



AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

(WA Division) Inc

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Competition Rules for State Rock & Beach and Estuary Events

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1. General

1.1. Organisers

This event is organised by the Australian Angler's Association (WA Division) Inc. hereinafter referred to as The Association.

1.2. Purpose of the Event

This event is organised as a service by The Association for its members. Members of the public may not participate.

1.3. Fishing Year

The Association's fishing year runs from the first day of August in any year to the thirty-first day of July in the following year.

1.4. Disclaimer

All participants taking part in the event do so entirely at their own risk and The Association and/or the Organising Committee will not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage sustained by any participant or any other persons to their person or effects.

2. Eligibility to Enter

2.1. Financial Status

To be eligible to enter the event, participants must be financial members of a club and the club must have current affiliation status with The Association.

2.2. Entry Fees

Participants are to pay the prescribed entry fee, as set by The Association from time to time. The fee is to be paid before the registration is accepted

2.3. Registration Process

Participants must register by using the prescribed Registration Form. Participants are to present their completed registration form and payment to The Association's Registration Officer at the prescribed location and during the nominated time for the registration to be accepted. Provision may be made for participants to pre register. Pre registered participants will be required to confirm their registration at the event's Headquarters during the prescribed registration times and to be issued with briefing information

Participants will be required to provide the following information on the form:

- Personal details
- Club membership
- Division that they will compete in
- Age declaration if participating in Junior, Mini Junior or Veterans divisions
- Any other information that The Association may determine to be required from time to time.

2.4. Divisional Structure

- Men's division is open to any male
- Ladies division is open to any female
- Mini Junior division is open to any participant who is less than twelve years old on the first day of August at the beginning of The Association's fishing year
- Junior division is open to any participant who is less than sixteen years old on the first day of August at the beginning of The Association's fishing year
- Veterans division is open to any participant who is over fifty five years old on the first day of August at the beginning of The Association's fishing year

2.5. Acceptance of Applications

The organising committee has the jurisdiction to accept or reject any registration application.

2.6. Team Structure and Nominations

Clubs may nominate up to two teams in each division.

Team nominations are to be entered prior to the end of the Registration times. Late team nominations will not be accepted

The men's team shall consist up to a maximum of seven competitors, but only the best six results shall count.

The ladies, veterans, junior and mini junior teams shall consist up to a maximum of four competitors, but only the best three results shall count.

2.7. Division Entered

Competitors may enter different divisions for team and individual events, subject to being eligible to enter the division, but may only enter in one team and one individual division.

3. Competition Rules

3.1. Boundaries

No competitor shall cast a line into waters outside of the boundaries as set for the event. The boundaries will be specified in the Rules of the Day sheet that shall be issued to all competitors at registration.

Penalty: disqualification

3.2. Lines Down Time

No competitor shall cast a rod or line into the water after the commencement of Registrations and before the nominated Lines Down time.

Penalty: Disqualification

3.3. Hooking and Landing

Competitors must hook and land their own fish. No assistance is permitted, except that for gaffing or net assistance. Handling of the participant's rod or line by the assistant or anyone else is not permitted.

Penalty: disqualification

3.4. Eligible Species

Only fish species listed on The Association's Rock & Beach and Estuary Fish List are permitted to be weighed.

Penalty: removal of unlisted fish from the bag

3.5. Catch Limits

A maximum of eight fish of any one species and a maximum total of fifty fish are permitted to be presented to the weigh in.

No bag shall exceed the one day bag limit as set by The Department of Fisheries (WA) (FWA)

Penalty: disqualification

3.6. Size Limits

All fish shall be equal to or exceed FWA minimum sizes and where specified by FWA, be less than or equal to FWA maximum sizes. Where there is no FWA minimum size, then in accordance with a minimum size prescribed by The Association from time to time.

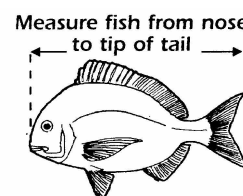
Fish that have their necks broken will be pushed back into original shape and must be 1cm longer than the listed minimum size.

Penalty: disqualification

3.7. Fish Measuring Technique

Fish are to be measured in accordance with the FWA requirements by measuring from the nose of the fish to the tip of the tail where the tail is laid in a natural position. The fish when laid on the measuring board is to equal or exceed the minimum length. Fanning the tail is not permitted. See diagram.

Where maximum size limits are specified by FWA as "fork length", fish length shall be measured to the fork of the tail, not the tip.



Fish should be measured in a 'natural position, i.e. tail not distorted.

3.8. Fishing areas and boats.

Where a competition is nominated as Rock and Beach, participants may fish from beach, reef, rocks or manmade structures such as rockwalls, fishing platforms or jetties, but boats cannot be used at any time. No private jetties, or places needing access through private property, etc are allowed unless these are also accessible to all entrants on the days of the event.

Where an event is nominated as Estuary, participants may fish from the shore, reef, rocks or manmade structures such as rockwalls, fishing platforms or jetties or from a boat. No private jetties, or places needing

access through private property, etc are allowed unless these are also accessible to all entrants on the days of the event.

Such areas include areas which can be reached from the shore by wading through water. All areas which can only be reached by swimming are excluded. The "Rules of the Day" for a particular event may exclude some locations.

3.9. Number of Lines and Hooks

A participant must not use more than two rods or hand lines at any one time and each rod or hand line must not have more than two hooks. A flight of hooks shall be considered as one hook. Additional rods may be carried, but a participant must not have more than two lines in the water at any one time.

Penalty: disqualification

4. Weigh in

4.1. Competitor's Responsibilities

The participant is responsible to ensure that all fish in their bag complies with all competition rules.

The participant is required to lodge their bag in the area provided, prior to the nominated time.

Penalty: Late bags will be excluded from the weigh in

4.2. Access to Bags

Bags placed in the weigh in arena will not be accessible to any participant until completion of the weigh in.

Only weigh in officials and club captains are permitted to enter the weigh in arena, unless specifically invited to do so by the Field Day Officer.

4.3. Condition of Fish

Fish must be clean. Gilled and/or gutted fish are acceptable. Any fish presented for weighing that are rotten, badly deteriorated or generally in an unfit state shall not be eligible for weighing.

Penalty: disqualification??

4.4. Mutilated or Damaged Fish

Fish that have been damaged or mutilated for any purpose other than to maintain or improve the edibility of the fish are not eligible for weigh-in. Specifically included in this definition is damage cause by:

- Removal of parts of a fish for bait,
- Use of the fish for livebait,
- Damage caused during the capture caused by other predators. eg a shark

Specifically excluded from this definition is:

- Gutting and/or gilling,
- Damage caused by removal of the hook(s) used to capture the fish,
- Cutting a fish to fit in a storage container where the fish is too long for the container. To be eligible for this sub clause, a fish must be longer than 60cm and any cutting is to be limited to that required to fit in the long direction of the container.

4.5. Presentation of fish

Fish MUST be presented for weighing in either:

- (a) Natural fibre bags, such as hessian or cloth, preferably in an esky with ice

OR

- (b) Open weave bags such as dive or onion bags, and MUST be in an esky with ice.

Fish that are not presented in accordance with (a) or (b) will be disqualified. Fish presented in plastic film bags (such as chain store or rubbish) or woven plastic or fibreglass bags will be disqualified.

4.6. Heaviest of Species Event

Each competitor is responsible for presenting their fish for weighing for the heaviest of species.

4.7. Fish Wastage

All participants are required to observe the responsible fishing practices set out in The Association's Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct.

Any competitor found to have knowingly discarded fish which were caught during any event run by The Association shall be disqualified from that event and disqualified from competing in any future Association event for a period determined by the Disputes Committee. Disqualification from the event concerned may be retrospective, and all winners, results and awards affected by that disqualification will also be amended retrospectively if and as required.

5. Scoring

5.1. Scoring

Competition points will be awarded as follows:

- 1 point per fish
- 4 points per kilogram
- 10 points per listed species (see separate Eligible Species List)

5.2. Competition winner

The winner of any division shall be the participant who receives the highest number of points, determined by 5.1, above.

5.3. Tied Points

In the event of any participants scoring an equal number of points, the determining factor shall be the number of species caught, and if still tied, then the highest average weight per fish..

6. Disputes

6.1. Competitor's Right to Dispute

Any participant retains the right to lodge a dispute concerning breaches of any rule by any competitor.

6.2. Acceptance of Disputes

Any dispute must be lodged with the Field Day Officer before the weigh in, during the weigh in or within ten minutes of the completion of the weigh in, except for reports of discarding of fish after the weigh in, where the time limit is 48 hours.

6.3. Disputes Process

Disputes raised by any participant are to be referred by the Field Day Officer to a Disputes Committee for adjudication.

Disputes raised by the Weigh in team relating to weigh in matters concerning fish that:

- Do not meet length requirements,
- Do not meet FWA rules,
- Exceed bag limits, or
- Do not meet presentation requirements,

Shall be referred to the Field Day Officer for adjudication.

Should the disputed participant not agree with the Field Day Officer's ruling, then they retain the right to appeal the decision. Any appeal is to be referred to the Disputes Committee.

Any Disputes Committee decision is final.

6.4. Composition of Disputes Committee

Prior to the event, each club shall nominate a person for the Disputes Committee on the team nomination form.

In the event that a Disputes Committee is required, it shall be composed of three senior participants from three separate clubs, one of which should be from the disputed participant's club. If the dispute directly involves that person, a substitute for that Club may be elected.

All Disputes Committee members should be familiar with these Competition Rules. The Disputes Committee shall consider the dispute for conformance with these rules.

The Field Day Officer may provide points for clarity, but may not participate in the decision process.

The disputed participant, or a person who has been nominated to represent that participant, may provide facts and points of clarity, but may not participate in the decision process.