

Southport Amateur Fishing Club Inc. By-Laws



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BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHPORT AMATEUR FISHING CLUB INC

COMPETITIONS

Dates and Times

1. Competition dates and times shall be arranged by members of the Committee, or their delegated sub-Committee. The following are dates that are to be excluded from the competition calendar;
 - (a) Weekends that include a Public holiday on Friday or Monday
 - (b) Special Events
 - (i) Father's Day (1st Sunday in September),
 - (ii) Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)
 - (iii) Gold Coast Show (typically last weekend in August) refer Gold Coast City Council
2. The number of competitions in any one season shall not exceed eleven (11). Other special competitions are in addition to this, and are as follows:
 - (a) off-shore events
 - (b) fresh water events
 - (c) events specifically for women anglers
 - (d) events specifically juniors anglers

These special events are not used for the determination of the overall season competition points but may have separate prizes and trophies.
3. Other interclub competitions can be held in conjunction with the set competition dates, or alternatively be scheduled on other dates and times providing that they are in accordance with by-laws 1 and 2.
4. The Committee approved competition schedule will be presented to the General Meeting in December for adoption.
5. The approved competition schedule will be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

Handicap

If, at any time, the Committee introduces a handicap system, the following will apply:

6. Competitors will be handicapped 20 points for each win in an aggregate competition. Individual handicaps in each class shall be arrived at in the following manner:
 - (a) All handicaps at the end of the previous season shall be halved and the fractions cancelled.

- (b) If the leading handicap is then over 40, it shall be reduced to 40 by subtraction of the figure necessary to do so.
- (c) All other handicaps shall then be reduced by a similar figure.
- (d) No handicap shall be reduced below zero.

Grades and Disputes

7. The Committee shall have power to settle any dispute which may arise out of any competition, which the Captain may have referred to them. The decision of the Committee shall be final.
8. The Association shall consist of competition grades; A, B, Junior, and Sub-junior. The Committee shall be responsible for grading its members, including all new members. Their decision shall be final.
9. To encourage ladies to fish, the lady who achieves the highest aggregate points in the season will be presented with the Ladies Champion Shield and a minor prize will be awarded for a ladies runner up.
10. Members may be moved from a higher grade to a lower grade, or up from a lower grade into a higher grade, based on the average score per competition fished in the season. Any such re-grading is at the Committee's discretion.
11. If a handicap system is in place, any member progressing to a higher grade will commence the season without handicap. Members downgraded shall carry their handicap.

Trophies

12. With the exception of the Joe Mitchell trophy for Club Champion, Father Taylor Memorial Shield for B Grade, Lynda Davis Ladies Shield for Ladies Interclub, Jack Stafford Shield for A Grade, Greg Harold Shield for Veteran and Ladies Champion competition Shield, no other trophies shall be carried on from year to year. All perpetual trophies are to remain in the Clubhouse at all times and remain the property of the Association.
13. The total individual competition points scored by a member, including attendance points, will be used for the end of year GAYP Aggregate championship.

The Captain

14. All competitions shall be subject to the following regulation:
 - (a) The Captain shall have the power to inspect all creels, bags, buckets and boats prior to, after or during any competition. Should any member obstruct, hinder or refuse to allow him to make such inspection, such member shall be disqualified from the competition and be debarred from taking part in any further competition unless a satisfactory explanation or apology is made in writing to the Committee.

Points and Prize Allocations

15. The points allocation procedure is as follows:
 - (a) Each weighable fish shall score two points.
 - (b) Each kilo of fish or part thereof shall score at the rate of 10 points per kilo.
 - (c) For each competitor's points the handicap shall then be deducted if a handicap system is in place, and the attendance points will be added to the score.
16. Each member shall be awarded one point for each aggregate competition attended, such points to be cumulative and included in aggregate scores provided that for any member to obtain attendance points for any competition, the person shall be present or have a fish container presented at the weigh-in, or not present any fish container but have notified the Captain that they will not be attending the weigh in, and have fished for a minimum of two hours of the competition.
17. If a tie occurs for first or second place in any grade in any competition, the competitor with the most fish shall be declared the winner. In the event of two or more competitors having the same number of fish, the competitor with the greatest weight of fish will be declared the winner.
18. In the event of a tie in the most variety, the member who caught their fish in the least amount of competitions shall be the winner.
19. In the event of a further tie after applying these By-Laws, then the prize will be awarded jointly.
20. The club champion shall be the member recording the most points each season, not including handicap (should a handicap system be in place). If the club champion wins either the season's aggregate or runner-up season's aggregate, only one trophy in this grade is to be allocated.
21. Prizes for competition and its associated value shall be determined by the Committee.

Rules of Competitions

22. Any person who is a financial member of the Association may fish for competition points. Visitors (non-financial members) may fish so long as they attend the weigh-in, and have not fished more than once previously as a visitor. Visitor's points and details are recorded, but not used for Association's points.
23. Each competitor shall fish from boat, wharf, bridge, shore or other supports in competition, unless otherwise specified by special conditions. In the event that there is a person fishing without a partner, the Captain should be notified in the interest of safety, to ensure their safe return.
24. All competitions, unless otherwise stated, are referred to as "go as you please" (GAYP) competitions. In these competitions, fishing is restricted to the, boundary limits as shown below and members are permitted to use any means of transport during competitions:

Limits

Northern limit -no limit imposed .

Eastern Limit - the eastern navigation markers (end of training walls) of the Southport Seaway, surf, headlands and walls.

Southern Limit - no limit imposed

Western limit - no limit imposed.

25. All members must, prior to the start time of any competition, contact the Captain by telephone (mobile) or via another member who is notifying the Captain of the competition, of their intention to fish the competition, regardless of what time the member intends to commence fishing. A penalty of 5 points will be imposed if the member does not notify the Captain prior to the commencement of the event.
26. There will not be less than four (4) members actually taking part in each competition and no prize shall be awarded unless one weighable fish is caught.
27. All fish in competitors' creels or bags must be weighed in except where in the opinion of the Captain such fish were intended for the purpose of bait and were not caught during that competition.
28. Scaleless or poisonous (lethal) fish are not eligible for weigh-in at any competition, unless for a special trophy as nominated by the Committee. This clause also applies to any type of crab.
29. Scale fish other than those found in the schedule cannot be weighed in without approval from the Captain.
30. Boats must not encroach within 30 metres of another competitor except by mutual consent.
31. Competitors must not use more than two (2) rods or handlines at any one time during a competition, with not more than two hooks attached to each such rod or line. A flight of hooks (ganged), including commercially manufactured items and/or lure with attached treble hooks is allowed. Three (3) hook snell rigs are not allowed. Note: The object of the rig is to attach one bait only.
32. Any fish weighed in at a competition must be caught on the line of the competitor themselves.
33. Any member is expected to gaff or net their partner's fish and to give all possible aid in landing same.
34. No competitor is eligible to win a competition unless at least one fish is weighed in.
35. All members must attach an identification tag to, or clearly mark, their bags, esky or bucket when presenting their catch at the weigh-in. Any member who does not have their bag, esky or bucket clearly identified with their name, will be penalised 5 points.
36. The use of any form of burley shall be permitted in all competitions.
37. Drifting and trolling shall be allowed.
38. Jaggng shall not be allowed during any competition.
39. Any member signed on for a GAYP competition and who crosses the limits (boundaries) during the set competition time for the purposes of fishing, bait collection etc. shall be disqualified and will lose all points for that competition.

40. No fishing gear shall be left in the clubrooms. The clubrooms are to be left clean and tidy after each competition and meeting.
41. Members must compete in at least one quarter of the Association's competitions held during the season to enable participation in the prize list at the end of each year. This clause does not apply to prizes for varieties, heaviest fish, heaviest vermin and trophies won on individual day competitions. A competitor shall not be eligible to win the best average weight trophy unless the competitor weighs in all fish of legal length caught in competitions.
42. Any member who is not present or whose catch is not handed in by another member at the expiration of the competition shall be penalised one point per minute for each minute late and, if later than 15 minutes, shall be disqualified.
43. Offshore events are to be scheduled to not conflict with GAYP events. The weigh-in for offshore events is to be held at a time determined by the Offshore Captain, in consultation with participants on the day of the event, and depending on the weather conditions.
44. Members competing in offshore events are responsible for their own safety and must cancel the event if sea conditions are deemed unsafe. All members competing in offshore events must comply with all relevant local, state and federal government laws.

Fish Sizes and Regulations

45. Each fish weighed in must comply with minimum lengths as laid down by the relevant Government Department(s) of the State in which the fish was caught, must also comply with minimum length of fish in the State in which the weigh-in is conducted and must comply with these By-Laws. Fish of doubtful size must be measured immediately and returned to the water if undersized. All fish returned to the confines of the weigh-in area must be presented at the weigh-in.
46. Any fish taken of less than its respective length as authorised by the relevant Government Department(s) in the State in which the fish was caught, shall be immediately liberated alive in the water in which it was taken.
47. A penalty of 20 points per fish will be imposed on all undersized fish. This penalty will also apply to seasons' aggregates and the Association's championship points. The Captain's decision regarding undersize fish shall be final.
48. Fish with broken necks or severed gill connections will not be eligible for weigh-in unless they are two (2) centimetres longer than the minimum legal length as set out in these By-Laws. Fish mutilated by other fish will be weighed in if they exceed the minimum legal length, as set out herein.
49. All fish sizes are to comply with those set out in the Queensland Amateur Fishing Club Association Inc (QAFCA) schedule in all competitions.
50. Quotas (bag limits) on numbers of particular species may be set by the Committee and a bag limit of only ten (10) fish per species will be accepted at the weigh-in, except for some species which have a lesser bag limit as set by the Queensland Government Rules.

Changing Competitions (Adverse Conditions)

51. To alter the place or type of competition or abandon same due to adverse conditions ("severe weather event"), at the appointed time and date of the said competition a decision is to be made by the President, Captain and Vice Captain. If the decision to cancel a competition is made due to a severe weather event, then the decision to cancel must be made and relayed to all members by, latest 9.00am on the day of a GAYP (4pm start) and by the latest midday (day before) for a shore only comp (3am start) and relayed to all members-
52. No aggregate competition shall be conducted in the absence of any member or members participating in other official competitions organised by a parent association. These conditions will not apply if approval is given by a member or members participating in the said competition, or Committee approval is given.

Starting Late

53. Any member may start late for a competition, providing that the person reports to the Captain of the competition and advises of their commencement to fish, prior to the commencement of the start time and fishes for a minimum of two hours.
54. Communication must be in person to the Captain of the competition via telephone (mobile).

Retiring

55. In the event of a member retiring from a competition, he/she must notify the Captain at the earliest opportunity.

THE COMMITTEE

56. The Committee of the Association shall comprise the following persons (which persons shall have the duties and responsibilities set out hereunder):
 - (a) **President**
 - (i) Preside at all meetings at which the President is in attendance and shall see that all discussions are governed by the usual rules of debate. Shall have a deliberative vote and, in the event of a tied vote, use a casting vote to enable a decision to be achieved.
 - (b) **Vice President**
 - (i) Act in the absence of the President and shall be governed by the rules as above.
 - (c) **Secretary**
 - (i) Keep full and accurate minutes of all proceedings at meetings and such minutes shall be read at the next meeting and confirmed on approval of the meeting and then signed by the Chairman. Shall conduct all correspondence, keeping copies of same.

(d) **Treasurer**

- (i) Receive all monies, issue receipts and bank same at the earliest convenient. Shall submit a report at each Committee meeting and an audited balance sheet at each annual general meeting.

(e) **Captain**

- (i) Judge and umpire in all competitions, with the power to settle a dispute. Shall settle any special conditions attached to such competition and the decision shall be final. Should a dispute arise in which the Captain is unable or unwilling to give a decision, the Captain may refer the same to the Committee, whose decision shall be final. Shall weigh all fish and may call on any member of the Committee to measure the fish or assist in any capacity. The Captain shall read the full report on each competition at the meeting following the competition(s).
- (ii) Keep an accurate record of all progressive points scored by each member in any competition conducted by the Association.
- (iii) Shall be responsible for the supervision and organisation of all fishing events, or if unavailable, shall be responsible for the prior delegation to any member of the Committee.

(f) **Other Members**

- (i) At least two (2) other financial members voted to the Committee at the annual general meeting.