

RIVER HEADS FISHING CLUB Inc.

FISHING COMPETITION RULES 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 River Heads Fishing Club Inc shall conduct an annual internal fishing competition comprising eleven monthly "Fish Meet" competition weekends (excluding January).

1.2 These competition rules replace all previous versions.

2. Eligibility to Compete

2.1 Members must be financial by 3pm on the Sunday of a Fish Meet to be eligible to record fish in that Fish Meet.

3. Competition Times

3.1 The fishing year shall be based on the calendar year, commencing in February and finishing in December.

3.2 Fish Meets shall be held between 5am on the first Friday of the month and 2pm on the following Sunday. Members can only fish 2 calendar days out of the 3 days nominated for the fish meets.

Fishing is on calendar days not total hours fished. Either fish Friday and Saturday, Friday and Sunday or Saturday and Sunday. You can't fish all 3 days and record your best 2 days. Members choice and honesty.

Eligible fishing times are:

FRIDAY: 5.00am Friday- Midnight Friday (19hrs)

SATURDAY: Friday Midnight- Saturday Midnight (24hrs)

SUNDAY: Midnight Saturday- 2.00pm Sunday (14hrs)

3.3 Changes to the dates of a Fish Meet may be made by the Management Committee but only due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. date clash or weather conditions which would void insurances).

4. Competition Boundaries

4.1 Fishing boundaries shall be from the mainland at the Latitude Line 24.40.000 S (defined GPS navigation line) to Inskip Point, the Eastern side of Fraser Island (no restriction east of Fraser) and from Sandy Cape to Latitude 24.40.000 S and along this latitude line back to mainland.

4.2 All fresh waters and tidal waters within these boundaries, or that run into the tidal waters within these fishing boundaries shall be included.

4.3 Protected (green) zones shall be excluded.

4.4 No fishing from charter boats.

5 Competition Categories

5.1 The competition shall comprise three categories, namely: Senior Male; Senior Female; and Juniors.

5.2 Juniors shall be aged under 16 years old on the Friday of the December Fish Meet.

5.3 Juniors may compete in a Senior category, in which case they cannot compete in the Junior category.

6 Recording of Fish

6.1

Fishing points (towards annual Championships) shall be awarded by the Club Fish Recorder and Record Keeper according to the length of the fish, with the fish length (in whole cm) multiplied on a formula as tabled below to obtain the Championship Points value for each fish. Measurement of fish (tip of nose to tip of tail) shall be rounded down to the nearest whole cm (e.g. a fish measuring 35.1 cm to 35.9 cm shall be deemed to measure 35 cm). Anglers may weigh in their best fish of any of the following species at the monthly Fish Meet.

Species	Points per cm	Species	Points per cm
Amberjack	2	Moses Perch	4
Barramundi (not from stocked dams)	2.3	Nannygai	3.1
Blackall	2.6	Pearl Perch	3

Bream/Tarwine	4.7	Parrot Fish	3
Cobia	2	Queenfish	2
Cod (all)	2.2	Red Emperor	2.5
Coral Trout	2.7	Salmon (Threadfin) - King/Blue	2.1
Dart	3.9	Snapper	2.6
Dolphinfish	2	Grass Sweetlip	3.3
Emperor (except Red)	3.3	Tailor	2.8
Flathead (all)	2.4	Tarpon	3.7
Grunter /Javelin Fish	2.8	Tuna (all)	2
Kingfish (Yellowtail)	2.1	Trevally	2.3
Mulloway	2	Tuskfish	3
Mackerel (all others)	1.9	Wahoo	1.4
Mackerel (Spanish)	1.4	Whiting (all)	4.7
Mangrove Jack	3.4		

6.2 The “Recreational Fishing Rules and Regulations for Queensland” issued by the Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) shall apply and be met for all fish recorded. Species caught during their closed season (currently Barramundi and Snapper or any future species) will not be accepted for recording.

6.3 The Club Fish Recorder shall be available at the River Heads Community Hall on the Sunday of all “Fish Meets” between 2pm and 3:00pm for recording of fish.

6.4 Fish recorded must have been line-caught during the competition times by the member without outside help (gaffing or landing net excluded).

6.5 For each Fish Meet, members may record only one fish per species.

6.6 Two methods of recording fish exist, namely: 1. supply photograph of live or dead fish on a brag mat with the month’s secret code or object; and 2. dead fish (at only one fish meet per year per member to allow for camera problems) shall be measured by the Club Fish Recorder and Record Keeper and the individual angler(s).

6.7 Photographs shall be handed to the Club Fish Recorder on a USB memory stick or a camera card by a member or member’s representative. If this is not possible by the 3pm deadline, a member can email photos of fish for recording to riverheadsfishingclub@gmail.com in which case the deadline is 2pm.

6.8 A secret code or object shall be communicated to all members by the Secretary at 5am on the Friday morning. To be eligible for recording, this secret code or object, which will be one item only, shall be clearly visible in the photograph.

6.9 As fish longer than the maximum legal limit (e.g. Flathead 75cm, Barramundi 120cm) must be released, these shall only be accepted for recording when photographed on a brag mat with the secret code or object, prior to release.

6.10 If a fish could be confused with another species, the member shall provide extra identification (e.g. for a sand Flathead, take a second photograph side-on of the tail).

6.11 The minimum length for a winter (trumpeter) Whiting shall be 23cm. For all other fish that do not have a minimum legal limit, a minimum length of 30cm shall apply.

6.12 The Club Record Keeper shall keep a permanent record of species and length recorded at each Fish Meet for each member.

6.13 Fish that have been mutilated in a way that could affect the overall length of the fish (e.g. severed gill connection, cut throat or broken back) shall not be accepted for recording.

6.14 Frozen fish shall not be accepted for recording.

6.15 Fish identification shall be as per “Guide to Fishes” by E. J. Grant.

7. Awarding of Fishing Points

7.1 A slide show of all fish recorded for the Fish Meet shall be presented in the Community Hall from 3:15pm in the presence of members, during which fishing points shall be awarded.

7.2 Club champions will be decided from a member's annual points score from their best 9 Fish Meet scores for the year.

7.3 All twelve perpetual trophies (highlighted in list above in rule 6.1) to be decided by the longest fish of that species recorded from the 11 monthly fish meets and the officially listed Social Fish events (which may include officially listed Weekend Away events) for the year. Fish caught at Social Fish events (including Weekend Away) to be recorded by photograph on brag mat (as for official Fish Meets) but there is no requirement for display of a Secret Code provided it is known within the member group fishing at the Social Fish event during which the fish is caught that the catch occurred during the context of the Social Fish event. Fish caught during Social Fish events are not eligible for annual Championship points.

"To be eligible to record a "biggest fish" for trophy purposes, you must either be at the ramp and leave with the group on Social Fish day OR, if this is not possible on the day, contact the group leader and determine where the day's Social Fish area shall be and then join the fish in that area (participants should be sighted in the Social Fish area by someone in the group at some time). A Code will be issued by the Social Fish Leader at the ramp, which should be displayed in a brag mat photo of any fish being submitted to the weighmaster for consideration in the annual "biggest fish" trophies. This code can be given by the group leader to anyone who phones them on the day to say they are coming on the Social Fish but will be late departing the ramp

7.4 The president and assisted by the Record Keeper shall determine the most outstanding catch at each monthly fish meet. Although subjective, it shall not necessarily be the biggest fish. The winner shall receive a voucher from one of the club's sponsors as will the winner of the two secret length fish presented each month. A lucky draw will determine the winner if there is a tie. The lengths shall be drawn at random by Record Keeper prior to weigh-in.

7.5 The Club Record Keeper's decision is final.

8. Presentation Night

8.1 The Club Presentation shall be held in December, at which the following annual trophies shall be awarded:

8.1.1 Senior Male Champion (Rule 7.6 highest annual points score in category)

8.1.3 Senior Female Champion (Rule 7.6 highest annual points score in category)

8.1.5 Junior Champion (Rule 7.6 highest annual points score in category)

8.1.7 Club champion (Rule 7.6 highest annual points score from all categories)

8.1.10 Presidents Award for Most Outstanding Catch (MOC). This is drawn from all MOC winners from the year's Fish Meets.

8.2 There is no maximum number of trophies that can be won by a club member.

9. Disputes

9.1 Disputes related to a Fish Meet must be in writing and received by the Secretary and Club Record Keeper within three (3) days of the Fish Meet to be tabled at the next general/committee meeting.

9.2 Such disputes shall be investigated and resolved by the President and Club Record Keeper, whose decision shall be final.

9.3 The Secretary shall communicate the decision to all members, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

10. Rules Review

10.1 Fishing Rules will be reviewed annually. Proposed rule changes shall be presented at the October General Meeting, and distributed by the Secretary to all members, for the opportunity to respond with a YES or NO vote to each proposal by the date of the November Committee Meeting, at which voting results shall be presented. New rules shall be issued by 1st February and shall be fixed for one fishing year, unless deemed otherwise by the committee.

11 Research

11.1 As water temperatures are increasing and new species are being caught, members are encouraged to photograph these new species on a brag mat for display purposes only so they may be considered to be included in future years competitions. This information will also be useful to DAF and other organisations.