

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
2023 LET'S FISH LAKE MAC FISHING COMPETITION

1. The Let's Fish Lake Mac fishing competition ("the Competition") is an open fishing competition.
2. The Competition is conducted by Lake Macquarie City Council.
3. The object of the Competition is the capture, measure, photograph and release of fish.
4. The Competition will be held over two days:
 - a. Day One: Saturday 18 November 2023; fishing will commence AEDT 0600 and conclude at AEDT 1900.
 - b. Day Two: Sunday 19 November 2023; fishing will commence AEDT 0600 and conclude AEDT 1500.
5. Registration fees for the Let's Fish Lake Mac fishing competition:
 - a. Adult entry AU\$25.00 plus postage and handling per entry.
 - b. Junior entry AU\$25.00 plus postage and handling per entry.
 - i. All junior entrants must be 16 years of age or under at the start of the calendar year.
6. All paid and registered competitors will receive a Let's Fish Lake Mac brag mat and limited-edition sticker.
7. Competitor refunds are at the discretion of the Event Organisers.
8. Registrations for the competition will open 0900 on Friday 29 September 2023 and close 1700 hours on Friday 17 November 2023 or until the stock of brag mats are sold, whichever occurs first.
9. Lake Macquarie City Council Privacy Policy:
 - a. We will only collect personal information directly from you, or your authorised agent.
 - b. The information collected will be for lawful purposes directly related to the functions of Council.
 - c. We will only request information that is necessary for the purpose of the collection. If you do not wish to provide personal information to us, Council may be unable to provide you with the services required. <https://www.lakemac.com.au/Privacy-Statement>
10. Registered anglers will be able to unsubscribe from Let's Fish Lake Mac e-mail updates and event media releases.
 - a. All registered anglers will receive the following compulsory emails:
 - i. confirmation of registration and welcome
 - ii. angler number and species list
 - iii. list of competition and prize draw winners
11. All paid and registered competitors will be entered in the Let's Fish Lake Mac Prize Draw.
 - a. Please see the Terms and Conditions of the Let's Fish Lake Mac Prize Draw for full details.

- b. The Let's Fish Lake Mac Prize Draw will open 0900 on Friday 29 September 2023 and close at 1700 on Friday 17 November 2023 or until the stock of brag mats are sold, whichever occurs first.
12. Registered competitors may enter one photograph per target species with a maximum upload of four (4) photographs per competitor. There will be four (4) separate target fish categories:
 - a. Bream: senior and junior categories
 - b. Flathead: senior and junior categories
 - c. Tailor: senior and junior categories
 - d. Whiting: senior and junior categories
13. All competitors must hold a valid fishing license if required as per NSW State Fisheries regulations. Competitors may be asked to produce proof of the license before prizes are awarded.
14. Competitor angler numbers will be available on entry to the Competition.
15. The Competition code word will be available on the website and via text and email on Friday, 17 November 2023 after 1900 AEDT.
16. Competitors must use the 2023 Let's Fish Lake Mac brag mat to measure and photograph their competition entries. No other measurement mats or devices will be allowed without prior authorization from the organizing Committee.
17. The Competition area encompasses the tidal waters of Lake Macquarie and all public beaches in the Lake Macquarie City Council area.
 - a. The Lake Macquarie tidal waters eastern boundary for watercraft (including boats, kayaks, canoes, PWC's and any other watercraft) is Lucy's Breakwall, Swansea Heads (fluorescent lifejacket safety sign on end of wall).
 - b. No fishing east of Lucy's Breakwall (offshore) for watercraft (including boats, kayaks, canoes, PWC's and any other watercraft).
 - c. Fishing is only permitted in areas open to the public.
 - d. Strictly no fishing permitted in Vales Point or Eraring Power Station waterways.
 - e. Ocean rock platform fishing east of Lucy's Breakwall is not permitted in the Competition.
 - i. However, fishing is permitted from Blacksmith's Breakwall.
 - f. Beach fishing is permitted from any Lake Macquarie City Council public beach including:
 - i. Blacksmiths Beach, Ungala Road, Blacksmiths NSW 2281
 - ii. Catherine Hill Bay Beach, Flowers Drive, Catherine Hill Bay NSW 2281
 - iii. Caves Beach, Caves Beach Road, Caves Beach NSW 2281
 - iv. Dudley Beach, Dudley Beach Road, Dudley NSW 2291
 - v. Redhead Beach, Beach Road, Redhead NSW 2290
18. Fishing hours for competing anglers will be:
 - a. Saturday, 18 November 2023 not before AEDT 0600 and cease AEDT 1900
 - b. Sunday, 19 November 2023 not before AEDT 0600 and cease AEDT 1500

19. Any fish caught outside of competition hours will be excluded from the competition.
20. Photographs of competition fish must be caught and photographed in daylight hours.
21. Photographs of competition fish taken in the dark will be excluded from the competition.
22. Photographs of competition fish taken with a flash will be excluded from the competition.
23. All fish measured and photographed on the brag mat must be positioned with the nose of the fish at the "0" marker. Any fish with the tail to the "0" marker will be excluded from the competition.
 - a. The dorsal fin must point towards the top of the brag mat. Any fish photographs submitted with the fish upside down (i.e. the dorsal fin to the bottom of the brag mat) will be excluded.
 - b. Flat fish are to be positioned belly down on the brag mat with the head to the "0".
24. Photographs must be of a live, non-mutilated fish.
25. Once the photograph has been taken the fish must be released as quickly as possible, carefully back into the water.
 - a. Any evidence of fish being killed after the photograph has been taken will see that fish ineligible for the competition. Any fish deemed to be dead or unable to be released by the Let's Fish Lake Mac Committee will be ineligible. Guidelines for best practice release methods can be found at http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/478053/nsw-recreational-fishing-catch-and-release-handbook.pdf
26. Any digital manipulation of photographs is prohibited and will result in instant disqualification of the competing angler.
27. It is the responsibility of the competing angler to ensure photographs are uploaded to the website correctly.
28. Photographs may **ONLY** be uploaded to the Let's Fish Lake Mac website. Any photographs received from competing anglers via email or Facebook will not be eligible for the target species photograph and release section of the Competition.
29. Four (4) photographs in total per competing angler can be uploaded.
30. Only one (1) photograph will be accepted per target species per competing angler.
31. To be eligible for judging all photographs must clearly display the competitor's angler number and the Competition codeword.
32. In the event more than one (1) photograph for a target species is uploaded to the website by a competing angler the first photograph received will be judged by the panel.
33. Photographs may be uploaded to the Let's Fish Lake Mac website by competitors from 30 minutes after official start time on Saturday, 18 November 2023 until 2100 on Sunday, 19 November 2023.
34. In the event of a competitor not uploading a fish photograph prior to 2100 hours on Sunday, 19 November 2023 the competitor will not be eligible for the target species photograph and release section of the Competition.
35. Competitors must complete the photo upload information page correctly and accurately.
 - a. All fish are measured at an overall length to the millimetre. From the "0" line to the tip of the tail.
 - b. Fish photos uploaded with the incorrect information may not be eligible for judging.

36. Any photographs sent to the Let's Fish Lake Mac fishing competition can be used for marketing or advertising purposes.
37. All fish must comply with NSW State Fisheries minimum lengths and bag limits. The Let's Fish Lake Mac organizing committee strongly recommends for all anglers to avoid targeting spawning or pre-spawning aggregations of fish stocks, and to avoid interactions with threatened fish and other threatened aquatic species.
38. Anglers may fish a maximum of 2 lines in the water at any one time.
39. Junior and senior Competitors may only enter fish caught by themselves.
40. Junior and senior Competitors may only enter a fish once in the competition.
41. Junior and senior Competitors who enter a fish more than once in the competition either by placing the same fish on another Competitor's brag mat or use another Competitor's angler number for the same fish will be excluded from the competition.
42. Netting with a hand-held landing net or a set of lip grips is the **only assistance** permissible to a competitor (junior or senior) in the capture of a fish. When using lip grips always support the belly of the fish.
43. We strongly recommend the use of knotless nets (eg Berkley catch and release rubber landing net) for landing of fish.
44. Boats, canoes and kayaks must comply with NSW Maritime safety requirements. Please ensure all boats, canoes, kayaks and trailers are free of noxious weeds, plants and their seeds before entering the waterway.
45. The organizers only recommend the use of Australian bait products and the use of imported baits such as frozen prawns is strictly prohibited.
46. All competitors are strictly advised to remove all rubbish from campsites and waterways and place them in the correct disposal areas/bins.
47. Where possible the organizers recommend the use of kayaks, canoes or electric motors to minimize the carbon footprint of the Competition.
48. The Competition is not open to commercial fishing vessels (recreation style charter vessels are permitted).
49. All fish must be caught on rod and reel or hand line with the number of hooks/lures as per NSW State Fisheries regulations. Electronic reels are not permitted for use except for persons with a disability.
50. Commercial fishing methods and techniques (nets, trawl, and longline) are not permitted.
51. Home aquarium fish are excluded from the competition.
52. Participants, competitors and observers:
 - a. acknowledge that fishing and boating are activities which contain elements of risk and danger;
 - b. acknowledge that the decision to participate in the Competition and the decision to go to sea is theirs alone;
 - c. accept full responsibility for their own safety and the risks and consequences of participating in the event;
 - d. hold Lake Macquarie City Council, its associated companies and contractors blameless;
 - e. release and discharge Lake Macquarie City Council, its associated companies and contractors from any liability; and

- f. indemnify Lake Macquarie City Council, its associated companies and contractors for any claims, actions, suits and court proceedings brought against it or any of them arising from the conduct of the event.

53. Competition Prizes:

The winning fish for the four (4) target species will be judged by overall length. That is from the "0" line to the tip of the tail.

a. Senior competition:

Senior prizes for each of the four (4) target species will be awarded to:

- i. First place for the longest fish overall;
- ii. Second place for the second longest fish overall;
- iii. Third place for the third longest fish overall;
- iv. Fourth place for the fourth longest fish overall.

b. Junior competition:

Junior prizes for each of the four (4) target species will be awarded to:

- i. First place for the longest fish overall;
- ii. Second place for the second longest fish overall;
- iii. Third place for the third longest fish overall;
- iv. Fourth place for the fourth longest fish overall.

- c. In the event of a tie (i.e. two or more fish of the same length) a countback will apply. The first fish photograph uploaded to the Let's Fish Lake Mac website will be awarded the prize. (For example, a photo uploaded at 4.55pm will win over a fish sent at 4.56pm and measuring the identical length.)

54. Mystery length prizes:

- a. There will be two separate mystery lengths for both senior and junior categories.

b. Senior competition:

- i. The following prize packs will be awarded to the senior mystery length winners in each of the four (4) target fish categories:
 - i. Mystery Length 1: Four (4) x \$800.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize packs.
 - ii. Mystery Length 2: Four (4) x \$400.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize packs plus Mako Eyewear Pack valued at \$356.00 RRP. Total prize value: \$756 RRP.

c. Junior competition:

- i. The following prize packs will be awarded to the junior mystery length winners in each of the four (4) target fish categories:
 - i. Mystery Length 1: Four (4) x \$500.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize packs
 - ii. Mystery Length 2: Four (4) x \$500.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize packs.

- d. The mystery lengths and target species will be forwarded to a Justice of the Peace by the Committee on Thursday, 16 November 2023.

- e. The mystery lengths will not be disclosed until the winners are announced on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.
 - f. In the event of a tie (i.e. two or more fish of the same mystery length or of the same metric distance away from the mystery length) a count-back will apply. The first fish photograph uploaded to the Let's Fish Lake Mac website will be awarded the prize. (For example, a photo uploaded at 4.55pm will win over a fish sent at 4.56pm and measuring the identical length.)
 - g. All mystery length winners will be ineligible to win either first, second or third prizes for their target species.
 - h. All mystery lengths will be longer than the minimum legal length as per NSW Fisheries regulations.
 - i. Example of mystery length calculation: Target fish is flathead and mystery length is 46.4mm. Two photos are submitted of flathead, one at 46.2mm and one at 46.7mm. If these two fish were the closest to the mystery length the winner would be 46.2mm.
 - j. The judging committee will be supplied with the complete list of mystery lengths at the close of photo uploads AEDT 2100 hours Sunday, 19 November 2023.
55. All prizes are not transferable.
56. All prizes are not redeemable for cash.
57. The winners and runners-up for each target fish category will be announced on letsfishlakemac.com.au Tuesday, 21 November 2023 and notified by email. They may also be contacted via telephone and mail.
58. The Competition prize pool is as follows:
- a. Senior:
 - i. Mystery Length 1: Four (4) x \$800.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - ii. Mystery Length 2: Four (4) x \$400.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack; plus Mako Eyewear Pack valued at \$356.00 RRP. Total prize value: \$756 RRP.
 - iii. First prize: Four (4) x \$650.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - iv. Second prize: Four (4) x \$450.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - v. Third prize: Four (4) x \$300.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - vi. Fourth prize: Four (4) x \$100.00 BCF gift card.
 - b. Junior
 - i. Mystery Length 1: Four (4) x \$500.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - ii. Mystery Length 2: Four (4) x \$500.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - iii. First prize: Four (4) x \$400.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - iv. Second prize: Four (4) x \$300.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - v. Third prize: Four (4) x \$200.00 RRP Berkley / ABU Garcia prize pack.
 - vi. Fourth prize: Four (4) x \$100.00 BCF gift card.

c. The monetary value of prizes from our commercial partners is based on recommended retail pricing and not discounted third party/retailer pricing.

59. The Committee's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
60. Competition prize pool is valued at \$20,224.00.
61. Total competition prize pool including the Let's Fish Lake Mac Prize Draw is valued at \$33,846.00.
62. The Let's Fish Lake Mac organizers reserve the right to cancel entry to disruptive or abusive competitors. There will be no dialogue or negotiation with the Let's Fish Lake Mac committee and their decision will be final.
63. All issues overlooked in these Rules will be addressed by the Let's Fish Lake Mac committee and their decision will be final.