

2010 NT XXXX Gold Billfish Classic Rules

Tournament sanctioning requirements

All competitors must be a **current** member of an NTGFA or GFAA game fishing club, any competitor who is not a **current** member of an NTGFA or GFAA game fishing club can join Darwin Game Fishing Club at a pro rata rate for the tournament. All competitors must also be an affiliate member with the NTGFA.

Briefing/Calcutta night 30th September 2010

Briefing commences 6.00 pm at the Darwin Ski Club

The briefing is compulsory for all teams to attend, the Skipper of each team will be required to sign a form attesting they have read the rules & agree to abide by the rules & the decisions of the Darwin Game Fishing Club committee in relation to the tournament rules and/or disputes arising during the tournament. A digital camera and two memory sticks will be issued to each Skipper to utilise during the tournament.

Teams carrying Satellite phones are requested to issue details to Billfish base station for emergency situations or reference if required.

Competition fishing dates, times & tidal information

1st October

Teams must contact Billfish base station on channel # 72 and provide the following information:

- (a) Boat number
- (b) Number of persons on boat
- (c) Amount of fuel on board
- (d) Intention of returning to Darwin each night and/ r remaining at remote anchorage and intended general location of remote anchorage eg Cape Fourcroy, Dundee Lodge etc.

At 0655 hours, Billfish base will issue a 5 minute warning to lines in on channel # 72.

At 0700 hours Billfish base will advise the commencement of the 2010 NT XXXX Gold Billfish Classic lines in, lines in on channel # 72.

1st October	Lines in	7.00 am	Lines out	5.00 pm
Low tides	0407hrs	3.48m	1652hrs	2.35m
High tides	0919hr	5.41m	2333hrs	5.62m
2 nd October	Lines in	7.00 am	Lines out	5.00 pm
Low tides	0529hrs	3.87m	1810hrs	2.70m
High tide	1014hrs	4.89m		

3rd October	Lines in	7.00 am	Lines out	5.00 pm
<i>Low tides</i>	<i>0738hrs</i>	<i>3.86m</i>	<i>1959hrs</i>	<i>2.74m</i>
<i>High tides</i>	<i>0102hrs</i>	<i>5.43m</i>	<i>1251hrs</i>	<i>4.56m</i>

Details of Presentation night to be advised

Team requirements

All teams require a minimum of two anglers & a maximum of four anglers, any other persons aboard the vessel are not permitted to assist the competitors in any manner, including the setting up of fishing equipment entering the water, retrieval of fishing gear or equipment from the water, tagging of fish, rigging baits, rigging tackle or similar, the exception is a non competitor, who may drive the vessel during the competition times.

Tackle, equipment & rules

Line is limited to pre test monofilament

Line class	10 kg minimum
Line class	60 kg maximum

Point scoring

Marlin	1600 points	<i>(Must be tagged & photographed)</i>
Sailfish	750 points	<i>(Must be tagged & photographed)</i> <i>*Note - NSW Billfish tags to be used</i>
All other game fish	50 points	<i>(Must be tagged & photographed)</i> <i>*Note - NSW dart tags to be used with the exception of Spanish Mackerel.</i>
Spanish Mackerel	50 points	<i>(Must be tagged & photographed)</i> <i>**Note - NT Fisheries gene tags to be used</i>

Record details of game fish species, time and date on score sheets provided.

No fish will be weighed at the gantry, any fish returned to be weighed at the gantry will not be eligible for any points and/or any prize categories.

No measurement of fish is required except for personal satisfaction.

Any fish not tagged and/or not released, will be ineligible for tag points or prize categories.

Tagged fish are not required to equal line class.

All tackle and equipment must conform to the GFAA rules, the Committee reserve the right to inspect and adjudicate on any tackle or equipment used to capture fish during the tournament.

Radio schedules, channel # 72

In addition to other radio schedules the following will apply:

- a) Hook up time to Billfish must be recorded and radioed in as soon as possible to Billfish base station on channel # 72.
- b) Billfish tagged: tag time is to be recorded and radioed in as soon as possible to Billfish base on channel # 72.

- c) In the event a team cannot raise Billfish base on channel # 72, teams may utilise a satellite phone to contact Billfish base, Debbie Halprin on 0412848267 (preferred option) Leigh Halprin on 0402301533, or alternatively Darwin Ski Club on 89816630 and request to speak to Leigh or Debbie Halprin to provide information.
- d) Relaying of information to another competition vessel is acceptable under the condition that the relay vessel forwards the information to Billfish base via channel # 72 or satellite phone. ****Note-**The onus is on the vessel that hooks and tags a Billfish to ensure their information is received by Billfish base. In the event of a count back, the time Billfish base receives the information from the actual team or relay vessel will be the final decision, not the time recorded on the card by the Angler.

Tie-breaker rules

- 1) First tag time scheds is declared the winner, as recorded at the Billfish base station, not the time recorded on the tag card by the Angler.
- 2) Fish caught on the lighter line class declared the winner
- 3) First fish hooked up

For example:

Two Anglers A and B

A = Sail on 10kg ; B = Marlin on 60kg - **B=winner**

A = Sail on 24kg ; B = Sail on 15kg - **B=winner**

A = Marlin on 24kg ; B = Marlin on 24kg - **first tag radioed in = winner**

A = Sail on 24kg and Marlin on 24kg; B = Sail on 24kg and Marlin on 15kg - **B = winner**

A = Marlin on 24kg and Sail on 15kg; B = Marlin on 24kg and Sail on 10kg - **B = winner**

A = Sail on 10kg tag in @ 11:00am (hook-up - 10:55); A= Sail on 10kg tag in at 11:00am (hook-up - 10:30) - **B = winner**

All Billfish tagged and submitted for points **must** be accompanied by a photograph of the fish, preferably once the tag is inserted in the Billfish. The photo may be used by the Committee to verify the estimated weight of the Billfish tagged if required.

Tag submission requirements

Teams have the option to return Billfish, Gamefish & Gene tag cards and scoresheets to Billfish station by

- a) Billfish, Gamefish & Gene tag cards and scoresheets may be physically returned to Billfish base by 1900 hours each day.
- b) Radioing the Billfish, Gamefish & Gene tag cards and scoresheets in on channel # 72 to Billfish base by 1900 hours each day.
- c) Phoning the Billfish, Gamefish & Gene tag cards and scoresheets in via satellite phone to Billfish base by 1900 hours each day.
- d) All remaining Billfish, Gamefish & Gene tag cards, score sheets and camera evidence not previously physically issued to Billfish base on day 1, 2 and 3 **must** be issued to Billfish base by 1500 hours on the 4th October 2010. Failure to do so will result in the submissions being disqualified.

- e) All fish tags or score sheets submitted for points or prize categories must be completed in full and in a legible manner.
- f) Any late submissions will be disqualified unless there is a valid reason which Darwin Game Fishing Club reserve the right to accept or reject, no further discussion will be entered into.

Billfish tags

Marlin and Sailfish will be tagged with the NSW Bill fish tags.

Gene tags

Spanish Mackerel will be tagged with the NT Fisheries gene tags.

All other game fish

Other game fish will be tagged with NSW dart tags.

Tagging

Anglers will tag all fish in a manner that minimises damage to the fish being tagged, the recommended area to tag fish is in the shoulder area just below the dorsal fin.

Boating and safety requirements

All boats must be in a seaworthy condition and must be compliant with Northern Territory Maritime Act requirements for the areas the boat is located. All competition boats must have a working VHF radio. It is recommended any vessels not fishing inshore grounds and/or not returning to Darwin each night should retain a satellite phone on board for the duration of the tournament.

All Skippers are expected to assess prevailing weather conditions to ensure they do not expose their team or vessel to any foreseen safety concerns.

All Skippers are expected to maintain a safe distance from other boats who are hooked up to a Billfish during the tournament to avoid any accidental cut offs of hooked Billfish.

Radio procedures

VHF radio will be used for the duration of the tournament and radio etiquette is expected to be adhered to by all competitors.

In the event of radio malfunction, a competitor may utilise a satellite phone as a secondary means of communication, Billfish base station – Debbie Halprin #0412848267, Leigh Halprin # 0402301533, or alternatively Darwin Ski Club on # 89816630 and request to speak to Leigh or Debbie Halprin.

Emergency frequency only - channel # 16

Billfish base station - channel # 72

Radio skeds will be conducted on channel # 72 from 0600 am until 0655 am each morning, channel # 72 will remain clear from 0655 hours until lines in notification is completed by Billfish base station at 0700 hours on each day.

On each competition day, all competition boats will advise Billfish base station on channel # 72 and/or satellite phone the following:

- (a) Boat number
- (b) Number of persons on boat
- (c) Amount of fuel on board

Pre lines in

Lines in is not permitted until 0700 hours on each day, which will be transmitted by Billfish base station and/or the relay boats. Teasers, bait jigs are permitted to be in the water prior to lines in each competition day.

No fishing equipment intended to be used to capture Billfish or other Gamefish can enter the water before the lines in call at 0700 hours each day.

Day 1

- 0655 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will issue 5 minute warning to lines in.
- 0700 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will notify lines in, lines in.
- 1700 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will notify lines out, lines out.

Day 2

- 0655 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will issue 5 minute warning to lines in.
- 0700 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will notify lines in, lines in.
- 1700 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will notify lines out, lines out.

Day 3

- 0655 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will issue 5 minute warning to lines in.
- 0700 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will notify lines in, lines in.
- 1700 hrs Billfish base station and/or relay boats will notify lines out, lines out.

Score board updates & weather updates

Billfish base will update the scoreboard on a daily basis, the daily team & individual leader scores will be made available on channel # 72 each morning after the lines in call.

Billfish base will provide a general weather prediction for Darwin waters each morning, however the onus is on the Skipper of each team to assess the prevailing weather conditions in relation to the safety of their crew and vessel.

All scoreboard information will be subject to change until such time the tags are issued to Billfish base and the photographic evidence issued by competition teams is verified by Billfish base as correct in relation to tagged Billfish during the tournament.

The Darwin Game Fishing Club reserves the right to cancel a competition day or days at any time, if, in their opinion, the prevailing weather conditions make boating unsafe.

Categories (Note: Billfish and other species are totally separate point scores)

Champion Billfish team overall

Champion Billfish angler

Runner up Billfish team up to 6 metres

Runner up Billfish team over 6 metres

Most meritorious Billfish capture

First Billfish tagged

Gene tag team

All other Gamefish species

Bill fish information development

All participating teams are encouraged to complete an information sheet to assist in developing the understanding of the Billfish patterns around Darwin. The information will not be released during the Tournament. Weigh points will be added to a future weigh point database for all competitors. It will be a tick box format with the following information:

Longitude/Latitude

Species-raised/struck/tagged

Date/Time

Water temp

Water clarity

Method caught skip bait/swim/lure

Bait schools etc