, each registered angler and guest hold harmless and indemnify the DGSFC, its officers, managers, directors, agents, sponsors, donors, the city and country of Fiji where the event is held, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournament, from and against any and all liabilities.