

# **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION LTD**

**ACN 063 293 514**

# **RULEBOOK**

**EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2008**

**"SPORT, CONSERVATION, INTEGRITY"**



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**Note: National Record Chart can be viewed and downloaded from the ANSA website at [www.ansa.com.au](http://www.ansa.com.au) then go to ANSA Records.**

# FOREWORD

## HISTORY

The Australian National Sportfishing Association formally started in 1967 when a group of dedicated Sportfishers met at Yorkeys Knob in Cairns. Fourteen "barefooted Yobbo's" under the stewardship of Vic McCristal and George Bryden put into some order their ideas of fishing for sport and enjoyment. From that time on they determined to promote sportfishing under the motto "sport, conservation, integrity". A group of forward thinking Sportfishers who were working toward the same ends travelled from Sydney to meet with this group. The outcome of that meeting is the Australia wide Organisation that exists today.

First Life Member .....Eric Moller Cardwell, QLD

First Master Angler .....Gary Chapman Sydney SFC 21/2/1970

"Representing all of us"

## HOW ANSA WORKS

### CLUBS:

To form your ANSA club, we suggest a minimum of six members. Australia-wide, the average club has over forty members, which seems to be an ideal number for social and fishing reasons. Membership in the Association is open to all clubs and members who agree to abide by the rules and ethics of the Association.

### BRANCHES:

The Branch Executive is elected by delegates from the clubs within each State. Branches do much of the regional work in processing record claims and Master certificates, advising on contests and representing their clubs in various ways. Clubs benefit from active contact with their respective Branches.

### NATIONAL:

A National Board is in turn elected by Branches at an annual meeting. The meeting also reviews the fishing rules and administration of the Association as a whole. National publishes the ANSA Handbook and record charts and represents the Association nationally.

### REPRESENTATION:

The most important function and main service that ANSA provides to its membership is representation. Sportfishers hold a unique viewpoint in respect of the fishery, conservation, access, ethics and innovation. Bringing these viewpoints to policy makers, regulators and broader fishing public is essential for the continued fishing enjoyment of future generations and us. Jurisdiction over fishing issues rests mainly with State Governments, so Branches play a vital role in representing clubs and members. Most ANSA Branches are actively represented on State recreational fishing peak bodies. These representatives should be an active member of the Branch Executive team, or liaise closely with it. Their responsibility is to represent their ANSA membership by voting and exerting influence according to the policy of the Branch. They are required to report regularly to the Branch to keep membership informed of developments.

Nationally, ANSA is a member of Recfish, the peak national body representing recreational fishing interests. Our representatives are required to vote according to established ANSA policy and to report regularly to the Association. Remember, Branches and National function to help clubs and members. If you need advice, have a case to put up or just want to know what's going on, use the system. It is designed to be used.

Internationally, ANSA is a member of the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA). ANSA has 2 of its Board members as Australian representatives of IGFA. Members of ANSA are entitled to participate in and claim international IGFA records.

### **USING THE ANSA SYSTEM:**

Well established clubs run very smoothly, but there may be times when State Branch or National is needed.

First step is at club level, where the majority of locally relevant decisions are taken. It is difficult for Branches to move on an issue unless it's voted on by that Branch's member clubs.

A couple of useful points, all of us have to accept a majority vote. Most times we agree, but when we differ, decision is by voting and results have to be accepted with good grace. Secondly, because the ANSA system is democratic and relies on discussion and voting, it's pointless to approach an executive member and ask him to change the rules or investigate something. Voting is what counts.

On rare occasions, instant action may be vital. Typical case, a member discovers a fish kill in a local stream. There is no need to hold a meeting before reporting it. Keep cool, make no wild statements, stay factual, but get the media in and apply pressure in as many ways as possible.

The golden rule is to remain polite. Few people are more impressive than a public-spirited citizen with a strong case.

A final tip on any issue, you may not win an instant victory, so be prepared to make a campaign of it over a period. Persistence and a good case are hard to beat.

### **CONTESTS:**

The ANSA Masters system is something of a paradox in that it unfairly favours lighter lines. It is up to clubs and members to balance this to ensure fairness between fish and us.

The bias towards lighter lines was designed to encourage the growth of fishing skill. However, it is not, and never was, intended to involve anglers in unrealistic fishing with fine lines for point scores in contests. If you look at fishing developments in the last decade, you will see how effective we've been in improving fishing skills in Australia. ANSA anglers are expected to develop further fishing skills beyond mastering light lines. The true challenge for the genuine Sportfisher lies in those classes where he can use his developed skills on even bigger fish, or more difficult ones. Often it's a personal thing, devoid of prizes and awards. Capable, perceptive people discover a wonderful world in which their chief reward might lie in doing the right thing by fish. Typical is the tagging or straight release of fish so they survive for another day, and another encounter.

Sportfishing is not a method of running fishing contests, but a way of life. The ultimate rewards go to those who no longer need any reward greater than their self-respect. We can all grow in that direction.

ANSA encourages variety in fishing activities, and this can be used to widen your fishing interests or cater to diverse fishing tastes, the overall goal is fairness. Clubs can encourage diversity and fairness by simple means such as offering prizes in an even way, so that people are fishing against the same line classes. Typically, there might be a prize for the highest point score, a prize for the best fish on a heavier line class, prizes for the best performance in separate line classes. Avoid the trap of working by point score alone, this leads only to bogging down with ultra-light, and robs you of a whole new world of fishing challenge.

One sad and perhaps inevitable point - cheats have no part to play in ANSA. Responsibility for decisions in this area rests with the clubs and sometimes the Branches. Cheating is a direct attack on all the principles we live by in ANSA. It is not a mistake. It is deliberate, and it always hurts terribly. Encourage the positive standard of integrity within your club.

### **SAFETY:**

In fishing, the ANSA member accepts responsibility for personal, family and community safety and welfare. ANSA requires all clubs and members to do their best to encourage safe fishing, in co-operation with the authorities and according to the law. Remember that it's your life and your responsibility. Make a project of safety within your club. Be aware of safety, think of it always as the first consideration. No fish is worth any foolish risk. Safety is your first and final consideration.

### **FISH COME FIRST:**

Sportfishing is designed to be a family sport, in which the honest aim is to provide for the family, fish caught in a sporting way. We aim for the maximum enjoyment, aware that a skilled angler can target the catch with the applied care. Massive, repetitive catches become boring and do little to expand our fishing ability or our appreciation of fish. We like our members to study their environment and to accept personal, absolute responsibility for their own actions as fishermen. The fact that fish may be killed legally does not mean we must kill them. ANSA fishers are expected to learn and enjoy fishing to understand fish, knowing they are not merely something to be killed for our pleasure. It is natural and right for us to eat what we need from our catch, but we don't need to exceed that need. If you catch more, work out effective ways to use your skill to improve fishing, seeking greater survivorship from your catch. Sportfishing has come under attack in recent times on the score of cruelty. No sane person endorses cruelty, but fishing is an acceptable sport so long as standards are kept within bounds. The fish you keep should be killed quickly, cleaned, kept on ice and used properly. Any type of contest that wastes fish or offends public standards on cruelty must be avoided. Fishing is too important to us to be put at risk by poor standards of behaviour. Fish may honestly be our opponents, but they are also a vital part of our way of life. Look after them.

Author  
Vic McCristal.

*This foreword has been adapted from that originally authored by Vic McCristal and published in the 1990 edition, as its message is still relevant. It has been updated to incorporate changes that have taken place since that date.*

# **CODE OF ETHICS**

## **" Sport – Conservation – Integrity"**

- Obey and respect the local regulations and conventions that govern fishing in your chosen area.
- Purposefully conduct yourself in a manner such as to minimise any negative impacts on the environment. Being mindful of anchoring and speed restrictions is as important as preventing littering, pollution and habitat destruction.
- The fish's environment should be protected as well as the fish. Do not indulge in littering, in particular with discarded tackle. Disposal of offal and unwanted bait should be undertaken in a manner that is both environmentally sound and publicly acceptable.
- Respect the rights and interests of others especially other anglers and commercial fishers who are legally participating in the fishery.
- Respect the rights of property owners including those that exclude access for personal or cultural reasons and negotiate access to waters rather than trespass.
- Participate where possible in scientific, educational and community programs that benefit the fishery or recreational anglers.
- Fish taken should be killed quickly and should be prepared and preserved in such a manner as to minimise spoilage and waste. Where a fish is not wanted it should be returned in such a manner as maximises its chances of survival. Wanton destruction of undesired species is unacceptable. Limit your catch – not catch your limit.

## **ANSA CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RELEASING FISH**

The following code of practice, revised and adopted in March 2002, is recommended to ANSA members where fish are intended to be released. Fish should be caught, handled and released in a manner that will ensure that they are returned to the water in as healthy a condition as possible.

### **TACKLE TO USE**

- Use tackle that will land a fish quickly to minimise exhaustion. However, avoid bringing in the fish too quickly as this may increase the risk of damage from the fish thrashing about once landed.
- Use artificial lures with barbless hooks wherever possible as this results in fewer fish being gut hooked and hooks are easier to remove without further damage to the fish.
- For bait fishing use hook patterns such as circle hooks to maximise the likelihood of the hook being lodged in the jaw and minimise damage through gut hooking.
- Use a de-hooker such as a “Hookout” or long nosed pliers for quick removal of hooks taking care not to damage the fish. If the fish has swallowed the hook do not attempt to remove it. Leave the hook where it is and cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Use a knotless landing net as this removes less slime and reduces time out of the water for the fish. Gaffs should never be used.
- Use a fish grip device to assist in handling a fish for release.

## **HANDLING AND RELEASING FISH**

- Plan ahead and make sure you have all equipment close at hand. Work rapidly but without haste to ensure the fish is out of the water for the least time.
- Do not place a fish on a hot, dry surface for hook removal, use a wet towel on which to rest the fish and use wet hands when handling it.
- Do not put fingers inside the gill cover or eye sockets when handling fish for release. A fish grip device may be used and the body of the fish should be supported at all times when lifting to release the fish.
- Direct sunlight can damage fish eyes so ensure that they are shaded during time out of the water.
- Large fish should have their body fully supported at all times to avoid damage to internal organs, which may result from the fish being held upright by the jaw. The best method is to place a hand under the stomach while still in the water and take the weight off the hook. Very large fish should not be removed from the water.
- Fish should be released by careful placing them headfirst back into the water. Some fish may need to be swum around to promote water flow over the gills to ensure revival. Do not just throw fish overboard.

## **REEF FISH CAUGHT IN DEEP WATER**

- Reef fish caught in deep water may require special handling to improve survival. When fish are brought to the surface from depths of around 20m or more the gases in their swim bladder may have expanded significantly. This condition can be easily detected as the stomach of the fish is pushed out of its mouth.
- Venting of the air in the swim bladder may increase the survival rate of fish that are released by allowing them to return quickly to the bottom. There are a number of alternative ways of venting fish and the most appropriate for a particular species should be used.
- Options such as weighted lines to return a fish quickly to the bottom may be considered as an alternative to venting especially if there are predators present.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Where it occurs, the masculine shall mean the feminine, and vice versa.

### **SUB-JUNIOR**

A Sub -Junior Angler is one who has not reached the age of ten (10) years.

### **JUNIOR**

A Junior Angler is one who is aged ten (10) years, but who has not reached age sixteen (16) years.

### **DISABLED ANGLERS**

These fishing rules are not intended to disadvantage disabled anglers. Any decision for dispensation regarding the application of these fishing rules, for any ANSA fishing activity by a disabled angler, is the sole prerogative of that angler's club executive. Disabled anglers, who are unable to operate a manually operated fishing reel, may use an electrically operated model. ANSA members and clubs are encouraged to assist disabled people in the participation and enjoyment of our sport.

# LIST OF ELIGIBLE SPECIES AND FACTORS

NB: Species designated with asterisk \* are eligible game fish species.

NB: Trophy lengths are to be measured overall ie from the head of the tail to the leading edge of the jaw.

Species		Factor	Trophy Length
* Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	1.5	80cm
* Amberjack	<i>Seriola dumerilii</i>	1.5	100cm
Barracouta	<i>Thyrsites atun</i>	1.0	100cm
Barracuda	*Great - <i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.9	80cm
	Snook – <i>Sphyraena novaehollandie</i>	0.9	80cm
	All others - <i>Sphyraena spp.</i>	0.9	80cm
* Barramundi	<i>Lates Calcarifer</i>	1.5	100cm
Bass	*Australian - <i>Macquaria novemaculeata</i>	1.5	50cm
	Red - <i>Lutjanus bohar</i>	2.0	50cm
Batfish	All - <i>Platax spp.</i>	1.3	50cm
* Bonefish	<i>Albula vulpes</i>	2.0	50cm
* Bonito	All - <i>Sarda/Cybiosarda spp.</i>	1.5	60cm
Bream	Black - <i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>	1.2	45cm
	Pikey - <i>A. berda</i>	1.2	35cm
	Yellowfin – <i>A. australis</i>	1.2	40cm
	Bony - <i>Nematolosa erebi</i>	0.5	35cm
* Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	0.8	75cm
Catfish	Forktail - <i>Arius spp.</i>	1.2	75cm
	Freshwater (Eel tailed)- <i>Tandanus tandanus</i>	1.0	50cm
Chinaman fish	<i>Symphorus nematophorus</i>	1.5	65cm
* Cobia	<i>Rachycentron canadus</i>	1.5	100cm
Cod	Breaksea (Blackarse) - <i>Epinephelus armatus</i>	1.0	100cm
	Coral - <i>Cephalopholis miniatus</i>	1.5	65cm
	Estuary All - <i>Epinephelus coidides</i>	1.5	65cm
	- <i>Epinephelus malabaricus</i>	1.5	65cm
	Murray - <i>Maccullochella spp.</i>	0.8	80cm
Coral trout	<i>Plectropomus spp.</i>	1.5	70cm
Coronation trout	<i>Variola louti</i>	1.5	70cm
Dart	*Snubnose - <i>Trachinotus blochi</i>	2.0	60cm
	All other - <i>Trachinotus spp.</i>	1.5	40cm
* Dolphin fish	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	1.5	100cm
Elephant fish	(shark) <i>Callorhynchus milii</i>	0.8	90cm
Emperor	All - <i>Lethrinus spp.</i>	1.4	60cm
Flathead	All - <i>Platycephalus spp.</i>	1.0	70cm
Flounder	All - Family <i>Bothidae/Pleuronectidae</i>	1.2	40cm
Gemfish	<i>Rexea solandri</i>	0.8	90cm
Groper	Blue and Brown - <i>Achoerodus spp.</i>	1.5	90cm
Grunter	All - <i>Hephaestus/Scortum spp.</i>	1.6	50cm
Gurnard	<i>Chelidonichthys kumu</i>	0.5	50cm
Hairtail	<i>Trichiurus savala</i>	0.8	100cm
Herring Giant	Black - <i>Protonibea diacanthus</i>	1.0	80cm
Javelin fish	(Grunter) - <i>Pomadasyd spp.</i>	1.2	45cm
Jewfish	Black - <i>Protonibea diacanthus</i>	1.0	100cm
	Westralian (Dhufish)- <i>Glaucosoma hebraicum</i>	1.0	70cm
Jobfish	All <i>Aprion/Pristipomoides/Aphareus spp.</i>	1.5	70cm
John Dory	<i>Zeus faber</i>	0.8	50cm

Species		Factor	Trophy Length
<b>Leatherjacket</b>	All - Family <i>Monacanthidae</i>	0.5	50cm
<b>Long Tom</b>	All - Family <i>Belonidae</i>	1.2	80cm
<b>Luderick</b>	<i>Girella tricuspidata</i>	1.2	40cm
<b>Mackerel</b>	*Grey - <i>Scomberomorus semifasciatus</i>	1.0	100cm
	Jack (Horse/Cowanyoung) - <i>Trachurus declivis</i>	1.0	40cm
	*School (Doggie) <i>Scomberomorus queenslandicus</i>	1.0	85cm
	*Shark - <i>Grammatorcynus bicarinatus</i>	1.0	85cm
	*Spanish (Tanguigue) - <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	1.0	100cm
	*Spotted - <i>Scomberomorus munroi</i>	1.0	85cm
	Slimy (Blue) - <i>Scomber australascius</i>	1.2	40cm
<b>Mangrove Jack</b>	<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>	2.0	60cm
<b>* Marlin</b>	All - <i>Makaira spp./Tetrapturus audax</i>	1.2	ANY
<b>Milkfish</b>	<i>Chanos chanos</i>	2.0	60cm
<b>Morwong</b>	Blue - <i>Nemadactylus valenciennesi</i>	1.0	50cm
	All other - Family <i>Cheilodactylidae</i>	0.8	40cm
<b>Mullet</b>	All - Family <i>Mugilidae</i>	1.0	40cm
<b>*Mulloway</b>	<i>Argyrosomus hololepidotus</i>	1.0	100cm
<b>Nannygai</b>	(Redfish) All - Family <i>Berycidae</i>	1.0	40cm
<b>Parrot fish</b>	All - Family <i>Scaridae</i>	1.0	40cm
<b>Perch</b>	Estuary - <i>Macquaria colonorum</i>	1.5	45cm
	Golden (Callop) - <i>Macquaria ambigua</i>	1.0	50cm
	Macquarie - <i>Macquaria australasica</i>	1.2	35cm
	Redfin - <i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	1.0	35cm
	Silver - <i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	1.2	40cm
<b>* Queenfish</b>	Giant - <i>Scomberoides commersonianus</i>	1.5	75cm
	<i>Scomberoides iysan</i>	1.5	45cm
<b>*Rainbow runner</b>	<i>Elegatis bipinnulatus</i>	1.5	60cm
<b>Rays</b>	Eagle All - Family <i>Myliobatididae</i>	1.0	N/A
	Shovelnose All- Family <i>Rhinobatidae/Rhynchobatidae</i>	1.0	100cm
	All other -Family <i>Rajidae/Dasyatinae/Urolophinae</i>	0.5	N/A
<b>Red Emperor</b>	<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>	1.4	70cm
<b>Rifle fish</b>	(Archer) - <i>Toxotes spp.</i>	1.0	35cm
<b>Rock blackfish</b>	<i>Girella elevata</i>	1.5	50cm
<b>* Sailfish</b>	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	1.3	ANY
<b>Salmon</b>	*Atlantic - <i>Salmo salar</i>	1.2	50cm
	*Australian - <i>Arripis spp.</i>	1.2	55cm
	Beach (Steelback) - <i>Leptobrama mulleri</i>	1.0	50cm
	*Quinnat (chinook) <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	1.2	50cm
	*Threadfin King - <i>Polynemus sheridani</i>	1.9	90cm
	Threadfin All other- <i>Polydactylus/Eleutheronema spp</i>	1.9	70cm
<b>* Samson fish</b>	<i>Seriola hippos</i>	1.5	100cm
<b>Saratoga</b>	<i>Scleropages spp.</i>	1.4	60cm
<b>Sea perch</b>	Fingermark (Spotted scale) - <i>Lutjanus johnii</i>	1.8	50cm
	Large mouth - <i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i>	1.4	50cm
	Small mouth - <i>Lutjanus erythropterus</i>	1.4	50cm

Species		Factor	Trophy Length
	Maori – <i>Lutjanus rivulatus</i>	1.4	50cm
<b>Shark</b>	*Blue - <i>Prionace glauca</i>	0.5	ANY
	Common Saw - <i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i>	1.0	ANY
	Gummy - <i>Mustelus spp.</i>	0.8	100cm
	*Hammerhead - <i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	1.0	ANY
	*Mako - <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	1.0	ANY
	School - <i>Geleorhinus galeus</i>	0.8	ANY
	Seven Gill - <i>Notorhynchus cepedianus</i>	0.5	ANY
	Southern Saw - <i>Pristiophorus nudipinnis</i>	1.0	ANY
	*Thresher - <i>Alopias spp.</i>	1.0	ANY
	*Tiger - <i>Galeocerdo cuvieri</i>	0.8	ANY
	*Whaler - All - <i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.8	ANY
<b>Sickle fish</b>	All - <i>Drepane spp.</i>	1.3	40cm
<b>Silver Drummer</b>	<i>Kyphosus sydneyanus</i>	1.5	50cm
<b>* Snapper</b>	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	1.0	80cm
<b>* Spearfish</b>	<i>Tetrapturus spp.</i>	2.0	ANY
<b>Sweep</b>	All - <i>Scorpiis spp.</i>	1.0	40cm
<b>Sweetlip(s)</b>	All - <i>Plectrotychus/Diagramma spp.</i>	1.4	60cm
<b>* Swordfish</b>	Broadbill - <i>Xiphius gladius</i>	2.2	ANY
<b>* Tailor</b>	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	1.0	60cm
<b>* Tarpon</b>	<i>Megalops cyprinoides</i>	2.0	60cm
<b>Tarwhine</b>	<i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i>	1.2	40cm
<b>Trumpeter</b>	Tasmanian striped - <i>Latris lineata</i>	1.0	75cm
<b>Tench</b>	<i>Tinca tinca</i>	0.8	40cm
<b>Teraglin</b>	<i>Atractoscion aequidens</i>	0.8	70cm
<b>Tommy Ruff</b>	(Australian herring) - <i>Arripis georgianus</i>	1.0	30cm
<b>Trevally</b>	*Big eye - <i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	1.5	80cm
	*Giant - <i>Caranx ignobilis</i>	1.5	100cm
	*Gold spot (Turrum) <i>Carangids fulvoguttatus</i>	1.5	100cm
	*Silver - <i>Pseudocaranx dentex</i>	1.5	50cm
	*Golden Trevally	1.5	80cm
	All other - Family <i>Carangidae</i>	1.5	60cm
<b>* Tripletail</b>	(Jumping cod) <i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	1.8	60cm
<b>* Trout</b>	All - Family <i>Salmonidae</i>	1.0	60cm
<b>* Tuna</b>	All - Subfamily <i>Scombrinae</i>	1.5	100cm
<b>Tusk fish</b>	Venus - <i>Choerodon venustus</i>	1.4	70cm
<b>* Wahoo</b>	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	1.3	100cm
<b>Warehou</b>	<i>Seriola spp.</i>	1.5	40cm
<b>Whiting</b>	All - <i>Sillago/Sillaganoides spp.</i>	1.3	45cm
<b>Wolf herring</b>	<i>Chirocentris dorab</i>	0.8	45cm
<b>Wrasse</b>	Family <i>Labridae</i>	1.0	50cm
<b>* Yellowtail kingfish</b>	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	1.5	100cm
<b>Zebra fish</b>	<i>Melambaphes zebra</i>	1.2	35cm

# LINE CLASSES AND TACKLE DIVISIONS

(Seniors and Juniors)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sportfishing	Lure Fishing	Fly Fishing	Game Fishing	Hand Lining	Land Based Gamefishing	All Tackle
1kg	1kg	1kg	1kg	N/A	1kg	
2kg	2kg	2kg	2kg	N/A	2kg	
3kg	3kg	3kg	3kg	3kg	3kg	
4kg	4kg	4kg	4kg	4kg	4kg	
6kg	6kg	6kg	6kg	6kg	6kg	
8kg	8kg	8kg	8kg	8kg	8kg	
10kg	10kg	10kg	10kg	10kg	10kg	
15kg	15kg	15kg	15kg	15kg	15kg	
24kg	24kg	24kg	24kg	24kg	24kg	
37kg	37kg	37kg	37kg	37kg	37kg	
60kg	60kg	60kg	60kg	60kg	60kg	

## Notes:

a) Divisions 3, 4 and 6 are IGFA Line Classes, except 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg in Division 3, which are additional ANSA line classes only. A member of a club affiliated directly or indirectly and Individual Members affiliated directly with ANSA must catch all fish on tackle, which complies with the ANSA Tackle Specifications and, in accordance with the Fishing Rules.

b) All Tackle is a non line class Division

## FISHING RULES - ALL DIVISIONS

A member of a club affiliated directly or indirectly and Individual Members affiliated directly with ANSA must catch all fish on tackle, which complies with the ANSA Tackle Specifications and, in accordance with the Fishing Rules.

Only fish on the “List of Eligible Species” will be considered as a capture.

1. The angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to gaff unaided by any other person.
2. If a rod holder is used, the angler alone must remove the rod from the rod holder as quickly as possible.
3. No part of the rod or reel may be rested whilst the fish is being fought, except when using a rod belt, harness, gimbal or chair.
4. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish fought by the angler will be considered as a capture.

5 Tackle and methods used must be as stated in each Division to be eligible for a record in that Division.

6. When angling from a boat, bridge, pier or land, once the leader is brought within the grasp of an angling companion, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader.

7 One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.

8. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

9. Gilled and gutted fish **will not be disqualified** but no allowance in weight will be made. (ANSA related activities only).

## DISQUALIFICATIONS ALL DIVISIONS

The following acts, situations or omissions will disqualify a catch:

(1) Failure to comply with the rules or tackle specifications.

(2) A broken rod including the butt. For IGFA, a broken rod in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.

(3) Acts of persons other than the angler in adjusting reel drag or touching any part of the tackle either by hand or other device during the playing of the fish, or giving aid other than taking the leader (or trace) for gaffing, netting or landing purposes, or in the replacing or adjusting the harness.

(4) Hand lining a fish at any stage during the capture except when the leader or trace is to hand. This rule does not apply in the handline division.

(5) Shooting, harpooning or lancing any fish, including sharks at any stage of the catch.

(6) Mutilations caused by sharks, other fish or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. (Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars and regeneration deformities shall not be considered disqualifying injuries).

(7) Berleying (Chumming) with or using as bait, the flesh, blood, skin or guts of any marine mammal.

(8) Using the boat or any device to beach or drive into shallow water any fish in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.

(9) Intentionally foul-hooking a fish.

(10) When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.

(11) Catching a fish in the manner that the double or leader never leaves the rod tip. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulation is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.

(12) Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of the boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.

(13) Using sizes or kinds of baits that are illegal to possess.

(14) Changing of rod or reel, splicing the line, or removal or addition thereto during the playing of a fish.

(15) The use of flotation devices designed to hamper the fighting ability of the fish.

(16) For any ANSA related activity, captures must NOT be taken from artificially enclosed fish farms or commercial impoundments.

(17) If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.

(18) The use of any device or action, which, in the opinion of the National Executive, is designed to breach the ethics of the Australian National Sportfishing Association.

(19) Federal, State and Local Fishing Regulations. All members of ANSA must ensure that all captures are made in accordance with current legal requirements pertaining to the area fished. This includes both salt and freshwater legislation. Failure to comply with existing legislation would deem any capture illegal and could involve civil and/or criminal action.

(20) (i) Any Sportfisher found to be using a performance enhancement drug or drugs, either prescribed or obtained by other means, with the view toward enhancement, be disqualified for a period of two years, or as determined by the National Executive.

(ii) All ANSA members must be prepared to comply with and provide tests as directed by the specific Drug Detecting Agency, should any ever be required.

## ANGLING YEAR

The angling year shall be from 1st July to the 30th June in the following year.

## EQUIPMENT AND REGULATIONS ALL DIVISIONS

*Except for special provisions in some Divisions*

*(i. e. IGFA Gamefishing and Flyfishing) equipment used shall be as follows*

### Lines

**a) Non-metallic lines** in natural or synthetic only, are permitted, with the only exception to this rule being lines containing a core of the base metal, lead. Wire lines are prohibited.

**b) Signature Pretest Line:** This type of line is identified by the appearance of a signature on the spool and a written certification at what weight the line actually broke on testing.

**c) Factory Pretest Line:** This type of line will be identified by a statement on the spool to the effect that it is “tested” or “rated” but will not bear a signature or a certification at what weight the line broke on testing. These lines will generally be endorsed with a statement such as “suitable for all ANSA/ IGFA pretest competitions” or “tested to meet IGFA line class requirements etc”.

**d) Standard Line:** This type of line includes any product that does not meet the definition of either Signature Pretest or Factory Pretest line.

#### **Breakaway Combinations -**

**e) Main Line:** Same as for (a) – includes braid and does not need to be pretested. Must be of a heavier breaking strain than the breakaway line.

**f) Breakaway Line:** Must be a pretested line and used in conjunction with a main line which must be of heavier breaking strain than the breakaway line. The breakaway line must be of a minimum length of 0.5 metres and a maximum length of 1.5 times the rod length or 1.5 metres when used with a handline.

Nb 1) Members using Standard line have the option of submitting their line to the National Recorder for official testing prior to use. This line may then be categorised as Signature Pretest line for the breaking strain as determined by the National Recorder. Use of this line will require no further action to confirm line class.

2) If Standard line is used which has not been previously accredited by the National Recorder, then any Record claim must be accompanied by a 15 metre sample of the line used for the capture.

3) When using a breakaway line combination for line class events it is a requirement that the breakaway line component of the combo' rig must extend beyond the rod tip for a capture to be eligible.

4) If a claim for a world Record is to be submitted to IGFA then the criteria for IGFA record claims must be complied with regardless of what type of line is used.

### **Combination Main line and Breakaway line**

When a breakaway line is used in conjunction with a main line the entire combined line will be accepted by ANSA at the breaking strain of the breakaway line for all Divisions and Records (Line Class) and Masters Awards. Existing criteria for the combined length of doubles, leaders and traces will be as per this Rule Book eg

<u>Main Line</u>	<u>Knot/swivel</u>	<u>Breakaway Line</u> (min 0.5M – max 1.5 times rod length or 1.5M for hand lines)	<u>Knot/swivel</u>	<u>Double/ leader/trace</u> (As per Rule Book) or <u>Hook/lure</u>
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**Nb The use of a double/ leader/ trace is optional.**

### **Backing**

If fishing line is attached to backing, and the backing leaves the reel, the heavier line shall become the line class, except for Fly Fishing Division. When backing is attached it must not exceed the line class of the division being fished. This restriction does not apply if backing is unattached or when **a combination main line and breakaway rig is used.**

### **Reels**

Reels must be manually operated and not mechanically or power operated. Ratchet handles and reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

### **Rods**

Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the length of a rod. (Refer to IGFA Gamefishing and Fly Fishing Regulations for IGFA Record Claims).

### **Hooks**

Hooks shall be of standard patterns. A double or treble hook shall be classed as a single hook. Automatic hooks are prohibited. Ganged hooks are permitted provided that all hooks are embedded in the bait. **The use of circle style hooks is encouraged.**

### **Lures**

Artificial lures are permitted provided that no more than three (3) hooks are attached hereto.

## **Bait**

Bait may be any vegetable matter or the whole or part of any fish, insect or animal other than as provided in Clause (g) Disqualifications.

## **Gaffs & Nets**

Gaffs and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.43 metres in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff, the rope may not exceed 9.14 metres. The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. When fishing from land, bridge, pier or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply and multiple hooked head gaffs are allowable. Harpoon or lance attachments are prohibited. Fly gaff not permitted in Fly Fishing in IGFA related activities.

## **Floats**

Floats are prohibited with the exception of any small flotation device attached to the line or leader for the sole purpose of regulating the depth of the bait. The flotation device must not in any way hamper the fighting ability of the fish.

## **Chairs**

Fighting chairs must not have any mechanically propelled device, which aids the angler in fighting a fish.

## **Gimbals**

Gimbals must be free-swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.

## **Harness**

A harness may be attached to the reel or rod, but not to the fighting chair.

## **Bait & Lure Placement Devices**

Bait and lure placement devices such as outriggers, down riggers and kites etc., are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release devices, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device.

## **Safety**

A safety line may be attached to the rod provided that the line does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

# TACKLE SPECIFICATIONS

## – DIVISION 1 SPORTFISHING –

### Method:

Fishing in a conventional and ethical manner giving the fish a sporting chance.

### Leader:

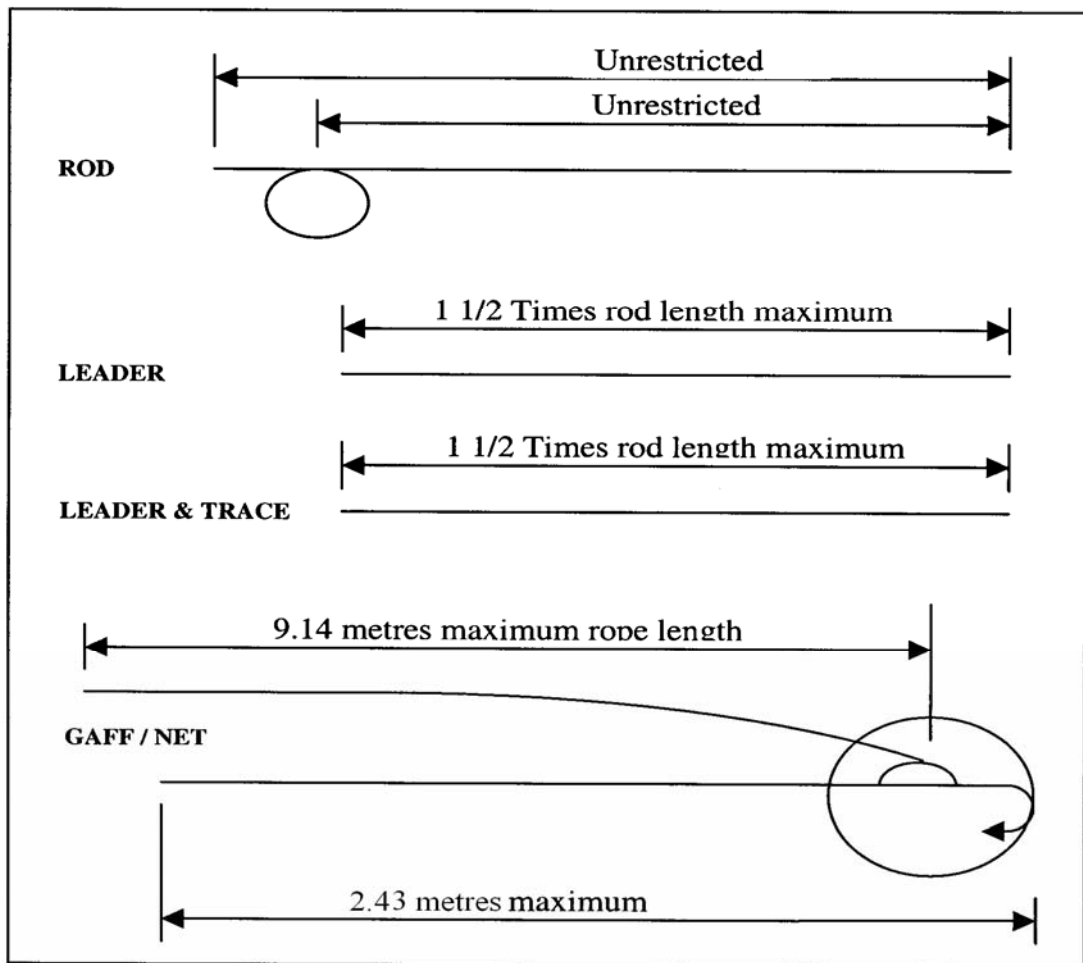
A non-metallic leader of greater breaking strain than the line, but not exceeding one and one half (1.5) times the length of the rod may be used.

### Trace:

A trace of any material is permitted provided that the leader and trace together do not exceed one and one half (1.5) times the length of the rod.

Note: If a double is used it becomes an integral part of the leader/trace combination or the leader and or the trace.

All other, refer Equipment Specifications.



## – DIVISION 2 LURE FISHING –

### Definition

For the purpose of this Division artificial lures only are permitted. An artificial lure is defined as a man made bait used to fool fish. Man made artificial lures (including flies and soft plastics) are those which imitate natural bait and may have a scent infused or applied.

### Method

For the purpose of this Division dropping an artificial lure from the rod tip as well as casting and jigging is permitted.

The angler must impart all movement to the artificial lure by movement of the rod tip or by cranking the reel handle whilst retrieving the line.

The rod must be held at all times. The artificial lure may also be left in the water at rest for short periods (no longer than 15 seconds) during the retrieve process.

Trolling is prohibited.

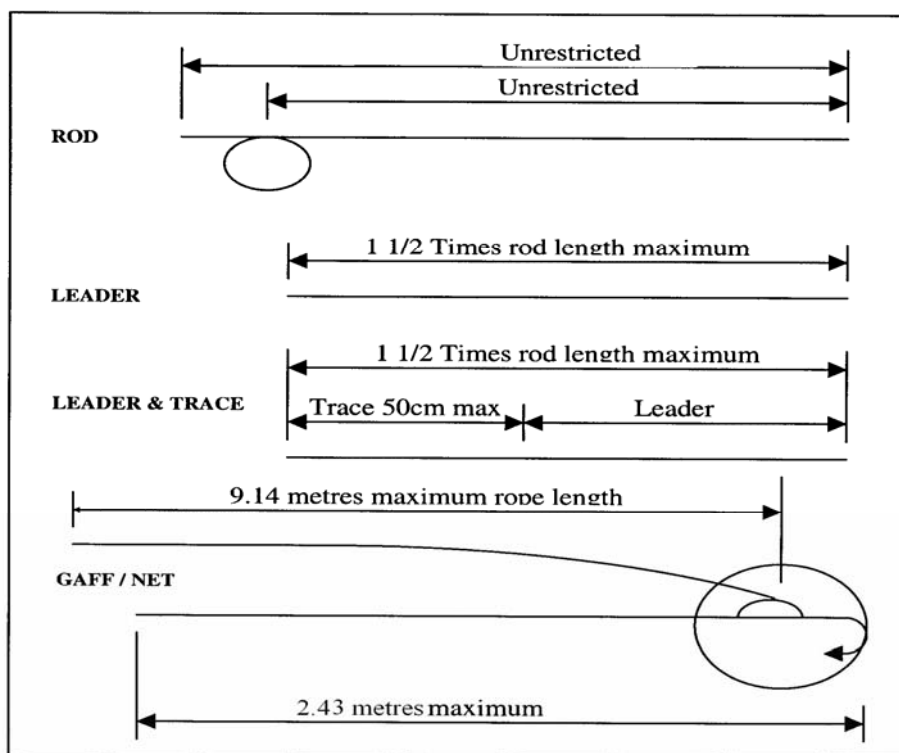
### Leader:

A non-metallic leader of greater breaking strain than the line, but not exceeding one and one half (1.5) times the length of the rod, may be used.

### Trace:

A trace of any material not exceeding 50 centimetres in length is permitted, provided that the leader and trace together do not exceed one and one half (1.5) times the length of the rod.

Note: If a double is used it becomes an integral part of the leader/trace combination or the leader and or the trace.



## – DIVISION 3 FLY FISHING –

### **Note:**

For ANSA related activities only, the following may be used:

- Fly Gaff
- Metallic Leader not exceeding 300mm.
- Electrically operated reel may be used by physically handicapped.
- Shorter rods are permissible in confined spaces.
- 3kg and 15kg-60kg tippet class.
- The use of the above prohibits the claim for an IGFA Record but not an ANSA Record.

### **Leader:**

Leaders must conform to generally accepted fly fishing customs. A leader includes a class tippet and, optionally, a shock tippet. A butt or taper section between the fly line and the class tippet shall also be considered part of the leader and there are no limits on its length, material or strength.

A class tippet must be made of non-metallic material and either attached directly to the fly or to the shock tippet if one is used. The class tippet must be at least 38.10 centimetres long (measured inside connecting knots). With knotless, tapered leaders, the terminal 38.10 centimetres will also determine tippet class. There is no maximum length limitation. The breaking strength determines the class of the tippet.

A shock tippet not to exceed 30.48 centimetres in length may be added to the class tippet and tied to the lure. It can be made of any type of material, and there is no limit on its breaking strength. The shock tippet is measured from the eye of the hook to the single strand of class tippet and includes any knots used to connect the shock tippet to the class tippet. In the case of a tandem hook fly, the shock tippet shall be measured from the eye of the leading hook.

### **Rod:**

Regardless of material used or number of sections, rods must conform to generally accepted fly fishing customs and practices. A rod shall not measure less than 1.82 metres in overall length. Any rod that gives the angler an unsporting advantage will be disqualified. Extension butts are limited to 15.24 centimetres.

### **Harness:**

It is acceptable to use a shoulder harness when fly fishing and to attach a ring to the fly rod to snap a harness to.

### **Reel:**

The reel must be designed expressly for fly-fishing. (Electric or electronically operated reels are prohibited).

### **Stripping:**

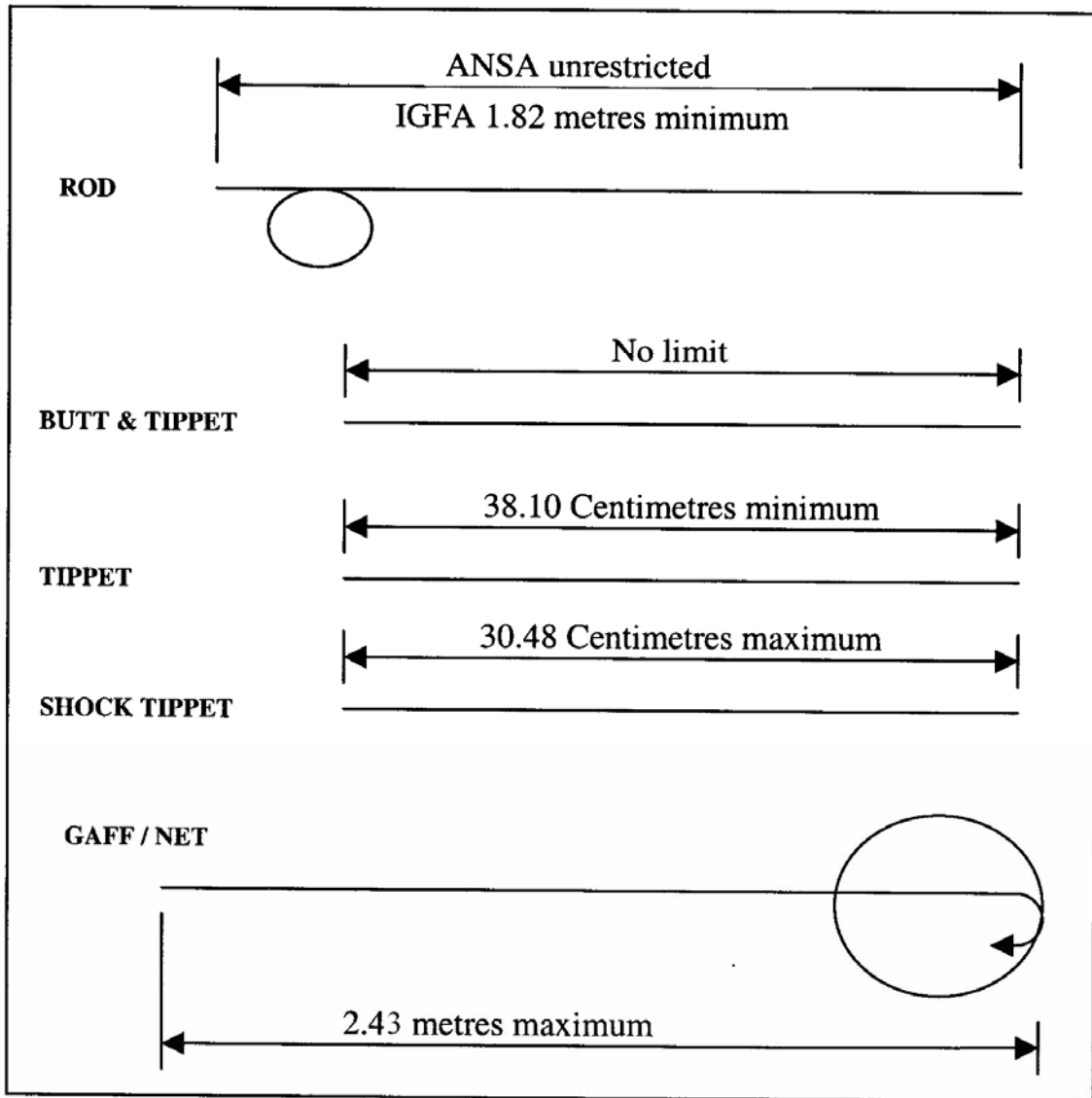
The maximum amount of line that can be stripped from a reel after casting the fly and still have it considered fly fishing is 36.57 metres (120 feet).

**Hooks:**

A conventional fly may be dressed on a single or double hook or two single hooks in tandem. The second hook in any tandem fly must not extend beyond the wing material. The eyes of the hooks shall be no farther than 15.24 centimetres apart. Treble hooks are prohibited.

**Lures:**

The lure must be a recognised type of artificial fly, which includes streamer, buck tail, tube fly, wet fly, dry fly, nymph, popper and bug. The use of any other type of lure or natural or preserved bait, either singularly or attached to the fly, is expressly prohibited. The fact that a lure can be cast with a fly rod is not evidence in itself that it fits the definition of a fly. The use of any lure designed to entangle or foul-hook a fish is prohibited. No scent either natural or artificial is allowed on flies. The use of scented materials is prohibited.



## – DIVISION 4 GAME FISHING –

1. **The only species qualifying in this Division are those marked with an asterisk (\*) in the "List of Eligible Species."**
2. **IGFA Rules fully apply for World Record Applications.**

### **NOTE:**

ANSA recognises that there are distinct “divisions” in the way anglers pursue their enjoyment of recreational fishing. This is codified in both the Records and the Master’s Award systems. One division that has many strong adherents is Gamefishing. Fish that are recognised by the International Gamefishing Association (IGFA) as eligible for inclusion in their line-class record charts are generally classified under the term “gamefish”. There are no other criteria involved and ANSA has also adopted this name (gamefish) for those species.

ANSA publishes a list of fish species that are eligible for National Records and National Master’s Awards. Where it is recognised that a fish in this listing is also listed by the IGFA, it is marked with an asterisk. The asterisk does not confer any further status. The matter of adding species to their list of eligible species is a matter for the IGFA. ANSA cannot simply “vote” an asterisk nor can it simply remove it. IGFA publishes a methodology from time to time on promoting fish to this list. Members pursuing changes to the listing are encouraged to correspond with the IGFA on the current requirements.

For ANSA related activities ONLY, the following may be used:

- Rods -length restrictions do not apply.
- Sportfishing Equipment may be used.
- Reels -Electrically operated reels, for the physically handicapped, may be used.

## **IGFA RULES FOR FISHING IN FRESH AND SALT WATER**

### **EQUIPMENT:**

#### **A. LINE**

1. Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used.
2. Wire lines are prohibited.

#### **B. LINE BACKING**

1. Backing not attached to the fishing line is permissible with no restrictions as to size or material.
2. If the fishing line is attached to the backing, the catch shall be classified under the heavier of the two lines. The backing may not exceed the 60 kg (130 lb) line class and must be of a type of line approved for use in these angling rules.

## **C. DOUBLE LINE**

The use of a double line is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.
2. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double to the farthestmost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

### ***Saltwater species:***

In all line classes up to and including 10 kg (20 Lb), the double line shall be limited to 4.57 metres (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 metres (20 feet). The double line on all classes of tackle over 10 kg (20 Lbs) shall be limited to 9.14 metres (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 12.19 metres (40 feet).

### ***Freshwater species:***

The double line on all classes of tackle shall not exceed 1.82 metres (6 feet). The combined length of the double line and the leader shall not exceed 3.04 metres (10 feet).

## **D. LEADER**

The use of a leader is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader.

### **Saltwater species:**

In all line classes up to and including 10 kg (20 Lbs), the leader shall be limited to 4.57 metres (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 metres (20 feet). The leader on all classes of tackle over 10 kg (20 Lb) shall be limited to 9.14 metres (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 12.19 metres (40 feet).

### **Freshwater species:**

The leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 1.82 metres (6 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 3.04 metres (10 feet).

## **E. ROD**

1. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods.
2. The rod tip must be a minimum of 101.6 cm (40 inches) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 68.58 cm (27 inches) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the centre of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. (The above measurements do not apply to surf casting rods.)

## **F. REEL**

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.
2. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device, which gives the angler an unfair advantage.
3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.
4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

## **G. HOOKS FOR BAIT FISHING**

1. For live or dead bait fishing no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly embedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hook's length (the length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 45.72 cm (18 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook.
2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.
3. A two-hook rig for bottom fishing is acceptable if it consists of two single hooks on separate leaders or drops. Both hooks must be embedded in the respective baits and separated sufficiently so that a fish caught on one hook cannot be foul-hooked by the other.
4. All IGFA record applications made for fish caught on two-hook tackle must be accompanied by a photograph or sketch of the hook arrangement.

## **H. HOOKS AND LURES**

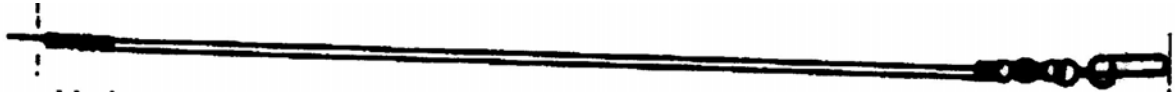
1. When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 30.48 cm's (12 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure. A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.
2. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (either single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). Baits may not be used with gang hooks. A photograph or sketch of the plug or lure must be submitted with IGFA record applications.

## **I. SPREADER RIGS**

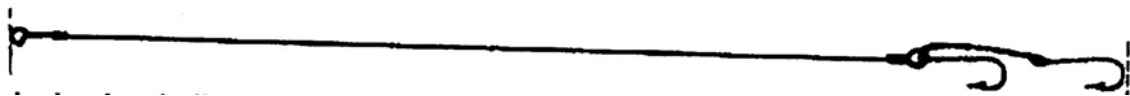
1. Umbrella or spreader rigs, daisy chains and similar devices may only be used if they do not unfairly hamper or inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler or crew an unfair advantage in fighting, landing or boating the fish.

# ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

## DOUBLE LINES AND LEADERS



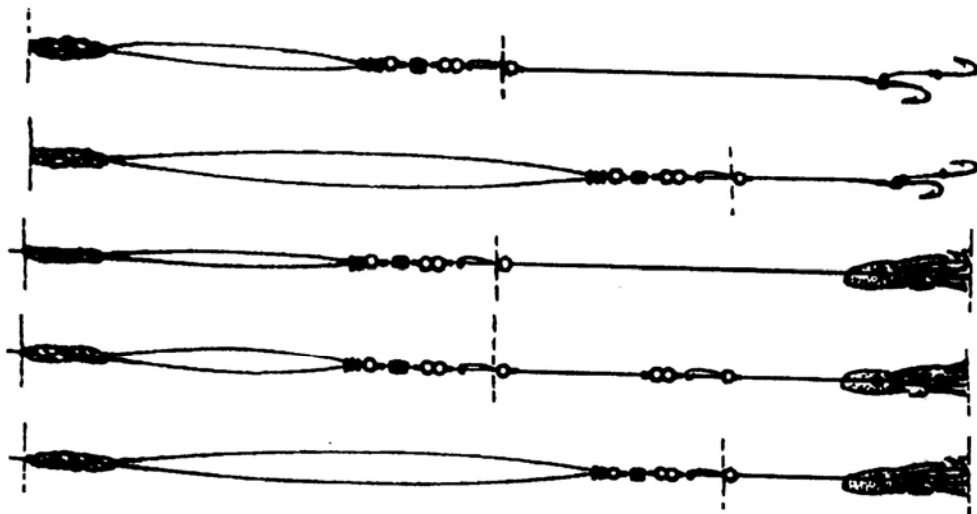
Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice, making the double to the farthest end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line. For saltwater species, the double line shall be limited to 15 feet (4. 57 metres) for all line classes up to and including 201b (10kg); and shall be limited to 30 feet (9. 14 metres) for line classes over 201b (10kg). For freshwater species the double line on all classes of tackle shall not exceed 6 feet (1.82 metres).



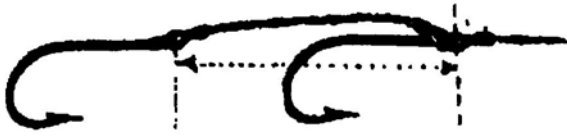
The leader shall be limited to 15 feet (4. 57 metres) for saltwater species in line classes up to 201b (10kg) and 30 feet (9. 14 metres) for all line classes over 201b (10kg). For freshwater species, the leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 6 feet (1. 82 metres).



The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangements or other device. The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 20 feet (6. 1 metres) in line classes up to and including 201b (10kg) and 40 feet (12. 19 metres) in line classes over 201b (10kg) for saltwater species. The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 10 feet (3. 04 metres) for freshwater species.



**– GAME FISHING – HOOKS & GAFFS –**



LEGAL if eyes of hooks no more than 18 inches (45.72 cm) apart in baits and no more **than** 12 inches (30.45cm) apart in lures. NOT LEGAL if eyes further apart than these distances.



NOT LEGAL in bait or lures as eyes of hooks are less than hook's length (the length of the largest hook) apart.



LEGAL as eyes of hooks are no less than a hook's length apart and no more than 18 inches (45.72cm) in baits and 12 inches (30.45cm) in lures.



LEGAL in bait and lures. The point of one hook is passed through the eye of the other hook.



LEGAL as eyes of hooks are no less than a hook's length apart and no more than 12 inches (30.45cm) apart, and the trailing hook does not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt.



NOT LEGAL as the second or trailing hook extends more than the hook's length beyond skirt. See also two hook rigs.



LEGAL as hook is contained within skirt.



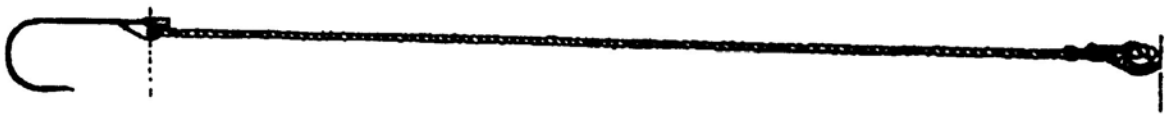
NOT LEGAL as back hook is not firmly embedded in or securely attached to bait and is dangling or swinging hook.



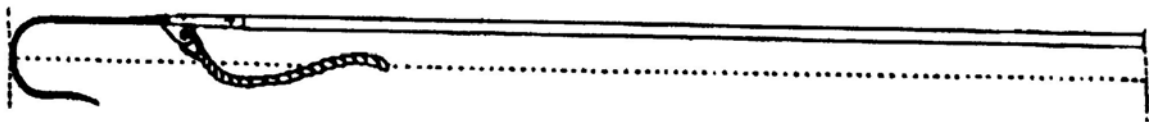
NOT LEGAL as back hook is not firmly embedded in or securely attached to bait and is a dangling or swinging hook.



LEGAL as both hooks are firmly embedded or securely attached to bait. Would not be legal if eyes of hooks were more than 18 inches (45.72cm) apart.



LEGAL on boats if effective length does not exceed 30 feet (9.14 metres)



LEGAL on boats if overall length does not exceed 8 feet (2.43 metres).

## – DIVISION 5 HAND LINING –

### **Method:**

The line must be hand held at all times whilst fighting the fish. Rods and reels are not permitted.

### **Lines:**

Non-metallic lines in natural or synthetic material only are permitted.

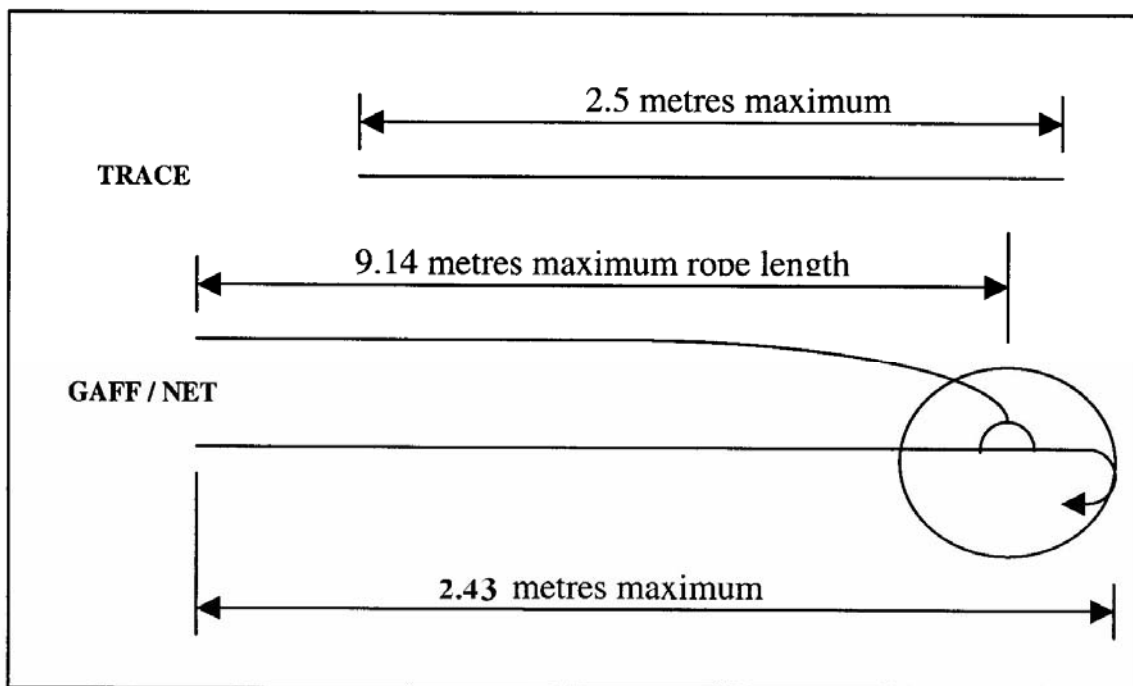
### **Trace:**

A trace or leader or combination of trace and leader of any material, not exceeding 2.5 metres in length is permitted.

Rule (d) of the Disqualification does not apply.

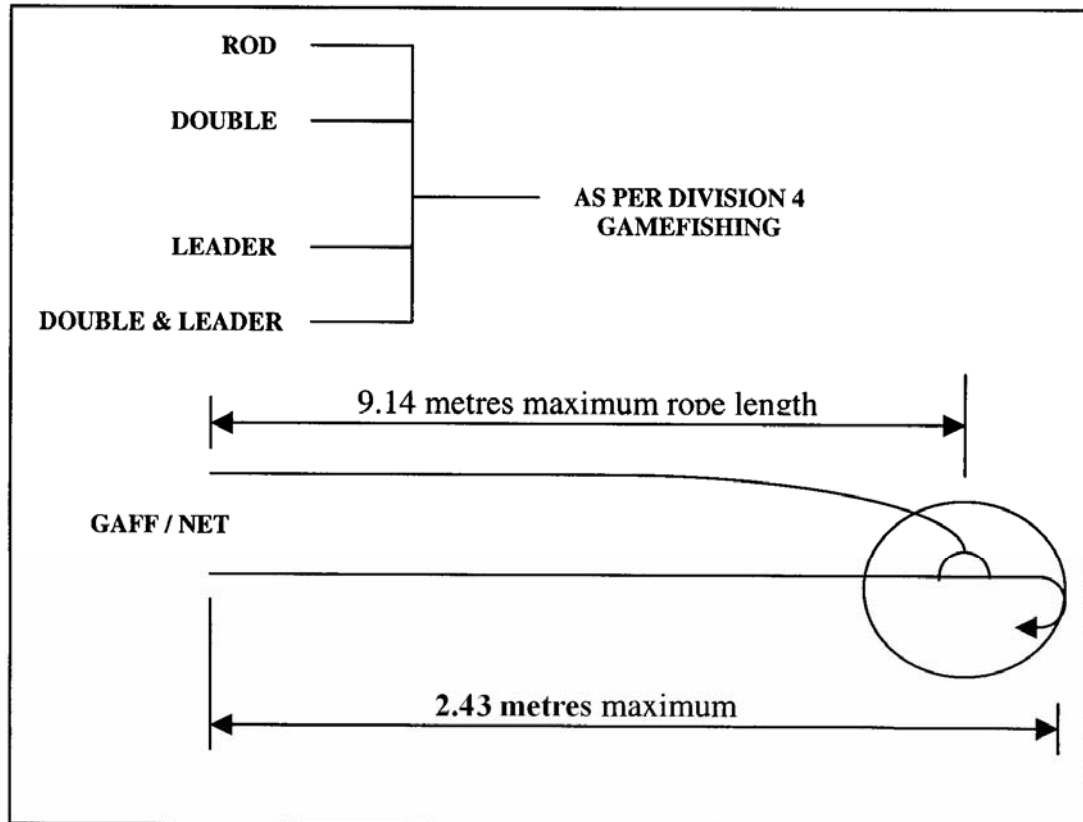
Note: If a double is used it becomes an integral part of the trace length.

All others as per Equipment Regulations.



## – DIVISION 6 LAND BASED GAMEFISHING –

1. Tackle and species details, dimensions and configurations shall be as set down for Division 4 Gamefishing Tackle.
2. Sportfishing Tackle may be used.
3. A capture can be claimed to have been made under the provisions of this Division only if the Angler, during the whole time of fishing, hooking, playing and landing the fish, is standing or sitting on land or on a platform or structure securely and permanently attached to land.



## – DIVISION 7. ALL TACKLE DIVISION – NON LINE CLASS –

This Non Line Class division has been introduced to enable the compilation of an All Tackle heaviest fish record chart **and for members to participate in the All Tackle “Length Only” Masters Awards and All Tackle “Length Only” National Records**

Record claims for the All Tackle Division – Non Line Class may be made using any legal tackle and any class of line **(as defined in this rule book)** to a maximum of 60kg, and with any fish from the list of eligible species.

A line sample is not required, as line testing is not applicable to this division. **Braid and break away combination lines are eligible tackle for this division.**

# PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING NATIONAL RECORD CLAIMS

There are 2 categories of ANSA National Records – namely Line Class / Weight records and All Tackle “Length Only” records. The following rules apply.

## LINE CLASS / WEIGHT RECORDS

**1(a)** All captures must be weighed on land by an independent witness over the age of fourteen (14) years on scales that have been checked and certified for accuracy by government agencies or other qualified and accredited organisations.

**1(b)** All scales must be checked for accuracy and certified in accordance with applicable government regulations at least every 24 months for NSC certified scales and at least every 12 months for non NSC certified scales.

**1(c)** If at the time of weighing the scale has not been properly certified within the before mentioned time frames, it should be checked and certified for accuracy as quickly as possible and an official report stating the findings of the inspection prior to any adjustment of the scale must be included with the record application.

**1(d)** If there is no official government agency or other qualified and accredited organisation available in the area where the fish is weighed, the scale must be checked by weighing objects of recognised and proven weight. Objects weighed must be at least equal to the weight of the fish. Substantiation of the correct weight of these objects must be submitted to ANSA with the record application together with the names and addresses of accredited witnesses to the entire procedure.

**1(e)** In extremely remote areas where no Government certified weighing scales are available, it will be permissible for the angler to use his own scales providing that they are of a quality type and have been properly checked for accuracy (to NSC certification criteria) against Government certified scales both before and after returning from the fishing trip. Substantiation of accurate checking of such scales against Government certified scales must be submitted to ANSA with record application together with names and addresses of accredited witnesses of entire procedure.

**1(f)** ANSA reserves the right to require any scale to be re certified for accuracy if there are any indications that the scale might not have weighed properly.

## Explanation of NSC Guidelines

The ANSA Board has accepted the National Standard which the Australian Commonwealth Government has in place for the certification of scales under the National Measurement Act. This process is administered by the National Standards Commission (NSC).

There are 4 grades of NSC classification for scales, all determined by the number of divisions on the scale itself – eg;

NSC 1 – to a max of 1million divisions (eg delicate scientific scales)

NSC 2 – to a max of 100 thousand divisions (eg general trade use)

NSC 3 – to a max of 10 thousand divisions (eg general trade use)

NSC 4 – to max of 1 thousand divisions (eg large factory scales)

If scales bear a NSC certification and they are used for recognised trade purposes they need only be tested every 2 years. Non NSC certified scales if they are used for trade must be tested at least every 12 months. The NSC testing criteria uniformly accepted by all State Offices of Fair Trading is as follows –

- Where number of divisions > 500. Acceptable error factor is 1 division.
- Where number of divisions < 500. Acceptable error factor is half a division.

Most club scales or personal scales will be 100kg or less and as such if they are NSC certified, they need to be officially tested every 2 years. If the scales are non NSC certified then irrespective of weight capacity, they will need to be officially tested and certified every 12 months. Most, if not all, Club or personal scales will be non NSC certified type.

**2. Claims for Australian Records will only be accepted from members of Sportfishing Clubs affiliated directly or indirectly and Individual Members affiliated directly with ANSA and must be accompanied by:**

(a) A correctly completed claim form, a copy of which may be obtained from the web site [www.ansa.com.au](http://www.ansa.com.au) or by contacting the National Recorder.

(b) For Line Class Records a 15 metre sample of the ACTUAL line used in the capture, or in the case of Flycasting Claims, the full leader and fly. The sample must be in one piece. Where a double line was used, the entire double, including the knot must also be submitted. **Where a capture is made on Signature Pretest line (as defined in this rulebook) it will not be necessary for the line sample or the double to be submitted - such line will be accepted at the manufacturers stated line breaking strain specification.**

(c) Fees: There is no ANSA National charge or fee for all record claims. Check with your Club or Branch Secretary for any additional charges.

### **3. Identification of Capture**

One or more photographs **MUST** be supplied with all Records Claims and **MUST** be such as to clearly allow identification of the fish and must also show the tackle. One or more photographs **MUST** be submitted with all claims for record captures of sharks, and **MUST** clearly allow identification of the shark and **MUST** clearly show the head and teeth. Failure to provide means of identification of the capture will lead to rejection of the claim.

**4. A claim for an Australian Record will only be considered if it is heavier than the existing record by:**

- (a) 50 grams or more if 5kg or under:
- (b) 100 grams or more if over 5kg to 25kg:
- (c) 250 grams or more if over 25kg to 50kg:
- (d) 500 grams or more if over 50kg.

**5. Record certificates will be issued for captures that are Australian Records and for captures that classify as ties. The original Record only, until broken will appear on the Record Chart.**

**6. Australian Records will only be granted for the fish listed as eligible species.**

**7. Australian Records will only be granted if the fish equals or exceeds 100 points, except that Junior Records **MUST** equal or exceed 80 points.**

**8.** Where a capture is submitted for both an Australian line class record and an IGFA World record the line testing outcome from IGFA will be accepted by ANSA. Where the record claim is rejected by IGFA and line used for the capture was Signature Pretest line (as defined in this rulebook) then the capture will be eligible for an Australian record for the line class stated on the line spool.

**9.** All record claims should be submitted to the National Recorder via the State Branch Recorder or equivalent office bearer.

**10.** Special extenuating circumstances may be left to the discretion of the National Executive.

## **ALL TACKLE “LENGTH ONLY” RECORDS**

**1.** Claims for Australian Records will only be accepted from members of Sportfishing Clubs affiliated directly or indirectly and Individual Members affiliated directly with ANSA and must be accompanied by:

(a) A correctly completed claim form, a copy of which may be obtained from the web site [www.ansa.com.au](http://www.ansa.com.au) or by contacting the National Recorder.

b) Fees: There is no ANSA National charge or fee for all record claims. Check with your Club or Branch Secretary for any additional charges.

**2.** For All Tackle “Length Only” records, the claim must include a statement from a witness over the age of 14 years confirming the measurement of the fish or if no witness is available, a photograph of the capture on a “brag mat”, Fisheries ruler or some other recognised measuring device. The fish must be measured laying down and the tail must be in a natural position – not folded down. The National Recorder reserves the right to require that any measuring device be checked for accuracy.

**3.** Fish are to be measured length overall ie from the end of the tail to the leading edge of the jaw with the fish laying flat.

**4.** A claim for an All Tackle Length Only” record will be accepted if;

a) Where no previous record exists, the capture is 1.5 times the minimum length as per Fisheries regulations of the State or Territory where the capture was made.

b) For an existing record, the capture is 5 millimetres longer than the prevailing record.

**5.** A line sample is not required as line testing and line class are not applicable to these records.

**6.** Records will only be granted for fish listed as eligible species.

**7.** Gear regulations as per All Tackle Division. Fish can be kept or released.

**8.** All record claims should be submitted to the National Recorder via the State Branch Recorder or equivalent office bearer.

### **TIME LIMIT ON CLAIMS:**

Claims to be submitted to the Branch Recorders within 35 days from the date of Capture. Branch Recorder to submit the claim to the National Recorder within 70 days from date of capture. Missing information **MUST NOT** be filled in by the Branch Recorder – this practice makes the claim a forgery.

The Branch Recorder has the option to reject the claim or return claim for the missing information, provided time is available for the claim to reach the National Recorder by the 70 day deadline.

Late Claims, i.e. those one (1) day or more over the 35 day time limit **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED EXCEPT** under the following conditions:

1. A mail strike in the posting and/or delivery area that can be verified.
2. Other forms of delays, eg. Fire, flood, natural or aircraft and rail disasters, providing such delays can be substantiated.
3. The National Executive shall, in consultation with the Branch concerned, reject or agree with the granting of special extenuating circumstances.

### **BOUNDARIES:**

Australian Record claims and Master Angler Award claims will only be accepted for captures made in any part of Australia, Australian Territories, Dependencies, and/or their territorial waters.

### **LINE CLASSES:**

Within each Tackle Division there shall be various ‘line classes’ and a capture shall be deemed to have been made in a particular line class if the line used, when tested as hereinafter provided, has a determined strength not exceeding the value of that line class it was submitted in. However, if a National Record Claim fails in a line class test, but exceeds the weight of the record in a higher line class, then the Branch Recorder may enter the Claim in a higher line class.

### **LINE TESTING:**

Whether natural or synthetic material, the line class shall be determined by the ‘wet strength’ of the line and shall be tested on a Government Certified Machine. Line testing for record claims shall be conducted in accordance with the Australian Standard –Fishing Line – Determination of breaking load AS4470 -1997, with the exception of paragraph 9 – Number of tests.

In relation to paragraph 9 – Number of tests, ANSA conducts at least five (5) single valid tests on each sample package.

### **DEFINITION:**

Government Certified Machine shall mean: ‘A testing machine that conforms to the requirements as laid down by the Standards Association of Australia, Code SAA2193- 1978 ‘Methods for the Calibration and Grading of Force Measuring Systems of Testing Machines ‘ and has a current Certificate of Accuracy.

## 5 to 1, 10 to 1, 15 to 1, 20 to 1, & 25 to 1 CLUBS

1. This award is designed to recognise captures, the mass of which exceeds the line class by 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 times respectively.
2. All captures must be made in accordance with ANSA Fishing Rules and Tackle Specifications.
3. The minimum acceptable mass for claims is 5 kg.
4. The mass of a captured fish must exceed the line class by 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 times, depending on the Club category being claimed. For example, to submit a claim for the 10 to 1 Club using 6 kg line the fish would have to weigh a minimum of 60 kg.
5. Only fish on the List of Eligible Species will be considered as a capture.
6. Weighing requirements, claim requirements, fees and capture identification details must comply with the “Procedures for submitting National Record Claims “.
7. A certificate and embroidered emblem denoting the appropriate Club category will be issued to all successful applicants.

## MASTER ANGLER AWARDS

There are 2 categories of Master Angler Awards – namely Line Class Masters and All Tackle “Length Based” Masters. The following rules apply.

### LINE CLASS MASTERS

1. Master Angler Awards may be granted in any of the following Tackle Divisions:

- (i) Sportfishing
  - (ii) Lure Fishing
  - (iii) Fly fishing
  - (iv) Gamefishing
  - (v) Hand lining
  - (vi) Land Based Gamefishing
- And in additional categories:
- (vii) Tagging
  - (viii) Freshwater Impoundment
  - (ix) Land Based Sportfishing

2. (a) The qualifications for the title of **Senior Master** shall be that the member must submit ten (10) different eligible species (in any one division) over any period of time, each worth at least one hundred (100) points, calculated by multiplying the mass of fish (in kilograms) by 100 times the factor divided by the line class.

(b) The qualification for the title of **Sub-Junior Master** and **Junior Master** shall be that the

member must submit ten (10) different eligible species (in any one division) over any period of time, each worth at least eighty (80) points calculated as per the ANSA formula.

3. Following the attainment of an initial Master award in a Tackle Division, with the capture of ten (10) different eligible species of at least 100 points (Sub- Juniors and Juniors -80 points), to be known as a Master 10 Award, a member may claim a Master 20 Award by capturing a further ten (10) different eligible species, a total of twenty (20) different eligible species of at least 100 points (Sub-Juniors and Juniors -80 points).

A Master 30 Award may be claimed with the capture of a further ten (10) different eligible species, similarly Master 40, 50, etc. Awards may be claimed provided that they are all different eligible species.

4. Master fish captured as Sub-Junior or Junior carry over to Master fish when the angler becomes a Senior.

5. Bill fish: All Bill fish may be released after capture and will be eligible for a 100 point Master Award or All Tackle “Length Based” Master Award but not both.

6. Sharks: All sharks may be released after capture and will be eligible for a 100 point Master Award or All Tackle “Length Based” Master Award but not both.

7. Tasmania Master Award: Provided all captures are made in Tasmanian waters, Tasmanian Members require only seven (7) species to qualify for a Division 4 (Gamefishing) or Division 6 (Land-based Gamefishing) Master Angler Award. If any species are captured outside of Tasmanian waters then this rule does not apply and ten (10) species are required.

### **POINT SCORE CALCULATION:**

The formula for the calculation of points is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{(MASS (kg) x 100 x Factor)}}{\text{Divided by LINE CLASS (kg)}}$$

The factor shall be taken from the list of Eligible Species.

#### **Example of Point Score Calculation:**

**Capture:** Flathead (Factor 1. 0)  
**Line Class:** 2kg line class  
**Weight:** 2. 9kg  
**Points:** (2. 9 x 100 x 1. 0) divided by 2. 0 = 145

Eligible Line. Non metallic lines in natural fibre or synthetic only are permitted with the only exception to this rule being lines containing a core of base metal, lead. Wire lines are prohibited.

Signature pretest, Factory pretest and standard line may be used for Masters captures. Such line will be accepted at the manufacturers stated line breaking strain specification. The use of

braid and breakaway combination lines (as defined) are eligible with the qualification that the breakaway line may be standard (non pretest) line.

## 8. WEIGHING

(a) All captures must be weighed by an independent witness over the age of fourteen (14) years using scales that have been checked and certified for accuracy by government agencies or other qualified and accredited organisations or on scales that are certified in writing as accurate by the branch or club committee.

(b) Branch and club committees will only certify scales as accurate after testing them through their range against certified scales or by use of certified standard weights.

(c) A fish may only be weighed on water if it is to be released alive and conditions are such that an accurate measurement of weight can be made. The principle shall be that the vessel shall remain steady for three seconds or longer and that the lowest reading in that time shall be the one recorded.

Note: This procedure is NOT applicable to National Records.

(d) Captures may be weighed whole, gilled and gutted, or cleaned plus gills and gut as one item.

9. Where the tackle used complies with the requirements of more than one Tackle Division, the angler can enter a capture in either Division, **but not both**. If, for example, a flathead is taken using regulation lure casting tackle, this could qualify for entry in either the **Lure Fishing** or Sportfishing Divisions, as the tackle used also satisfies the specifications set out in the Sportfishing Division.

**NB. The capture will not be accepted as an entry in both divisions. Likewise captures accepted for line class Masters cannot be accepted for All Tackle Masters and vice versa.**

10. All fish must be of at least minimum legal size to qualify for any ANSA award except for tagging awards.

11. Fish captures must be legal in all respects, including closed seasons and areas of capture, etc where applicable.

12. Master award claims must conform with current qualifying criteria as laid down in the fishing rules where captures exceed six (6) years prior to lodgement of claims, i.e. fish captured 10 years ago must comply with current calculations.

13. There is no set order in which the Divisional Master Awards need to be achieved, and there is no time period within which captures must be made. However, when an angler, prior to the 1.1.1977 has caught some, but not all species necessary to qualify for an award, those captures will only be accepted eligible for the Award of Master Angler -Sportfishing. The balance must be caught on tackle meeting the requirements of the Sportfishing Division as exists from time to time.

14. Application forms for Master Awards are available from each Branch Secretary. After completion they should be checked and forwarded to the Branch Recorder / Masters Keeper who will then forward them onto the ANSA National Masters Keeper

**15.** A 250 Master Angler Award may be gained by members who submit ten (10) qualifying eligible species worth a minimum of 250 points, using the point score calculation formula. This award is available in all Tackle Divisions EXCEPT Tagging. Members CANNOT attain this award before qualifying for the initial 100 points Master Angler Award in that Division. A certificate and embroidery emblem will be awarded to those members who qualify for this achievement. A certificate and chevron will be awarded for subsequent achievements.

**16.** A Special Achievement Award may be gained by members who fulfil the requirements of all the following:

(i) Sportfishing, (ii) Lure Fishing, (iii) Fly Fishing, (iv) Gamefishing, (v) Hand lining, (vi) Land Based Gamefishing and (vii) a 200 points Tagging Achievement Award.

A certificate and embroidery emblem will be awarded to those members who qualify for this achievement.

## **ALL TACKLE “LENGTH BASED” MASTER AWARD**

1. The qualification for the title of All Tackle Master shall be that the member must submit ten (10) different eligible species over any period of time, each one equal to or longer than the Trophy Length for that species.
2. Eligible tackle as per All Tackle Division. The use of braided line and breakaway line combinations (as defined) are eligible with the qualification that the breakaway line may be standard (non tested) line.
3. Following the attainment of an initial All Tackle Master award, with the capture of a further ten (10) different species each as long as or longer than the Trophy Length, a member may claim a Master 20 Award, and so on for each additional 10 different species (Master 30, Master 40 etc).
4. Application forms for All Tackle Master Awards are available from each Branch Secretary. After completion they should be checked and forwarded to the Branch Recorder / Masters Keeper who will then forward them onto the ANSA National Masters Keeper.
5. A certificate and embroidery emblem will be awarded to those members who qualify for these awards.

## **TROPHY LENGTH**

1. **Definition:** The Trophy Length for a species is the length at which an eligible species is deemed to be a capture worthy of recognition. Trophy lengths are determined with regard to the potential growth of the species, its usual habitat and fighting qualities.
2. A capture of an eligible species which is the Trophy Length or longer for that species is deemed a Trophy Fish and eligible for inclusion towards an All Tackle Master Award. Likewise any fish submitted for a traditional Line Class Master Award will not be eligible for All Tackle Master Award and vice versa.

3. A number of benchmark Trophy Lengths are listed in the List of Eligible Species. State Branches may, at their discretion, assign Trophy Lengths to additional eligible species for inclusion in All Tackle Master Awards. State Branches may also, at their discretion, modify the National Trophy Length for an eligible species to take account of localised variations in species average sizes and abundance. Any changes or additions to Trophy Lengths must be ratified by the ANSA National Committee.

## **MEASURING FISH**

1. The measurement of a fish for The All Tackle Masters awards must be performed against a recognised measuring device, such as, but not limited to, builder's measure or tape, a commercially available "brag mat", fisheries measuring tape or legal size sticker, with increments no less than 5mm.
2. The acceptability of the measuring device will be at the discretion of the individual Club Recorder or Committee, who may refer to their ANSA Branch or National Committee.
3. Fish are to be measured length overall ie from the end of the tail to the leading edge of the jaw.
4. The measuring of fish must be witnessed by an independent person over the age of fourteen (14) years. Where this is not possible or practical, the angler must submit a digital or print photograph of the capture against a recognised measuring device with the measurement of the fish clearly determinable. Acceptance of photographic evidence will be at the discretion of the relevant Club recorder, who may refer to their State Branch or ANSA National for a ruling.

## **TAGGING AWARDS**

There shall be 3 Awards that are available:

### **Tagging Achievement Award (TAA)**

The National Tagging Achievement Award (TAA) will commence on 1.7.2001 upon termination of the Tagging Master Award. This award will be determined once a year only and requires no application by the tagger. The State Tagging Coordinator will determine after 31 August each year the number of taggers that have achieved the award in the preceding financial year. That determination will be based on the total number of fish tagged from 1.1.1993 to 30 June in the current year. Each State Tagging Coordinator will advise the Austag Coordinator of taggers that qualify by 30 September each year. The criteria for award of a TAA shall be "The angler must tag and release sufficient fish of a single species from the eligible tagging species list (as applicable to each State) to give a total score of 200 points. The award will be in the form of a National Tagging Achievement Certificate.

### **Tagging Excellence Award (TEA)**

The National Tagging Excellence Award (TEA) entails the same criteria as for the TAA but a total of 2000 tagging points is required to qualify. The award will be in the form of a framed National Tagging Excellence Award certificate which will issue from ANSA National.

### **Frequent Tagger Award (FTA)**

This award recognises taggers that gain a minimum of 1000 points. Each fish is worth 1 point regardless of the species. All species must be as per the eligible tagging species for each State. Points can be accumulated in different States. This award commenced on 1.11.2000 and fish tagged after 1.1.1985 are eligible and points can be accumulated over any time period. The form of the award is a certificate of recognition as a frequent tagger.

### **General Conditions**

1. Any ANSA member may be eligible for these awards.
2. Tackle will be unrestricted but members should be constantly aware that a fish played to exhaustion would be less likely to survive than one brought quickly to the tag. Members must carefully assess the condition of the fish caught before tagging and release. A fish that dies from exhaustion and the burden of tagging is of no value to the research programme and a fish has been wasted.
3. Fish species available for tagging by ANSA members are determined by individual State Branches. A listing of such eligible species and the applicable point scoring factor for each species can be obtained from your Branch Secretary or Tagging Coordinator
4. No bonus points will be given for fish tagged from precarious positions such as cliff faces. ANSA does not want to encourage anglers to take unnecessary risks. The tagging awards are not made for feats of tagging under difficult or dangerous circumstances nor should they ever be regarded as such.
5. Where possible fish should be tagged without handling or removing them from the water and released by cutting the leader as close to the hook as possible. If the fish is not too “green” it can usually be brought into a position for tagging by holding the fish at the forward end of the vessel with the vessel idling slowly ahead. Small fish which are too difficult to tag in the water may be taken aboard for tagging but a minimum of handling should be observed. Use a wet towel to hold the fish.
6. In general, for all fish, the tag should be placed in the flesh just behind the leading edge of the first hard dorsal fin – about half way between the fin and the lateral line. The tag should avoid the head, abdomen, spinal column and preferably go into the fish inclining towards the head.
7. If the fish is docile and there is opportunity to inset another tag then do so provided the fish is not a small species. This greatly increases the chance of tag returns as there is a high incidence of tag shedding.
8. Tagging cards and sheets should be completed as soon as possible after tagging, and given for recording purposes to your Club Secretary/Tagging Officer who will forward them to the Fisheries Authorities, or Program Co-ordinator.
9. Members must check for previously applied tags before releasing the fish. Such tags should also be reported.

10. Members no longer wishing to participate in the programme **MUST** return their equipment to their Club Secretary.

11. This programme will cease to exist upon advice that it is no longer of value.

## **FRESHWATER IMPOUNDMENT MASTER AWARD**

**DEFINITION:** A freshwater impoundment is deemed as being where the natural flow of a waterway is restricted by a man made dam, weir, barrage, or other such permanent structure. The upper limit of such impoundment would generally be at the confluence of the natural waters of a stream and the backed up waters of the impoundment.

**TACKLE:** The only tackle applicable to Freshwater Impoundment Master Award is as per Sportfishing, Lure Casting, Fly Fishing or Hand lining, and must always comply with the current local legal requirements.

## **LAND BASED SPORTFISHING MASTER AWARD**

**DEFINITION:** Claims for this award may only be made by an angler who during the whole time of fishing, hooking, playing and landing the fish, is standing or sitting on land or a platform or structure securely and permanently attached to land.

**TACKLE:** The tackle specifications are as per Division 1 Sportfishing.

## **VIC McCRISTAL AWARD**

The Vic McCristal Award is presented to an individual or organisation for outstanding contribution to the enhancement of recreational fishing in Australia.

The guidelines are:

- The ANSA Board nominates the recipient
- The recipient does not have to be an ANSA member
- The award does not have to be bestowed annually
- The award is announced during the Annual Conference

## **MERITORIOUS CAPTURE COMPETITION**

The Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) conducts an annual meritorious capture competition. This prestigious competition runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June every year and has two (2) categories FRESHWATER & SALTWATER.

**-NOTES-**

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