



Inclement Weather Process Dampier Classic

1. Inclement weather.

The implementation of any restriction, suspension or cancelation of a competition due to adverse weather conditions should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the safety of any particular vessel or crew during operational times of the competition. The responsibility for the safety of the vessel and its occupants of competing teams is the sole responsibility of the vessel's skipper/owner. It is the skipper/owner's responsibility to provide a vessel that complies with the DPI safety requirements and is a safe environment for the crew to fish and to ensure that the vessel is not operating in conditions or in a manner that exceeds the vessels capabilities or puts the vessel and or its crew in danger.

The club reserves the right to restrict the fishing area, suspend fishing for a period of time or cancel the competition should it feel that the weather conditions could have an adverse effect on the safety of the majority of the competing vessels their crews and or rescue craft and personnel if required in the waters of the Dampier Archipelago.

The wind speeds will be taken from the Legendre Island weather station. The wind speed used will be the sustained winds (refers to the average wind speed taken over a 10 min period as per BOM definitions) not the gusts. If the Legendre Island weather station is inoperative then the wind speed will be taken from the Karratha airport site but the wind speeds will be estimated as the Karratha Airport site is regularly 5 to 10 knots below Legendre Island. This estimation will be made by the club committee in conjunction with the Port Authority and the water police with input from the Port Hedland weather bureau.

The restrictions imposed on the competitors are as follows.

**20 knots and below
No restrictions**

Over 20 knots up to and including 25 knots sustained for more than 2 hours. The competition will be restricted to the area marked on the map.

The restricted area will be south of a line running east to west on latitude 20.18s from longitude 117.10e in the east to longitude 116.22e in the west. All vessels must proceed into the restricted zone once the radio base station announces that the restriction is in place. **If a vessel is close to shore outside of the restricted zone, competitors can seek shelter within 5nm of the mainland.**

The radio base will put out a general call once the winds are sustained for an hour and the likely hood of the restriction being imposed. Vessels should make their way inside the restricted zone if the radio base alerts the competitors that the likelihood of restrictions are very likely.

A second call will be made when the restrictions are imposed. It is envisaged that all vessels should be within the restricted zone with in 30 mins of that announcement.

The restrictions will remain in place until the sustained wind speeds drop to 20 knots or below for more than 3 hours.

NOTE. If the feedback from competitors is that the conditions are worse than the wind speed indicates then the weigh master or tournament coordinator with consultation with at least 4 committee members can restrict the area to be fished by competitors even further. This area would be inside the island group. This area will be bounded by the Burrup peninsular as the Eastern Boundary and follow Hamersley Shoals to the Western end of Legendre Island to the North West corner of Legendre Island and inside a line from there across to Millar's Rocks and follow the line of Sailfish Reef to Kendrew Island to North West Reef to South west Reef and then in to Sandy Island. Once conditions have improved the weigh master or tournament coordinator can reopen the competition up to the normal restricted area.

NOTE. If the Port Hedland weather bureau or the Port Authority notifies the radio base station that we have heavy squalls approaching the competition area the committee may invoke the restricted area for the period that the squalls are active.

**Over 25 knots sustained for 2 hours.
The competition will be suspended.**

Once a suspension is put in place all competitors must cease fishing immediately and head for sheltered waters or the harbour. Once the suspension is invoked the radio base station will conduct a radio sked to ascertain the intended destination of all competing vessels.

All vessels are to contact the radio base station on their arrival at their chosen destination. The radio base station will conduct another radio sked 1.5 hours after the competition is suspended to ensure that all teams that have not called in have reached their destination safely.

Once the sustained winds have dropped to 25 knots or lower for 3 hours the committee will in conjunction with the water police, Port Authority and input from the weather bureau in Port Hedland make a decision as to whether or not to recommence the competition. When the competition is reinstated from a suspension it will be with the restricted area imposed as per item 2 above.

If the suspension goes overnight a call will be made over the radio base station ch21 at 6.00 am to announce what the status is with the suspension.

The competitors can also contact the committee members listed in the competition brochure or the emergency contacts for an update.

Alternatively, teams can drop in at the weigh station gantry and if any restrictions are in place they will be posted on the boat location chart in front of the radio room.

If the competition is suspended from the start of the competition and it is felt that the competition does not have a realistic chance of getting off the ground the committee reserves the right to cancel the competition altogether.

If the competition is restricted or suspended overnight

If the winds increase to a level where a restriction or suspension needs to be put in place between the hours of 6.00pm and 6am, the committee will broadcast an announcement on ch21 alerting all competitors that are overnighing or still fishing in the Archipelago at the time of the restriction being imposed.

The club will endeavour to send a text to all mobile phones listed on the entry forms with the restrictions being imposed.

There will be announcements from the radio base station on ch21 at 5.00am and every hour on the hour from then on to confirm the competition status.

The club will also place a sign on the boat location chart at the front of the radio room at the gantry noting the competition status.

If a competing team is unsure of the competition status prior to them leaving home they can contact the weigh station Gantry if there is no response on that phone, they can then check with the emergency contact numbers as provided in the competitor's pack. Alternatively, you can drop in at the weigh station gantry and if any restrictions are in place they will be posted on the boat location chart in front of the radio room.

If any Team fishes outside of the restricted zone while restrictions are in place or fails to comply with the return to safe anchorage or port during a competition suspension they will be disqualified from the competition.

NOTE. If the Port Hedland weather bureau or the Port Authority notifies the radio base station that we have heavy squalls approaching the competition area the committee may invoke the restricted area for the period that the squalls are active.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact a committee member for further clarification.

Competition Cancellation Policy

Cancelation of competition prior to the start of the competition.

If using all available meteorological information available the weigh master or tournament coordinator believes that the competition would not be able to run for at least 50% of the allocated time for all categories in the competition within the scope of the strong wind procedure. They can call a committee meeting of all available committee members and if they all agree then the competition will be cancelled.

Actions to be followed in the event of a cancelation

All competitors are to be notified via SMS, phone call or email and are invited to a meeting at The Gantry or the Karratha International (KI) to be notified of the cancellation and what action will be taken.

All competitors will have the option of getting a negotiated refund of their entry fees if they do not wish to fish the replacement competition (Taking into account's covered below).

The committee will decide the amount to be refunded taking into account goods such as competition bags and shirts that have been distributed and if the presentation dinner still goes ahead. The competitors must be notified of the amount of entry fee refund that is available at the meeting to announce the cancelation.

All Sponsors must be notified of the cancelation and what action the club is taking regarding the re-run of the competition.

The competition must be re-run within 4 weeks of the original date. In the event that it is a 3 or 4 day competition it will be re-run as a 2 day competition.

If catering has been organised the club must laisse with the catering provider to achieve the best outcome for both parties.

Cancelation once competition has commenced

If using all available meteorological information available the weigh master or tournament coordinator believes that the competition would be able to run for at least 50% of the allocated time for all categories in the competition within the scope of the strong wind procedure. The following actions will be taken.

Actions to be followed

If it is believed that the competition could run for at least 50% of the allocated time then the competition will be started as per the competition rules.

If the conditions are outside of the KBGFC strong wind procedures at the commencement of the competition then the competition will be started in suspension and the procedure for recommencing fishing as per the strong wind procedure will be instigated. Or if the conditions do not improve enough to re start the competition and it is believed that 50% of the competition allocated time could not be completed then the above cancellation procedure will apply.

If the competition has started and conditions deteriorate and a suspension of fishing is instigated and at least 50% of the total competition fishing time has been completed outside of suspension then the fish or tags captured or recorded will count as final competition results and the competition will be classed as completed.

If 50% or more of the allocated fishing time for the competition has **not** been completed outside of suspension then the competition will be cancelled and the actions above will apply. In the event of the above it will be at the discretion of the committee if the anglers and boats will be allocated substitute prizes for any fish captured or tagged during the time fished in the competition.

The original prizes for the competition will be held over for the re-run of the competition.

