

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



TOWNSVILLE

TOWNSVILLE GAME FISHING CLUB

44th Annual Billfish Challenge

PROUDLY
SUPPORTED BY



12th - 15th AUGUST 2026

CHAMPION BOAT

\$10,000!

2
Functions

RUNNER-UP BOAT

\$5,000!

Heaps
of Prizes
& CASH
up for grabs!



Follow us on Facebook to stay updated
[@townsvillegamefishingclub](https://www.facebook.com/townsvillegamefishingclub)



Welcome

This year marks the 44th year of the TGFC's showcase event, the **Billfish Challenge**. This event is one of the longest running billfish tournaments in the country and could arguably be one of the most social events the game fishing scene has to offer. With some of the most famous light tackle fishing grounds in the world; it is no wonder TGFC hosts some of the best skippers, crews and boats from around the country to compete in this event.

The waters that surround Townsville, to the North and South, are not only some of the most picturesque marine environments in the region but also are famous for their juvenile marlin and sailfish. Townsville is also home to the well-known Townsville Yacht Club (TYC) and its state-of-the-art marina, which is the perfect setting to host such a memorable event.

Since its inception, the **Billfish Challenge** has continued to grow, as have the involvement and support of local and national businesses. This year is no different, TGFC are extremely grateful to our naming rights sponsor, Lexus Townsville, and the large number of other very generous local, national and international businesses that have joined in supporting this year's event.

Early indications are that we will see over 120 participants in over 25 boats from across the state compete in this prestigious event.

For more information go to Townsville Game Fishing Club's facebook page or jump on to the website www.tgfc.org

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE **\$400 Anglers, Skippers, Deckhands**

Includes competing fees, RED levy, food drinks package for Wednesday & Saturday nights and Thursday Breakfast, extensive merch package (tournament shirts, caps, stubby coolers, YETI drinkware, team bag + more)

GUEST TICKETS

Meet & Greet - Wednesday 12th August

\$60 Food & Drinks Package

Presentation Dinner - Saturday 15th August

\$120 2 Course Food & Drinks Package

NOMINATIONS CLOSE - 29th July 2026
All competing teams are required to be pre-nominated and have payments made by 5th August 2026 - any late nominations cannot be guaranteed. Juniors Nomination \$250 (must be under 16 years of age).



Scan **HERE**
for your tickets!



THE 2026 NQ BILLFISH SHOOTOUT

2026 is the third year running for this event and we are excited to have the **Billfish Challenge** as a featured round.

Get the crews ready and organised for the trip north after the **Billfish Challenge**.

Round 1	Townsville BILLFISH CHALLENGE 12th - 15th August
Round 2	Innisfail BILLFISH TOURNAMENT 6th - 9th September
Round 3	Cairns BLUEWATER TOURNAMENT 16th - 19th September

Registration is required prior to the commencement of the first round (TGFC Billfish Challenge 29th July 2026). To be eligible to win the NQ Billfish Shootout, participating boats must register and fish a minimum of two rounds.

Activities Program

WED 12TH AUG.

From 5pm Meet and Greet
All competing vessels must be moored in their designated pens at the Townsville Yacht Club

7pm Skippers Briefing and Calcutta

THU 13TH AUG.

Fishing Day 1
BBQ Breakfast on the Deck

Blessing of the Fleet
7:30am Vessels Depart
Townsville Yacht Club
Marina Sail Past
7:45am Shot Gun Start

10:10am Radio Schedule 1
1:30pm Radio Schedule 2
4:15pm Radio Schedule 3
5pm Cease Fishing

FRI 14TH AUG.

Fishing Day 2

7am Start Fishing
10:10am Radio Schedule 1

1:30pm Radio Schedule 2
4:15pm Radio Schedule 3
5pm Cease Fishing

SAT 15TH AUG.

Fishing Day 3

7am Start Fishing
10:10am
Radio Schedule 1
1:15pm
Radio Schedule 2

2pm Cease Fishing
Return to Port - Townsville Yacht Club Marina. Tag Cards and Score Sheets to be handed in by 5pm

7pm Presentation Dinner/
Formalities from 6pm at the Townsville Yacht Club Dress Code: Smart Casual

Prizes

Up to 10kg Line class tournament

PLUS PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

- CHAMPION TEAM
- RUNNER UP CHAMPION TEAM
- CHAMPION TEAM EACH DAY
- CHAMPION MALE ANGLER
- CHAMPION FEMALE ANGLER
- CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER
- RUNNER UP ANGLERS
- FIRST MARLIN TAGGED EACH DAY
- FIRST SAILFISH TAGGED EACH DAY



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



TOWNSVILLE



Tournament Rules

GENERAL

THIS TOURNAMENT IS A BILLFISH TAG & RELEASE EVENT. THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST TO SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026.

TEAM SIZE

TEAMS SHALL CONSIST OF NOT FEWER THAN TWO, OR MORE THAN FOUR ANGLERS. SUBSTITUTION OF ANGLERS DURING THE EVENT IS NOT PERMITTED, ALL ANGLERS, SKIPPERS AND DECKHANDS (IF APPLICABLE) ARE NOMINATED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT.

QUALIFICATIONS

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT, EACH ANGLER, SKIPPER AND DECKHAND MUST BE CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF A GAME FISHING CLUB AFFILIATED WITH QGFA OR GFAA. INTERNATIONAL ANGLERS NEED TO BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF A AFFILIATED IGFA CLUB AND ALL ANGLERS MUST PRODUCE PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP AT THE SIGN-ON. THOSE PARTICIPANTS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE WILL BE LEVIED \$165.00 PER ANGLER FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE TOWNSVILLE GAME FISHING CLUB INC.

DISQUALIFICATION

ANYONE DISCOVERED OR REPORTED AND PROVEN TO HAVE BROKEN THESE RULES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THIS TOURNAMENT WITHOUT REFUND OF NOMINATION FEES.

CALCUTTA

A COMPULSORY MINIMUM BUY IN CALCUTTA IS AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO BY COMPETING TEAMS. (\$200 FOR TEAMS OF BOATS 7.5M AND OVER, \$100 FOR TEAMS OF BOATS UNDER 7.5M.). THE CALCUTTA WILL BE HELD AFTER THE SKIPPERS BRIEFING WHERE THE AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE. COMPETING TEAMS WILL 'OWN' THEIR BOAT FOR THE MINIMUM PRICE IF THERE ARE NO HIGHER BIDS.

REGISTRATION AND BRIEFING

ALL TEAMS MUST BE NOMINATED WITH ALL ENTRY FEES PAID BY 29TH JULY. ANY LATE NOMINATIONS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED. IT IS MANDATORY THAT ALL SKIPPERS AND CREW ATTEND THE 7PM BRIEFING AT TOWNSVILLE YACHT CLUB. ALL COMPETING VESSELS TO BE MOORING THEIR DESIGNATED PENS AT THE TOWNSVILLE YACHT CLUB ON WEDNESDAY (12TH) AND SATURDAY (15TH) NIGHT AFTER CEASE FISHING ON DAY FOUR.

FISHING GROUNDS

CLOSED - AS PER GRID MAP.

TOURNAMENT START TIME

7:30AM THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST. ALL COMPETING VESSELS WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO DEPART THE TOWNSVILLE YACHT CLUB, IN A SAFE AND ORDERLY FASHION, LED OUT BY THE TOWNSVILLE COAST GUARD, NO EARLIER THAN 7:30AM ON THURSDAY TO COMMENCE FISHING THEREAFTER. BOATS ARE ALSO NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE ANY LIVE BAIT ONBOARD PRIOR TO THIS TIME. START FISHING ON DAYS TWO AND THREE WILL BE CALLED BY GAMEBASE AT 7AM SHARP. COMPETING TEAMS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE ANY LINES IN THE WATER PRIOR TO START FISHING EACH DAY (THIS INCLUDES, TEASERS, BAIT JIGS, DOWNRIGGERS, ETC.)

TAGGING

TAGGING FOR POINTS APPLIES FOR BILLFISH ONLY. TAG POLES ARE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 15 FEET. FISH SHOULD BE RELEASED AS QUICKLY AND AS HUMANELY AS POSSIBLE.

A FISH IS CONSIDERED TAGGED AND RELEASED WHEN THE TAG IS SECURED TO THE FISH AND RELEASED ALIVE. GUIDELINES FOR TAG & RELEASE AS PER G.F.A.A. [HTTP://GFAA.ASN.AU/RELEASE-FISHING/](http://GFAA.ASN.AU/RELEASE-FISHING/)

FIRST BILLFISH TAGGED

THE FIRST MARLIN AND SAILFISH TAGGED DAILY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SPONSORED PRIZES. THIS AWARD IS MADE TO THE ANGLER WHOSE VESSEL MAKES THE FIRST ACKNOWLEDGED RADIO CALL ADVISING OF A SUCCESSFUL TAG AND RELEASE (ONCE THE FISH IS RELEASED ALIVE) FOR EACH SPECIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.F.A.A. RULES - A FISH IS CONSIDERED TAGGED AND RELEASED WHEN THE TAG IS SECURED TO THE FISH AND RELEASED ALIVE. GUIDELINES FOR TAG & RELEASE AS PER G.F.A.A. [HTTP://GFAA.ASN.AU/RELEASE-FISHING/](http://GFAA.ASN.AU/RELEASE-FISHING/) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MUST BE MADE BY GAME BASE WHETHER FROM A DIRECT OR RELAYED CALL. THE TIME OF RELEASE MUST BE PRESENTED CORRECTLY TO THE WEIGH MASTER ON THE SCORE SHEET.

SCORING SYSTEM

THE METHOD ADOPTED TO IDENTIFY AWARD WINNERS IS 1,000 POINTS PER BILLFISH SYSTEM. THERE ARE NO POINTS AWARDED FOR OTHER GAMEFISH. IN THE EVENT OF A TIED SCORE, THE ANGLER OR TEAM TAGGING THE MOST BILLFISH FIRST WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNER. NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ANGLERS TO RECORD THE TIME OF COMPLETION OF A SUCCESSFUL TAG AND RELEASE (AS PER G.F.A.A. GUIDELINES FOR TAG & RELEASE AS MENTIONED ABOVE), AS THIS INFORMATION IS USED TO IDENTIFY THE WINNER IN THE CASE OF A TIED SCORE - A COUNT BACK.

SCORE SHEETS

NOTE: IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE SCORE SHEETS ARE CLEARLY & CORRECTLY COMPILED AND RETURNED BY A MEMBER OF THE TEAM, TO THE TOURNAMENT WEIGH MASTER DURING THE DESIGNATED WEIGH IN TIME (SATURDAY 15TH 2:00PM - 5:00PM). A RETURNED SCORE SHEET MUST SHOW THE RESULTS FOR EACH TEAM MEMBER. NO SCORE SHEET WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE WEIGH MASTER AFTER THE CLOSE OF WEIGH IN, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF FISH NOTIFIED AS BEING PLAYED BEFORE CEASE FISHING WAS CALLED, AND THEN IT IS TAGGED AND WHERE THE RETURN JOURNEY PREVENTS THE ANGLER MAKING THE ADVERTISED WEIGH IN TIME. IN THE EVENT OF AN ANGLER STILL PLAYING THE FISH AFTER CEASE FISHING ON THE LAST DAY, A 3½ HOUR TIME LIMIT WILL APPLY FROM THE TIME CEASE FISHING IS CALLED TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE SCORE CARD TO THE WEIGH MASTER.

TOURNAMENT FLAGS

BOATS ARE TO FLY ISSUED TOURNAMENT FLAGS AND ANY SPONSORS FLAGS WHILST MOORED AT THE TOWNSVILLE YACHT CLUB BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE 3 DAYS FISHING. ALL FLAGS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TOURNAMENT.

CODE OF ETHICS

THE 2026 TGFC BILLFISH CHALLENGE IS A FISHING TOURNAMENT BASED ON RULES PROVIDING ALL COMPETITORS WITH A FAIR AND EQUAL CHANCE OF SCORING TOURNAMENT POINTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL COMPETITORS RETAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF SPORTSMANSHIP DURING THEIR FISHING ACTIVITIES. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT ALL COMPETITORS ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF SAFETY FIRST AT ALL TIMES. THE TGFC INC. HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RULES TO BE INCORPORATED IN THIS TOURNAMENT.

- A. RULES OF THE SEA WILL PREVAIL WHILST TROLLING, AND VESSELS MUST GIVE RIGHT OF WAY.
- B. AT ALL TIMES A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN BOATS MUST

BE MAINTAINED.

- C. IT IS EXPECTED THAT EACH ANGLER IN A TEAM HAVE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF FISHING TIME.
- D. NO FISH SHALL BE GAFFED THEN TAGGED AND RELEASED.

COMMUNICATIONS - SCHEDULES (SKEDS)

RADIO SCHEDULES REPORTING ACTIVITIES ARE COMPULSORY AND MUST BE OBSERVED BY ALL COMPETING BOATS. SKED RADIO TIMES ON VHF WORKING CHANNEL 22 ARE: 10:10AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM ON FISHING DAYS 1 & 2, DAY 3 THERE ARE ONLY 2 SKEDS AT 10:10AM & 1:15PM. THERE IS A SILENCE PERIOD FROM THE END OF THE LAST SKED OF EACH DAY UNTIL THE CALL OF CEASE FISHING. ALL HOOK UPS DURING THIS PERIOD MUST BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY TO QUALIFY FOR PLAYING OUT AFTER CEASE FISHING. VESSELS FISHING IN RADIO BLACK SPOTS OR HAVING A COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FAILURE MUST MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO CONTACT TOURNAMENT BASE WITH SKED RESULTS VIA EITHER SHIP TO SHIP RELAY OR MOBILE/SATELLITE PHONE COMMUNICATIONS. FAILURE TO REPORT ACTIVITY FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE SKEDS IN A ROW (A 30 MINUTES GRACE PERIOD IS GIVEN AFTER THE SECOND SKED COMMENCEMENT) WILL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THAT DAYS POINTS.

REPORTING FISHING ACTIVITY

THE FIRST DIGIT REFERS TO THE STRIKES, THE SECOND TO HOOK UPS AND THE THIRD TO TAGGED BILLFISH IN REFERENCE TO ACTIVITY SINCE THE LAST SKED ONLY. VESSELS WILL BE CALLED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF BOAT NAME. THE REPORT IS TO BE IN THE ORDER OF: BOAT NAME, MAP REFERENCE, ACTIVITY AND SPECIES. FOR EXAMPLE: BANGALEE - SEABOURNE ELECTRONICS 4 - THREE, TWO, TWO. ALL BOATS MUST SIGN OFF ON REACHING SAFE WATERS AT THE END OF EACH DAY.

BOAT LENGTH

FOR CLARIFICATION 'BOAT LENGTH' WILL BE CONSIDERED AS THE MEASURED LENGTH OF THE BOAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE QGFA GUIDES AND NOT THE MANUFACTURES ADVERTISED BOAT LENGTH. QGFA MANDATORY TOURNAMENT RULE INCLUSIONS - 3 PAGES SPECIFIED BOAT LENGTHS WILL BE MEASURED FROM THE TRANSOM WHERE THE MOTOR OR OUTDRIVE OF THE BOAT IS BOLTED TO THE BOAT. WHERE THE BOAT HAS A POD FITTED, THE TRANSOM OF THE POD WHERE THE MOTORS ARE BOLTED WILL BE COUNTED IN THE BOAT LENGTH, TO THE FORWARD MOST POINT OF THE BOAT, BUT WILL EXCLUDE ANY BOWSPRIT OR FORWARD PROJECTING ANCHOR LOCATION AS PER THE QGFA GUIDELINE FOR DETERMINING BOAT LENGTH. SPECIFIED LENGTH TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CLUB TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE AND WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CALCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QGFA GUIDELINES.

BOAT INSURANCE

ALL BOATS NOMINATING TO FISH THE TOURNAMENT ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CURRENT BOAT INSURANCE. DETAILS OF SUCH INSURANCE MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE ENTRY FORM SUPPLIED ALONG WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR INSURANCE CERTIFICATE. SHOULD A BOAT NOT HAVE INSURANCE, NOR BE ABLE TO SUPPLY EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE AND CERTIFICATE PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TOURNAMENT, THAT BOAT SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT. ALL ONBOARD SAFETY REMAINS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER / SKIPPER.

WEATHER

BAD WEATHER - THE DECISION TO PUT TO SEA IS ENTIRELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SKIPPER OF THE BOAT. THE TOWNSVILLE GAME FISH CLUB INC. (TGFC) COMMITTEE TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS MADE BY INDIVIDUAL BOAT CREWS WHO DECIDE WHETHER TO PUT TO SEA OR NOT. NO ALLOWANCE WILL BE MADE FOR FISHING TIME LOST AS A RESULT OF BAD WEATHER. THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE ANY DAYS DUE TO BAD WEATHER.

BREAKDOWNS

IN THE EVENT OF A BREAKDOWN, WHERE THE VESSEL WILL BE UNABLE TO EFFECT REPAIRS THAT WOULD ALLOW IT TO RETURN TO PORT WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED WEIGH IN TIMES, THE TEAM CAPTAIN OR CREW MEMBER WILL BE PERMITTED TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER COMPETING VESSEL TO ENABLE THE PRESENTATION OF THE SCORE CARDS AND OR FISH TO THE WEIGH MASTER.

FISHING RULES / LINE CLASS

THIS TOURNAMENT WILL BE FISHED UNDER THE "FISHING RULES AND TACKLE REGULATIONS" OF THE G.F.A.A. AS IN EFFECT AT THE TIME. LINE CLASS SHALL BE UP TO 10KG. ONLY NON-OFFSET CIRCLE HOOKS SHALL BE USED FOR LIVE BAITING. LEADER LENGTH; THE OVERALL LEADER LENGTH, INCLUDING ANY HOOKS OR LURES, MUST NOT EXCEED 4.57 METRES (15 FEET). DOUBLE LINE & LEADER COMBINED; THE COMBINED LENGTH OF THE DOUBLE LINE AND THE LEADER MUST NOT EXCEED 6.1 METRES (20 FEET).

TROPHIES & PRIZES

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY OF THE TROPHIES/PRIZES ALL ANGLERS AND THE SKIPPER OF THE VESSEL MUST SIGN A STATUTORY DECLARATION AT THE TIME OF REGISTERING, STATING THAT ALL FISHING DURING THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL RULES OF G.F.A.A.

JUDGES

TWO JUDGES AND ONE RESERVE JUDGE APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF BRIEFING AND SHALL BE THE SOLE ADJUDICATORS OF THE TOURNAMENT, AND THEIR RULING SHALL BE FINAL. LINES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT MAY BE TESTED OR INSPECTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE WEIGH MASTER OR THE JUDGES.

PROTESTS

ANY PROTESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE JUDGES NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF WEIGH IN ON THE LAST DAY. THE JUDGE'S DECISION SHALL BE FINAL AND NO CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE ENTERED INTO. NO OTHER FORM OF PROTEST SHALL BE ACCEPTED.

RULES

THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CHANGE ANY RULES OR ANY PART OF THE PROGRAM WITHOUT NOTICE. TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ALL CHANGES ASAP. THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES ARE HELD BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE AND ORGANISER.

DISPUTES

A DISPUTE COMMITTEE COMPRISING MEMBERS FROM A MINIMUM OF THREE CLUBS (WHERE POSSIBLE THE TOURNAMENT CLUB AND TWO OTHER CLUBS SHOULD FORM ANY PROTEST COMMITTEE AND IF POSSIBLE, THE CLUBS FORMING THE PROTEST COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT INCLUDE A CLUB THAT THE PROTESTED OR PROTESTOR ARE MEMBERS OF) WILL HEAR ANY PROTESTS PROVIDED THEY ARE SUBMITTED IN WRITING IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOURNAMENT RULES FOR DISPUTES. THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION WILL BE FINAL, AND NO FURTHER DISCUSSION WILL BE ENTERED INTO.

TOURNAMENT CONDUCT

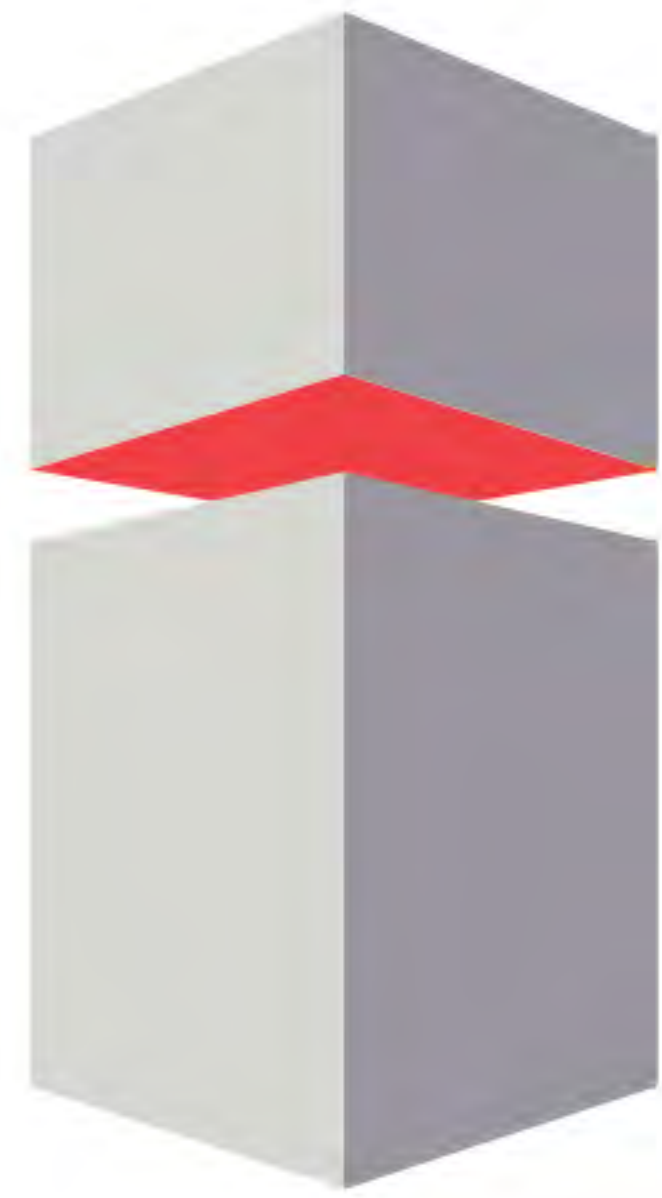
THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT AT ANY STAGE OF THE COMPETITION TO EJECT, DISQUALIFY OR DEDUCT POINTS FROM INDIVIDUALS OR TEAMS WHO ARE DEEMED TO HAVE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IN A DISRESPECTFUL MANNER AND ARE DEEMED TO HAVE BROUGHT THE SPORT OF GAMEFISHING OR THE TOURNAMENT INTO DISREPUTE. IN THE EVENT THAT AN ANGLER, OR A TEAM OF ANGLERS/CREW/SKIPPER ARE EJECTED NO RESULT OR REFUND OF FEES WILL BE ENTERED INTO.

Proudly Supported By

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE COMPANIES WHO SUPPORT YOUR SPORT



TOWNSVILLE



ICONIC CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES

GARMIN®



Steel Pacific INSURANCE BROKERS

FRANCIS PLUMBING & GAS



Construction Sciences



APOLLO EARTHMOVING & MARINE

tait ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ADVISORY



OLD BEER CO.



www.tgfc.org

DESIGNED and PRINTED by TOWNPRINT 07 4779 9291