



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION N.S.W. BRANCH
MODEL RULES FOR TOURNAMENTS / CONVENTIONS

ANSA encourages all affiliated clubs to host tournaments and conventions – not just for their own members but for the broader ANSA membership and the general fishing public. Tournaments and conventions are a great way to foster and promote the spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie of ANSA and to promote your own club within the local community.

However these are certain protocols that need to be followed by any club intent on hosting a tournament of convention. Most of the protocols are just common sense to make sure the event functions the way it should - safe and enjoyable. There are however some aspects of risk management that are essential to ensure the safety and wellbeing of competitors and to afford liability protection to the host club and its committee.

If the tournament or convention is to be officially sanctioned by ANSA then there are some rules and conditions which must be complied with. These are suitably highlighted in red

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR ENTRY FORM AND RULES

The President of **(host club)** invites all ANSA affiliated clubs and their members to attend the **(location)** convention.

1. VENUE

2. DATE

3. ENTRY FEES

Catered Senior \$ Junior \$ Family \$
Cost includes

Uncatered Senior \$ Junior \$ Family\$

(If camp site accommodation is to be included – show detail here)

4. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES.....

5. LATE ENTRIES

On a strictly uncatered basis only.

(Extenuating circumstances left to discretion of host club)

6. DISPUTES/ SAFETY COMMITTEE (Compulsory inclusion for all ANSA Sanctioned events)

To be established and named by the host club. The committee will adjudicate on any dispute or breach of rules by a competitor or participating club and also to exercise the discretion to suspend or cancel any section of the convention competition in the interest of competitor safety due to inclement weather. It is imperative that the safety and wellbeing of competitors is managed responsibly by the committee. Clubs are encouraged to include a member of the ANSA NSW Branch committee on the disputes/ safety committee – if in attendance.

7. BOUNDARIES

North boundary ...**(details)**.....

South boundary ...**(details)**.....

All boats will be required to use launching facilities within the designated boundaries, except where entry bars, seaways are declared dangerous by the Safety Committee in which case the host club reserves the right to nominate alternative facilities.

8. LINE CLASSES / TACKLE

All ANSA line classes are eligible.

All lines, doubles, traces or leaders can be subject to inspection and measurement at the weighmaster / recorder's discretion.

The inclusion of an All Tackle "Trophy Length" Division and the use of breakaway line combination rigs to promote capture and release practices is encouraged.

The use of 1kg line in rock fishing sections is discouraged in the interest of member safety and conservation.

For tagging events the use of light line is discouraged to enhance fish survival.

The use of circle hooks is encouraged. Conversely the use of stainless hooks is discouraged.

9. SPECIES

All species as listed in the eligible species list in the current edition of the ANSA rulebook are eligible to be weighed in or measured for All Tackle "Trophy Length" **(The host club at its discretion may wish to exclude certain species from the convention and should notify all contestants accordingly)**

10. POINT SCORING

Point scoring will be as per ANSA rules ie weight of fish x fighting factor x 100 divided by line class.

A minimum point score of 50 points will apply for all line class captures.

(The host club may tailor the minimum points score to suit specific needs eg lower minimum point score for juniors or differentiation for salt and freshwater captures or to establish a unique point scoring formulae for capture and release and or length only)

11. FISHING TIMES

Fishing or burlyng cannot commence prior to **(time/day/date)** and will continue until **(time/day/date)**.

12. WEIGH STATION

Weigh station will be open daily from **(times to designated by host club)** until **(time)** with the final weigh in closing at **(time)** on the last day. All fish not in the roped off weigh in area by this time shall not be accepted for the convention. The competitor must be present when the fish is weighed and make available the fishing tackle if required - see rule 8. Any /all fish may be tail docked following weighing.

13. UNWANTED SPECIES

All unwanted species must be disposed of correctly after weighing. Correct disposal shall be the sole responsibility of the angler concerned and failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification of the competitor and the competitor's club. The taking of unwanted species is strongly discouraged. **(ANSA NSW strongly urges all host clubs to remove unwanted species from the eligible species list.)**

14. TAG & RELEASE

All tagging will conform with ANSA point scoring and only those species on the current tagging list that are recognized in NSW will be eligible.

The maximum points allowed will be **(number - host club discretion)** per species. Details of fish tagged are to be handed to the weighmaster daily and by **(time)** on the final day.

15. RADIOS

Details of general communication and emergency channels for both 27MHz and VHF networks must be must be provided. All general communications are to be conducted on the appropriate channels with the emergency channels kept clear for genuine emergencies. Proper radio courtesy and conduct is mandatory. **(Host club may need to vary channel frequencies to comply with local requirements)**

16. BRIEFING & REGISTRATION **(Compulsory inclusion for all ANSA Sanctioned events)**

Competitors are required to register at the official location on arrival at the convention centre and advise details of crews and boats etc. A briefing for competitors regarding rules, weather conditions and restrictions on any events due to inclement weather will be held on the opening evening of the convention or as needed **(ANSA NSW strongly urges host clubs to have a form available for all boat owners to complete detailing boat description, call sign, mobile phone number, registration details of boat - car - trailer and who to contact by phone in event of emergency)**

17. TROPHIES

Trophies will be awarded for the following sections -

Highest point scoring fish	Bluewater
"	"
"	"
"	Rocks

“	“	“	Beach
“	“	“	Estuary
“	“	“	Freshwater
“	“	“	Tag & Release
“	“	“	Junior Angler
“	“	“	Lady Angler

(Include other trophies and sections as decided by the host club. ANSA NSW encourages the inclusion of an All Tackle “Trophy Length” trophy but this is optional for the determination of Champion Club. The sections eligible for the ANSA Convention Circuit should be clearly identified)

18. CHAMPION CLUB

The method for determination of champion club will be as follows:

The 5 highest point scoring fish of each section shall be awarded points on a 5-4-3-2-1 basis. For tag & release it shall be the 5 highest point scoring anglers. The points so awarded for each section are then totaled and the club with the highest aggregate point score declared the champion club. List the sections contributing to the champion club if they are different from 17 above.

19. PROTESTS

Any protest must be made in writing and handed to the convention disputes committee by midnight of that particular day except on the last day when they must be handed in by (time) and within at least 30 minutes of the result being declared.

20. CONDUCT

Competitors are required to observe courtesy and etiquette at all times to fellow competitors and the general public.

21. COMPLIANCE

All competitors must comply with any rules or regulations laid down or in force during the convention by the host club or any statutory body, local government or other government body. Commercial fishers must declare their amateur status to the host club at the time of entry and must cover LFB numbers on their vessel. Any fish caught during the convention cannot be sold and must comply with all recreational size and bag limits. Fishing must not take place in areas closed to fishing eg marine park sanctuary zones.

22. ANSA CODE OF PRACTICE

All actions and activities undertaken by ANSA Clubs and members in connection with a sanctioned convention should be pursuant with the ANSA National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sportfishing. Details of the COP are available on the ANSA National website – www.ansa.com.au

23. MEAL TIMES

Meal times will be **(as notified by the host club)** and meal tickets must be presented before entrants collect food. No ticket – no meal. Competitors need to bring their own utensils – plates, cups cutlery etc

24. BOATING SAFETY (Compulsory inclusion for all ANSA Sanctioned events)

All boats must comply with safety requirements as laid down by NSW Maritime. Any boat not complying with these regulations will risk disqualification. The Safety Committee reserves the right to inspect any boat to ensure compliance.

Ensure you have sufficient approved lifejackets for all aboard the boat and everyone on board knows where they are located and how and when to use them. A lifejacket can be the difference between survival and disaster in a boating accident. Anglers are required by law to wear a lifejacket when directed by the master of the vessel, or in the following situations:

- Boats less than 4.8m:
 - At all times by anyone under the age of 12;
 - On open (coastal) waters including when crossing a coastal bar;
 - When boating alone or at night, or on alpine waters, or when being towed.
- Boats 4.8 – 8.0m:
 - When crossing a coastal bar;
 - When being towed;
 - When wearing waders on alpine waters;
 - If under age of 12, when in an open area of a vessel when underway.
- Boats greater than 8.0m:
 - When being towed;
 - When crossing a coastal bar.
- Canoes and kayaks:
 - On enclosed waters more than 100m from shore;
 - On open (coastal) waters, including when crossing a coastal bar.

Further information on lifejacket laws can be found at www.lifejacketwearit.com.au

Alcohol and boating don't mix. The blood alcohol limit on the water is the same as on the roads 0.05% - be mindful the combined impact of wind, sun and wave action multiply the effect of alcohol. Your chances of disorientation and drowning are increased - this applies to everyone, the skipper, crew and passengers.

Always check the weather (Weather Infoline 1900 937107) and log your boat on and off with the local Coast Guard or Coastal Patrol base. Keep your radio alert for weather changes or warnings. Do not hesitate to seek assistance if you need it. Do not rely solely on a mobile phone for help as the range of most mobile phones is limited at sea.

Most boating accidents involve recreational craft of less than 6 metres. It is important you know the wind and wave limits of your boat and don't take chances in conditions you might not be able to handle. If you do capsize, stay with the boat and your chances of rescue are improved.

25. ROCK FISHING SAFETY (Compulsory inclusion for all ANSA Sanctioned saltwater events)

Rock Fishing can be dangerous. Competitors fishing the rocks and beach should observe the following basic rules –

Never fish by yourself. Fish in a group of at least 3 people and within sight of each other. Inform others of your plans – always let family or friends know where you are going and when you will be back. If some one is washed in, one person should ideally stay and help while the other alerts emergency services. Dial 000 or 112 on mobile to access emergency services.

Wear the right gear. Light clothing such as shorts and a spray jacket or a wet suit will let you swim more easily if you are washed in. Jumpers can be heavy and difficult to take off in the water. Wear sandals and sandshoes with non slip soles or with cleats to suit the rock surface. Wear a lifejacket or buoyancy vest and bring something buoyant that can be easily thrown and held onto to help stay afloat. Carry ropes and torches.

Observe first- fish later. Spend some time watching your intended spot to get an idea of the conditions over a full swell/wave cycle. Know the tides as wave conditions can worsen with a rising tide. Plan an escape route in case you are washed in. Stay calm if you are washed in – swim away from the rocks and look for a safe place to come ashore or stay afloat until help comes. Stay alert – never turn your back on the sea. If waves, weather or swell threaten your fishing spot then leave immediately.

Avoid fishing in exposed locations during rough or rising seas. Make sure you are aware of local weather, swell and tidal conditions before going fishing. Call the Weather Infoline on 1900 937107. Be aware that conditions can and do change dramatically and quickly.

26. DISCLAIMER (Compulsory inclusion for all ANSA Sanctioned events)

The **(host club)** and ANSA NSW Branch will not be responsible for any accident or injury during the entire convention. Competitors enter entirely at their own risk.

27 INSURANCE. (Compulsory inclusion for all ANSA Sanctioned events)

Although a general disclaimer is conveyed in rule 26 all host clubs are to ensure that they carry sufficient public risk liability insurance as a safeguard against any contingency. Evidence of current public liability insurance with a cover of not less than \$10million must be provided to the ANSA NSW Branch committee as a condition precedent for official sanctioning. All financial members of ANSA NSW are covered for

defined accident insurance under the NSW Sporting Insurance Scheme. Details of any accident or pending claim should be notified to the ANSA NSW Secretary as soon as possible.

28 OTHER ISSUES

Rule variations or additions etc. While it remains the prerogative of the host club to vary and add to these model rules to suit the specific needs of the convention it is a safety and risk management imperative that clauses 6, 16, 24, 25, 26 & 27 be inclusions for all tournaments and conventions regardless of whether the event is sanctioned by the NSW Branch Committee..

Catering & Alcohol. Host clubs need to be aware of the numbers attending and ensure that adequate catering arrangements and supplies are in hand and that good hygiene is practiced. Host clubs are also reminded of the need to be familiar with NSW laws and regulations regarding the responsible sale of food and alcohol and if necessary a permit or licence applied for and held to comply with local Council regulations.

Tackle & Safety Inspections. Random spot checks of boats, terminal tackle, lines etc should be carried out during the convention and not just on potential winners. This should eliminate any claim of prejudice.

Conduct. Conventions usually attract considerable cover from the media and members of the public especially at weigh in times. Every effort should be made to ensure that ANSA its clubs and their members are not brought into disrepute.

Convention Accreditation. All clubs are encouraged to have their events rated under the ANSA endorsed **Neatfish** process. Clubs can undertake a free self assessment of their event by visiting the www.neatfish.com website and simply following the instructions. For a fee of around \$100 you can then submit for an official accreditation. Such accreditation may assist with raising sponsor support and raising public awareness to the ANSA conservation ethos.

Marine / National Parks. Clubs need to be familiar with any fishing restrictions associated with local marine parks, national parks or reserves. If the fishing boundaries do extend into marine or national park jurisdiction then it is essential that local park management be consulted about what is or isn't allowed in terms of fishing competitions. It is imperative that all competitors are made aware of fishing restrictions and provided with map references. In some instances local park management will require the host club to apply for a permit to hold a competition in waters or land under its jurisdiction.

ANSA Convention Circuit (ACC) Competition. Clubs are encouraged to have their event structured to enable competitors generate points for the ACC Competition. Refer to the ANSA NSW website www.ansansw.com.au or the NSW Club Recorder for ACC competition details.

State Branch Assistance. The running of a successful convention can be a rewarding experience and usually a good source of revenue for the host club. The State Committee of ANSA will offer reasonable assistance where possible to the host club to make the convention a success for all concerned. Ideally the timing of conventions should be spread over the calendar year to avoid unnecessary competition between host clubs. It is appreciated that seasonal conditions are a major influence on the timing of conventions. It is a requisite that all ANSA conventions in NSW be sanctioned by the NSW Branch Committee. Host clubs should submit their proposed tournament / convention rules to the NSW Branch Secretary as early as possible for review by the Branch committee.

JRB 8/16