

*western province deep  
sea angling association*

*westelike provinsie diepsee-  
hengelvereniging*



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## **WPDSAA OFFSHORE LEAGUE - 2024 SEASON** **CONCEPT & PARTICIPATION**

### **A. AIMS**

- A.1 To promote and develop light tackle game fishing wherever possible among all anglers affiliated to WPDSAA, with the aim of establishing the top anglers in order to select competitive Western Province teams.
- A.2 To ensure all League competitions are fished fairly and all anglers can participate on as equal a basis as possible.
- A.3 To ensure all boats can participate, subject to legal restrictions of the craft concerned.
- A.4 To find the top angler in each category, top boat and top club.
- A.5 To reward any angler or club for their performance, as the WPDSAA may deem fit.

### **B. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

WPDSAA Tournament Officer (or his duly elected nominee if unavailable).  
Tournament Officer of each participating club or nominee in the event of unavailability, to be confirmed prior to the start of each leg, who will be available at the venue.  
All participating T/O's will be responsible for all weather calls.

### **C. BRIEFING**

There will be a Tournament Officers briefing hosted by the WP Tournament Officer prior to the commencement of the season, to discuss any rule changes and new dates and elect the seasons Tournament Committee.

A league brief prior to the commencement of a league weekend is to be done by the WP T/O and distributed to participating club T/O's.

It is the duty of the club Tournament Officer's to advise all league Skippers and Anglers, prior to the commencement of the season, the new rules and elected dates for the season.

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## D. LEGS & VENUES

### **D.1 EIGHT (8) League weekends have been selected.** **A maximum of SIX (6) legs will be fished if possible**

EIGHT (8) selected weekends ONLY to be fished concurrently until a maximum of SIX (6) LEGS are fished with no spare weekends, with the Saturday being the fishing day and the Sunday being the alternative fishing day.

D.2 Launching will be from any WPDSAA affiliated club-launching venue.

## E. WEATHER CONDITIONS

- E.1 The Tournament Committee, with the aid of the Weather Stations, can decide if the event is NOT to take place, due to inclement weather conditions, by 19h00 on the **WEDNESDAY** prior to the league. If this is not possible Rule E.2 below applies.
- E.2 If the call is a 50/50 call, the intent of the call will be made known by the WP T/O by the Wednesday. i.e. to fish the League but a day still needs to be selected or not to fish the league owing to poor weather conditions. Further to this, the call will be made as soon as it is possible to do so for either the Saturday or the Sunday. Preferably on the Thursday and if not then Friday morning by 9am. If this is not possible, a further decision must be made three hours (3) before launch time of the league taking place i.e. 02h00 during November/December and 03h00 during March, April, May, June and October.
- E.3 In the interests of the league being fished and knowing that the weather will moderate a delayed decision can be made on the actual day, which will at latest, be taken by 07h00 during November/December and 08h00 during March, April, May June and October.

## WEATHER DECISION

- E.4 For reasons of safety, lines-up may be called early by **MAJORITY VOTE** of the elected Weather Committee or their nominee, under which circumstances any angler fighting fish **MUST CUT-OFF IMMEDIATELY**
- E.5 **The weather committee ONLY will use channel 69** in the case of making these weather decisions at sea and may not be interrupted by any other persons when making these decisions.
- E.6 The league may also be called off on the Thursday before the league if there is absolutely **NO** fish around.

## F. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Failure to comply with conditions of participation may result in the individual angler's scores, boat score and club score not being scored and/or disqualified.

- F.1 Participating boats will carry a **current WPDSAA league entry disc and its number with a suffix noting expiry month of COF (e.g. /01 to /12)** must be entered on the registration form **together with the boat registration number** by close of scales. **The cost of the disc will be determined by WPDSAA from time to time.**
- F.2 All anglers must be registered members, in their own right, of this Association.
- F.3 All anglers must fill in their Western Province angling numbers on the registration forms. The onus will rest with each angler to remember his/her angling number.
- F.4 New anglers must affiliate to Western Province through their respective clubs within 30 days of fishing a leg. The onus will rest with the skipper to ensure that the new angler gets affiliated. **If the angler does not affiliate within the time, the boat and new angler will not be scored.**
- F.5 All vessels participating in the league do so as amateur sports anglers, under the auspices of the WPDSAA. As such, the laws pertaining to sport and recreation regarding **bag limits**, minimum sizes and protected species are binding on ALL participants.  
Boats carrying a LT or TP or any other commercial type license MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE LEAGUE provided it is in accordance of their regulations and that they abide by the rules as set out
- F.6 a) The registration form must be signed, clearly stating name of boat, **registration number of boat (this reg number must be accurate as the WP scorer will be using it in future to identify your vessel), WPDSAA league entry** disc number, names of each team member, name of club they represent and the line class **and brand of line used, BEFORE** launching. Registration books and a certified scale must be available at all participating launching venues.
- b) All vessels must book out with (Skiboat Mobile) if available. The information given must be - intended course, number of persons on board, point of departure and line class. On return all boats must book back with their respective radio controller.
- c) In the event of mechanical failure of vessels, contact is to be made with the elected Control boat and their radio controller to notify them of the problem and the host T/O may consider an extension of the scales closing time.
- F.7 The onus will rest with the Skipper of each boat, regarding the Safety of his/her crew, on whether to go to sea or not. Should the skipper decide to go to sea, he/she does so at his/her own risk and indemnifies WPDSAA of all risk and legal implications.
- F.8 Provincial or SADSAA representation on a league day the anglers concerned will NOT score but will be adjudged as FISHED in the league for the provincial selection criteria process only.

F.9 For reasons of safety and as a precautionary measure all skippers are to be to be aware of the 300m radius whilst fishing behind Stern Trawlers when they are pulling their net in the event of the net “popping” up.

F.10 An entry fee, in the amount as laid down by WPDSAA from time to time, will be payable by each adult angler and each junior angler for each league leg which will be put into a fund for that leg and 50% of the fees collected are to be paid by each club to WPDSAA after each leg. The remaining 50% is split into two cash awards of 25% each to the angler of each club who catches the largest small tuna species (e.g. Longfin etc.) and the largest large tuna species (e.g. Yellowfin / Bluefin / Bigeye etc.) for the day.

## **RULES** (Rules are to run for a full year, no mid-year changes)

### **1. ANGLING RULES**

WPDSAA/IGFA Rules as well as all recreational legal limits will apply. The onus will be on participants to be fully *au fait* with these rules/limits.

### **2. BOATS**

All boats must have a qualified Skipper on board and may only carry participating anglers.

### **3. SKIPPER**

- 3.1 It is the duty of each Skipper to act as a referee and see that all rules are strictly adhered to.
- 3.2 In the interest of safety and sportsmanship, each Skipper is expected to give as accurate as possible details regarding position and catch when asked to do so by the control boat.
- 3.3 At lines-up, the Skipper must give as accurate an account as possible of fish caught if asked by the Control Boat or Radio Control.
- 3.4 Any person talking on the radio of a boat will be considered to be representing his/her Skipper.
- 3.5 Only VHF channel 71 may be used for competition chatter. VHF channel 16 may only be used for reasons of safety. The weather committee only may use VHF channel 69 when a decision needs to be made. NO CELLPHONES, TRUNK RADIOS (KAVI COMMS) or SATELLITE PHONES MAY BE USED FOR INTER-BOAT COMMUNICATIONS FROM LAUNCH UNTIL LINES UP. Boats launching from OBBC may book out via Kavi or cell phone for safety reasons, on the condition that any boat booking out in such a manner will contact the control boat for the day, as soon as they reach the fishing grounds, and report their attendance in that league leg.

### **4. ANGLERS**

- 4.1 Any Angler, who is an affiliated member of more than one (1) club, must nominate the club he/she wishes to fish for, before the start of the League Season and may not change his/her nomination during that League Season.

#### 4.2 JUNIOR ANGLER

A junior angler will be under the age of **sixteen (16) years** at the start of the league season.

He/she will be subject to all participation rules including boat score.

**He /she may fish with a heavier line class of their choice than designated for the boat on the day and may have four (4) rods aboard with only two (2) in the water at any given time.** The rods may not be handled by any other angler aboard except by another junior or the other anglers who are fishing the same, heavier, line class.

#### 4.3 NOVICE ANGLER

A novice will be under the age of **fourteen (14) years** at the start of the league season.

He/she will be subject to all participation rules but will have no bearing on the individual, boat or club scores and will only accumulate points towards a NOVICE AWARD. **He/she may fish with a heavier line class of their choice than designated for the boat on the day but may have four rods aboard with only two (2) in the water at any given time.**

### 5. RODS

An angler may have a maximum of four (4) rods and four (4) reels on board but may not have more than two (2) lines in the water at any one time. His/her rod/s must be clearly nominated.

An angler may only nominate his rod to another angler, if he cannot take the rod himself due to him already fighting fish subject to that angler retrieving 1 of his own rods if he has 2 in the water.

### 6. LINE CLASS and LEADER LENGTHS

6.1 MIXED pre-approved LINE CLASSES MAY BE USED with a minimum TEN (10) kg IGFA rated.

6.2 LINE BRANDS – PRE-APPROVED

The Tournament Committee has PRE-APPROVED the following MONOFILAMENT brands: Ande, Berkley, Stren, MoiMoi, Platypus, Suffix, Double X .... and Cortland Dacron (as backing) all in the IGFA range only. IF USED these lines will not be tested.

The Tournament Committee may add additional brands to the approved list provided they are satisfied as to the suitability of the product.

6.3 The LEADER shall be limited to 15 feet (4.57m) for line classes up to 20lb (10kg), and 30 feet (9.14m) for all line classes over 20lb (10kg)

- 6.4 The combined length of the DOUBLE LINE and LEADER shall not exceed 20 feet (6.1m) in line classes up to and including 20lb (10kg) and 40 feet (12.19m) in line classes over 20lb (10kg).

The “weak link line” rule *as per SADSAA’s (IGFA) specification may be adopted, the weak link may be a minimum of 5m, and this excludes any knots or double lines! Please ensure you understand the rules. For record purposes the weak link needs to be 30m or more!*

#### 6.5 LINE TESTING METHOD

PRE-APPROVED line used will not be subject to testing at the discretion of the WP Tournament Officer. All OTHER brands of line will be allowed but the onus is on the angler to ensure the line used is not illegal.

Tests are to be done before all leagues through the assistance of the club T/O’s.

DRY testing only qualifies.

If samples fail the first dry test a minimum of three (3) more DRY tests will be done and the average will determine the class.

#### 6.6 LINE TRANSGRESSIONS

Any failure to comply with points 6.1 to 6.5 may lead the Tournament Committee, at their discretion, to apply penalties.

### 7. MINIMUM WEIGHTS

The minimum weight for all game fish species will be **TEN - (10) kg** or the legal limit whichever is the greater.

### 8. TAGGING/TIPPING & RELEASE OR MEASURING, excluded from league scoring.

### 9. FISHING AREA

9.1 The Control boat will, as far as possible, monitor each vessel and report any infringement.

9.2 All fish must be hooked within a **maximum radius of forty (40) N.M. from Cape Point** this rule applies to all boats fishing out of GBBAC; CBSBC; FBMT & ABC

9.3 Boats launching from YZER; OBBC & STRUIS all fish must be hooked within a **maximum radius of forty (40) N.M. from Cape Point**

### 10. FISHING TIMES

10.1 **No official launch time**.....Departure times from launch site will be determined by each skipper and the onus is on the club Tournament Officer to ensure the registration book is available at a suitable time agreed to by his club anglers before launching and is completed by all participants.

- 10.2 **Lines-in time** for Saturdays or Sundays will be as follows:  
07h00 for November, December  
07h30 for October, March, April, May and June.

No extra time to be given due to late starts or breakdowns.

- 10.3 Lines-up will be 16h00 for Saturdays and 15h00 for Sundays, irrespective of the season.

- 10.4 **An angler may continue fighting a fish for ONE (1) hour after lines-up**, only provided it was hooked prior to the call and is immediately reported to radio control. Fish hooked after the lines-up call must be disqualified.

- 10.5 Calls for fighting fish at lines up must be made before the "lines up" call, any call after the lines up call will not be accepted. All stations to keep the channel open 3 min before lines up call to allow boats fighting fish to call in their situation.

The same rule is to apply for the final call at the end of time extension. The call to be made before the time extension period is called over. Any call thereafter will not be accepted. If the call is after in either instances, the fish will be disqualified.

## 11. SCORING

All points will be awarded in accordance with the WPDSAA scoring system, together with a Grand Prix 1000-point percentage (%) system where the top angler for the day will receive 1000 points and all other angler points are scored pro-rata as a percentage (%) of the 1000 points. **The Grand Prix system applies to boats, clubs & anglers.**

- 11.2 Boat scores will be determined by the total score of the anglers with a minimum of **three (3) participants**, including junior anglers. (Novice anglers are excluded)
- 11.3 The top angler/boat will be determined by the total score of that angler/boat over the whole season.
- 11.4 The club score will be the total score of the **top ten (10) anglers** of that club for that particular leg and the total of all the legs will be the overall score of that particular club.
- 11.5 Changing of boat points may be considered to another boat by written application to the WP T/O, who will in turn seek the advice of the other T/O's excluding the T/O of the relevant club.

11.6	Billfish	100%
	Sailfish	80%
	<b>Tuna - Long fin</b>	<b>80%</b>
	<b>All other Tuna species</b>	<b>100%</b>
	Dorado	90%
	Garrick	90%
	Rainbow Runner	80%
	<b>Yellowtail</b>	<b>100%</b>
	All Bonito species	100%
	Wahoo	85%

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11.7 Scores for juniors will form part of the main scoring system.

11.8

## **12. WEIGH-IN**

12.1 All fish must be weighed on the Official Club Scales that have been assized/calibrated for the season.

- 12.2 a) All fish must be individually presented to the scales and recorded against the angler's name, on the official Weigh Sheet. The Skipper or his/her nominee, who takes full responsibility, must sign this as correct.
- b) If no fish caught, Weigh Sheets must still be signed.
- c) Although not compulsory, all anglers are requested to also complete the online individual scoring sheet, even if no fish caught by an angler.

12.3 **Scale queue closes at 19h00** unless otherwise decided by the clubs' tournament officer to cater for special circumstances.

## **13. PRIZES**

13.1 Prizes will be awarded according to the available trophies and as determined by the WP T/O.

13.2 If any trophies are incorrectly awarded, it must be brought to the attention of the WPDSAA Tournament Officer by the Club's Tournament Officer at the first opportunity.

13.3 Western Province floating trophies may be won by any WPDSAA affiliated angler but must remain within our Provincial Boundaries.

## **14. OBJECTIONS**

All objections together with R50.00 must be reported to the elected Tournament Committee for that leg or the Club Tournament Officer or the WPDSAA Tournament Officer immediately they arise, but no later than the close of scales and must be followed up in writing within one (1) hour. This can however be extended to 24 hrs at the discretion of the tournament committee.

## **15. INFRINGEMENTS**

Although the intent of these rules is to rely on the integrity and sportsmanship of all participants, the Tournament Committee may, at their discretion, rule for cancellations for any infringement as follows:

- a) Boat score
- b) Anglers catch (single fish or entire catch)
- c) Entire team's score

## **16. APPEALS**

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Any participant may appeal against a ruling by doing so in writing to the WP Tournament Officer, together with R50.00 (Fifty Rand) within one (1) week of the ruling. If the appeal is upheld, the money will be refunded. If not, the money will be placed in the Tournament Fund. ALL APPEALS MUST BE HEARD AND RULED UPON BY THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE FOLLOWING LEG.

17. The decision of the Tournament committee in the implementation of these rules will be binding and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **LINE FACTOR TABLE**

<b><u>LINE CLASS</u></b>	<b><u>FACTOR</u></b>
<b>10 kg</b>	<b>0.32</b>
<b>15 kg</b>	<b>0.142</b>
<b>24 kg</b>	<b>0.055</b>
<b>37 kg</b>	<b>0.0233747</b>
<b>60 kg</b>	<b>0.0088888</b>

### **TOURNAMENT OFFICERS DUTIES**

#### **A. WPDSAA TOURNAMENTS OFFICER**

1. Make available to club tournament officer when requested the WPDSAA "SUITCASE" containing:
  - \* W.P. Certified Scale (to be done yearly)
  - \* Record claim forms (available from the WP Records Officer)
  - \* Camera & Spools (if available)
  - \* Tape Measure
  - \* Official registration forms / weighs sheets
  - \* List of legal specie limits and minimum sizes
  - \* Offshore League Rules
  - \* Inshore League Rules
2. Call a meeting of the tournaments committee immediately after close of scales if required, to attend to any objections. If an objection cannot be immediately resolved, a date must be set with the WP T/O for a further meeting where a decision must be taken or referred to Exco and Council for assistance.
3. Ensure the tournaments committee complies with all the rules as set out, rules will not be changed during the league season unless an urgent need to in the interest of the league where a special meeting can be called through the WP Council.
4. Carry out spot checks on tackle and line samples.

#### **B. CLUB'S TOURNAMENT OFFICER (Clubs supplying a launching venue)**

1. Ensure that registration forms are readily available to anglers at the venue from half-an-hour before launching.
2. Each club participating must select a weigh master/mistress who shall be a non-participant.

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3. Completed and signed weigh sheets to be emailed to the WP official scorer by no later than 19h00 on the Monday following the league.
4. Ensure that all anglers are requested to submit their online weigh sheet to WPDSAA link.
4. Club T/O must be available at the venue until after close of scales.

**C. WEIGHMASTER/MISTRESS**

1. Be available at the scales from lines-up.
2. Ensure ALL names of anglers are noted on the boat's weigh sheet - NIL catches included.
3. Enter ALL fish presented to the scales irrespective of weight.
4. At close of scales, hand over to the Club's Tournament Officer all competed weigh sheets.

Tournament Officers should at all time, refrain from being involved in contentious discussions regarding rules over the air and should actively discourage their members from same. Any angler with a complaint should contact his club tournament officer, who can in turn, confer with the WPDSAA Tournament Officer on another channel if necessary or preferably back on land.