



APYAC Angling Rules 2026-2027

The primary purpose of the club is to encourage fishing within the Victorian Fisheries Rules (www.vfa.vic.gov.au) in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way and to provide a platform for like-minded people to exchange ideas and information and participate together in their passion for fishing. The club promotes a competitive spirit within a framework of friendship and cooperation amongst members where older more experienced members can have the opportunity to impart their knowledge to younger/newer less experienced members. We are an equal opportunity club, and encourage new members, children and women to participate.

General information

Fishing Competition for the season will be running across selected weekends; and commences at 12.01am on Saturday 5th September, ending at 2.00pm on Sunday 30th May.

Competition weekends have been diarised in advance, to allow anglers to plan their fishing calendars for the year. Weekend competitions have been decided on for the angling season to foster a more club-like environment, with Sunday afternoon gatherings at the club for all anglers and members alike.

Maximum 6 fish per calendar month can be entered into the seasonal fishing competition. Fish caught outside of these dates can still be entered for Tom Kells (longest snapper) or notable species (longest). Specific competition weekends can be also added to the monthly catch tally.

Boat and kayak hire is available through the club from the boat house after members complete the relevant boat / kayak handling course. Please contact boat house subcommittee for further details.

A real-time leader board is available to members for viewing online via our WhatsApp chat, or at the club.

Bait is available at the club where a member pays for via an honesty box situated above the chest freezer in the boat house. Various baits are available such as WA pilchards, squid, mussels and other seasonal baits when available.

We are actively seeking "Skippers" to be inducted in the use of our Club Boat – the Seahawk – which launches from St Kilda Marina.

Our WhatsApp Community with various groups can be accessed here:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JeyxufXAOOfMIXIZ4Ps4jtB>

Weather and webcam is also available to members via the APYAC website. www.apyac.org.au/weather-web-cam/.

Username: apyacwebsite

Password: D5%Q8^9yX##6

Boat licence testing is available on at Albert Park Lake and online www.victorianboattraining.com.au



Angling Rules

1. Competitions are restricted to Port Phillip Bay unless otherwise stated such as certain specific competitions.
2. A vessel is defined as anything that floats on water and is deemed to be legal for its intended use. This can include boats, kayaks, paddle boards, Jet skis and charter boats. Charter boats do not need to be registered but must be noted on entry details.
3. There are 2 categories to the seasonal competition which include the **In-House** which caters for anglers who launch a vessel from the boat house, launch a kayak or paddleboard (man-powered watercraft) anywhere in Port Phillip Bay; or land-based anglers anywhere in Port Phillip Bay. The other category is **Open** where members launch vessels (other than man-powered) away from the club but within Port Phillip Bay to go fishing.
4. Members who want to participate in the seasonal competition are required at the start of each season (or when they catch a first fish) to nominate which category they want to compete in. This is done once they decide to submit a snapper catch or other fish category. If the catch is from example the In-House as defined above then they are bound to that category for the rest of that season. Same applies if catch is from the open as defined above. If a member switches from in-house to open during the season, all fish caught will be classed as open. Members cannot switch from Open to In-House.
5. All fishing must comply with the provisions of Fisheries Law and Regulations and all other relevant Laws and Regulations.
6. It is hoped to ensure sustainability of species, all fish not required for your table will be returned to the Bay as soon as measured.
7. All scale fish will be measured for length on a measuring mat (brag mat) photos taken clearly showing length, date and time and forwarded to the nominated email or WhatsApp Group for competitions, along with the members full name and category (In-House / Open / Junior). Fish to be entered on the same day as caught/trip conclusion.
8. Only one photo per fish to be submitted. Maximum of 3 fish per trip to be submitted, maximum of 6 fish per month (per angler) to be submitted.
9. Competition weekends will allow for an additional 6 snapper per Angler, in addition to the monthly allowance
10. To be eligible for the competition all fish must be measured with the nose to the zero on the measuring mat, and dorsal fin to the top of the mat. Flat-bodied fish must be measured belly down and nose to the zero. Per Vic Fisheries Law and Regulations measure fish from tip of snout with mouth closed, to the end of the tail.





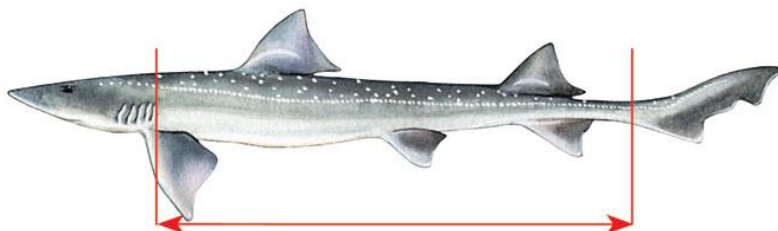
11. A code number may also be required in the picture when fish are entered in specific competitions.
12. The minimum length for Snapper will be 43 cm tip of nose to tip of tail (total length).
13. The points system is 4.3 points per Snapper of 43cm, and 0.1 point per 1cm thereafter. For example, a snapper length of 43 cm will accrue 4.3 point. 44cm will accrue 4.4 points, 52cm 5.2 points, 55cm will accrue 5.5 points, etc.
14. Only Snapper will be eligible to be measured for the seasonal Club Championship in both **Open** and **In House** categories. These include:
 - 1st **snapper** caught (in house OR open) from opening competition weekend
 - If the 1st snapper is not caught on opening weekend it can be caught from that date onward
 - Last **snapper** caught (in house OR open)
 - 1st snapper caught by a new member
 - Monthly junior angler
 - Seasonal longest **snapper** (Tom Kells Memorial Trophy)
 - Seasonal most points scored for number of catches of **snapper**

NOTE: in the interest of responsible fishing the “Seasonal most **snapper** caught” award has been removed. The Jack Pompei award will now be given to the most trips in a boat launched from the club.

15. **Whiting seasonal competition** is for the longest fish over 30 cm for in-house and open categories. There will be one prize for each awarded at the end of the season only.

16. **Other seasonal competition species:**

- **Flathead** is for the longest fish and prizes will be awarded for in-house and open categories at end of season only and must be caught in Port Phillip Bay and measure 30cm and over.
- Same applies for **Salmon, Pike, Bream, Mulloway and squid** etc except there is no category; just overall winner – Vic Fisheries minimum size limits apply – prizes awarded at the discretion of the Angling Committee
- **Gummy Shark** length of at least 45cm must be measured per Fisheries Rules and Laws For sharks, measure from the rear most gill slit to the base of the tail fin on any side of the body. For the leaderboard please measure from nose tip to tail tip per Snapper measurements



- Other sharks will be measured as per Fisheries Law and Regulations for the species.
- Squid will be measured by length of the hood, excluding head and legs.
- No Stingrays/Eagle Rays/Banjo Sharks may be entered for any competition



Summary of above competitions:

Competition	In-House	Open	Monthly	1st	2 nd	3rd
Seasonal Snapper points	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom Kells	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Ladies Snapper points	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Ladies Tom Kells	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Junior Longest Fish	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flathead longest fish	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Whiting longest fish	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Salmon longest fish	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Pike longest fish	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Gummy shark longest	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Secret length	N	N	N	Y	N	N
1st Snapper caught	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Last Snapper caught	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Most Snapper new member	N	N	N	Y	N	N

17. Adult female anglers and juniors cannot win both respective categories ie Overall and Ladies/Juniors categories.
18. Any incorrect entry, or photograph which has undergone digital manipulation, for example, photoshop, will be disqualified, which will mean a loss of points for that angler and a second offence will eliminate him/her from further competition participation; at the discretion of the Angling Committee.
19. If your photograph is damaged, blurry or the overall measurement of your fish is not clearly visible, the photograph will be disqualified. If you are not happy with the photograph, simply take another one
20. In the spirit of good club sportsmanship, The Angling Committee encourages anglers to record the closest mark to the point where fish are caught, and bait used.
21. Any breach of the angling laws could cost the Member all accrued points, at the discretion of the Angling Committee.
22. Any fish measured and sent outside of the 6 allocated snapper per month will not be counted towards your competition points tally. Maximum 6 fish per month can be entered (plus 6 snapper on the Max Coningsby, and Pot of Gold weekends)
23. If you've already sent in 6 snapper for the month; you may enter another "exceptional" length snapper to qualify for the Tom Kells award, however this will not be contributed to your annual points



24. Awards for specific (named) competition will be presented on the day of the competition end, rather than at the Annual Presentation Night. Winners must be present to receive awards or forfeit their prizes unless for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Angling Committee.
25. Vessels housed outside the club may be entered in the competition, provided they are registered with the Boathouse Captain or Scorer prior to the competition or commencement of member angling. All members are encouraged to fish
26. Maimed fish, such as being mutilated by a Shark or Seal; or partially/fully filleted will not be eligible.
27. A fish that has been landed on another person's rod will be credited to the person who lands the fish.
28. If any angler has knowledge of another angler breaking the rules, they are obliged to report the offence to the Angling Committee in writing within seven days of the offence occurring.
29. Special awards will be given for any "spectacular" or notable catches outside Port Phillip Bay (e.g., Marlin, Sailfish, Tuna and Barramundi as some Members venture into Country/Interstate/International locations), at the discretion of the Angling Committee.
30. More than six Members fishing outside the Club on a Club organised trip will constitute a competition with appropriate awards, at the discretion of the Angling Committee – prizes to be approved prior to competition on application.
31. Members may fish more than once on a given day, but fish may only be measured once on any day including most fish/longest bag. Members should be aware that multi-tripping can be illegal in certain circumstances and daily bag limits and fish entered must not be exceeded.
32. If two or more boats (from In-house OR Open) participate in any competition, this means that a scheduled competition will proceed, unless called off by 18:00 on the evening prior to the competition.
33. Only members can submit fish in competitions caught by themselves; not by guests or visitors, ie non-members; except for inter-club competitions whereby club members from invited clubs participate. Club members can enter fish caught by themselves on non-members boats
34. All **In House** and **Open** Competition fish must be measured, photo taken with length, date and time clearly visible and forwarded along with member full name and category (In-House, Open, or Junior) as soon as possible after the fish landed by the member angler that caught the fish.
35. Mixed bag prize which is given at specific seasonal competitions is defined as at least one species other than what is targeted depending on specific seasonal competition.
 - For **Snapper specific competitions**: snapper at or above 28cm (or minimum legal-size limit) can be included.
 - For the **Whiting specific competition**: whiting are excluded from the mix bag.

Order of priority is variety followed by number and finally length and if all criteria are equal the prize is shared or 2 prizes awarded which is up to the discretion of the Angling Committee.



36. To encourage **junior anglers**, <18-year old can enter snapper from the limit of 30cm and flathead from 30cm. Prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Angling Committee. Once fish in these sizes have been entered the junior angler can only be awarded prizes in the junior category. Otherwise, the same rules apply for Junior Championship and points scored by Juniors are eligible for Club Championship (therefore a Junior Member can become Club Champion provided no fish are entered in the respective categories below the adult angler's limits).
37. The rules concerning **In House** and **Open** categories for the 2026-2027 Angling Competition include specific club competition categories, as follows:
- Max Coningsby Trophy
 - Pot of Gold competition
 - Tiger Lyons Whiting competition
 - Lures & Plastics Mixed Bag Competition (includes separate kayak category)
 - Calamari Competition
 - Flathead Competition (includes separate kayak category)
- Please note that fish caught in specific competitions can win prizes in both specific and seasonal competitions. E.g.: Longest **snapper / Whiting / Flathead / Gummy shark / Salmon / Pike / Mulloway / Bream** and any **notable catches**.
38. The Max Coningsby Competition will be held over 4 days – Saturday 31st October to Tuesday 3rd November (Cup Day). Fish must be entered on same day as trip and all 4-days are eligible for competition. Maximum 3 Snapper per day over 43cm for eligibility, and maximum of 6 fish for the competition. Anglers must attend the November General Meeting on the Wednesday evening to claim prizes.
39. Pot of Gold, Tiger Lyons Whiting Competition, Calamari Competition and Flathead Frenzy, and all other Snapper Competitions will be fished on nominated weekends only. All fish must be measured in on the same day as the trip. Anglers must attend the end of competition afternoon on the Sunday at the club to claim prizes.
40. The Angling Committee may consider nominated competition date changes due to extenuating circumstances at their discretion
41. Angling Committee encourages new competitions and ideas – please bring forward your ideas. Additional competitions may be added mid-season (eg kayak competition; ladies fishing comp etc)
42. Anglers are limited for three prizes in total on Presentation Night.
43. Ad-hoc monthly prizes will be awarded at monthly BBQ's at the discretion of the Angling Committee.
44. Any issues that arise, that are not adequately covered by APYAC Angling Rules will be resolved by the Angling Committee.