

GUIDELINES FOR RADIO SKEDS FOR TOURNAMENTS**a) RADIO FREQUENCIES**

- It is recommended that all Tournaments operate Radio Skeds on two of the three frequencies available i.e.
 - i. 27 MHz
 - ii. VHF
 - iii. High Frequency
- A dual frequency broadcast is desirable with the Radio Operator repeating each report. This allows all vessels to listen to the total sked.
- It is understood that in some areas due to radio traffic and conditions that not all frequencies operate effectively. E.g. in the Sydney area only High Frequency operates effectively.
- It is also understood that some clubs do not have access to High Frequency radios.

b) SKED TIMES

Radio Skeds should be conducted at a maximum of TWO HOUR intervals.

c) GRID MAPS

All clubs and/or zones are to use a NSWGFA approved grid map for their local areas to be used in all tournaments and point score days, the inclusion of sponsors logos is permitted providing that logo does not obstruct the chart grid system alpha 1, bravo 2 etc.

d) REPORTING PROCEDURES

On the first sked each day vessels will report the following:

- Number of persons on board
- Position (in reference to grid map)
- Fishing Activity (travelling, anchored, drifting, trolling)
- Fishing Report (details of captures and tag/release)

On subsequent skeds, report:

- Position (must give grid reference)
- Fishing Activity (as above)
- Fishing Report (as above)

On final sked, report:

- Report Position (must give grid reference)
- Fishing Activity (as above)
- Fishing Report (as above)
- E.T.A. (estimated time of arrival back in port)

e) FAILURE TO REPORT ON SKEDS

It is mandatory for all vessels to report on each sked.

Failure to report on two consecutive skeds will activate an emergency procedure.

It is recommended that Tournament Committees impose a suitable point's penalty if a satisfactory explanation is not given.

f) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of a vessel failing to report on TWO consecutive skeds the base operator will start the emergency procedure.

- i. Issue a description of the vessel including all details by radio to tournament vessels.
- ii. Instruct all vessels near the last known position to start a search of their area.
- iii. After one hour of tournament vessels searching it is recommended that the Tournament Director notify the local Search and Rescue Authorities of the possible missing vessel and detail all actions taken. The overall responsibility for Search and Rescue in N.S.W. is the N.S.W. Police Service.
- iv. If a club runs hourly skeds it is suggested that the time frame be shortened to two hours plus one-hour search.

g) VESSEL RESPONSIBILITY

- i. Vessels must answer each sked with the required details.
- ii. If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it must return to port and notify Radio Base of their actions by other means (phone etc.). Remember that if TWO skeds are not answered, the emergency procedure will be activated.
- iii. It is a vessel's responsibility to notify the Radio Base or the Tournament Director of their intention NOT to fish on any given day of the Tournament. If no notification is received and the vessel fails to report on two consecutive skeds the Base Operator will start the emergency procedure.
- iv. If a vessels entry is accepted by the Host Club and that vessel is not fitted with the tournament frequencies to be used, it is the Host Clubs responsibility to have the sked report taken before the sked (by a prearranged vessel at sea) then the report relayed to the Radio Base on the next sked.

VESSEL SKIPPERS/OWNERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE SAFETY OF THEIR VESSEL AND CREW IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.**(h) SIGNING OFF**

It is mandatory for every vessel to sign off with Radio Base on return to port. A vessel must wait for a reply from the Radio Base to confirm sign off or with the permission of the remaining vessel/s at sea may be transferred to the local V.M.R. base.

(i) RADIO BASE RESPONSIBILITY

It is essential that the Radio Operator (be it on land or a vessel) has a copy of each vessels safety information on hand at all times for reference in case of an emergency.

It is the Host Clubs responsibility to have all required licences in place.

The Radio Base must stay active until all vessels have returned to port. An accurate record of each sked shall be kept (hard copy plus tape recording where possible).

It is recommended that if vessel/s are still at sea fighting a fish after the last sked the base, when it is clear of sign offs, should contact the vessel/s hourly noting their position in longitude and latitude until signed off.

Marine Radio Guidelines & Protocol

Skippers and crews are reminded to observe proper radio etiquette. If we all observe the following guidelines and protocols, then the airwaves will remain clear and available for their proper purpose.

Very high frequency (“VHF”) marine radio in Australia is considered an effective broadcast communication tool up to 20 nautical miles offshore. It can be used to obtain weather information, hail other vessels, and report emergencies. It is a line of sight radio technology, in that the signal does not typically propagate beyond visual distance from the antenna.

VHF License

To operate a marine radio, you must have completed Marine Radio Operators VHF Certificate of Proficiency, commonly known as the MROVCP, this certificate required to legally operate a Marine VHF Radio while on inland waterways or at sea within Australia.

The Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency, commonly known as the MROCP is the certificate required to legally operate a Marine VHF MF/HF Radio while on inland waterways or at sea.

Unnecessary Communications

Transmissions should be as brief as possible. Non-essential remarks, bad language and unnecessary conversations should be avoided. It is an offence under the Radio Communications Act 1992, to use a transmitter in a manner that is likely to cause a reasonable person to be seriously alarmed or affronted, or for the purpose of harassing a person.

Obscene or objectionable language, transmission of music and subversive transmissions are forbidden. VHF radios should not be used on full power unless necessary.

Many Game fishing clubs have designated working channels such as channel 80 or channel 21 and calls between vessels and the home station can be initiated on those channels without the need to switch.

VHF radio is a working radio and is not intended for general conversation. For general conversation, use a mobile phone.

POLICY FOR THE USE OF MULTIFILAMENT LINE FOR OPEN TOURNAMENTS OR POINTSCORE COMPETITIONS.

1. This policy statement has no application to record claims.
2. Definitions in this policy statement:

"Multifilament line" means any line which is not monofilament or Dacron and includes spider wire and gel spun lines. "Competition" includes any open tournament or point score competition.

"Committee" means the tournament committee or, if there is no tournament committee, the committee of the club running the tournament or point score competition or any subcommittee having delegated authority.

"Prize" includes any trophy, prize (cash or goods) or points in any point score competition.

1. Application of policy

If an angler submits a capture/tag & release in any competition that has been taken on multifilament line the committee may at its absolute discretion;

- (a) accept the capture/tag & release; or
- (b) resolve that the line must be tested

If the committee resolves that the line be tested the following provisions shall apply to the competition:

- (a) if the capture/tag & release qualifies for any prize, that prize shall be provisional only and shall be withheld pending the result of the line test;
 - (b) a sample of line shall be taken and prepared in the same manner as a sample required for a record claim and must include the double plus all terminal gear and be sent to the New South Wales Records Officer within fourteen (14) days. If the sample is not received by the NSW Records Officer within fourteen (14) days the line will not be tested and the capture will be deemed to have been accepted.
 - (c) If the line sample is received within fourteen (14) days the New South Wales Records Officer shall with all due dispatch forward the line sample for testing in accordance with the usual procedure laid down for testing record claims;
 - (d) If the line sample breaks under the prescribed line class, the committee will affirm the tournament results and award the prize. If the line breaks over the prescribed line class the capture/tag & release will be disqualified.
 - (e) The cost of the test shall be borne by the angler.
1. This policy shall remain in force until the New South Wales Game Fishing Association Executive determines that it appears that, generally, multifilament lines are breaking within the prescribed line class.

NSWGFA MEDIA POLICY

1. Any **MEDIA RELEASE, POLICY** or any **MAJOR ISSUE MUST** go through the NSWGFA President
2. **CLUB TOURNAMENT RESULTS** – **ONLY** a Club President can make comment to the media however these comments are to be of a general reporting nature i.e. not giving every single weight etc.
3. **CLUB WEBSITES** – Clubs are **NOT** to post any inaccurate or inappropriate information/photographs on their Club website.
4. **FORUMS** – Clubs and/or affiliated anglers are **NOT** to post any inaccurate or inappropriate information/photographs on forum sites.
5. **NO INDIVIDUAL ANGLER/MEMBER** should approach the media or answer any queries from the media, if approached that person should contact their Club President with the details who will then carry out the requirements of the NSWGFA Media Policy.
6. **The NSWGFA Logo, NSWGFA (name) or NSWGFA Interclub Tournament cannot be used in any media publication (including internet websites) without the express permission of the NSWGFA.**

NSWGFA Executive Social Media Policy

Due to the popularity of social media and the wish to protect both its members and the public from inappropriate online behaviour/content, NSWGFA has published guidelines detailing what is and isn't permitted. Whilst social media is a vital tool in engaging with the public, if used improperly it can cause a number of problems and even lead to legal proceedings.

The policy covers:

- Content – what is & isn't appropriate (pornography, unauthorized use of personal image etc.)
- Commenting using libellous or inflammatory remarks
- Promoting improper products/services via organization websites/emails
- Bringing the related NSWGFA and affiliated clubs into disrepute
- Intellectual property issues

Media Policy**PURPOSE**

Social media offers the opportunity for people to gather in online communities of shared interest and create, share or consume content. As a member based organization, NSWGFA recognizes the benefits of social media as an important tool of engagement and enrichment for our members.

It is important that the reputation of NSWGFA, its affiliated clubs and the sport generally is not tarnished by anyone using social media tools inappropriately, particularly in relation to any content that might reference NSWGFA.

When someone clearly identifies their association with NSWGFA, and/or discusses their involvement in the organization in this type of forum, they are expected to behave and express themselves appropriately and in the ways, that are consistent with NSWGFA's stated values and policies.

This policy aims to provide some guiding principles to follow when using social media. This policy does not apply to the personal use of social media platforms by NSWGFA members or staff that makes no reference to NSWGFA or related issues.

SCOPE

This policy applies to NSWGFA Member clubs and affiliated members of NSWGFA.

This policy covers all forms of social media. Social media includes, but is not limited to, activities such as:

Maintaining a profile page on social or business networking sites (such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Shutterfly, Twitter or MySpace); Content sharing including Flickr (photo sharing) and YouTube (Video Sharing); Commenting on blogs for personal or business reasons; Leaving product or service reviews on retailer sites or customer review sites; Taking part in online votes and polls; Taking part in conversations on public and private web forums (message boards); or Editing a Wikipedia page

The intent of this policy is to include anything posted online where information is shared that might affect members, colleagues, sponsors of NSWGFA as an organization and the reputation of the sport in general.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The web is not anonymous. NSWGFA Members should assume that everything they write can be traced back to them.

Due to the unique nature of NSWGFA, the boundaries between a NSWGFA Member profession, volunteer time and social life can often be blurred. It is therefore essential that members make a clear distinction between what they do, think or say in their capacity as a Member of NSWGFA. NSWGFA considers all Members of the organization as its representatives.

When using the internet for professional or personal pursuits, all Members must respect the brands of NSWGFA, all Association Members and anybody else involved in our sport and follow the guidelines in place to ensure that sport's intellectual property or its relationships with sponsors and stakeholders is not compromised or the sport is brought into disrepute.

USAGE

For NSWGFA Members using social media, such use:

- Must not contain, or link to, libellous, defamatory or harassing content – this also applies to the use of illustrations or nicknames; Must not comment on, or publish information that is confidential in anyway;
- Must not bring the organization or the sport into disrepute; or must not otherwise be in breach of the NSWGFA Code of Conduct.

OFFICIAL NSWGFA BLOGS, SOCIAL PAGES AND ONLINE FORUMS

When creating a new website, social networking page or forum for club members, Association Members, tournaments, competitions or Members generally, care should be taken to ensure the appropriate person has given permission to create the page or forum.

Similarly, appropriate permissions must be obtained for the use of logos or images. Images of children may not be replicated on any site without the written permission of the child's parents and/or guardian.

Posts must not contain, nor link to pornographic or indecent content; Some hosted sites may sell the right to advertise on their sites through "pop up" content which may be of a questionable nature. This type of hosted site should not be used for online forum or social pages as the nature of "pop up" content cannot be controlled; all materials published or used must respect the copyright of third parties.

CONSIDERATION TOWARDS OTHERS WHEN USING SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Social networking sites allow photographs, videos and comments to be shared with thousands of other users. NSWGFA Members must recognize that it may not be appropriate to share photographs, videos and comments in this way.

NSWGFA Members should be considerate to others in such circumstances and should not post information when they have been asked not to or consent has not been sought and given. They must also remove information about another person should they be asked to do so. Under no circumstance should offensive comments be made about NSWGFA, affiliated clubs and club members online.

BREACH OF POLICY

NSWGFA will continually monitor online activity in relation to the organization and the sport. Detected breaches of this policy should be reported to NSW. If detected, a breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action from NSWGFA under the NSWGFA Constitution and By-Laws. A breach of this policy may also amount to breaches of other NSWGFA governing documents including its constitution, by-laws and other policies. This may involve a verbal or written warning or in serious cases, termination of affiliation or engagement.