

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR CATCH, PHOTO & RELEASE COMPETITION

Fishing Rules & Regulations

- All competitors must comply with the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries Rules & Regulations and NSW Roads & Maritime Services – Marine Safety Regulation 2016.
- Each competitor must register as an individual and will be issued with a registration number that must be carried at all times when fishing.
- The 2020 **Leeton Bidgee Classic** is a **total catch, photo and release competition only** that is in line with NSW Department of Primary Industries *Code of Practice for Fishing Events in NSW*.
- Set lines are illegal and will be reported to Fisheries NSW if observed during the Leeton Bidgee Classic. Only two (2) lines (2 rods or 2 hand lines or 1 rod and 1 hand line) are allowed with one (1) hook per line. Anglers who are caught using more than 2 lines or two hooks per line will be disqualified instantly.
- Each native fish* angled must be photographed in accordance with the “**Rules for Photographing Fish**” (refer below).
- NATIVE FISH* – INCLUDES MURRAY COD and GOLDEN PERCH ONLY
- Anglers must fish within the clearly marked nominated boundaries of the Leeton Bidgee Classic. From the buoys upstream of Gogeldrie Weir, Sturt Canal Wetland Regulator all the way to the Euroley Bridge!
- All anglers are responsible for the security of their personal belongings which include vehicle, boat and all equipment, boat motor, camping gear and all other items. It is highly advised that you do not leave your gear unattended at any time.
- The judge's decision on the winner in each category will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Rules for Photographing Fish

All fish to be entered are to be photographed on the official NSW DPI Catch & Release Mat ONLY. Mats will be available at the event for a deposit of \$5.00 and a limit of one mat per boat will apply. The deposit will be refundable on return of the mat in a clean and reusable state.

- Photo must be taken square on to the fish and brag mat.
- **Your entry tag must be placed at the top L/H Side of the brag mat near the fish's head and clearly able to be read in the photo showing your Registration # !**
- The nose of the fish must be level with the zero mark on the brag mat or the stopper if the brag mat has one.
- **The dorsal fin must point to the top of the brag mat.**

RIGHT - Example of Correct Photo Entry



● (Entrant's registration tag to be placed in top left on mat)

- The brag mat must be on a flat surface with no creases. Please wet the mat before placing your fish on it!
- **The entire fish and the measuring edge of the brag mat must be visible in the photo with the length of the fish being clearly identified and legible.**
- Measurements will be rounded to the nearest centimetre, for example, a fish measured at 649mm will be entered at 65cm and a fish entered at 684mm will be entered at 68cm.
- **Any digital manipulation of the photo will be deemed as cheating and will result in the angler being disqualified.**



WRONG Photo not taken over fish, wrong mat!



WRONG Fish upside down on mat!



WRONG Brag mat is not flat, no registration tag.

- Photos need to be time date recorded to verify the date and time the fish was photographed. **Photos not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted and the fish will not be entered into the competition.**
- **All native fish* that are photographed are to be returned to their natural environment with the least possible injury and as quickly as possible after photographs have been taken.**
- NO live or dead fish will be accepted at the Fish Registration Tent.
- **Leeton Bidgee Classic representatives along with NSW Fisheries Fish Care Volunteers will be providing on-water advice and assistance as required.**
- **Any fish that has been photographed twice using separate angler tags or phones will result in both photos being ineligible and both Anglers disqualified from the competition. Fish Digital Technology used to scrutinise and register fish is capable of identifying the same fish if previously recorded by another angler in the same competition.**
- **The fish must be clean so as identifiable markings, scales or wounds are clearly shown. If your fish is covered in mud or debris it will not be registered. Keep your fish in a landing net to enable you time to have your mat ready along with your phone/photo capturing device. Wet your mat before placing fish on for measuring!!**

Registering your Catch

Once you have taken your photo and successfully released your catch back into the water you can text (MMS or SMS) your photo to **Ph – 0419 904 733**. Once your text message is received you will receive a confirmation message to indicate your catch has been registered.

As phone reception can be patchy along the river, an alternate method of registering your catch is to personally attend the registration tent at Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park with your photo on your digital device. This needs to be done in the allocated times below after fishing has closed each day.

Friday 6th March – 7:00pm – 8:30pm Sharp!

Saturday 7th March – 6:00pm – 7:30pm Sharp!

Sunday 8th March – 10:30am - 12 Midday Sharp!

Bidgee Classic Committee Members may also be in attendance at the Leeton Ski Beach, Coleambally Ski Beach and Euroley Bridge Boat Ramp to assist with photo entries in the event of Poor Mobile Coverage. Times will be advised via Text Message throughout the event! On Water Advisory boats will also be able to assist if your photo is not received.

Fish Species & Lengths

Murray Cod - legal length = 55cm to 75cm

Murray Cod over 75cm (prohibited fish) may be photographed and registered provided photographs are taken at the immediate location where the fish is landed and that a

device to photograph the fish is immediately available. Transporting prohibited fish to be measured is not permitted under NSW Fisheries current policy. Refer to the following website for further details: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/fishing-rules-and-regs/photographing-fish

Golden Perch (Yellow Belly, Callop) - legal length = 30cm and above.

Carp – to be photographed for the **longest Carp**.

Note: Prizes will be for the longest Carp and **NOT** Biggest Bag of Carp.

Note: In the event that two or more anglers catch and record a native fish* of the same winning size, the first fish **Registered (by either SMS or physically bringing your device with the photo of your catch to the registration area during the allocated times)** will be deemed as the winning catch.

****NOTE** - The 2020 Leeton Bidgee Classic has a 'Citizen Science' Category, allowing you to photograph undersize Native Fish & Non-Target Species (including Trout Cod, Silver Perch, River Blackfish, Catfish, Redfin) – More information will be provided to you at the Registration Area. The 'Citizen Science' category is strictly for the information of NSW Fisheries as our Data records and photographs will be collated for Research Purposes.**

Undersize Native Fish will not be entered into the 'Overall Length' Categories.

Separate Prizes will be awarded for the 'Citizen Science' categories thanks to NSW Fisheries!

Angler Team Registrations

This is optional. Up to four (4) anglers can join together to register as a team, even if fishing individually.

When you catch a **legal** native fish and/or a prohibited Murray Cod above 75cm state your Team name when you register your fish. The total measurement of every registered native fish will be added together to give a total length of all fish registered for your team.

Please note that all teams may consist of up to four (4) registered anglers only.

Boating Regulations

All competitors using boats must abide with Maritime NSW regulations governing the use of these vessels. This includes appropriate licences, safety equipment and conditions of use. Please also note the change of speed conditions along the Sturt Canal (Section One) of our competition waters.

Familiarise yourself with the safe boating regulations by visiting –

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/maritime/licence/boating-handbook.pdf>

NSW Maritime & NSW Police Marine Command Officers will be in attendance for the duration of the competition.

Lifejackets

It is a legal requirement that most recreational vessels in NSW must carry an appropriate size and type of lifejacket for each person on board. They must be stored or placed to

allow quick and easy access. Lifejackets must be either visible to passengers or their location clearly marked and unobstructed.

Children under 12 years of age or occupants boating alone must wear a lifejacket at all times. This legal requirement applies to the duration of the Leeton Bidgee Fishing Classic. Maritime Safety Boating Officers will be present at the Gogeldrie Weir to answer any questions you may have about safe boating, Life Jackets and any other General Boating Questions.

Other

The judge's decision on the winner in each category will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Campers are reminded to abide by all National Parks and Wildlife Service rules and regulations.

Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park amenities including showers and toilets are available for the use of all registered Leeton Bidgee Classic competitors, regardless of where you are camping. Please show your registration tag upon entry to the park if asked. Normal park entry fees apply for non-registered attendees who are not already guests of the Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park. Numerous food and Coffee vendors will be in attendance for the duration of the competition with meals available to purchase. Please make sure you bring sufficient cash for purchasing items from the caterers!

Roads around and within Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park camping grounds are public roads and are therefore subject to the laws of responsible driving. Random breath testing may be conducted over the course of the event. The Leeton Bidgee Classic Committee supports the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

FIRST AID AND YOUR SAFETY

In an emergency, call triple zero (000).

If you require any first aid please see the friendly folk in the Leeton VRA Rescue Squad tent located within the Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park camping grounds. If this tent is un-manned proceed to the Registration Area for assistance.

Remember to – Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!!

NSW Health is warning residents and visitors in the Riverina to take extra precautions and protect themselves against mosquitoes. Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes that carry the Murray Valley Encephalitis (or MVE) virus are usually most active in the hours after sunset and again around dawn. Simple steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes include:

- When outside cover up as much as possible
- Use an effective repellent on all exposed skin
- Light mosquito coils or use other approved deterrents
- Cover all windows, doors, vents and other entrances with insect screens.

Leeton Bidgee Classic representatives will be providing on-water advice and assistance as required.

More Information

Any angler requiring more information or assistance, please find one of our friendly committee members or come to the registration area where committee members will be on hand to answer any questions you have.

If you require further information prior to the event, visit us online at www.leetonbidgeeclassic.com.au or email us at info@leetonbidgeeclassic.com.au

Fishing Fee Receipts

When fishing in NSW waters you are required by law to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee and carry with you, at all times while fishing, the receipt showing the payment of that fee. This receipt must be able to be produced if requested by a Fisheries NSW Officer. Some exemptions do apply.

Fishing Fee Receipts are available at the Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park kiosk.

Evidence of your Fishing Fee Receipt will be required at the time of registering for the Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition.

LEETON BIDGEE CLASSIC 2020 – TOURNAMENT FISHING HOURS

Friday 6th March 2020

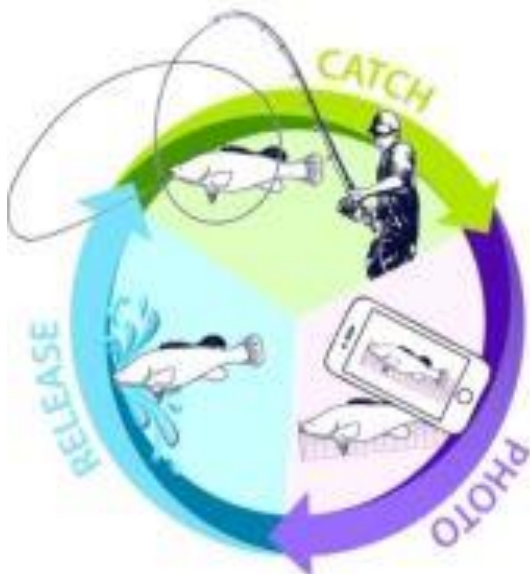
12 Noon – 8.00 pm

Saturday 7th March 2020

6:30 am – 6.00 pm

Sunday 8th March 2020

6:30 am – 11.00 am



This **Catch Photo Release** fishing event follows NSW DPI best catch and release techniques.

