

OFFICIAL RULES 2023

54th Annual Bonanza Sunday 29 January 2023



PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY AND KEEP THEM SAFE, WRIST BANDS WILL NOT BE REPLACED NOR REFUNDS GIVEN. ENTRY FEES FOR ALL COMPETITORS \$30 PER ROD OR HANDLINE

- CONFIRM THE RULES BEFORE** you begin fishing, make certain you are clear on the rules. If in doubt, ask an official before you start, as no warnings will be given. Any competitor who commits a breach of any of the rules will be disqualified.
- CONTEST START** Competitors are permitted to site themselves at their desired fishing position on the beach prior to 6:30am. However, as this contest does not officially start until 6:30am, any competitor who is found to be fishing after sunrise and before 6:30am on the day of the competition will be automatically disqualified.
- FISHING HOURS** 6:30am-1pm only. Final weigh-in closes at 2pm.
- ROD TAGS** Contestants will be issued with a Rod Tag for each rod / handline registered and has an Official Registration ID Number. The tag must be attached to the rod / handline at all times and is not transferable between contestants. Random checks may be done before and during the contest hours. After the close of fishing, deposit your rod tag to the nearest beach warden or at the weigh station. Spot prizes will be drawn and winners will be notified.
- WRIST BAND** Do not lose your identification wristband as you will be required to be wearing one at the fishing and weigh station to make identification easy. In the event the total number of fish caught is insufficient to satisfy all sponsor's prizes any remaining will be drawn at the RFCC Headquarters. Keep your wristband after the competition as identification for when receiving prizes. Failure to produce your wristband or entry receipt will result in a redraw.
- TIDES FOR THE CONTEST** High tide is 2:04am (1.6 meters), low tide is 8:04am (0.29 meters), high tide 2:29pm (1.7 meters).
- BOUNDARIES** Fishing may only take place between the eastern bank of the Waitahanui Stream mouth, Otamarakau to the Matata Domain south. Event boundaries will be marked by flags and / or signage.
- BEACH WARDENS CERTIFICATION OF CATCHES** Fish catches must be taken to closest beach warden who will tag the fish providing eligibility rules met. Catch must still be fresh being presented to warden as soon as practical after landing.
- WEIGHING FISH** Anglers must present their own catch to the weigh station. Only tagged fish with an official wardens tag will be accepted. Fish may be weighed at the contest headquarters any time between 9:30am and 2pm. Contestants must be in the weigh-in queue by 2pm. Non compliance will lead to disqualification.
- HEADQUARTER (HQ)** Contest headquarters and official weigh station is at the Matata Tennis Club, 30 Arawa Street, Matata.
- NON COMPETITORS** Any non competitor fishing with a competitor renders such competitor liable for disqualification. Also, a competitor fishing with an unregistered rod or handline during the contest will be disqualified.
- TACKLE** Only rods or handlines are permitted. Lines must not be taken out by surfboards or other flotation devices; by swimming, kontikis, drones, bait mortars etc. The use of spinners and lures are permitted.
- CASTING** A more competent person may cast for others, but each competitor must play and land their own fish. Assistance in the gaffing of large fish is permitted.
- BREACH OF RULES** Competitors should report any breach of these rules to a beach warden or contest organiser. This is your competition and you can assist by ensuring there is fair play at all times. There may be at times roving RFCC patrols.
- FINAL AUTHORITY** The decision of the Bonanza Committee will be final.
- CONTEST ORGANISERS** have the right to change, delete or add any rule prior to the commencement of the contest, including alteration to the fishing time and contest boundaries. All reasonable measures will be taken to notify contestants of such changes.
- COLLECTION OF WEIGH IN FISH** The club lays no claim to any fish caught. Please collect your own fish after weigh in.
- DO NOT LITTER** Please take away your rubbish and please do not leave empty bottles on the beach - use bins provided at weigh in.
- PARKING** no parking at the Tennis Club grounds and keep the Fire Station entry and carpark clear. Please do not park or drive on the sand dunes.
- MPI RULES** Unless otherwise specified all fish must comply with Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations.
- SPECIES LIMITS** Only three fish per species per ticket can be weighed in.
- KAHAWAI SECTION** Minimum lengths - 35cm for open section, no size limit for children's section.
- ALL OTHER SPECIES SECTION** Only fin fish eligible. NO SHARKS OR RAYS.
- CHILDREN'S SECTION** Children 16 and under as at 29 January 2023. Any fish caught by a child entered in the children's section that is eligible for a greater prize in the open section will be automatically placed in the open section by the Bonanza Committee. Any fish moved from the children's section to the open section will no longer be eligible for any prizes under the children's section.
- CASH PRIZES** Any cash prize not won remains the property of the Rotorua Fishing and Casting Club Inc and will not be transferred between sections or drawn.
- PHOTOGRAPHS** Photos may be taken by Bonanza personnel during the contest and used for publicity and similar purposes. By entering this competition contestants understand and give permission for such.