

2026 GEORGE BESOFF MEMORIAL BIG FISH CLASSIC

Friday 3rd April to Monday 6th April 2026
PORT STEPHENS

**Hosted for N&PSGFC Members Only:
Newcastle & Port Stephens Game Fish Club Ltd**

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TOURNAMENT RULES

1. THE TOURNAMENT

The tournament will be held from Friday 3rd April through to Monday 6th April 2026.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: The Tournament Committee to conduct the competition shall be Troy Radford, Greg Miles, and Brent Hancock.

2. THE COMPETITION

The competition will be for both Tag & Release and Capture and will be fished as per the GFAA & NSWGFA rules – Pointscores – Tackle regulations and minimum weights. Line classes to be fished 4g, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg.

Minimum Weights: **Yellow Fin Tuna** – 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line and for Junior Anglers equal to line class in all cases. **Marlin** - a minimum of 70kg on line classes to 10kg, and a minimum of 90kg on 15kg line class and over. **Sharks** - a minimum of 70kg on line classes to 10kg, a minimum of 90kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg and 130kg on 60kg line class excluding tiger sharks & Blue sharks – which have minimum weights – Tiger Sharks Line Classes 6 – 10kg min. 120kg Line Classes 15 – 24kg min. 200kg Line Classes 37 – 60kg min. 250kg Blue Sharks Line Classes 6 – 10kg min. 100kg Line Classes 15 – 24kg min. 125kg Line Classes 37 – 60kg min. 150kg. **OGF & Broadbill** - a minimum weight to be equal to line class. Species to be fished for as per NSWGFA eligible species list as are in effect at the time.

3. FISHING TIMES

7.00am to 4.00pm each day. (The overnight rule cannot be applied in this tournament).

Boats can fish on the 4 of the days but only the 3 best days will be counted to determine winners.

4. ENTRIES

Boat teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) tournament anglers with no maximum number of anglers. There is no fee to enter this tournament. **Note:** Boats wishing to join the competition need complete the entry form which is attached or contact the sked boat before fishing - announcing their intention to fish the tournament.

THE COMPETITION IS OPEN to N&PSGFC registered boats only - Note introductory members are welcome -

NOTE: Introductory Members Fee - \$25.00 when the first fish is caught. Introductory members are allowed 1 fish only. In the event of an introductory member catching a fish, all the above criteria must be met before personal capture/tag & release points will be credited. Boat points will be awarded for introductory members' capture /tag & release if the \$25 dollars is received.

5. POINTSCORE

Will be as per the NSWGFA Pointscore System. In the case of a tie, the count-back system will apply.

Boats can fish the 4 days but only 3 best days will be counted to determine winners.

6. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Will be conducted in accordance with the adopted *NSWGFA Guidelines for Radio Skeds for Tournaments* as are in effect at the time. These shall be conducted by Nominated Sked Boat on VHF 80. The skeds will start at 9.10am every day of the tournament. Skeds will run every two hours during this time at ten past the hour All boats must answer each schedule, giving boat name, fishing report using the 0:0:0 system and fishing position using the club grid chart. If a vessel has a radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it **MUST RETURN TO PORT** and notify the Nominated Sked Boat of their actions by other means (phone etc).

Boats **MUST** keep the air clear 10 minutes prior to the end of fishing so late hook-ups may be recorded by the nominated sked boat.

ALL VESSELS MUST SIGN OFF WITH NOMINATED SKED BOAT ON RETURN TO PORT – Or penalties will apply.

7. CAPTURE CERTIFICATES AND TAG & RELEASE CARDS

All capture or tag & releases are to be reported by radio to Nominated Sked Boat when affected and the time given by Nominated Sked Boat recorded on the tag & release card/capture certificates. **IN THE EVENT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTACT THE NOMINATED SKED BOAT, PLEASE CONTACT YOU'RE NEAREST VESSEL.**

FAILURE TO RECORD THE TIME OF AN AFFECTED CAPTURE OR TAG & RELEASE WILL RESULT IN A TIME RECORDED FOR THE CAPTURE OR TAG & RELEASE AS BEING THE END OF FISHING FOR THAT DAY, Failure to record line class will result in line class being recorded 60kg.

If you have reported a hook up before the close of fishing the fish may be fought out, in the case of the Nominated Sked Boat returning to port, boats remaining at sea fighting fish will be logged on with VMR Port Stephens. All tags & capture certificates must be lodged at the club office by 6.00pm on Monday 13th April 2026.

8. PROTESTS

All protests to be presented in writing to the Tournament Committee by 6.00 pm on 13th April 2026.

THE DECISIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE FINAL.

9. Presentation

Will be held in conjunction with the club's presentation dinner, this is scheduled for August 2026.

10. TROPHIES

A. CHAMPION BOAT CAPTURE

CHAMPION SENIOR ANGLER CAPTURE

CHAMPION JUNIOR CAPTURE

HEAVIEST SHARK

HEAVIEST BILLFISH

HEAVIEST OGF

B. CHAMPION BOAT TAG & RELEASE

CHAMPION SENIOR ANGLER TAG & RELEASE

CHAMPION JUNIOR TAG & RELEASE

11. WEIGH MASTER – Nigel Rushworth 0423 727 195

12. BAD WEATHER

To avoid taking unnecessary risks in the event of bad weather, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the day will be a competition day or not. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of fishing, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the competition day will be called off for the remainder of that day. All fish caught or hooked up prior to this time will be eligible for the competition. The Tournament Committee accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals as to whether to put them to sea or not, having regard to the Tournament Committee's decision on fishing for the day.