



2019 NATIONALS

Briefing Paper

BRIEFING NOTES FOR THE 2019 NZSFC NATIONALS

Briefings:

Clubs should hold pre-tournament briefings to make anglers aware of their responsibilities regarding the rules of the tournament, local coastguard/harbour rules, radio frequencies and times, and weigh station times. Where possible teams fishing away from their home base, should attend the briefing at the base where they intend to weigh, to acquaint themselves with the local conditions.

Clubs should ensure that all teams have access to a copy of the rules and a copy of this Briefing Paper and impress upon the teams the importance of reading them. See Pages 38 to 47 of our Yearbook and the info is also on our website:-

[www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/Our events/](http://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/Our%20events/) Nationals/

Rule Number 1 and most important – please read the rules

Please note the following rule changes for the 2019 Nationals

- **Points for Tag and Release fish** have been increased - All billfish are now 600 points. Tuna (yellowfin, bluefin, bigeye, butterfly) are now 150 points.
- **Timing of Tag and Release cards submission** - process clarified in Section 11.
- **Photographic evidence** - photographic evidence is now required for all Tag and Release fish - all species.
- **Points for length** have been added for Kingfish (only). This allows fish 75 cm or greater to be measured and released - the 'weight' will be based on the length to weight table within these rules. Photographic evidence on an approved measure board is required. No gaff to body, if gaff used - lip only. Measure boards are available from the Secretary, NZ Sport Fishing Council @ \$15 +GST or they can be purchased from Burnsco at approximately \$25 each.
- **Start time** of the Tournament has been amended to 6 am of the first day (Previously 8am).
- **The Braid section** has been removed. Braid can only be used as backing in accordance with the NZSFC Fishing Rules and Regulations.
- **Capped shark points** - the points able to be gained from a weighed shark are now capped at 1250 points plus 1 point per kg of the fish weight.
- **Circle Hooks** – Only non-offset circle hooks can be used targeting billfish when using live and dead natural baits for this tournament.

Please pay attention to the following;

Nationals Club radio base;

Clubs are recommended to call their club base radio; Nationals (Club name) BASE for the duration of the 2019 Nationals;

Start time

Fishing start time is 6 am on the first day of the Tournament

Reporting

All fish must be reported by the Club the Team is fishing for unless prior arrangements have been made with the NZSFC Tournament Secretary (Teams can get their days reports back to the club they are fishing for, either directly or by arrangement.)

(Teams can get their days' reports back to the club they are fishing for, either directly or by arrangement. Club are advised to know of their teams fishing whereabouts and to make sure the appropriate arrangements have been made for their catch reporting being relayed to their club and club recorder.)

Tag Cards

11a. Tag and Release (T & R)

- All hard copy tag cards complete with all tackle and equipment used in the capture of a T & R fish MUST be presented to a weighmaster or IGFA Rep for inspection within 48hrs of the tournament ending. Failure to hand in any tag card within this timeframe will result in the tagged fish being removed from the tournament. In the event that any of the tackle or equipment is incomplete or cannot be presented to the weighmaster the catch will be deemed incomplete and the fish will not qualify for the tournament.
- On any matters where the weighmaster cannot make a final decision, they are to notify the tournament secretary in writing within 24hrs explaining the situation so that the judicial committee can make a final call on the eligibility of the catch for the tournament.
- All Tag cards must be accompanied by photographic evidence of the Tag clearly inserted into the caught fish. This may be a still photo or video. Failure to provide photographic evidence which confirms the placement of the Tag and species of the fish will result in the tagged fish being removed from the tournament.
- All Tag Cards must be sighted by the Club the Team is fishing for, either the originals or an electronic copy sighted by the club recorder. Unless prior arrangements have been made with the NZSFC Tournament Secretary (**before start fishing on day 1**)
- Prior means before the Nationals start

- Sighting of Tag cards means either the actual card can be sighted or an electronic copy can be forwarded. Either way it must be seen or sent to (and from) the Club the Team is fishing for unless prior arrangements have been made with the NZSFC Tournament Secretary.
- Reports of Tagged fish must not be sent to the Nationals Recorder until the Tag Card has been sighted (actual or electronically), but this must be done asap after the fish has been tagged. **(you can arrange for another club to relay your messages to your club)**
- Final sighting of all Tag cards (actual or an electronic copy) must be done by 6 pm on the final night. **Remembering Tag Cards must be sighted by the Club the Team is fishing for, unless prior arrangements have been made with the NZSFC Tournament Secretary.**
- Final results for all fish, Weighed and Tagged, must be reported to the **Nationals** Tournament Secretary by 8 pm on the final night.

Reminders

- Overseas Teams – one member must reside overseas
- Personal Watercraft Teams are included. Rules are along the same lines as Land Based Teams
- Section 15 and 16
- “All Braided lines may only be used as a backing as per IGFA NZSFC main line and backing rule”. – apart from Section 15
- Teams and anglers must register and pay PRIOR to going fishing
- Teams and anglers must register at the Club they are going to represent
- Results are to be sent by the Club the team is fishing for
- Everyone must be aware of the Courtesy Weigh rules

Boat Safety – Page 40

Please observe local Coast Guard/Harbour bylaws, and place the safety of your team, other teams, and other water users at the top of your priorities. If you are crossing bars to fish the Nationals, make sure that you have the skills and knowledge to do so.

Juniors: - Page 41

Juniors must be under 17 at the **conclusion** of the tournament.

Fishing Days and Times: - Page 42

The tournament will start at 6 am on the first day of the tournament and catch cards must be sighted by 6 pm on Saturday, the last day of the tournament, **(i.e. continuous fishing in between)**.

There is no lines out of the water time, an angler may fish until such time as they believe that if they land a fish they can have their catch card for weighed fish sighted by a weighmaster by 6pm on the final day. (See tag section on first page of Briefing Notes and clause 11a of the rules Tag cards must be sighted either physically or electronically by the Club the team is fishing for by **6 pm** on the final day.

There is no playing out of fish after **6pm** on the final day. All fish must be reported by the Club the team is fishing for by **8 pm** on the final night.

Personal Watercraft Teams: - Page 40

In the case of Kayak and Watercraft anglers, at any one time, all members of the team who are fishing must, be in sight of one another, and without the use of aids, be close enough together to be able to call to one another. They must have all prescribed safety equipment deemed appropriate for kayak and watercraft users.

Land Based Teams: - Page 41

In the case of landbased anglers, at any one time, all members of the team who are fishing must, be on a stretch of uninterrupted foreshore, must be in sight of one another, and without the use of aids, be close enough together to be able to call to one another. Or if fishing from a structure, (such as a wharf or jetty) all members must fish from the structure.

Teams – Page 42

- Teams consist of a **MINIMUM of TWO** and a **MAXIMUM of TEN** members
- Teams may be made up of members from different clubs, but they must nominate a single club in which all the team will be fishing for.
- At least one member of the team must be a member of the club they are fishing for.
- All members of the team must be financial members of a club affiliated to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. Day membership is permissible for the days a team member fishes.
- Teams will nominate a member who will be responsible for the communication of information between the Tournament Secretary, the Club, and the Team. This member will also be required to certify on the entry form that all team members are financial members of an affiliated club.
- It is the teams responsibility, **not the Clubs**, to ensure that all its members are eligible and financial. This does not stop a club from vetting teams if it so wishes.
- A team found to be fishing with an unfinancial member could be disqualified along with all catches to date.
- *This rule is especially important to those anglers fishing a tournament outside of the Nationals - **Only team members shall fish from the boat** and catch tournament species. Boat skippers and deckies who are not team members shall not fish. A non team person catching a tournament species fish will disqualify the team. Take care that after a hook-up a non team person does not*

wind in the other tackle and get a second hook-up, it could end up disqualifying the team. For safety's sake only allow team members to handle rods when the tackle is in the water.

- At the time of the Nationals there are many other tournaments running in tandem and it is **important that all anglers on the boat are entered in the Nationals** regardless of which other tournaments they are entered in.
- At any one time all members of the team who are fishing must be on the same boat
- Anglers may change teams during the tournament, **but must not start fishing for the new team until the Tournament Secretary has been advised.** An angler can only be fishing for one team at any one time.

Area: - Page 41

The tournament will be fished in that area of water bounded by a line 200 miles from New Zealand's two main islands. the provision of Rule 14 reporting of catches, Rule 11 Weighing and Rule 2 Safety must be adhered to.

Courtesy Weighing: - Page 42

Please read carefully the teams' responsibilities regarding courtesy weighs. The following point - All participating anglers wishing to use the courtesy facility of another club must inform the host club as soon as such a requirement becomes apparent. **Courtesy weighing is a privilege, don't abuse it and spoil it for all.**

Number of Fish per Day: - Page 43

While each angler can weigh in 3 fish per species per day, in Section 1, only the **top three scoring fish** will count, along with unlimited tagged fish (for selected species) so there is not a lot of point in weighing in a lot of fish. Remember anglers can only weigh 1 shark per angler per day.

Minimum Weights & Sizes: - Page 43 to 44

Please ensure everyone is aware of the Minimum weights/sizes See Rules 15 & 16

SPECIES SECTIONS

Section One

To be fished in the following line classes **(No Braid Allowed)**

60 kg, 37kg, 24kg, 15kg, 10kg, 8kg, 6kg, 4kg, 3kg, 2kg, 1kg

Blue & Black Marlin

Broadbill

Striped Marlin

Shortbill Spearfish

Yellowtail

Mahimahi

Line weights as above but excluding 60 kg. For Mahimahi the minimum weight is 4 kg on line weights 15 kg and 15 kg and above. On line weights 10 kg and below, there is no minimum fish weight.

Shark

(blue shark, bronze whaler, hammerhead shark, mako shark, thresher shark, tiger shark, porbeagle). **Only 1 shark per angler per day may be weighed**

Tuna

(yellowfin, bluefin, bigeye, butterfly). For Yellowfin Tuna the minimum weight is 15 kg on line weights 15 kg and above. On line weights 10 kg and below, the fish must be equal to, or exceed line weights.

To be fished in the following line classes **(No Braid Allowed)**

10kg, 8kg, 6kg, 4kg, 3kg, 2kg, 1kg

Tuna Slender & Skipjack

Albacore

Snapper

Kahawai

Trevally

Minimum weights and lengths for fish in all sections are:

Blue & Black Marlin	Weighed	Must equal or exceed 90 kg
	Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 90 kg
	Tag & Release	No minimum
Broadbill	Weighed	Must equal or exceed line weight
	Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed tippet weight
	Tag & Release	No minimum
Striped Marlin	Weighed	Must equal or exceed 90 kg
	Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 90 kg
	Tag & Release	No minimum

Shortbill Spearfish	Weighed	Must equal or exceed 10 kg
	Fly fishing	Must equal or exceed 10 kg
	Tag & Release	No Minimum
Mahimahi	Weighed	Must equal or exceed 4 kg on line weights 15kg and above. On line weights 10 kg and below there is no minimum fish weight
	Fly fishing	Must equal or exceed 4 kg on tippet weights 15kg and above. On tippet weights 10 kg and below there is no minimum fish weight
	No Tag & Release	

Shark (all species as listed under 15. Species)

Only 1 shark per angler per day may be weighed

Weighed	Must equal or exceed 40 kg
Fly fishing	Must equal or exceed 40 kg
Tag & Release	122 cm or 4 feet

Bluefin Bigeye and Butterfly Tuna

Weighed	Must equal or exceed line weight
Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed tippet weight
Tag & Release	No minimum

Yellowfin Tuna

Weighed	Minimum weight is 15kg on line 15kg and above. On line weights 10kg and below the fish must equal or exceed the line weight
Fly Fishing	On tippet weights 10kg and below the fish must equal or exceed the tippet weight
Tag and Release	No minimum

Yellowtail

Weighed	Must equal or exceed Line weight and must exceed 100 cm in length
Fly Fishing	Must exceed 1m in length and must equal or exceed tippet weight
Length for Points	75 cm in length or greater
Tag & Release	75 cm in length or greater

Albacore	Weighed Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 1 kg Must equal or exceed 1 kg On tippet weights 1, 2 & 3 kg On tippet weights 4, 6, 8 & 10 kg
	No Tag & Release	Must equal or exceed 2 kg
Snapper	Weighed Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 1 kg Must equal or exceed 1 kg On tippet weights 1, 2 & 3 kg On tippet weights 4, 6, 8 & 10 kg
	No Tag & Release	Must equal or exceed 2kg
Kahawai	Weighed Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 1 kg Must equal or exceed 1 kg On tippet weights 1, 2 & 3 kg On tippet weights 4, 6, 8 & 10 kg
	No Tag & Release	Must equal or exceed 2kg
Skipjack & Slender	Weighed Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 1 kg Must equal or exceed 1 kg On tippet weights 1, 2 & 3 kg On tippet weights 4, 6, 8 & 10 kg
	No Tag & Release	Must equal or exceed 2 kg
Trevally	Weighed Fly Fishing	Must equal or exceed 1 kg Must equal or exceed 1 kg On tippet weights 1, 2 & 3 kg On tippet weights 4, 6, 8 & 10
	No Tag & Release	Must equal or exceed 2 kg

Braid: - Page 46

“All Braided lines may only be used as a backing as per IGFA NZSFC main line and backing rule”.

Length Section only 16 – Page 46

A length section has been introduced – see Section 16. Anglers enter their own fish on line for this section at www.fishingcomp.co.nz/Nationals/

Other important facts to note;

Recorders

Club Recorders need to check the internet each evening to see that all fish for their club have been entered. With over a thousand fish to record for the contest mistakes can be made but are easily fixed if picked up early. Please only forward fish on the results schedules that relate to the Nationals.

It is expected that Clubs will send their entries via email. However if a Club wishes to send their entries through the mail then they must do so in time for the Nationals Secretary to receive them prior to the Nationals starting.

Non Offset Circle Hooks

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to ensure the long-term conservation of all billfish **by using non-offset circle hooks when using live and dead natural baits when targeting any billfish.**

Finally, please remember these notes just touch briefly on some of the rules. The full Rules should be read by all anglers competing in the Nationals.

Good Fishing

From Your Tournament Committee