



**BEAUMARIS MOTOR
YACHT SQUADRON
LIMITED**

Fishing Competition Rules

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BMYS Fishing Competition Rules

1 Management

Fishing Competitions shall be managed by the BMYS Fishing Committee under the support and direction of the appointed BMYS Fishing Director or delegate. The Fishing Committee may manage competitions internally or in conjunction with other BMYS committees, members, affiliated clubs, guests or sponsors.

2 Objectives

BMYS Fishing Competitions shall be based upon the following objectives:

1. To promote camaraderie within the club for members, their family, guests and affiliated or collegial clubs
2. To promote fishing as a recreational pastime to member families and juniors
3. To promote sustainable and ecologically sound recreational fishing practices
4. To work with sponsors to provide prizes and benefits to members and fishing competition entrants whilst providing sponsors with exposure and promotional opportunities for mutual benefit
5. To provide a welcoming and inclusive environment
6. To manage fishing events safely and in ways that maintains and enhances BMYS's reputation

Decisions on how to run and operate fishing competitions on behalf of the club shall be consistent with these objectives.

3 Fishing Competition Participants

The following rules govern who is authorized to participate in BMYS fishing events:

1. All BMYS members who have launching rights associated with their membership that allows their participation.
2. A minimum of 5 boats must participate in an event for it to qualify as a competition
3. Social members may participate in competitions by crewing on a Member's boat that has launching rights associated with their membership that enable their participation in the event. Social members may not launch their own boat or use non authorized, non-member boats to participate in a fishing event.
4. Invited kindred club members where the competition or event rules allow
5. Sponsors where their participation is by way of invitation from a Club Officer or Director
6. Families and friends of BMYS Members who crew the Member's boat and who are registered for the event and who have paid any required entry fee.
7. Invited community or fishing fraternity members who are registered for the event and who have paid any required entry fee.

All participants must abide by BMYS event rules and safety directions. Those failing to do so will have their legibility to participate terminated.

4 Types of Competitions

The types of competitions organized by the BMYS Fishing Committee include the following:

1. Club competitions
2. Weekly Self Weigh in competitions. Includes Saturdays , Sundays and Monday Public holidays. Monday to Friday catches not eligible.
3. Club Away Competitions
4. BMYS Hosted Interclub Competitions
5. Other Club Hosted Interclub Competitions

Other competitions and events may be approved and endorsed by the BMYS Fishing Committee provided they comply with the objectives of these rules and BMYS Safety policies and procedures.

5 Competition Rules

The BMYS Fishing Committee shall be responsible for determining the rules governing the operation of any BMYS fishing competitions or events. In the event of a dispute or an event requiring adjudication the BMYS Fishing Director or delegate for the event shall have the authority to make a decision in their sole discretion. No challenges or discussions shall be allowed.

Prize winners for Fishing Competitions may be determined on whatever basis the BMYS Fishing Committee decides to use for a particular competition. This can include but is not necessarily limited to the following:

1. **“Largest fish by Species”** – The largest weight fish for a particular species
2. **“Secret Weight Species”** - The fish weight closest to the secret weight for that species, nominated by the nominated BMYS Fishing Committee member prior to the event
3. **“Secret Weight”** - Secret Weight” - The fish weight closest to the secret weight, nominated by the nominated BMYS Fishing Committee member prior to the event
4. **“Heaviest Bag”** – The heaviest collection by weight of different, allowed species. Minimum 3 species over 300mm.
5. **“Most unusual catch”** – A decided by the BMYS Fishing Committee
6. **“Participation”** – Prize winners drawn from the pool of enrolled competition entrants

Normally prize winning entries will be determined on the basis of weight except in circumstances where this is not possible or agreed to by the BMYS Fishing Director or delegate. In which cases the entry will not be eligible for consideration for the annual species prize because this is a weight-based prize award.

Fishing competition entrants in BMYS fishing competitions shall ensure their competition entries comply with the following:

1. Minimum size for all fish species including squid is 300mm. Fish under 300mm may be kept by competitor but will not be eligible for any prize.
2. Traditional non edible species such as skates, rays, Port Jackson sharks, Banjo sharks or other species nominated by the BMYS Fishing Director shall not be accepted as entries. [BMYS policy is not to endorse or facilitate the unnecessary catching and destruction of non-edible species.]
3. Squid and cuttlefish are acceptable entries under the squid category, crabs, shellfish, lobster, other mollusks including octopus with are not acceptable entries.
4. Hazardous, spiky, or potentially dangerous species such as gurnard, stone fish or toad fish are also precluded from entry into competitions. BMYS Fishing Director or delegate has the sole decision-making authority in this matter.

5. All sharks shall be presented for weighing gutted and gilled.
6. Entries in multiple species competitions are limited to one fish of each allowed species
7. The entry of live fish in competitions is allowed provided it can be done safely and the competition basis, fish weight or length can be determined safely and accurately. This must be managed in a way that is humane and minimizes the fish's distress.
8. Entries must be caught by the entrant in their sole capacity without assistance apart from the landing of the fish.
9. Fish must be caught in a manner that complies the Victorian "Recreational Fishing Guides" as published and updated at the time of the competition by the Victorian Fisheries Authority. This includes:
 - Rod and reel
 - Hand line
 - Bait or lure fishing
10. Catches made by spear fishing are not eligible unless it is for entry into a dedicated spear fishing competition.
11. The use of nets or traps is prohibited.
12. Entries are to be weighed in whole and without adulteration
13. Entries are caught during the published or allowed start and finish time of the competition as determined by the BMYS Fishing Committee.
14. All fish entered must be caught in the nominated waters. This shall be the waters of Port Phillip Bay accessed from BMYS ramps unless nominated otherwise.
15. Failure to comply with BMYS on water event procedures may invalidate the eligibility of entrants to participate in the event. These procedures include specifically the requirement to:
 - a) Book for an event,
 - b) Confirm attendance once launched
 - c) Confirm their return
 - d) Confirm their withdrawal from the event in a timely manner (e.g. before the end of the event)

Failure to comply with these requirements is a breach of the on-water procedures and shall be adjudicated by the nominated Event Safety Officer at their sole discretion.

Major competitions such as the annual Gala Fishing Competition may have their own particular rules, and these shall be approved by the BMYS Fishing Director. These are to be published and distributed to members and entrants to these competitions before the event.

Fishing competitions managed by other clubs and away from the BMYS grounds shall be subjected to that club's rules.

6 Competition Start and Finish Times

The BMYS shall publish the competition start and finish times for each competition. Normally this will be in the form of:

Gates Open	This is the time the BMYS Fishing Committee will be available to record the sign in of entrants to the competition. Entrants may start fishing earlier than this time for most events provided it is after 12.00 am of the day of the fishing competition event and they contact the BMYS Fishing Committee/Event Safety Officer to confirm their participation shortly after the Gates Opening time. Failure to do so may exclude the entrant from participation in the event.
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	Fish caught prior to midnight/12.00 am are not eligible for entry into the competition. The exception for "Twilight" events where only fish caught after the Gates Open time are eligible to enter. This is to give everyone participating in these twilight events equal opportunity.
Weigh In Closure	This is the time the weigh in station closes and entries after this time are no longer accepted
Event End	This is the time when the event finishes and the time by when competition entrants are required to have either: a) "Checked in" or confirmed their return to the ramp or b) Have decided to remain out on the water, have advised the event Safety Officer/Fishing Committee of this decision and are no longer event participants.

7 Prize Allocation

Prize allocation shall be determined by the BMYS Fishing Director or their delegate in conjunction with discussions with the BMYS Fishing Committee members and in accordance with the fishing competition objectives. The BMYS Fishing Director's decision is final, and no discussion is allowed.

1. Only 1 prize can be won by an entrant per competition except for the annual Gala Competition when a maximum of two prizes may be won
2. Any fish winning the heaviest fish category will be excluded from their entrant's heaviest bag entry

In competitions where there is a specific junior (a person 16 or younger) prize allocation, the junior cannot be awarded a senior prize even if it's the biggest fish weighed in on the day. If two or more entries match one another for a prize category (e.g. same weight), then prizes shall be awarded in order of the entry weigh in times until the available prizes are exhausted.

8 Monthly Fishing Competitions

These competitions are competitions for members that are conducted over a nominated weekend where members may enter by:

1. Weighing a caught fish at the weigh in station cabinet that is located near the fish cleaning area and completing the supplied entry cards
2. Getting another member/someone to witness the fish details on entry cards
3. Submitting the signed card in the mailbox located within the weigh in cabinet

A BMYS Fishing Committee member will collect the entries and arrange notification of the winners. The one prize per person rule applies to this competition and all fish weighed in are also in the running for yearly heaviest fish award.

9 Game Fishing Competitions

The BMYS Fishing Committee shall periodically arrange club game fishing events and shall make a determination as regards the rules and prize allocations for these events.

10 Annual Trophy Awards

The BMYS Fishing Committee shall appoint a committee member to record all competition entries and will nominate annual trophy award winners in the following categories:

- Heaviest snapper
- Heaviest whiting
- Heaviest squid
- Heaviest flathead
- Heaviest shark
- Most unusual catch
- Game fishing

The BMYS Fishing Competition may add new awards or decline to make an award depending upon entries, trophy availability or sponsorship reasons in their sole discretion exercised in good faith.

The game fishing trophy award will be awarded in accordance with the approved BMYS Game Fishing Award rules.

11 Safety

All BMYS fishing competitions shall be managed in accordance with BMYS Safety procedures and practices. All entrants, member and non-member are expected to comply with these procedures and the directions of the BMYS Fishing Committee or Event Safety Officer. Failure to comply will mean competition entry cancellation and possible disciplinary action which could include suspension from entry of future fishing competitions or escalation of a complaint to the club's Board.

BMYS Fishing Committee