

RIVER HEADS FISHING CLUB Inc.

FISHING COMPETITION RULES 2026

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 Thursday prior to the 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 until 2pm on the following Sunday. Members can fish all 3 days nominated for the fish meet. 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 classed as a junior if they are under 16 years old on the Friday of the Fish Meet (February).

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 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.

6.2 All fish caught and presented via a photo at the monthly fish meet, social fishing events or interclub competitions must be in accordance with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) guidelines and any club rules that may apply. Note: It is the members responsibility to follow the guidelines of the DAF on bag

limits and minimum and maximum size limits and open and closed seasons of specific fish

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 Members must hook and land their own eligible fish (assistance in landing the fish by gaffing or landing net is allowed), only eligible fish line -caught by the member will have points recorded at the fish meet

6.5 For each Fish Meet, members may record only one fish per species. 6.6 Method of recording fish exist, namely: supply photograph of live fish on a brag mat with the month's secret code.

6.7 Photographs can be handed to the Club Fish Recorder on a USB memory stick or a camera card by a member or member's representative. The deadline is 2pm. 6.8 A secret code shall be communicated to all members by the Secretary at 5am on the Friday morning. To be eligible for recording, this secret code 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, 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 eligible fish at club associated events are eligible for the perpetual trophy/record board. This includes interclub fishing competitions and social fish events (which may include official Weekend Away events). There also should be a code word that must be used for the social fishing events that is given to the social fish leader to give only to members that are fishing within the social group fishing area. Interclub competitions must display fish on a brag mat with the secret codes that is provided for the interclub competition. Fish caught during the interclub competition or Social Fish events are not eligible for annual Championship points.

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

Classes include;

- Outstanding Senior Male
- Outstanding Senior Fenmale
- Oustanding Junior

This is entirely dependent on Sponsorship.

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)

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

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

8.1.4 Club champion (Rule 7.6 highest annual points score from all categories) 8.1.5 Presidents Award for Most Outstanding Catch (MOC). This is drawn from all MOC winners from the year's Fish Meets.

8.16 Guru Award for the most outstanding points for a species for the calendar year.

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

9. Disputes

9.1

(a) The Weigh Master/Record keeper/Secretary must provide all members a copy of the Fish meet Tally within 2 days to ensure the members can place a dispute within 3 days of the Fish Meet.

(b) Any member found continually contravening any club by-laws or fishing rules, may lose all points accrued for the year at the discretion of the committee.

(c) Any member presenting any undersize fish at the monthly fish meet will be disqualified for that month's weigh in entirely

(d) Eligible Fish must be line-caught in publicly accessible waters (not at fish farm, Private dams, Private areas) and must be caught via land or a private boat (not a charter boat)

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.