



ANSA PRINCIPLES

Clubs:

To form your ANSA club, we suggest a minimum of six members. Australia-wide, the average club has over twenty members, which seems to be an ideal number for social and fishing reasons. Membership of ANSA is open to all clubs and members who agree to abide by the ANSA rules and codes of conduct.

Branches:

Branch Committees are elected by delegates from the clubs within each State. Branches do much of the regional work in processing record claims and Master certificates, advising on contests and representing their clubs in various ways. Clubs benefit from active contact with their respective Branches.

ANSA National:

The National Executive is elected by Branches every 2 years at the ANSA National AGM and Branch Delegates meeting. There is an AGM and Branch Delegates meeting every year – usually late October/ early November. The National Executive administers the affairs of ANSA as a whole and maintains and publishes the ANSA Rule book and the ANSA National record charts. The ANSA Rule book is reviewed for update every 4 years coinciding with a leap year - this is done in consultation with the Branches. Sufficient Rule Books are provided free to all ANSA Branches to ensure that every member has their own book. The Rule book can also be viewed on the National website www.ansa.com.au . ANSA National also carries a range of ANSA Ware products which can be viewed on the website and paid for on line.

USING THE ANSA SYSTEM:

Well established clubs run very smoothly. However, there may be times when State Branch or National assistance may be required. Most issues of relevance are local and can be addressed at a club level. Sometimes it is appropriate for clubs from a local area to work together on local issues or to seek the involvement of the broader State Branch and club membership network or National.

A couple of useful points - all of us have to accept a majority vote. Most times we agree, but when we differ a decision needs to be made by member majority vote and the outcome accepted with good grace. Because the ANSA system is democratic and relies on discussion and voting it is generally inappropriate for a member to approach the Branch or National Executive for determination of a contentious issue before the issue has been considered and decided upon by the club itself.

On rare occasions, instant action may be vital. Typically if a member discovers a fish kill in a local stream – there is no need to hold a meeting before reporting it. Keep cool, make no wild statements, stay factual and if warranted involve the media but be very careful with your comments as the media has a habit of often disregarding the facts in the interests of a good story. The golden rule is to remain polite and be factual - few people are more impressive than a public spirited citizen with a well argued factual case. A final tip - you may not win an instant victory, so be prepared to make a campaign of it. Persistence and a good case are hard to beat.

ANSA Representation:

Jurisdiction over fishing issues rests mainly with State Governments, so Branches play a vital role in representing clubs and members. Most ANSA Branches are actively represented on State level recreational fishing councils. These representatives should be active members of the Branch Committee or liaise closely with it. Their responsibility is to represent ANSA membership by exerting appropriate influence according to the policy and direction of the Branch.

ANSA NSW is also a founding member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA) which for all intent and purposes is the peak body representing the interests of all NSW recreational fishers. The membership of the RFA consists of most NSW recreational fishing peak bodies. Refer to www.rfansw.com.au for more details

The ANSA National peak body also represents and advocates for recreational fishers on all issues to do with the Commonwealth and will at the invitation of a branch become involved with State based issues to provide support. ANSA National is likewise a foundation member of the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) and the Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Confederation (Recfish Australia). The membership of these National peak bodies consists of the recognised recreational fishing state peak bodies. Refer to www.ansa.com.au , <http://recfishaustralia.org.au> and www.recreationalfishing.com.au for more detail about these national peak bodies. ANSA National is also a member of the National Recreational Fishing Council established in 2017 by the Federal Coalition government.

Consistent with its strong conservation ethos and concerns for preservation and rehabilitation of the marine/fish habitat, ANSA is a foundation member of the NSW Fish Habitat Partnership Inc (FHP) which is a body established to encourage on ground fish habitat rehabilitation projects in NSW under the “better habitat – more fish” slogan. See the FHP website info@fishhabitat.org.au for more details. ANSA is also a foundation member of Ozfish Australia Limited, a National body which is committed to the delivery of similar fish habitat rehabilitation projects but on a National basis. See ozfishunlimited@gmail.com for more details.

ANSA National is also a longstanding member of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and holds member representative positions with that USA domiciled peak body. See www.igfa.org for more detail.

Remember, ANSA Branches and National function to help clubs and members. If you need advice, have a case to put up or just want to know what's going on, make contact with someone from your State Branch or the ANSA National Executive.

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