

Matamata Fishing Club



Handbook Update August 2025



Introduction:

Welcome to the Matamata Fishing Club

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, and the efforts of the others concerned, it is possible for our club to present this Handbook for the guidance of all club members.

Within the pages of this Handbook you will find the rules for all our club's fishing sections. These rules will fully explain how the club operates fishing wise, and what awards/trophies you can fish for. Competition dates are noted in each of the club's newsletters as well as the other activities which we organise from time to time. The newsletter is published monthly and as well as the above, it carries the current news and up to date competition results and points tables.

If you are a new member, we hope this Handbook will introduce you to the way our club operates and we hope that we will soon see your name on our competition results and your face at our upcoming club functions.

If you are a club member, please read this Handbook carefully as so to re-familiarise yourself with the contents as each and every page is for your benefit.

Good luck and good fishing for the season



Rules for Club Competitions

1. ALL FISH presented at the weigh in MUST be gutted and gilled and must weigh a minimum of 400 grams (snapper must weigh 500 grams gutted and gilled) with the exception of fish under the management of MAF Regulations, i.e. Length.
2. Fish presented to be weighed in a “Green” state will suffer a 20% weight penalty for point’s purposes with the exception, if the fish is a prospective club record or heaviest fish for the season.
3. Only two rods or handlines may be used with only two hooks per rod or handline per fisherman. Treble hooks are only permitted on artificial lures. Only one set of ganged hooks (2) permitted per line, excluding trolling for sport fish. No nets or longlines to be used.
4. Fish caught are to be weighed at the stated weigh-in station and must be presented at the stated time. Once fish are presented they are considered to be eligible for weighing. Fishermen arriving after the weigh-in close-off time will not be permitted to weigh their catch unless a suitable excuse is accepted by the committee.
5. **UNDERSIZE FISH.** Fish under the management of MAF as regards to length, if when presented at the weigh-in, are deemed to be underside, a demerit of 70 points will apply, Kahawai must be 40cm in length
6. a - MAF bag limits and fishing restrictions are to be adhered to
b – IGFA Sport Fishing restrictions are to be adhered to
c – Trout Fishing Licence required at all times

7. BAG LIMITS: no angler may weigh in more than 4 fish in each species category, with the exception of Kingfish under rule 8.
8. BAG AND WEIGHT LIMITS FOR KINGFISH: Kingfish must exceed 75cm in length before being eligible to be weighed in a club competition. Only three (3) Kingfish per fisherman may be presented for weighing at any one club competition.
9. The following marine species are neither eligible for weighing during club competitions or for awards or records: hagfish (blind eels), conger eels, moray eels, squid, octopus, crayfish, crabs and marine mammals.
10. NUMBER OF COMPETITIONS: the club will hold nine (9) competitions in any one year. Points from eight (8) competitions count towards the total points for the year.
11. Any one fish can be eligible for one prize only. An angler can receive more than one prize but not with the same fish.
12. All eels must be caught in freshwater.
13. A junior member is aged under 16 at the start of season. A junior will fish the whole season in which they turn 17.
14. WEIGH CERTIFICATES with proof of certified scales must be presented within 30 days of the catch to weigh master or Club Captain.
15. PRESENTATION of Fish – If the weighmaster considers any fish presented to the weigh station are not fit for human consumption, they can refuse to accept that fish.

16. BOAT CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP - all current season boat points earned for the boat, belong to the boat and are not attached to a person. If the boat (e.g. boat A) is sold mid-season, the boat points stay with that boat (boat A). If the prior owner of that boat (boat A) purchases a new boat (boat B), the points do not transfer to their new boat (boat B). If the original boat (boat A) is purchased by another club member, the boat stays in the club competition and the points that have already accumulated for the current season will remain with that boat (boat A). Boat points differ to fish points which are allocated to relevant angler.

17. FISHING BOUNDARIES – ***For this current Fishing Season 2025 – 2026 the Boundaries has been removed – This will be discussed again at the August 2026 AGM*** The Club has a 155 km radius from the Matamata Post Office as the Fishing Boundary as per map in the back of this book. To fish outside this Boundary the angler will give his / her intention in the form of a text or email to the Weigh Master or Fishing Club email address on the first day of the competition. Every Angler will be able to fish outside the boundary twice (2) times per fishing season. If no fish are caught outside the Boundary this will still count as a boundary Crossings. Any fish caught outside of the boundary with more than 2 Crossings will have NO points rewarded to them.

18. DRONE FISHING – Must be use with only (2) two hooks per rod or handline per fisherman, NO Long lines. No fish points will go towards Landbase Points. There will be a category in selected competitions for any fish caught with the help of a drone. Please advise the Weigh Master when weighing these fish in.

19. ELECTRIC REELS - may be used if you have a physical disability or only in deep water when fishing for Deepwater Species i.e. Blue Nose, Hapuka, Gemfish & Bass



Competition Points System

- Points will be awarded to each fish weighed at a club competition according to which category it falls into
- Fish are to be presented gutted and gilled
- Fish not gutted and gilled will incur a 20% weight penalty
- MAF limits apply to all weight, bag limits, length etc
- IGFA Sport Fishing restrictions are to be adhered to
- Trout Fishing Licence required at all times
- Only 4 of each species may be weighed (except 3 Kingfish)
- A maximum of 24 finfish for a two day competition

1. Category 1 (20 Points per kilo)

• Snapper (min weight 500gm)	• Kahawai (min length 40cm)
• Tarakihi	• Gurnard
• Red Snapper	• Trevally
• John Dory	• Trout

2. Category 2 (10 Points per kilo)

• Billfish	• Kingfish (min length 75cm)
• Blue Cod	• Porae
• Mackerel	• Moki
• Freshwater Eel	• Maomao
• Hapuka and Bass	• Parore
• Skip jack	• Albacore

3. Category 3 (5 Points per fish over 1.0kg)

• Barracouta	
--------------	--

Other species will be assigned categories at the discretion of the committee as and when necessary.

Bonus points will be awarded at 25 points per qualifying fish as per the following list:

Species	Qualifying Weight
Snapper	5.0kg
Kahawai	2.5kg
Trevally	3.0kg
Kingfish	10.0kg
John Dory	2.0kg
Hapuka / Bass	30.0kg
Trout	2.5kg
Yellowfin / BlueFin Tuna	25.0kg



Heaviest Fish Rules

The Club's fishing season commences 1st August and concludes at 6pm on the 31st July. Fish are able to be caught anywhere, anytime in New Zealand and a weigh docket / receipt with proof of certified scales within 30 days of the catch must be presented when claiming credit for the fish. NO Points will be given to a fish caught outside of a Competition.



Applications for Club Records

For fish weighed outside of competitions, you may weigh your fish by contacting one of club weighmasters. If you are unsure whether your fish qualifies for a record, do not hesitate to contact the club captain or weighmaster as he/she has a complete up-to-date record of these. Club records are kept in the following categories:
Saltwater Boat, Saltwater Shore, Freshwater.

If your fish does qualify, then fill in the form with the information required and then hand it to the Club Captain or leave it with a committee member as soon as possible. If you do not have your form on you when your catch is made, get a Courtesy Weigh Certificate from the other club's weighmaster or have a storekeeper sign a piece of paper with the fish's weight, the place where it was weighed and the date. Staple this to the application form and fill in the remainder before passing to the Club Captain.

Our Club will accept weigh certificates from other recognised fishing clubs and may accept certificates from storekeepers, with proof of certified scales at the committee's discretion.

NOTE: Our Club will also accept fish for club records on the following conditions: Whole weight and then gutted and gilled.



Sport Fishing Rules

All Sport Fish points are to be collected during our Fishing Competition ONLY, The following fish qualify for points towards this trophy on the basis of one point per kilo of whole fish, rounded up or down.

Fish are able to be caught within the agreed boundary set as per the committee at the time; NO Sport Fish Points will be collected if outside of a competition weekend. A Tag & Release Marlin around 100.0kg or more with a photo as proof and a Certificate for Tag and Release will receive 100 Sport Fish points

Fish	Minimum Weight
Tag & Release Marlin	100.0kg
Marlin	90.0kg
Tuna	20.0kg
Kingfish	10.0kg
Shortbilled Spearfish	10.0kg
Albacore	10.0kg
Snapper	5.0kg
Mahimahi	5.0kg
Kahawai	2.5kg
Trout	2.5kg



Annual Trophies

Remember that the club has several trophies awarded each season for the heaviest fish of that species caught each season. Even though your fish may not be a club record, it may still be the heaviest fish for the season. These can be weighed in at any time during the season, not only on club competition days (study the club's list of trophies to see which fish qualify for annual awards)



Trophy List

The following is a list of cups, trophies and awards that can be won by club members during any one season. A season commences on August 1st and concludes on July 31st the following year. A senior member is any member over 16, a junior member is one who is under the age at the commencement of a season. All fishermen are eligible to compete for all trophies etc, with the exception of those specifically open to women or junior members.

1. **Matamata Sports Centre Trophy:** Boat Champion, awarded to the fisherman who is awarded the most points in the Boat section in eight competitions over the season.
2. **Colchester Engineering Ltd Trophy:** Shore Champion, awarded to the fisherman who is awarded the most points in the Shore Section in eight competitions over the season.
3. **Harry Lowe Trophy:** Freshwater Champion, awarded to the fisherman who is awarded the most points in the Freshwater Section in eight competitions over the season.
4. **R & M Craig Cup:** Junior Champion, awarded to the fisherman who is awarded the most points in the Junior Section in eight competitions over the season.

5. **RJ and DG Sinclair Tray:** Women's Champion, awarded to the fisherwoman who is awarded the most points in the Women's Section in eight competitions over the season.
6. **Vern Heydon Trophy:** awarded to the fisherman who catches the largest Snapper from the boat during the season.
7. **Vaughan Mitchell Trophy:** awarded to the fisherman who catches the largest snapper from the shore during the season.
8. **Matamata Club Inc Cup:** awarded to the fisherman who catches the largest trout during the season.
9. **G Oliver Trophy:** awarded to the fisherman who lands the largest fish from a boat (other than snapper) during the season (excludes Snapper and game fish).
10. **Paramount Tyres (MTM):** Species Shield, awarded to the fisherman who catches the most species during the season.
11. **Anchor Products Trophy:** awarded to the fisherman who earns the most points in any one competition during the season.
12. **Hazelton Trophy:** awarded to the angler who catches the largest fish from the shore (other than Snapper) during the season.
13. **Couta Cup:** awarded by Cameron Old for the largest Barracouta during the season.
14. **Fishest Story Trophy: Adriatic Propeller:** awarded to the person(s) who at the discretion of the committee deserves this prized trophy.
15. **Matamata Club Inc: Game fishing Trophy:** awarded to the Matamata Club Inc member that catches the largest game fish during the season.
16. **Matamata Fishing Club President's Cup:** awarded to the member who the president considers has made an outstanding contribution to the well-being of the Club by way of administration activities, voluntary work, and promotion of the sport or in recognition of an outstanding fishing achievement.
17. **The Burly Bat:** presented to the club member who does the most "stirring" during the season.
18. **J Swap Contractors Trophy:** awarded to the boat which gains the most points in club competitions
19. **Wills Sport Fishing Trophy:** awarded to the angler with the most points during the season in the sports fishing section.

20. **B & A Lasenby /Colville Trophy:** awarded to the angler that catches the heaviest Kingfish during the season.
21. **Crabb Family Trophy:** awarded to the angler landing the heaviest billfish for the season.
22. **K Maisey Trophy:** awarded to the angler landing the heaviest Tuna for the season (excluding Skipjack and Albacore).
23. **Elphick Trophy:** awarded to the junior angler with the most points for Trout in the Freshwater Junior section.
24. **Hard Luck Shoe:** presented by Dave Sutherland for the “Hard luck story of the year”
25. **Bevege International Trophy:** awarded to the angler landing the heaviest fish overseas.
26. **Time & Tide Trophy:** awarded to the heaviest Game Fish in the March Competition.
27. **Hooton Tag and Release Trophy:** awarded to the heaviest tag and release for the season.
28. **Heaviest Fish Caught for a Junior:** awarded to the heaviest fish caught for a junior for the season.
29. **George Woolsey Cup:** awarded to most popular person / Character / Good sort of the club
30. **Fort Cup:** awarded to a Junior who weighs in the heaviest Eel for the season
31. **Dench Family Landbase Average Weight** awarded to the average weight for all fish caught Landbase for the season
32. **Dench Family Soft Bait** - awarded to the average weight for all fish caught on soft bait for the season
33. **Dion Oleary Trophy** - awarded to the average weight for all fish caught by a Junior for the season
34. **Kerry Mckinley's Most Meritorious Catch** - awarded to the angler who lands a meritorious catch for the season
35. **Kane Kayak Cup** - Kayak Champion, awarded to the fisherman who is awarded the most points in the Kayak Section in eight competitions over the season.



New Zealand Game Fish and other Fish Records

Please note that at the present time the Matamata Fishing Club is not a recognised Game Fishing Club so we are not able to process any New Zealand record fish. If you are interested in game fishing and attempting to catch a record fish, we recommend that you join one of the Game Fish Clubs nearest to where you fish.



Club Pins and Honour Board

If you are lucky enough to land a Snapper over 20lb (9.075kg), you will be awarded a silver pin plus have your name placed on our Snapper Honours Board. These fish can be caught at any time.



Matamata Fishing Club

Application for Heaviest Fish

Date: _____

Name: _____

Membership Number: _____

Fish Caught: _____

Whole Weight: _____

Gutted & Gilled Weight: _____

Club Captain Signature: _____

Weigh Master Signature: _____

Where weighed in: _____

Scales Certified: Yes / No

Office Use:

Entered as Club Record if applicable: Yes / No

Points Master Signature:



Matamata Fishing Club

Change of Boat Ownership

I _____ Member Name

Have changed my current boat named below

To a new boat named below

This took place on the _____ Date

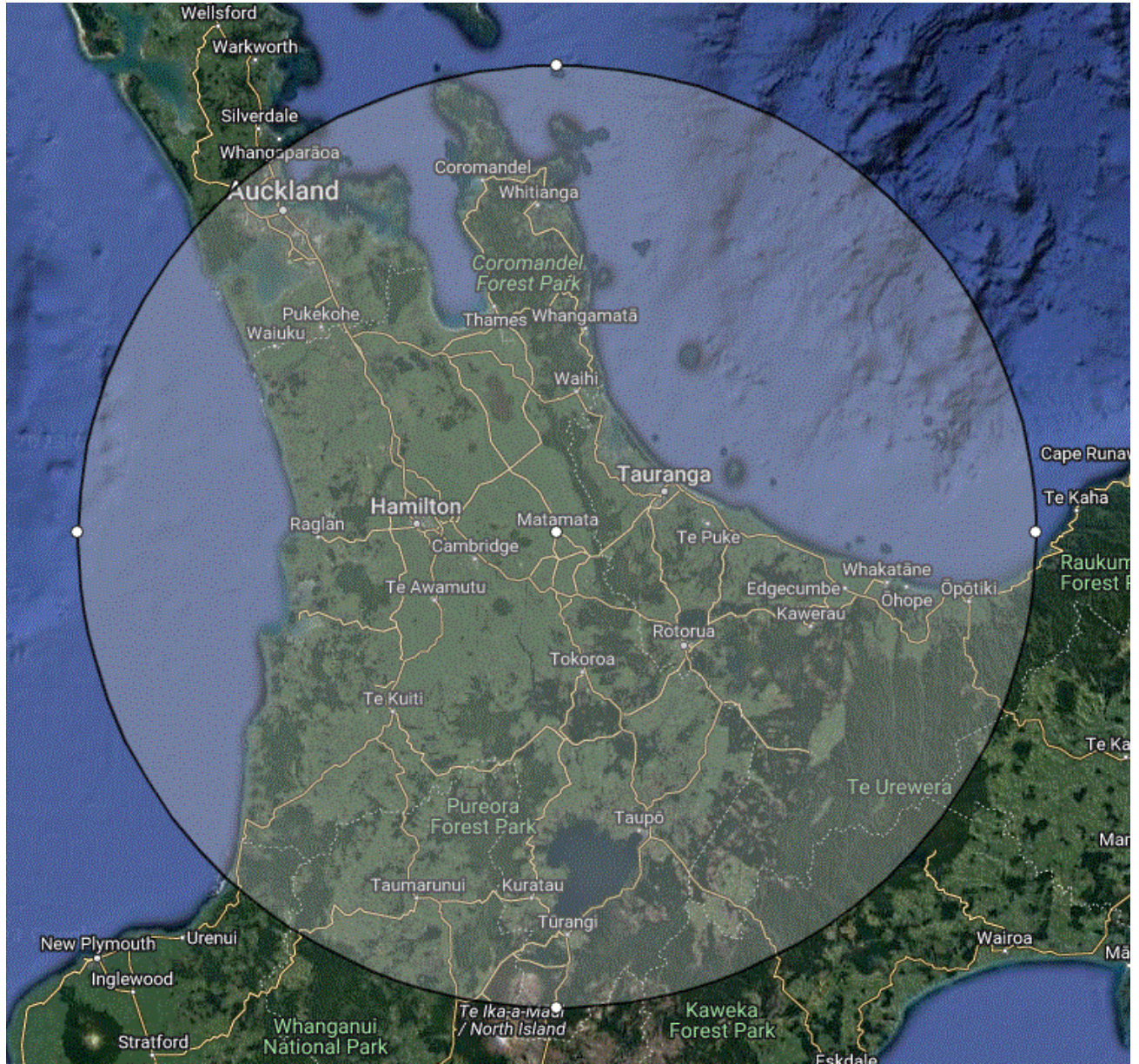
- I acknowledge that all current boats points received from my old boat have now stopped as per the changeover date and any new boat points now will start from my new boat.
- I acknowledge that if another Member from the Matamata Fishing club has purchase my old boat, all current boat points from the start of the fishing season to the changeover date, will now become theirs due to all boat points staying with the boat for that current Fishing Season.

Members Signature & Date Required below

A Matamata Fishing Club Committee Member Signature & Date Required below

Matamata Fishing Club Fishing Boundary

*For this current Fishing Season 2025 – 2026 the Boundaries has been removed
– This will be discussed again at the August 2026 AGM*



Firth of Thames Area – Fish caught in the below area are eligible for a Firth of Thames prize – Please advise the weigh master at weigh in

