

CARPENTARIA MARINE SERVICES

WEIPA BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

3 – 5 OCTOBER



**2026 OFFICIAL
TOURNAMENT
PROGRAM & RULES**

WELCOME



The Weipa Billfish Club Committee wishes to extend a warm welcome to all participating club members and visiting anglers.

All nominations are to be finalised by 5:00 pm Wednesday 30 September 2026.

TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER Briefing & Pizza Weipa Bowls Club	• Briefing: 6:30 pm • Nomination pack collection • Cash-Only Calcutta to Follow (50% 1st 30% 2nd 10% 3rd 10% Club)
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER Tournament Day 1	• Tackle checks: 6:00 am – 6:45 am • Shotgun start: 7:00 am (Gongbung Point) • Fishing: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER Tournament Day 2	• Fishing: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
MONDAY 5 OCTOBER Tournament Day 3	• Fishing: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm • Final paperwork due: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm (no late submissions)
TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER Presentation Night Weipa Bowls Club	• Pre-dinner drinks: 5:30 pm • Dinner & Presentations: 6:30 pm



Weipa Billfish Club Inc | PO Box 627, Weipa QLD 4874
weipabillfishclub@gmail.com



FISHING RULES



All participants are responsible for ensuring they understand and comply with these rules prior to commencement of fishing.

MEMBERSHIP

- All anglers, skippers and crew must be current financial members of a Game Fishing Club affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA), or members of the Weipa Billfish Club Inc.
- WBFC membership (new or renewal) is available at \$120.00 per person.
- The WBFC reserves the right to refuse entry to any person, boat, captain, crew, or angler.

INSURANCE

- All participating vessels must hold current boat insurance.
- Insurance details must be completed on the official entry form and accompanied by a copy of the insurance certificate.
- Vessels unable to provide proof of insurance before the commencement of the tournament will not be permitted to participate.
- All onboard safety responsibilities remain with the owner and skipper.

RULES & COMPLIANCE

- GFAA rules, including leader length requirements, apply at all times.
- This is a **Tag & Release tournament for sailfish and marlin only**. No billfish will be weighed.
- Tournament judges will inspect tackle prior to and during the event.
- Teams must consist of 2–4 anglers.
- One boat per team.
- Prizes are limited to teams of four anglers.

The use of non-compliant tackle will result in disqualification and/or loss of accumulated points at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

FISHING TIMES

Fishing will commence at **8:00 am** and cease at **4:00 pm** each day, as called by the Sked Boat.

The Sked Boat will announce the official start and cease fishing times daily. Any fish hooked prior to the cease fishing call (and reported to the Sked Boat) may be played out and will remain eligible for points.

TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES

Fishing is restricted to the tournament grounds as shown on the official sponsor tournament map.



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SCORING

Each billfish tagged will be awarded with the following points:

Line Class	10kg	15kg	24kg
Sailfish	1000	900	600
Marlin	1300	1170	1000

Points will only be awarded where:

- The fish is caught in accordance with all GFAA rules.
- The fish is tagged and released using **NSW Fisheries “Billfish Only” tags**.
- Any other tag type will result in disqualification of that fish.

Tag poles must not exceed **15 feet** in length.

Note: The official time recorded is when the fish is released.

In the event of a tie, the angler or team that reaches the score first will be declared the winner.

LINE CLASSES

- Permitted line classes are **10kg, 15kg, and 24kg only**.
- There are no bonus points for using line lighter than 10kg.
- 24kg is the maximum permitted line class.
- Braid used without a monofilament topshot must be IGFA-rated and proof of line class must be provided if requested.

PAPERWORK

Tag cards must be correctly completed and submitted with QGFA activity books daily. On the final day, all activity books and tag cards must be submitted to the Weighmaster at the boat ramp by 6:30 pm. Incomplete, inaccurate, or illegible paperwork will result in a 1000-point penalty.

MOTHERSHIPS/SLOWBOATS

- Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, 30 September 2026.
- Approved teams may commence fishing from Boyd Bay (no further west than Boyd Point) at 8:00 am.
- This exemption is intended for motherships or vessels unable to maintain speeds greater than 10 knots.
- At least one representative must still attend the tournament briefing.



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RADIO SKEDS

Requirements:

- All competing vessels must carry a fully operational VHF radio.
- Radio skeds are compulsory and will be conducted on VHF Channel 77.
- If unable to contact the Sked Boat directly, reports must be relayed through another vessel.
- Text message skeds to the Sked Boat are permitted.
- Any vessel that logs off early will be deemed no longer to be participating in the tournament for that day.

Penalties:

- Failure to provide accurate or timely skeds may result in penalties, including loss of all points for that day.
- Any vessel failing to report for two consecutive skeds may trigger search and rescue procedures and any associated costs may be borne by that vessel.

Reporting Format:

- Team name
- Sponsored grid location
- Billfish activity score

For example: **“Tag Time, Carpentaria Marine Services, 3–3–2”** (where the first number represents strikes, the second hook-ups, and the third tagged billfish).

SKED TIMES		
09:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm

- A radio silence period will apply from the end of the final sked each day until the cease fishing call at 4:00 pm to allow for late hook-up calls.
- Any hook-ups during this period must be called immediately to qualify for playing out after cease fishing.
- Failure to comply with sked procedures will result in the loss of all points for that day.

FIRST MARLIN & SAILFISH TAGGED (DAILY)

The first marlin and sailfish tagged each day of the tournament are eligible for a prize and **must be reported immediately** to the Sked Boat. Once reported, no further call ups are required until the next official radio sked.



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HEAVIEST “OTHER GAMEFISH” EACH SPECIES

Anglers may weigh a maximum of one (1) Other Gamefish per species, per day, to be eligible for these awards. Other Gamefish do not contribute to an angler's overall points score.

Eligible species are: **Longtail tuna, Spanish mackerel, Cobia, Dolphinfish** and must be presented to the weigh-in in a gilled and gutted, fresh edible condition.

Weigh-in facilities will be available at Boyd Bay from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, and in Weipa at the Weipa Boat Ramp until 6:30 pm on Monday only.

DISPUTE COMMITTEE / PROTESTS

All protests must be submitted in writing to the Weighmaster by the close of weigh-in at 6:30 pm on Monday. The Weighmaster will forward protests to the Dispute Committee (comprised of representatives from three QGFA clubs). No other form of protest will be accepted. The decision of the Dispute Committee is final.

TOURNAMENT CONDUCT

The Tournament Committee reserves the right, at any time, to eject, disqualify, or deduct points from any individual or team deemed to have behaved in a disrespectful manner or to have brought game fishing or the tournament into disrepute. Any angler or team (including crew and skipper) ejected from the tournament will receive no result and no refund of entry fees.

LOCATION & FACILITIES

The nomination evening and presentation will be held at the Weipa Bowls Club, which offers licensed bar facilities. The nomination fee includes pizza at the briefing and one meal per angler at the presentation night. Additional meals and drinks will be available for purchase. All anglers are responsible for supplying their own food and beverages while on their vessels.

WEATHER

The decision to go to sea rests entirely with the skipper of each vessel. The WBFC and its Tournament Committee accept no responsibility for decisions made by individual crews regarding whether to proceed to sea.

All participants are encouraged to monitor weather forecasts and sea conditions throughout the tournament.

No allowance will be made for lost fishing time due to adverse weather conditions. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to cancel any day or days of the tournament due to bad weather.





PRIZE CATEGORIES

CHAMPION	RUNNER UP	THIRD PLACE
Champion Team	Runner Up Team	Third Place Team
Champion Male Angler	Runner Up Male Angler	Third Place Male Angler
Champion Female Angler	Runner Up Female Angler	Third Place Female Angler
Champion Junior Angler	Runner Up Junior Angler	Third Place Junior Angler

OTHER SPECIAL AWARDS

First Sailfish Tagged Daily	First Marlin Tagged Daily	Last Billfish Tagged Daily
Heaviest Mackerel	Heaviest Longtail Tuna	Heaviest Cobia
Heaviest Dolphinfish	Hard Luck Award	9 Angler Sked Draws
Most Billfish Points on Lure	Champion Visiting Angler	Most Meritorious Effort

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- **Emergency Services:** 000 (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
- **Marine Rescue Queensland:** VHF 16
- **Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) – Rescue Coordination Centre:**
1800 641 792
- **Nearest Hospital:** Weipa Hospital
- **Tournament Contacts:** Sked Boat, Radio: VHF Channel 77



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