



Cairns Bluewater Game Fishing Club

16TH – 19TH September 2026

2026 Cairns Bluewater Billfish Tournament

This tournament is a Billfish tag & release team/individual event

ENQUIRES:

President – John Pecl - 0416516194

Secretary – Terri Morgan - 0413076020

Treasurer – Nikki Pecl - 0427781739

Copies of tournament brochure and information are available at
www.cairnsbluewatergfc.com.au

Tournament Entry

Entry fee of \$295.00 per Senior (includes tournament shirt)

Entry fee of \$230.00 per Junior (includes tournament shirt)

Entry fee of \$270.00 crew pack (includes tournament shirt)

<https://www.trybooking.com/DDLMX>

Angler Entry Fee includes briefing night finger foods, presentation dinner, tournament shirt and QGFA Red Levy payment.

Non-competing Crew Pack Entry Fee of \$270.00 per crew member includes briefing night finger foods, presentation dinner, tournament shirt..

Extra guests for presentation night must be included on the nomination form to avoid disappointment.

Tournament Calcutta

A Calcutta will occur for the entire tournament fleet. There will be no pre-purchase of boats.

Immediately following the briefing, an auction for all tournament boats will be held for each class of vessel competing in the tournament. Cash or direct deposit will be accepted on the evening for the auction.

1st, 2nd & 3rd place to be allocated to Calcutta winners less the club admin fee of 20%.

Briefing Night

A **compulsory** Skippers/Team Captain briefing will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday 16th September at the Shangri-La – The Marina Cairns. Located Pier Point Road Cairns. The Briefing Night is for all Tournament entries.

Tournament Rules

GFAA rules apply for the duration of the tournament.

Teams

Minimum of **2** anglers and maximum of **4** anglers permitted per vessel. Each boat must have a minimum of 2 senior anglers. Each angler is to receive equal fishing time. Subject to the complete discretion and prior approval of the committee, additional anglers may be allowed. Should this occur, the affected team acknowledges that prizes allocated to the winning team will be for no more than 4 Anglers.

All Captains, Crew and Anglers must be current financial members of a club affiliated with GFAA or QGFA and will be required to provide proof of current membership. No exceptions.

Non-members are encouraged to join Cairns Bluewater Game Fishing Club prior to the registration / briefing night which is also available

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1591881>

Line Class

10kg Line class only (GFAA requirements apply)

Major prizes decided by billfish point score, in case of a tie, the first Boat Team/Individual to total points score wins. Only Billfish tagged and released count to point score.

Edible only Game Fish caught will have separate prizes but will not count towards point score. Game fish to be weighed per Weigh in rules (below). **JUNIORS ONLY**

Dead Bait/Lure: A maximum of two (2) rods per angler may be used at any one time (e.g. 2x anglers = Maximum 4x rods in use).

Live Baiting: One (1) rod only per angler may be used at any one time.

Tag & Release

Each tagged billfish will result in 1 point being allocated.

To be eligible for tag points, all billfish must be tagged with NSW fisheries "billfish only" tags.

Tagging with any other tag will result in disqualification of the fish.

Any Billfish bought to the weigh station will result in disqualification of the entire team for the entire tournament.

Heaviest Other Game Fish daily

GFAA eligible species on a capture basis only are listed below. Edible other Game fish caught will have separate prizes and will not count towards points score.

- Yellow fin
- Wahoo
- Spanish Mackerel
- Cobia
- Mahi Mahi

An allowance of 10% will be made for gilled and gutted. All fish are to be kept on ice. Record claim fish must be intact. No mutilated fish will be accepted.

A limit of one fish per angler per day of legal size.

All boats and anglers should have rods, reels & tackle available for inspection. Random checks will be carried out by the committee.

Weigh-in

To be conducted – Cairns Marlin Marina – Northern Finger – grassy knoll next to Mooz café.

Thursday 17th September - 6pm – 7.30pm

Friday 18th September - 6pm – 7.30pm

Saturday 19th September – 2.30pm. – 4.00pm

Overtime is permitted but hook-ups must be called in prior to cease fishing and teams must meet weigh-in cut off time.



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Each angler must present their fish to be weighed, tag cards and the boat activity sheet to the weigh master in person and remain during the weighing on Thursday, Friday & Saturday. For boats who choose to Raft on the Reef, tag cards & activity sheets can be sent through via text, messenger or what's app. **MUST ABIDE TO STRICT CUT OFF TIME WHEN SENDING ELECTRONICALLY –AS PER PHYSICAL HAND IN TIMES.**

No fish are to be left at the weigh station.

Fish not tagged and released will not be eligible for tag points. Junior Anglers only eligible for junior prizes and trophies.

Tag Cards and Activity Sheets

All tag cards and boat activity sheets must be handed in daily on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to the Club Captain / Weigh Master unless staying out on the reef. (must send photo of tag card and activity sheet via text, messenger or what's app.) **WHEN SENT ELECTRONICALLY –AS PER PHYSICAL HAND IN TIMES.**

Trent Killmore - What's App/ 0402058551

Terri Morgan -What's App / 0413076020

Tag Cards will not be accepted unless they are completed with lats /longs and capture times. Incomplete tag cards will result in no points being allocated. Failure to send in tag card details /hand in tag cards will result in No points allocated.

Photographic evidence of each marlin tagged may be required.

Fishing Grounds

Opal Reef in the North to RAAF Shoals in the South GBRMPA Zones and regulations apply.

Radio Skeds—Tournament

VHF Channel 81

Boat to Boat communication, VHF Channel 10 – unless advised otherwise.

Skeds to be held at:

Thursday / Friday: 10.05 am, 1.05pm, 4.15pm

Saturday: 9.05 am, 11.05pm, 1.15pm

Fishing Days & Times

Thursday 17th Sept –Day 1 fishing

Start fishing 0800hrs Cease fishing 1700hrs

Overtime permitted

Friday 18th Sept – Day 2 fishing

Start fishing 0800hrs Cease fishing 1700hrs

Overtime permitted

Saturday 19th Sept – Day 3 fishing

Start fishing 0700hrs Cease fishing 14.00hrs

Game base is to be notified immediately when the first Billfish of the day is tagged. Hook-ups after the last Sked of the day must be reported to Game Base prior to cease fishing.

One (1) hour restricted overtime on Thursday/Friday and Saturday only, but teams must meet weigh in cut off time.

Functions

Wednesday 16th September

- Briefing held at Shangri-La the Cairns Marina
- Finger Food provide – Alcoholic & non Alcoholic drinks can be purchased on the night.

Thursday 17th September & Friday 18th September

Drinks and Pizza for all boats not staying out on the reef.

Presentation Evening

"Our Club Promotes the Tag & Release of Billfish"

Saturday 19th September

Presentation Dinner – Shangri-La – Trinity Room.

6.15 pm -Pre Dinner Drinks

7.00 pm - Presentation Dinner

7.45 pm - Awards Presentation

Boat Insurance

All forms of insurance are not the responsibility of Cairns Bluewater Game Fishing Club.

All boats nominating to fish the Cairns Bluewater Billfish Tournament are required to have current boat insurance. Details of insurance, including the certificate must be emailed to secretary@cairnsbluewatergfc.com.au

All onboard safety remains the responsibility of the owner or skipper. 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 will be excluded from participating in the tournament.

Prize Categories:

- Champion Boat - 7.5m & Under, Over 7.5m.
- Runner Up Boat – 7.5m & Under, Over 7.5m
- Champion Angler – Male, Female and Junior
- Runner up Angler – Male, Female and Junior
- Heaviest Game Fish Weighed –Juniors Day 1, Day 2 & Day 3
- First Billfish and Last Billfish Day 1, Day 2 & Day 3
- Unluckiest Anglers – Male and Female
- Overall Grand Champion
- Junior Encouragement Award
- Out of Town Angler

Any tied trophy will be awarded to the angler/team recording their points total first (count back)

Junior Anglers are not eligible to win Champion Senior prize categories..

Weather/Breakdowns:

No allowances will be made for fishing time lost due to bad weather or breakdowns.

In the event of a breakdown, teams may apply to the tournament committee to fish a substitute vessel with the same team members.

The tournament committee reserves the right to alter fishing times, postpone, or cancel the tournament or any tournament day, in the event of bad weather.



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Protests

To be submitted in writing by the Team Captain to the Club Committee by no later than 1600hrs on Saturday 19th August. The Committee's decision will be final and no further discussion will take place.

Disqualification

The Committee reserves the right to eject any team member from an event/site for unruly or unsportsmanlike behavior. The Committee reserves the right to also disqualify any team member from the Tournament for breaching the rules.

Important information

The committee reserve the right to cancel or postpone the tournament if conditions are deemed to be too dangerous for the boats and crew.

The committee reserves the right to amend the trophy/prize list without notification. All prize categories and prizes are subject to sponsorship commitments being honored. The Cairns Bluewater Game Fishing Club Inc., its committee, officers, members and sponsors as such are released from any liability whatsoever arising and occurring or resulting from the tournament, and vessels, anglers, crew, skippers etc agree to keep the Club indemnified against all claims, damages, costs and loss that may be claimed or awarded or to any property, licensees or guests against the Club, or that a vessel, angler, crew, skipper etc may suffer resulting from injury or loss.

NQ Shoot Out

This year's tournament will also include a 3-fishing tournament point system along with Townsville Game Fishing Club and Innisfail Game Fishing Club. There will be a cash boat prize pool of \$40K.

Break up of pool TBA. Nominated boats must compete in 2/3 fishing tournaments to be eligible to win the cash prize. The winning boat will be announced at the end of the last tournament being Cairns Bluewater.