

BY-LAWS

The term 'Q.A.F.C.A. incorporated' or 'the Association' as contained in these by-laws shall mean the Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs' Association incorporated.

1 CONDUCT OF CARNIVALS – STATE TITLES

- a) Responsibility for the conduct of the carnivals shall fall on the Division, Country Club or Q.A.F.C.A. committee granted such carnivals by the General Meeting.
- b) (i) The following State Titles shall be held each year subject to this Association's approval.

Light Gear	- Male Championship
Light Gear	- Female Championship
Light Gear	- Junior Championship
Rock and Beach	- Open Championship
Casting	- Open Championship
Off Shore	- Open Championship See 1 c) below.
Boat Estuary	- Open & Junior Championships
Freshwater	- Open Championship

(ii) Deep Sea Male and Female State Championships may be held in any year when said Championships are applied for by a Division or Country Club.
- c) Under the duty of care of this Association, junior competitors will not be accepted in Offshore and Deep Sea State Championships.
- d) A veteran's event is to be included in all male and female Championships including Deep Sea, if berths are available. Veterans must be over the age of sixty (60) years at the time of competition. A birth certificate may be required for proof of age.
- e) Junior championships are for competitors over the age of six (6) years and under the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of competition. A birth certificate may be required for proof of age.

Note – Junior competitors must be accompanied by a manager who will be responsible for their actions before, during and after the competition.
- f) Other than the trophies for the heaviest of species, no competitor can win more than one trophy in the one championship.
- g) There must be no fewer than three (3) competitors taking part in any category, irrespective of the number of Divisions, before any trophies are awarded.
- h) Should there be fewer than three (3) Divisions, but not fewer than two (2) Divisions or Country Clubs taking part in all Association State Championships, the individual trophy will be awarded, but no team event will be conducted.

2 ENTRY TO COMPETITIONS

- a) All nominations for entry to Association competitions shall be made by, or through, the Division or Country Club to the controlling body. Such Affiliated Bodies, once having been nominated, shall be held responsible for all fees and expenses incurred on their behalf or any of their Members connected with the conduct of such competition.
- b) The nominations or entry shall be signed by a responsible Officer of the Affiliated Body concerned, who shall clarify as to the accuracy of the particulars contained in the form. All nominations for participation in State Titles shall be lodged on the official nomination forms, and all required details are to be clearly printed.

- c) Entries *not* so made and lodged shall be informal.
- d) (i) A Member must be affiliated and registered on a club list submitted to the Association at the closing date for nominations with the host Division to be eligible to compete in State Titles.
(ii) A Member may affiliate with more than one club, but in the case of dual affiliates, once an affiliated member of QAFCA has competed with a particular club in a State competition in any given year, that member may not compete with another Division or Club in that same year, unless the other Division or Club does not compete in that State Title.
- e) A list of nominations for State Titles is to be forwarded to the State Secretary at the close of nominations.
- f) The closing date for nominations for all competitions, except Deep Sea, shall not be more than 21 days prior to the competition.
- g) No late nominations will be accepted for State Championships.
- h) Nominees in State Titles that require an alternate date in case of cancellation due to inclement weather are required to advise, at the time of nominations, whether they intend to fish the alternate date if the occasion arises.
- i) Nominees advising of unavailability to fish the alternate date must have their nomination fee refunded in full by the host Division, if the competition is not conducted on the original date.

3 APPLICATIONS TO HOST A STATE TITLE

Divisions, Country Clubs or Q.A.F.C.A. committee who wish to host any State Titles may do so by making application in writing to the preceding General Meeting. The application shall be in the form of a screed (20 copies) and include the following information –

- a) Recommendations of a locality, including a map of the area with boundaries marked, and three (3) preferred dates to be fished. Alternate venue if required.
- b) Program – Fishing times, including time and place of assembly and weigh-in.
- c) Nomination fee and closing date.
- d) Trophy list
- e) Presentation of trophies and meal, if applicable.
- f) Two emergency phone numbers.
- g) Special rules or conditions that will need to be passed by the General Meeting, which may include a list of fish ineligible for weigh-in.
- h) Indemnity clause.
- i) The State Secretary shall be responsible for notifying all Affiliated Bodies of the terms and conditions of any proposed competition at least 60 days prior to the closing date for nominations for each competition, except in Deep Sea, where the notice shall be circularized 90 days prior to competition closing date.

4 COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee shall be responsible for –

- a) Forming a committee consisting of Chairman, Competition Secretary and Treasurer and

at least three other Members. It shall be elected by the Division, Country Club or Association where the next State competition is to be held. Such committee, subject to these rules, shall have full power in arranging all matters relevant to the conduct of Association competitions.

- b) Extending an invitation to the State President to attend the trophy presentation function. If the State President is unable to attend, he shall delegate another executive officer to attend as his representative. In the event that neither the State President, nor the delegated executive Officer, is able to attend, the State President may delegate the responsibility to a life member of Q.A.F.C.A. inc. residing within a reasonable distance from the venue, providing however, that under no circumstances whatsoever shall any aforementioned persons use air travel or any other means of travel involving excessive costs at the expense of the Association.
- c) Providing name/bag tags for competitors.
- d) Having the power to alter the place, or abandon altogether, an Association competition due to adverse weather conditions where human life is endangered on the day chosen for the competition, provided a majority of such committee so decided.

The above officials, at the conclusion of their pre-competition duties, with the exception of junior events, are entitled to participate in the competition.

5 TEAMS

- a) Divisional teams for each event shall consist of not more than (six) 6 members from any Division, who must belong to an Affiliated Club of that Division, except in the case of junior events, where the team shall consist of four (4) persons.
- b) A Club team event will be conducted in any State Title. Club teams will consist of a maximum of four (4) competitors in each event. Clubs may nominate any number of teams.
- c) Club teams may consist of any gender or age category (except Age/Gender specific competitions).
- d) Members of Divisional teams are eligible to compete in Club teams.

6 TROPHIES

- a) Trophies for all Association competition events shall be a cup, shield, open order or such tangible prize other than direct monies.
- b) All trophies competed for must be approved and allocated by the Divisional Committee and shall be presented to the winner, or his deputy, at the presentation of trophies, unless otherwise specially arranged for by the Divisional Committee. All inscriptions are to be at the winner's expense.
- c) All Q.A.F.C.A. inc. Special Trophies, as listed in these by-laws, shall be suitably inscribed with name and/or Club winner, together with year of competition. All inscriptions are to be at the winner's expense.
- d) Within seven (7) days of the completion of each State Title, the State Secretary must be notified in writing by the host Division of the names and addresses of all recipients of Perpetual Trophies. If, at any time prior to the next time a State Title is to be contested, a Perpetual Trophy changes hands, the new recipient's name and address must be notified within seven (7) days.
- e) Any trophies may be donated to this Association for competition under special conditions, but this Association reserves the right to refuse acceptance of such trophies, or to vary conditions on any occasion, from time to time.

7 DISPUTES

- a) Any Affiliated Body, or Member, with a matter for dispute or complaint, not covered by these Rules and By-laws, arising out of Association competitions, shall submit same to the Divisional Competition Committee.
- b) The Divisional Chairman shall call a disputes committee meeting at which both the complainant and defendant, together with witnesses, shall be heard prior to the trophy presentation.
- c) The Disputes Committee shall consist of the State President and State Secretary, if present, Divisional Chairman, Divisional Competition Secretary and one representative from each competing Division.

8 POINT SCORING

Points for all Association competitions, with the exception of Deep Sea, shall be determined by the following –

- a) One (1) point for each weighable fish.
Ten (10) points for each kilogram or part thereof proportionately.
- b) In the event of two or more competitors having, in any competition, an equal number of points, precedence shall be given to the competitor with the greater number of fish.
- c) In the event of a fish being hooked by more than one competitor, the points for that fish shall be shared equally.
- d) The maximum points score for any one fish shall be 201 points, i.e. one fish weighing 20 kg.

9 WEIGH-INS

- a) Each fish weighed in must be, or exceed, the respective length prescribed in the list of “Legal and Arbitrary Lengths for Fish acceptable for Weigh-in at all State Titles”. Any fish taken at less than its respective minimum measurement shall be at once returned to the water from which it was taken.
- b) Fish other than those listed in the Q.A.F.C.A. schedule shall not be eligible for weigh-in unless that fish exceeds 23cm in length in Light Gear, Rock and Beach, Boat Estuary and Freshwater competitions; 30cm for Deep Sea and Offshore.
Possession of undersized fish, according to the competition rules, at any time during the competition, or numbers of fish in excess of the competition bag limits according to the Q.A.F.C.A. schedule, shall subject the competitor to a 25 point penalty for each undersized fish or fish over the bag limit.
- c) Fish that have been physically manipulated e.g. with severed gill connections, broken backbones, etc; or incomplete fish (mutilated by other fish) must exceed the minimum legal size by at least 2cm; otherwise, a penalty of 25 points will be incurred for each fish and they will be ineligible for weigh-in.
- d) Fish with a maximum legal size limit that has been manipulated to reduce the length will incur disqualification of the competitor’s bag for that competition.
- e) Any competitor incurring penalties because of undersized or mutilated fish shall be recorded in the negative if it exceeds their legal score.

- f) Any undersized or mutilated fish shall be impounded until the conclusion of the weigh-in and will be subject to a dispute (Dispute Committee) if so requested by the competitor or their representative.
- g) Whiptail species shall be measured to the lower or shorter tail. Garfish shall be measured to the upper or shorter beak.
- h) The following fish shall not be eligible for weigh-in in all Q.A.F.C.A. competitions –
 - 1. Chinaman Fish
 - 2. Paddle Tail
 - 3. Red Bass
 - 4. Stone Fish
 - 5. Short Sucker Fish
 - 6. Slender Sucker Fish
 - 7. Grinner
 - 8. Marlin
 - 9. Sailfish
 - 10. Scorpion Cod
 - 11. All non-scale bearing fish which will include all sharks, rays, catfish, eels, happy moments, trigger fish, tripod fish and leather jackets. The only exception to this rule would be freshwater eel-tailed catfish that *should* be eligible for weigh-in in freshwater competitions.
- i) Where the weigh-in is not to be conducted at the finishing point, all fish must be measured at the finishing point and impounded until the final weigh-in.
- j) In all State Titles, official score books as supplied by the State Body must be used.

10 GENERAL RULES

- a) The Divisional Chairman, Divisional Competition Secretary or a member of the Competition Committee shall have the power to inspect all fishing creels or bags or check line gauge prior to, or during, the State Championship and, should any member obstruct, hinder or refuse to allow inspection, he shall be liable for disqualification.
- b) Scrutineers may be appointed by the host Division to check competitors' catches during the competition, with the power to impound all undersized fish subject to the adjudication of the disputes committee.
- c) A competitor, disqualified in an Association event, shall not necessarily render his team liable to disqualification but, if a team member has a negative points score, then that points score shall be deducted from the team total.
- d) If the individual or team championship is scored over several sections, the scoring shall include all cumulative points whether they be negative or positive.
- e) Any fish weighed in at an Association competition must be caught by the competitor weighing in, on rod and reel or hand line. Lures may be used in all Q.A.F.C.A. competitions.
- f) Competitors must not use more than one (1) rod or handline at any one time during the following Association competitions – Light Gear, Rock and Beach and Deep Sea. However, competitors may use not more than two (2) rods or handlines at any one time in Boat Estuary and Offshore events.
- g) Not more than two (2) hooks on any rod or handline may be used. A flight of up to four (4) hooks is to be considered as one hook. Keeper hooks are to be considered as one hook if

separate from the main hook.

- h) All Light Gear championships held on open beaches shall be conducted between boundary flags not more than eight (8) kilometres apart.
- i) Any competitor in an Association championship not present at the starting point shall be liable for disqualification and their fees forfeited.
- j) No person under the influence of alcohol will be allowed to compete in any Association competition.
- k) A warning signal must be given 10 minutes and 5 minutes before the close of any competition.
- l) All weigh-ins for State Titles must be conducted on dry land.
- m) A roll call shall be made before the commencement, and after the conclusion, of all State Championships.
- n) Unless permission is granted by the Divisional Competition Committee, all competitors shall travel in the transport provided, or approved by, the host Division and, in the case of boat competitions, competitors shall use those provided, or approved, by the Divisional Competition Committee.
- o) In all competitions, competitors are responsible for the supply of their own bait.
- p) Each competitor will be responsible for their own transport before, during and after the competitions, and for all expenses incurred during this time, unless otherwise specified in the competition circular.
- q) All boats used in Association competitions must be equipped with all safety gear as specified by the Department of Harbours and Marine.
- r) "Lines down" means the time when a competitor is allowed to place a line in the water.

SPECIAL COMPETITION RULES

11 A.A.A. CARNIVALS

All nominations received for team consideration at A.A.A. carnivals must be accompanied by the person's club performance record or other such details as may be requested.

12 JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

- a) All rules governing Association competitions shall apply to this section and Juniors shall be considered Juniors if they are under eighteen (18) years of age and over six (6) years of age at the start of the competition.
- b) Junior Light Gear competitions are to be held during daylight hours.
- c) Junior championships shall be run in sheltered waters under the Light Gear rules and special rules for Junior competitions.
- d) Junior competitors shall be required to produce an extract from their birth certificate if requested by the host Division on the day of the competition. The nomination forms must also show the date of birth of each competitor.
- e) No wading is allowed in water over a depth of 75cm.

- f) Junior teams are to consist of not more than four (4) persons.

13 LIGHT GEAR – MALE, LADIES AND JUNIORS

- a) Competitors in Light Gear competitions must fish from a beach or bank in an estuarine area. Wading is permitted within the bounds of safety. However, competitors are not permitted to swim to reach a particular location to fish i.e. across a deep creek. Boats may be used to transport competitors and gear to and from fishing areas, before or after the competition. The host Division shall declare boundaries and place boundary flags as necessary.
- b) All Light Gear competitions must be held in daylight hours. The divisional team captains are responsible for deciding if it is daylight enough to start the competition.
- c) A competitor must use no greater than 0.30mm gauge line in any Light Gear competition held by the Association. Where a line restriction applies, a heavier trace may be used, but must not exceed 1 metre in length.
- d) In all QAFCA Light Gear competitions, that
- Braid line diameter not exceed 0.15 mm.
 - Leader material shall not exceed 0.30mm in diameter, with the exception of the last metre.

14 ROCK AND BEACH

The host Division shall be responsible for the provision of transport for a beach inspection by divisional team captains to determine the actual fishing area when practicable.

15 DEEP SEA

- a) The skippers of each boat will be solely responsible for decisions regarding safety.
- b) The fishing grounds will be set down by the organising committee and a time and place of rendezvous will be made.
- c) Following the making of the rendezvous by all boats in the competition, and subsequent commencement signal being given, boats may proceed independently, but must cease fishing on the pre-arranged time and proceed to port. All boats must be in radio contact to ensure finishing at the same time.
- d) The Competition Committee shall appoint an official on each boat and they shall be responsible for –
- The draw for positions and rotation in the original draw.
 - The keeping of oriented times.
 - The adherence to the pre-arranged rendezvous time.
 - The time for commencement and completion of fishing.
- e) Wherever possible, each district team must be so divided so that each boat contains an equal number of each district team.
- f) In Deep Sea competitions, live bait must not be used unless caught after the commencement of the competition, and only then by the competitor catching same.
- g) Competitors must hook and boat their own fish. Assistance in gaffing is allowed.
- h) Free floating fish shall be gaffed and be subject to the ruling of a disputes committee.

- i) The use of rods is permissible subject to the discretion of the host Division.
- j) In the event of cancellation, all Divisions must be given at least two (2) days clear notice. An alternate date must be supplied on Deep Sea circulars presented at the General Meeting.
- k) Where the event is held over multiple days, a fixed time period for the competition is to be nominated prior to the event.

16 OFFSHORE

- a) Minimum overall length of boats used in this competition will be 4.5 metres. There will be no maximum overall length. Charter boats may be used, but they will need to be booked by the competitor. No allowance for travel will be made.
- b) Each boat owner must make provision to display an identification flag, as prescribed by the Association, on the boat.
- c) Competitors must fish from the boat at all times.
- d) Trolling is permitted.
- e) A minimum number of competitors per boat will be two (2).
- f) For reasons of safety, each boat skipper must report to the Competition Secretary, or his deputy, prior to the start of the weigh-in.
- g) In the event of cancellation, one alternate date must be supplied on the Offshore circular and presented to the General Meeting. If neither date is fished, the event shall be cancelled until the following year.

17 BOAT ESTUARY

- a) Any size boat may be used, but it must be trailerable.
- b) A minimum of two (2) competitors must fish from each boat.
- c) For reasons of safety, each boat skipper must report to the Competition Secretary, or his deputy, prior to the start of the weigh-in.
- d) Competitors must fish from the boat at all times.
- e) Trolling is permitted.

18 FRESHWATER

Two (2) rods or handlines may be used in Freshwater competitions. Only one (1) hook, artificial fly or lure may be attached at any one time.

19 CASTING

- a) All team captains shall make themselves available 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition, for drawing of order of cast and accuracy distances. The captains shall also be responsible for their team's punctuality.
- b) All team casters shall be numbered 1 – 6. Identical numbers from each team are to cast in each round and in order of team draw. All competitors must have one cast before starting the second round.

- c) Each caster shall have two casts at each event and, in accuracy, two casts will be allowed at each target.
- d) Any method of casting will be allowed, except revolving the rod around the body or head.
- e) Break-offs, overstepping the base line or casting out of court will be classed as a 'no cast' and not eligible for measurement.
- f) Casters are to make their casts within one minute of being called to the casting mark. Inability to do so will be ruled a 'no cast' and no score will be recorded.
- g) If any caster is distracted, or interfered with in any way, the decision to award another cast rests with the officials.
- h) No caster shall cast unless they have received the 'all clear'.
- i) No practice on the official courts will be permitted on the day of competition, prior to, or during, such competition.
- j) Rods and reels – There is no restriction on the choice of rods, reels or line in any event, except that the reel must be of standard manufacture.
- k) Line - A swivel or ring may be used in accuracy events, with a heavier gauge line, not exceeding 250mm in length. Breaking strain of line is optional, but must be of equal gauge throughout. Leaders are not permitted. Terminal knots shall not exceed 10cm in length, the measurement to be taken from the top of the weight.
- l) All equipment shall be made available for inspection before, or during, the competition, as desired by officials.
- m) All weights and artificial baits, of equal standard, will be provided by the host Division. Competitors may use traces of heavier gauge than the casting line to attach the artificial bait and lead. There must be a clear measurement of 23cm between the ring and the top of the bait. The weight is to hang clearly below the bait, and both bait and weight must be attached on separate traces.
- n) Measurements - Distance : All distance events will be measured where the weight finishes, at a point parallel to the base line.
- o) Accuracy - Accuracy court shall be a circle, 6.25m in radius, with a maximum score of 25 points and a loss of one point for every 25cm that the weight lands from the centre of the circle. Measurements will be taken from where the weight lands, not where the weight finishes.
- p) Events -
 1. 56 grams distance in a V court
 2. Up to and including 112 grams distance in a V court
 3. Up to and including 112 grams artificial bait in a V court
 4. Up to and including 112 grams accuracy

V COURT

For distance and artificial bait, the court shall be measured 20 metres either side of the centre line, at a point 100 metres from the base line and parallel to the base line.

ACCURACY

One Group of four distances will be drawn on the day from the schedule below -

1. Male	1	2	3	4	5
METRES	61	64	67	70	73
METRES	30	33	36	39	42
METRES	76	79	82	85	88
METRES	46	49	52	55	58
2. Female and Juniors	1	2	3	4	5
METRES	40	42	45	52	54
METRES	30	35	30	36	38
METRES	60	56	53	59	61
METRES	50	49	37	43	46

SCORING

Point scoring shall be based on a percentage of the best aggregate distance cast of each of the three (3) distance events, plus the best percentage of the accuracy event.

Example –

Best caster :

Event 1.	140 metres,	135 metres	= 275 metres	= 100%	= 100 points
Event 2.	150 metres,	155 metres	= 305 metres	= 100%	= 100 points
Event 3.	120 metres,	126 metres	= 246 metres	= 100%	= 100 points
Event 4.	Accuracy	130 points		= 100%	= 100 points

Total = 400 points

Average caster :

Event 1.	100 metres,	105 metres	= 205 metres	= 74.54%	= 74.54 points
Event 2.	115 metres,	112 metres	= 227 metres	= 74.42%	= 74.42 points
Event 3.	100 metres,	98 metres	= 198 metres	= 80.48%	= 80.48 points
Event 4.	Accuracy	100 points		= 76.92%	= 76.92 points

Total = 306.36 points

NOTE – Scoring based on two (2) decimal points.