GARMIN

2027 GARMIN BILLFISH SHOOTOUT

Thursday 18th, Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st February 2027
PORT STEPHENS NSW AUSTRALIA

Hosted by: Newcastle & Port Stephens Game Fish Club Ltd

Where It All Began in 1913
Est. 1929

President: *Troy Radford* *OFFICE:* *The Tournament Secretary*
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TOURNAMENT RULES

1. THE TOURNAMENT

The competition will be held over three days, Friday 19th Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February 2027.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

President	NPSGFC	Troy Radford	0439 012 714
Director	NPSGFC	Greg Miles	0412 067 496
Director	NPSGFC	Brent Hancock	0447 842 143

2. THE COMPETITION

The competition will be for both Tag & Release and Capture and will be fished as per the GFAA & NSWGFA rules – Point scores – Tackle regulations. Line classes to be fished are 4kg, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg.
Small fry anglers are restricted to a maximum 10kg line class

Billfish Shootout Minimum Weights – see below
Species eligible for Capture in the tournament are Marlin. Note: Marlin -As per NSWGFA minimum weights.
Species Eligible for Capture in the tournament are Shark (Excluding Scalloped, Great hammerhead and Great white sharks). Note: Shark minimum weight will be as per NSWGFA minimum weights for the $5000 cash prize – if it exceeds 350kg on any line class it will jackpot $12500.00 to the cash prize
Species eligible for capture in the tournament are OGF – As per NSWGFA minimum weights
Species eligible for Tag and Release Are Marlin, Sailfish, Broadbill Swordfish & Short Bill Spearfish.

CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY are permitted to be used for live baiting and trolling natural baits **(whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected)** NB: No points to be scored for any species caught while using live baits and/or trolling natural baits with "J" hooks.



CIRCLE HOOK DEFINITION
A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank of the hook.

3. ENTRIES

Eligibility

All anglers are to be financial members of a club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, ANSA or IGFA. **(Penalty:** Automatic disqualification of the vessel from the tournament. This includes ineligibility for any boat prizes not yet awarded at the time of disqualification.) ANSA Members wishing to fish for the tournament must fish on an NSWGFA Club Registered Boat.

The tournament committee reserves the right (at its absolute discretion) to refuse to accept entry to the tournament from any boat and/or angler. The tournament committee is not required to provide a reason for its decision.

Entry fees

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The Team Captain, skipper and any person assisting in (or involved in affecting) a capture or tag & release must be a competing angler that has paid the applicable entry fee. (Penalty: Automatic disqualification of the vessel from the tournament. This includes ineligibility for any boat prizes not yet awarded at the time of disqualification.)

There must be a minimum of **three (3)** registered anglers onboard each boat under 8 meters and **four (4)** registered anglers onboard each boat 8 meters and over. The maximum limit to the number of anglers on each boat shall be as per the limit imposed by vessel capacity plate.

Entry fees are **$260.00 (Inc. GST) includes presentation ticket, tournament shirt** and **$110.00 (Inc. GST)** for each junior angler (under 16 years of age at the start of the Tournament).

The entry fee includes tournament clothing, briefing, and boat team kit, angler draws.

PLEASE NOTE: The sit-down meal is available exclusively to the first 400 anglers registered for the event. Anglers who register after the first 400 are still welcome to attend the presentation; however, they will not be allocated a seat for the sit-down meal. Drinks and buffet-style snacks will be provided for these attendees.

Late entries

Entries close on Thursday 18th February 2027 at 5pm. Entries submitted after this date will incur a late entry fee of $30.00 per angler. Late entries will be accepted up until the commencement of the briefing Thursday 18th February 2027

(Note: Tournament clothing may not be available for late entrants at the briefing)

4. FISHING DAYS & TIMES

Friday 19th 8.30am to 4.00pm, 8.00am to 4.00pm Saturday 20th, 8.00am to 3.30pm Sunday 21st February 2027.
Boats cannot commence burleying, trolling or fishing before the Radio Operator announces the official start of fishing.
(**Note**: Collection of live bait prior to the official start is permitted).
Any hookups prior to the end of fishing on Saturday that has been reported to and acknowledged by radio base (Game Fish Base), may be fought out. Fish hooked prior to the end of fishing on Sunday that has been reported to and acknowledged by radio base can be fought out if the tag card/capture is at the weigh station by 5.00 pm.
(Note: Weigh station is deemed to be Fly Point.)

5. FISHING AREA (TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES)

The Fishing area for the tournament is South to latitude 33 degrees 15 minutes (Bird Island) and North to latitude 32 degrees and 13 minutes (Latitude Rock)

6. LEAVING PORT

Boats may fish from their home port on Friday 19th February but CANNOT commence burleying, trolling or fishing until:

- The Radio Operator announces the official start of fishing at 8:30 am, AND
- The boat is located within the prescribed fishing area (tournament boundary).

7. RETURN TO PORT

On Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February, ALL boats must return to the Club's port at Port Stephens. Failure to report on your return may invoke a penalty.

8. SALE OF FISH

Any fish weighed shall not be sold or bartered. Such fish shall be ineligible for any trophies or awards. Any person or boat entered in the tournament found to have sold or bartered their catch will be disqualified from the tournament.

9. FISH HANDLING

All fish should be removed from the weigh station after weighing *unless requested by a scientific research official and permitted/confirmed by a tournament official* **(Safety of the crew is paramount - if the boat is incapable of disposing of the fish safely you must inform a tournament official to organise an alternative)**. Competitor and boat crews must not clean or fillet fish, in the vicinity of the weigh station, not at any time near any beach or Harbour foreshore area. Unwanted fish must be taken at least 3nm outside the port and disposed of in an appropriate manner. **NOTE: FISH MUST NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN A MARINE PARK**: In the event of any shark or marlin given away for eating, only the fillets may be given, and the remaining carcass is the responsibility of the skipper and crew. Failure to comply with rule 8 may incur a penalty (Discretion of tournament committee)

10. WEIGH STATION PROCEDURES

Once boats enter the vicinity of the weigh station, they are under the control of the Tournament Official at the Weigh Station and MUST obey all instructions issued by the Official. Before coming alongside the weigh station, boats must have, all equipment used to affect the Capture or Tag & Release ready for inspection and have completed all applicable paperwork.

11. LAWFUL CONDUCT

Compliance with NSW and Australian Laws

All boats, skippers and crew members must comply with applicable Australian and NSW state regulations, including but not limited to current valid licenses (e.g. boat operation, NSW fishing, marine radio operator). The tournament committee reserves the right to inspect licenses of all members of a competing crew. Failure to provide this documentation and notification of a breach by the regulatory authority (e.g. police, maritime, etc.) Will result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.

Seaworthiness of vessels/boats

All boats must comply with NSW Maritime Authority regulations, for safety equipment and safety standards.
All boats must carry a 406 MHz EPRIB and have two working marine radios fitted one of which must be VHF frequency.
A Boat Safety Form is included as part of the entry form and must be completed and signed by the boat skipper.

12. CONDUCT

It is an expectation that all participants will conduct themselves in a responsible and courteous manner to Tournament Officials and other Competitors at all times throughout the tournament. Penalties for misconduct may include disqualification from the tournament.

13. MISCONDUCT

The Tournament Committee may on its own initiate investigation and act upon any incident of misconduct by an angler on a boat, be he/she registered for the tournament or not occurring during the tournament. The committee may impose penalties of loss of points, disqualification of fish, angler, boat or team and refusal of entry to any future club tournaments. All competitors are reminded that as members of a club they are regarded as representatives of that club, as such any unbecoming behaviour reflects adversely on the club and indeed on all Game Fishers, hence, the tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.

14. DISPUTES OR PROTESTS

Disputes or protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Committee by 6.30pm on the day in question. The dispute will be considered by a minimum of 3 members of the Tournament Committee, one of whom shall be the NPSGFC

President. Protests cannot be made anonymously, and the other party shall be given the right of reply in writing. Both parties may be called upon to present their case to the review committee.
THE DECISIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE FINAL.

15. INSURANCE

Each vessel is to have their own Third-Party Liability insurance and Boat Owner must provide details of insurance covering third party property liability and third-party personal liability insurance **(minimum $5 million)** on the 'Boat Safety Rescue Form'.

16. BRIEFING

There will be a tournament Briefing on Thursday 18th February 2027 Soldiers Point Bowling Club 118 Soldiers Point Rd, Soldiers Point NSW at 7:00 pm.
Boats that plan to commence fishing from Port Stephens must have an entered angler from the boat attend the briefing. Tournament bags will be issued at the briefing. Only boats that nominate on the entry form that they will commence fishing on day 1 from another port are exempt from attending the briefing, ***(Boats who do not attend the briefing must download a sked map from the club's website www.npsgfc.com).*** Tournament bags for these vessels will be available from the tag return and weigh station on day 1.
Please Note: You must be present to claim boat and angler prize draws

17. POINTSCORE

Point score will be as per the NSWGFA Point score System. In the case of a tie, the angler or team to reach the tied score first will be deemed the winner.

18. 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 Tournament Base on 2284 SSB, 80 & 21 VHF. The scheduled times will be Friday at 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.10pm Saturday at 8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm. All boats must answer each schedule, giving boat number, boat name, accurate fishing report using the 0:0:0 system and fishing position using the supplied grid chart **(Note: Marlin & Shark captures must be radioed into tournament base with accurate measurements using the weight/curve graph).** If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it MUST RETURN TO PORT and notify Radio Base of their actions by other means (phone, etc.). Boats MUST keep the air clear 10 minutes prior to the end of fishing for late hook-ups to be recorded to tournament base. ALL VESSELS MUST SIGN OFF WITH TOURNAMENT BASE ON RETURN TO PORT – or penalties will apply.
If a vessel misses two (2) radio Skeds, the tournament base will commence emergency procedures.

19. CAPTURE CERTIFICATES AND TAG & RELEASE CARDS

All capture or tag & releases are to be reported accurately by radio to Tournament Base when effected and the time given by Tournament Base recorded on the tag & release card/capture certificates. If captured or tagged & released during sked, the skipper is entitled to record his/her time **IN THE EVENT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTACT TOURNAMENT BASE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST VESSEL.**
FAILURE TO RECORD THE TIME AND LINE CLASS OF AN EFFECTED CAPTURE OR TAG & RELEASE WILL RESULT IN A TIME RECORDED FOR THE CAPTURE OR TAG & RELEASE AS BEING THE END OF FISHING ON EACH DAY, LINE CLASS WILL BE 60KG.
All captures or tag & release cards must be lodged at the Weigh Station on the day of capture or tag & release and on Sunday 21st February no later than 4.00pm for fish reported as a hook up prior to the end of fishing. All hand deliveries of equipment and Tag Cards must be at the Weigh station facility by the 4.00pm deadline. **(Weigh station will be Fly Point) Please note that NSWDPI tags only will be accepted. Billfish tags must be used to tag all billfish species. The appropriate flags are to be flown on return to the weigh station.**

20. METHOD OF RELEASING A TAGGED FISH

The hook is to be removed, or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish. A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured to the fish and the fish is released back into the water alive.

21. EVIDENCE OF TAG & RELEASE

All Tag & Release of fish throughout the competition must be accompanied by time and date stamped photographic images. The tournament committee may, at its discretion, review the photographic images at any stage throughout the tournament and amend provisional results accordingly. Failure to provide the images, or images that do not contain the object of the day (Photographic evidence), will result in zero points being allocated to the tag and release. The object to be used in photographic equipment for day one of fishing may be randomly selected, in which case it will be announced at the briefing night. The object of the day to be used for photographic equipment on day two will be announced at the commencement of the 1710 sked at the end of day one's fishing. Images provided to the tournament committee as evidence of the tag and release must be date stamped.

Small fry /Junior anglers may be requested to demonstrate their proficiency in handling a rod and reel outfit

22. BOAT / ANGLER REPLACEMENT

No replacement of boats or anglers for whatever reason will be allowed after the conclusion of the briefing on Thursday 18th February 7.00 pm **(Any alterations and additions to entry form can be made at the briefing)**. Anglers may only affect a capture or tag & release on the vessel on which he or she is a registered angler.

23. TROPHY PRESENTATION DINNER

The Trophy Presentation Evening will be held at **Soldiers Point Bowling Club 118 Soldiers Point Rd, Soldiers Point NSW 2317,** Sunday 21st February 2027, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Please Note: You must be present to claim any angler or boat draws

24. 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 captured or tagged 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. The declaration of a gale warning by the Bureau of Meteorology will cancel fishing for that day: Cancellation will only apply until the Gale Warning is lifted. In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea fishing will cease immediately and vessels must return to port.

25. INDEMNITY

THE N&PSGFC accepts no responsibility for actions by entrants in this tournament & shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to any property or person during this tournament. In that regard, all entrants indemnify the tournament committee, N&PSGFC & all voluntary workers against any claim for loss or damage to property or person.

26. SEVERABILITY

If any provision or provisions of these rules is declared unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions will continue to be valid and enforceable.

27. ACCEPTANCE OF TOURNAMENT RULES

By signing the application to enter form and/or paying the entry fee(s) described in rule 3 applicants will be deemed to have accepted the tournament rules without limitation or amendment. (Refer Rule 3 Entries/Eligibility)

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Trophy List

Major Prize (Capture) Heaviest Marlin

Major Prize (Capture) Heaviest Marlin under 8-meter boat

Major Prize (Capture) Heaviest Shark
Jackpot if
Exceeding 350kg

Major Prize (Capture) Heaviest OGF

Major Team Prize (Tag & Release)

Most Meritorious Capture of a Marlin

(Accumulative point score of Marlin & other Billfish)
(maximum cash prize payout $50,000.00)

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Trophy List

Tag & Release Team Prizes

Champion Team 1
Champion Team 2
Champion Team 3
Champion Team 4
Champion Team 5
Champion Team 6
Champion Team 7
Champion Team 8
Champion Team 9
Champion Team 10

Champion Junior Angler T&R

Champion Junior Angler Capture

Plenty of giveaways during the event