

# RULES OF THE TUNA CHALLENGE 2024

1. All boats must be in possession of a valid COF certificate and all Skippers must be in possession of a valid Skippers Ticket, radio operator's license and fishing license.
2. **FISHING AREA** S34°50'00", E25°30'00", E24°50'00". (Boats are bound by their safety certificate limitations).
3. **FISHING HOURS:** Boats may not leave the Port before 06h30, except on prize giving day 06h00. Fish are to be within the demarcated weigh-in area by 17h30 on all days except on prize giving day when fish must be within the demarcated weigh-in area by 16h30. No extra time will be allowed save for a boat assisting another in distress.  
Fishing will be the 3 best days out of the 5.
4. **CALL-UPS:** All boats will be called up each day on VHF channel 10 at 11h00 and 13h30. **Should any boat not hear the call up within 30 minutes of each call up it shall be incumbent on the Skipper of that boat to relay the boats position and catch to the control boat, failing which that boat may be disqualified.**
6. **RADIOS:** No boats without a fully operational radio will be allowed to compete. If problems are experienced with the radio during a day's fishing, it is the Skipper's responsibility before launching the next day to satisfy Radio Control that the boat's radio has been repaired and is working properly, prior to departure. **All skippers must do a radio check with Port Elizabeth / Cape Town Radio prior to the competition and complete the Indemnity Form with the date, time and rating of the radio check.**  
All radio communications during the competition hours will take place on VHF channel 10.
7. **GPS:** All fishing vessels must have an operational GPS on board.
8. **BLOW OUTS:** Should it be deemed by the weather committee to be a fishing day; it remains at the skipper's discretion to participate or not. In the event of extreme weather conditions, the committee reserves the right to cancel or postpone the competition, at any time. In the event of inclement weather or dangerous conditions developing during the course of the fishing day, 2 of 3 weather boats may make the decision to stop all fishing and call all boats back to port. If fishing is called off after 10:30am, it will be deemed a fishing day. Three days of the possible five will be fishing days.
9. **SAFETY / WEATHER COMMITTEE:** The Tournament committee will appoint a Safety/Weather committee. The decision of the safety/weather committee will be final.
10. **NUMBER OF RODS:** There are no restrictions on the number of fishing rods carried on the boat or used by any angler at any time.

11. **WEIGH-IN:** Maximum of 2 tuna per angler per day to be weighed. The 2 biggest tuna per boat / per day will qualify for boat prizes.

- ~ No mutilated fish will be weighed.
- ~ Scales open @ 16h00 (30 April 15h00)
- ~ Fish not within demarcated area by 17h30 will not be weighed (30 April 16h30)
- ~ Weigh-in must be attended by the Skipper or his Delegate and will be supervised by the Weigh Master and his Assistants.
- ~ The weigh-sheets must be signed on a daily basis by the Skipper or his delegate. Should any weigh-sheet not be signed, the weight recorded by the Weigh Master will be deemed correct for the purposes of the competition.

**No billfish may be landed. Must be released and may not to be brought to the scale.**

12. **FISHING TACKLE & LINE CLASS:**

- ~ IGFA Rules will apply – open line class
- ~ No electric reels will be allowed.

13. **FISH SPECIES ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES:**

- ~ Yellowfin Tuna ~ Big eye Tuna
- ~ Blue fin Tuna ~ Long fin Tuna
- ~ Dorado will qualify in a separate prize category.
- ~ All other fish including all billfish species, Eastern Little Tuna (Kawakawa) and Skipjack (Bonita) are excluded from prize categories.

14. **MINIMUM WEIGHT:**

- ~ Tuna (all species) = 20 kg; Dorado 5kg – Please release all undersize fish.

15. **SHARKS:** No Sharks will count in the competition.

16. **BREACH OF RULES OR MISCONDUCT:**

16.1 Allegations of any breach of the competition rules must be referred to the tournament committee in writing within 1 hour of scales closing. The competition committee's decision shall be final and binding.

16.2 Misconduct, violent, aggressive or unbecoming behavior by participants during the competition or within the premises or proximity of the Port St Francis Ski Boat Club will not be tolerated. Any behavior of this nature should be reported to the organizing committee immediately. The organizing committee shall decide on appropriate sanction which may include disqualification from further participation, it's decision shall be final.

- 16.3 Acceptance of entry into the competition by any individual shall be within the sole discretion of the organizing committee whose decision to allow or disallow entry shall be final.
17. It is **compulsory** for all Skippers or their delegates to attend the Skippers Briefing.
18. Only anglers who have paid in full will be permitted on boats and no guests will be allowed.
19. Anglers may not rotate unless each Angler participating in any part of the tournament has paid their entry fee in full and registered for the competition.  
The organizing committee must be made aware of any such rotation prior to boat launch on the day.
20. All fish caught belong to the anglers.
21. To qualify as a junior, entrants must be aged 18 or younger on the day of Registration.
22. BOAT FUEL: Please adhere to queuing order and do not jump the queue.
23. **BOATS IN DISTRESS:** The assisting boat will be allowed to weigh their fish on arrival at Port but must report their catch to the control boat immediately on having been requested to render assistance.  
~ Boat in distress may transfer its catch plus one angler to another boat (not the assisting boat). Normal weigh-in cut off times will apply to both catches on the piggy-back boat.
24. **PRIZES:** The main prizes and categories will be announced on the evening of registration. The allocation of prizes in the various categories shall be within the sole discretion of the organizing committee.
25. **DEAD HEAT:** In the event of a “dead heat” the fish weighed at the scales first will win the dead heat.
26. **PRIZE ELIGIBILITY:** A fish shall be eligible for one prize category only, save in respect of the boat prizes and 1st fish of the day.  
For purpose of the computation of the boat prize the two heaviest tunas caught in the competition shall be allocated a weight equivalent to the 3rd heaviest fish caught in the competition and not their actual weight. However, in the event of a “dead heat” as a result of this adjustment then the actual weights without adjustment shall apply between the boats involved in the “dead heat”

**27. PORT ELIZABETH BOATS**

Subject to the following, boats wishing to travel by sea from Port Elizabeth may depart from Port Elizabeth Harbour on the 1st day of the competition only:

- 27.1 Such boats shall not depart from Port Elizabeth Harbour before 06h30.
- 27.2 They shall travel together and report their arrival within the competition boundaries to the control boat prior to lines in.
- 27.3 Skippers or their delegates shall attend the Skippers briefing.
- 27.4 Save for the 1st day further launching during the competition shall be from Port St Francis Harbour.