

# **PENRITH PANTHERS**



# **FISHING CLUB**

**MEMBER'S**

**HANDBOOK**

**CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

CONSTITUTION  
PENRITH PANTHERS FISHING CLUB

**1. DEFINITIONS**

“Club” shall refer to Penrith Panthers Fishing Club.

**2. MEMBERSHIP**

Only Members of Panthers Clubs shall be qualified to become Members of the Club. The children of Members of the Club shall be entitled to join as Junior or Sub-Junior Members.

**3. OBJECTS**

- (a) To promote, develop and encourage the sport of social and competitive fishing.
- (b) To arrange and promulgate social and service activities.
- (c) These objects shall be furthered by the holding of meetings, lectures and competitions.

**4. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Annual Subscription shall be at such a rate as the Committee may determine from time to time, subject to confirmation by an Annual General Meeting. Membership will fall due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September each year. New Members may join on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July each year and be deemed Members for the following year by paying one subscription only.

**5. MEETINGS**

There will be 12 General meetings held for members, on the first Tuesday of each month. There will be 12 Committee meetings held on the second Thursday of each month. Meeting dates are subject to change by Committee.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in September each year.

The proposed meeting date shall be notified to the members at least 21 days prior to the meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend the AGM. However, only financial Members shall have the right to vote when necessary.

**6. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice of Motion for the Annual General Meeting must be submitted to the secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting and the Notice of Motion shall be notified to the members at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

**7. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fifths majority at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, provided at least 21 days notice of the proposed amendment has been notified to the members.

**8. QUORUMS**

- (a) The quorum at an Annual General Meeting shall be a minimum of 30 Members or 10% of the membership, which ever is the lesser.
- (b) The quorum at Committee Meetings shall be one of the Executive and three Committee Members.
- (c) If a quorum is not present at an Annual General Meeting, the President will call an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting. This meeting is to be held within one month. Notice of the

meeting shall be notified to the members. Those who attend shall constitute a quorum.

## **9. COMMITTEE**

(a) At the Annual General Meeting, a Committee shall be elected from the financial Members. The Committee shall consist of the following:

Three (3) Executives -       President  
  Secretary  
  Treasurer

Four(4) Members filling the following positions -  
  Safety/Regulations Co-ordinator  
  Competition Co-ordinator  
  Social Events Co-ordinator  
  Promotions Officer

Two (2) Members filling the following positions-  
  2 General Committee Members

One of the elected Committee shall be chosen as Vice President.

Nominations for Committee positions may be submitted in writing.

(b) The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies in order of voting at the last Annual General Meeting where possible.

(c) The Committee shall be responsible to Panthers World of Entertainment and shall present an Annual Report, including a Financial Statement, to each Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Committee may approve formation of subsections with such power and authority as are specified. The President shall, by ex-officio, be a Member of all such subsection Committees.

## **10. VOTING**

All financial Members both on the show of hands or the taking of a poll shall have one deliberate vote.

In the event of an equality of votes the President/Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

## **11. FINANCE**

All monies received shall be deposited in the Club's bank accounts. Cheques are to be signed by any two of the President, Secretary or Treasurer.

## **12. HONORARIUMS**

May be paid to each Executive Member of the Committee. The amount is to be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

## **13. POWERS**

The Committee:

(a) Shall have the powers to impose and collect subscriptions, fees, levies and other charges from club Members.

(b) May promulgate By-Laws governing the running of all Club competitions and may vary, interpret and rescind By-Laws.

(c) May impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Rules, By-Laws, Club equipment or social conduct.

#### **14. SUSPENSION**

Any Member may be expelled, or suspended from club Membership for a period not exceeding 12 months, at the discretion of the Committee. Provided that such Member shall have a right to be heard and right of appeal to a General Meeting, which may confirm, vary or revoke the Committee decision. Voting on this issue shall, both in Committee and General Meeting, be by secret ballot.

#### **15. DISSOLUTION**

The club shall be dissolved if:

- (a) Resolution to this effect is carried by a three-fifths majority at a General Meeting. 31 days notice of the proposed resolution shall be notified to the members.
- (b) In the event of dissolution all assets and records shall be transferred to Panthers World of Entertainment.

#### **16. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

The guidelines for Life Membership are:

- (a) Nominees shall have served at least ten years of service as a member of the main Committee and must have given outstanding service to the Club.
- (b) Nominations must be in writing and bear the signature of the mover and seconder, and contain the qualifications of the nominee.
- (c) Nominations must be lodged with the Club Secretary at least three calendar months prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The Executive Committee will investigate the nominations and recommend the acceptance or rejection of same and submit its decision to the full Committee no later than one calendar month prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) No more than one Life Member will be appointed in any one year.
- (f) There must be at least 75% of the Committee in attendance before a final decision can be proceeded with, and the recommendation from the Committee must be endorsed by a three-fifths majority.  
In the event of there being more than one nominee endorsed. A ballot shall be taken to determine which of the nominees will be eligible for election. The endorsed nominee must have a three-fifths majority from the Committee ballot in order to be eligible for election.
- (g) Members of the Club at an Annual General Meeting must endorse the Committee's nominee for Life Membership by a three-fifths majority of those in attendance for the nomination to proceed.
- (h) Life Membership may be forfeited by misconduct detrimental to the policy, welfare and interests of the Club.
- (i) The Committee shall grant privileges to Life Members from time to time which will include Annual Membership. Life Members shall have the same voting powers as Financial Members. The exception being that Life Members may speak and vote at Committee Meetings, only after seeking an invitation by written letter.

**BY-LAWS**  
**PENRITH PANTHERS FISHING CLUB**

As amended 1st December 2021

Issued under the authority of Penrith Panthers Fishing Club Committee

**Definitions:**

<b>Member</b>	Current Financial Member of Penrith Panthers Fishing Club
<b>Junior Member</b>	Person under 18 years of age who is directly related to a Member or under the parental control of a Member. A Junior Member turning 18 during the year must join Panthers in accordance with the Constitution but will continue to fish as a Junior Member until the end of that competition year
<b>Sub Junior</b>	Person under 13 years of age who is directly related to a Member or under the parental control of a Member. A Sub-Junior turning 13 during the year will continue to fish as a Sub-Junior until the end of that competition year
<b>Visitor</b>	A person invited to fish, being other than a Member, Junior Member or Sub-Junior Member as defined above
<b>Competitor</b>	Any person participating in an organised outing

**Duties of Committee:**

<b>President</b>	To promote Penrith Panthers Fishing Club. Chair monthly meetings of Members and Committee. To ensure that the Club and its Committees conduct their activities in accordance with the Club Constitution and By-Laws
<b>Secretary</b>	To record accurate and true minutes of all meetings and be responsible for all correspondence received and sent by the Club
<b>Treasurer</b>	To maintain a ledger of accounts and prepare monthly statements for the Committee, also to prepare an annual report for auditing on behalf of the Club and to maintain membership records and the Club Property Register
<b>Promotions Officer</b>	To produce the Fishtales magazine, advertise special events, producing the annual calendar and promotions by sponsors and control and maintenance of the Club's social media presence and website
<b>Safety/Regulations Co-ordinator</b>	Liaise with authorities to keep abreast of laws and regulations (fishing & boating) and advise members accordingly, maintain the list of Boat Numbers – including issuing numbers to new members, overseeing the Sub-Club Captains to ensure they nominate an Outing Captain to every outing

**Competition****Co-ordinator**

Responsible for keeping competition records, liaising between the Committee and Sub-Club Captains and co-ordinating special events run by the club

**Social Events****Co-ordinator**

To promote The Club by Co-ordinating social events and activities for club members, their families and visitors, co-ordination of all club merchandise

**General (2)**

To assist the other committee members in the completion of their duties, with a particular focus on assistance in the planning and execution of Fishfest

**Club Patron**

Generally filled by a life member of high standing - their role is to use their vast experience on the Executive / Committee in prior years to mentor and advise the current committee

**By-Laws:**

The Club's rules in relation to fishing will match the NSW Department of Primary Industry Recreational Fishing(DPI) rules and regulations as closely as possible, with any amendments to these to be listed specifically in the by-laws

1. The Club Championships shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and finish on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year
2. A Club Calendar, showing fishing and social dates for 12 months shall be provided to Members, Junior Members, and Sub-Junior Members before the start of each calendar year
3. The number of trips for each section will be determined by the Committee on a year by year basis, in consultation with the sub-club captains, before being published in the Club Calendar
4. All competitions are run as catch and photo competitions with each fish to have a photo taken of it on a NSW DPI Brag Mat clearly showing the type of fish, the length of the fish to the nearest millimetre and the code word for that outing. The codeword will be provided to all competitors by the Outing Captain. If a fish is longer than the NSW DPI Brag Mat then a tape measure can also be used to show the full length of the fish
5. A list of ineligible species, bag limits and minimum lengths for fish shall be provided to every member on request. Fish are deemed presented once the photo has been sent or presented to the Outing chat group directly to the outing captain (or another person appointed by the outing captain to perform that role)

6. All photos submitted must be of the minimum length as laid out in our Club Size & Point Score charts – all photos must be taken from directly above the fish (not on an angle) and must clearly show the nose of the fish up against the plate on the matt (with no gap showing) any photos that do not meet this criteria will be disqualified as counting for points, also any fish submitted in excess of the stated club bag limits will also not count for points, either instance could see the angler's entire catch disqualified at the discretion of the committee
7. All Members and Visitors on an organised outing are to measure their individual catches to a comparable list of points on the quality of fish. The Competitor with the highest point scoring catch will receive 20 points; then all points shall be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

Points are allocated on a pro-rata system as follows:

- 6 to 10 Competitors receive 60% of points
- 11 to 30 Competitors receive 80% of points
- 31 to 60 Competitors receive 100% of points
- More than 60 competitors receive 105% of points

A bonus of one point will be given for the highest point scoring fish on each outing

All Members competing at an organised outing will be allocated one point

#### 6. Disposal of fish

Any unwanted fish must be properly disposed of after being photographed

Competitors are free to keep any fish they have caught but must comply with all NSW DPI minimum lengths and bag limits

Members found dumping unwanted fish or fish waste at the ramp or at fish cleaning areas shall forfeit all points for that outing

Any dispute regarding a Competitor's catch will be recorded by the Outing Captain and will be referred to the Committee for resolution

#### 7. Club Championship

The Club Championship will be awarded to the Member achieving the highest point score, determined from the total of the best 9 monthly results for that Member

All competitors shall be allocated points on their best outing of the month. As many outings as desired may be fished during the month and each catch will be recorded, however, only one allocation of competition points will be made per competitor per month

The last two months of the competition point score shall be kept secret until Presentation Day

## 8. Special Events

### **FishFest**

A competition run by The Club which is open to the public, it is held on the Nepean/Hawkesbury Rivers around February each year as determined by The Committee. A special working group will be established by the Committee for the organisation and running of this event.

### **Jacket Outings**

The Club will organise the following jacket events during each calendar year. Jackets will only be awarded where the number of competitors is equal to 12 or more, with the exception of Charter Boats which must have 6 or more

#### **Small Boats Away Weekend**

An offshore competition held annually – in conjunction with a Small Boats Outing. A Club Jacket is to be awarded to both the Best Catch and the Best Fish

#### **Jewfish (Mulloway) Night**

An overnight event held annually – in conjunction with an Estuary Outing.

A Club Jacket is to be awarded to the person with the Best Catch of Mulloway.

Where no Mulloway are presented a Club jacket is not to be awarded.

#### **Hairtail Night**

An overnight event held annually – in conjunction with an Estuary Outing.

A Club Jacket is to be awarded to the person with the Best Catch of Hairtail.

Where no Hairtail are presented a Club jacket is not to be awarded.

#### **Wyangala Jacket Outing**

A Club jacket will be awarded to the competitor with the Best Catch at the annual Wyangala Dam weekend – held in conjunction with an Inland Outing and to be held as close to ANZAC Day as practical

#### **Inland Jacket Outing**

A Club jacket will be awarded to the competitor with the Best Catch on an Inland outing as nominated in the annual calendar

#### **Estuary Jacket Outing**

A Club jacket will be awarded to the competitor with the Best Catch on an Estuary outing as nominated in the annual calendar

#### **Charter Boat Jacket Outing x 2**

A Club jacket will be awarded to the competitor with the Best Catch on two Charter Boat outings as nominated in the annual calendar

#### **Small Boats Local Jacket Outing**

A Club jacket will be awarded to the competitor with the Best Catch on a Small Boats Outing as nominated in the annual calendar



## 9. End of Year Trophy Allocations

The allocation of trophies by the Club are as follows:

Club Champion \*

Men's Champion (Keith Hall Trophy)

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

Ladies Champion (Betty Hancock Trophy) \*

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

Junior Champion – Boy & Girl (Norrie & Lou Brown Trophy) \*

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

Sub-Junior Champion – Boy & Girl \*

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

Best Fish at an organised outing (Ted Rees Trophy)

Best Fish caught by a Junior (N. Hancock Trophy)

Best Fish caught by a Sub-Junior

Best Fish caught by a Lady (Kwast Trophy)

Rookie of the Year (A. Arkwright Award)\*

Club Person of the Year

Others as determined by The Committee

\*The Club Champion will automatically win his or her gender Championship

\*For a 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize to be awarded, 3 or more must compete in that competition group

\*For a 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize to be awarded, 5 or more must compete in that competition group

\*Rookie of the Year will be awarded to the rookie with the highest points for the year

The Committee may also determine a cash prize for any category (dependant on the Club's financial position) these cash prizes will only be payable if the winner is in attendance at the Annual Presentation Night

10. Junior and Sub-Junior Members are to be treated as Competitors for allocation of points

11. Completed trip sheets, shall be submitted to the Competition Co-ordinator by the following weekend

12. Jackets winners are able to take a cash payment (as determined by the Committee) to the value of the jacket in lieu of receiving the jacket, should they so choose

### 13. Penalties

Competitors who do not report to the Outing Captain by the advertised time at an organised outing will automatically disqualify themselves and all other Competitors in that boat. Boats that fail to Log On/Off may also be disqualified. If an Outing Captain determines that an outing should be immediately completed due to worsening conditions any Competitor that fails to return to safety as soon as practical will automatically disqualify themselves and all other Competitors in that boat. Any fish caught after the time the Outing Captain has cancelled an outing will not be counted for points. The radio channels utilised for each trip will be notified to the members in the lead up to each trip, along with the Outing Captain's Mobile number

### 14. Boat Numbers

Penrith Panthers Fishing Club boat numbers shall be allocated at the discretion of the Safety/Regulations Co-ordinator and shall be published at least every 6 months

### 15. New Members

New Members, after payment of the prescribed joining and membership fee, will be issued with the following:

- (a) Copy of the current Constitution and By-Laws,
- (b) A Current Club Calendar and species points and size/bag limits chart

### 16. Club Magazine

The Club will produce a magazine or newsletter titled 'FISHTALES'

This journal will be made available to Members free of cost at each monthly meeting, wherever possible and will be published on the PFFC Facebook page as soon as practical following each Club Meeting

### 17. Records List

The Club will maintain two records lists for the registration of the 'Best of Species' captured by Members at a designated Club outing.

One list of 'Best of Species' by weight and one of "Best of Species' by length

All Members are encouraged to enter their best fish of any species for consideration for Club Records, and this should be brought to the attention of the Outing Captain at any designated Club outing. A member may enter a fish for consideration for either or both of the weight or length records list. The listing will be upgraded on a regular basis and published in the Club Magazine and/or displayed on the Club's Facebook page. All fish are eligible for Club Records, even if they are not eligible for Club points, and a separate record will be kept for each individual species of fish

### 18. Brining the Club Into Disrepute

Members must at all times act in the best interests of Penrith Panthers Fishing Club, any member who exhibits behaviour which is deemed to be in contradiction to this, or which upsets the harmony of the club may have disciplinary action taken against them under Section 14 of the Constitution of Penrith Panthers Fishing Club

**Club Equipment**  
**Guidelines**

1. The Club has a boat at its disposal for use by Members Only. The Committee reserves the right to restrict the private use of the Club boat at any time
2. Members may use the Club boat provided they hold a current Boat Licence and meet any other criteria as determined by the committee
3. Fees and deposits for the Club boat shall be at such a rate as determined by the Committee and are only in place in order to recover the costs of providing the boat to members

Any deposit will be returned provided that:

- (a) The Club boat is returned clean and tidy with all safety equipment intact. (A check sheet is to be provided for this purpose)
  - (b) Any damage to the Club boat due to neglect shall result in a forfeiture of the deposit and any extra monies to repair the damage shall be paid in full by the Member, the same applies to the loss of any safety equipment.
  - (c) The Club boat must be picked up and returned to the Club at times agreed to by both parties.
  - (d) If the Club boat is returned later than the time agreed then this may also result in a forfeiture of the deposit.
4. The Club President has sole discretion regarding the booking of the Club boat at all times, but shall always prioritise its use for Club Outings

## Charter Boat Guidelines

1. The Charter Boat Captain will be responsible for all Charter Boat activities including appointing and announcing an Outing Captain for each Outing
2. The Charter Boat Championship will be awarded to the Member achieving the highest point score, determined from the total of the best 9 monthly results for that Member
3. Trophy Allocations -
  - Charter Boat Champion (Jim Kinder Trophy)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in overall point score
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall point score
  - Best Fish (Mick Ferguson Trophy)
  - Any other prizes as determined by the Committee

The Committee may also determine a cash prize for any category (dependant on the Club's financial position) these cash prizes will only be payable if the winner is in attendance at the Annual Presentation Night

4. Junior and Sub-Junior Members must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
5. Registrations for all charter outings will first be opened to members attending a monthly Club meeting, two months before local outings and three months before away outings. If the charter is not full by the end of that meeting, then members not present at the meeting may register by contacting the Charter Boat Captain
6. Visitors may only fish when all vacancies on a boat have not filled by Members
7. Club Money of \$25 will be awarded to the member with the Best Catch at each outing and \$25 to the member with the Best Fish and can only be collected at a Club Meeting
8. Only one line per Competitor is allowed in the water at any time. The number of hooks used for each line is to be in accordance with NSW DPI rules. The size of sinker to be used at any given time will be determined by the Charter Boat Captain
9. A Club Jacket will be awarded a minimum of twice per year at outings as determined by the Committee and published in the annual calendar
10. Any member who registers for a Charter Boat Outing but does not attend will still need to pay the charter fee, unless another member or visitor can take their spot
11. No fish captured by trolling may be weighed in for Club competition points, however they may be weighed in separately for Club Records.
12. If a trip is cancelled due to bad conditions, then the outing can be rescheduled to a future date as determined by the Charter Boat Captain if it does not conflict with any other published outing

## Small Boats Guidelines

1. The Small Boats Captain will be responsible for all Small Boats activities including appointing and announcing an Outing Captain for each Outing
2. Competitors must log ON with the Outing Captain before commencing fishing and log OFF when returning to the ramp on the radio channel as nominated by the Small Boats Captain
3. If a trip is cancelled due to bad conditions, then the outing can be rescheduled to a future date as determined by the Small Boats captain as long as it does not conflict with any other published outing
4. All vessels competing must follow all NSW Maritime regulations in relation to boating safety, including the number of people on board and required safety equipment, each skipper is responsible for ensuring the safety of themselves and all people onboard at all times
5. Any vessel competing in Small Boats must meet the minimum requirements for going offshore as required by NSW Maritime
6. In the event of radio failure, the Member must navigate their boat to fish within sight of another Penrith Panthers Fishing Club boat and, as soon as practically possible, contact the Outing Captain via Mobile Phone, or relay a message through another Panthers boat
7. Club Money of \$25 will be awarded to the member with the Best Catch at each outing and \$25 to the member with the Best Fish and can only be collected at a Club Meeting
8. Trophy Allocations -
  - Small Boats Champion
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in overall point score
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall point score
  - Best Fish
  - Any other prizes as determined by the Committee

The Committee may also determine a cash prize for any category (dependant on the Club's financial position) these cash prizes will only be payable if the winner is in attendance at the Annual Presentation Night

## Inland Guidelines

1. The Inland Captain will be responsible for all Inland activities including appointing and announcing an Outing Captain for each Outing
2. Competitors must log ON with the Outing Captain before commencing fishing and log OFF when presenting at the weigh-in
3. If a trip is cancelled due to bad conditions, then the outing can be rescheduled to a future date as determined by the Inland Captain as long as it does not conflict with any other published outing
4. All vessels competing must follow all NSW Maritime regulations in relation to boating safety, including the number of people on board and required safety equipment, each skipper is responsible for ensuring the safety of themselves and all people onboard at all times
5. Club Money of \$25 will be awarded to the member with the Best Catch at each outing and \$25 to the member with the Best Fish and can only be collected at a Club Meeting
6. Trophy Allocations -
  - Inland Champion
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in overall point score
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall point score
  - Best Fish
  - Any other prizes as determined by the Committee

The Committee may also determine a cash prize for any category (dependant on the Club's financial position) these cash prizes will only be payable if the winner is in attendance at the Annual Presentation Night

## Estuary Guidelines

1. The Estuary Captain will be responsible for all Estuary activities including appointing and announcing an Outing Captain for each Outing
2. Competitors must log ON with the Outing Captain before commencing fishing and log OFF at the weigh-in
3. If a trip is cancelled due to bad conditions, then the outing can be rescheduled to a future date as determined by the Estuary Captain as long as it does not conflict with any other published outing
4. All vessels competing must follow all NSW Maritime regulations in relation to boating safety, including the number of people on board and required safety equipment, each skipper is responsible for ensuring the safety of themselves and all people onboard at all times
5. Club Money of \$25 will be awarded to the member with the Best Catch at each outing and \$25 to the member with the Best Fish and can only be collected at a Club Meeting
6. Trophy Allocations -
  - Estuary Champion
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in overall point score
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall point score
  - Best Fish
  - Any other prizes as determined by the Committee

The Committee may also determine a cash prize for any category (dependant on the Club's financial position) these cash prizes will only be payable if the winner is in attendance at the Annual Presentation Night

## **Rules of Debate**

The format of debate at all meetings will be at the sole discretion of the meeting chair

Should any member or discussion become unruly in the opinion of the chair then the chair will always pause all debate and ask those members involved to attend the next committee meeting to discuss it further in the interests of maintaining the harmony of the Club