

MOTION:

Moved – ANSA Qld State Executive: That the State Championship Titles in their current format be changed from a weight based format to a length based format, including the deletion of the Light/Standard Class Divisions, & the All Tackle Division, incorporating the rule changes as per State Championship Rules of Competition (Amended):

Reasons:

The State Championships in their current format have seen a steady decline in participant numbers from all Queensland areas over the last few years, and some reasons for this have been established as follows:

1. The lack of support for mono filament lines and attendant line class fishing, especially after the advent of braid lines for soft plastic and lure fishing, with many anglers now also using them for bait fishing as well.
2. The highly publicised environmental push for sustainable fishing practises, and catch phrases such as “Sustainable Fishing” and “Fishing for the Future”
3. The mindset of the Gen “X” and Gen “Y” anglers, who see a good session of sportfishing as how many fish they can catch and release, or catch, tag, and release, in the time available to allot to their chosen sport
4. Many new members found the rules and divisions too hard to follow, and if a club did not have members who regularly participated, these newer members would not compete due to lack of knowledge
5. In a few clubs where the majority, or all, of the club members did not fish State Championships, for whatever reason, some new members did not even know that State Championships existed anyway.

Paragraphs 1 through to 5 would hopefully be rectified by the first part of the Proposal encouraging a simple length based points system, where anglers can catch, measure, photograph, and release, if required, or alternatively still bring the fish in for measuring as in a traditional “Weigh-In” situation.

6. The busy lifestyle people are now leading where time spent on recreation and sport is limited, which is also is the major factor behind the section of the Proposal relating to the cutback of one of the two State Championships held each year
7. Economic factors such as fuel costs in relation to long boat trips, and vehicle travel to fishing destinations

Paragraphs 6 and 7 would be aided by the introduction of an Annual State Championships, rather than the current Winter and Summer.

8. The State Championships were originally a means for all clubs to compete against each other and angler against angler, but once the commercial competitions such as the Bass Electrics, ABT's, Bass-tastics *et al* began, many members commenced fishing these for financial gain rather than the prestige that came with winning ANSA Qld State Championships

Paragraph 8 would only be addressed if the State Championships could be restored to their former prestigious position amongst ANSA Qld Clubs.

9. The closure of many traditional reef areas throughout the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Paragraph 9 would not be addressed in the Proposal, and is something we now live with, and which is only likely to increase in importance in regards to paragraphs 6 and 7

Photographic devices such as digital cameras, and mobile phones are widespread nowadays, and a simple fraud deterrent such as a colour item on acceptable measuring device, alongside the fish, and requested by each individual club Weighmaster could be used.

The legal length and point per centimetre over legal length system are seen as a simplified point scoring system that encompasses the use of traditional mono filament, as well as the newer high tech lines, and also allows for a closer margin between offshore and inshore anglers in the final point scores.

The bonus system of 50 points for 5 different species is seen as an encouragement for the angler to test their skills and knowledge over a short 40 hour period, and would take into account their abilities to identify the different species, the required tactics for targeting each species, and the ability to plan their trip accordingly, while still not placing a huge advantage against those anglers who just enjoy catching their 3 species for a maximum 5 fish. The angler who catches the 3 species has just as much chance of taking out the title as the angler chasing the bonus 50 points.