

2020 NT Iron Jack Billfish Classic Rules

Tournament sanctioning requirements

All competitors must be a **current** member of the Darwin Game Fishing Club, as well as an affiliate member with the NTGFA.

The tournament is based on GFAA rules and the decisions of the Darwin Game Fishing Club committee in relation to the tournament rules and/or disputes arising during the tournament.

Briefing/Calcutta night Monday 12 October 2020

Briefing commences 6.00 pm. Venue: Darwin Trailer Boat 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

Teams are required to provide satellite phone numbers to the tournament coordinators at the Briefing night.

Competition fishing dates and times

14-16 October 2020

Teams must contact Billfish base station by 9.00am **every day** by satellite phone and provide the following information:

- (a) Boat number
- (b) Number of persons on boat
- (c) Amount of fuel on board
- (d) Which area on the map you intend fishing
- (e) Intention of returning to Darwin each night and/or remaining at remote anchorage and intended general location of remote anchorage eg Cape Fourcroy, etc.

Wednesday 14 October **Lines in** **7.00 am** **Lines out** **5.00 pm**

Thursday 15 October **Lines in** **7.00 am** **Lines out** **5.00 pm**

Friday 16 October **Lines in** **7.00 am** **Lines out** **5.00 pm**

Friday 23 October **Presentation night at Mindil Beach Casino Resort**

Team requirements

All teams require a minimum of two anglers and a maximum of four anglers. Once the maximum of four paid anglers has been reached, teams are permitted to have non-competitors assist in all duties except with the capture of the fish. Non-competitors must **not** touch a rod/line from the time a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure (this includes leadering and or tagging the fish). Non-competitors are permitted to assist in rigging tackle, rigging of baits, setting/retrieval of fishing equipment entering/exiting the water and driving the vessel. Any fish captured where the rod/line was touched by a non-competitor during the strike, hook-up, fight and capture will not be counted as a scoring fish. All teams must register non-competitors onboard for safety reasons.

All teams require a minimum of two anglers and a maximum of four anglers. Any other persons aboard the vessel are only permitted to assist with driving the vessel, setting up of fishing equipment entering the water, retrieval of fishing gear or equipment from the water and rigging baits and rigging tackle. They are not permitted to be involved in the capture or tagging of a fish.

Tackle, equipment & rules

Line is limited to IGFA rated monofilament either as a full spool or a top shot only.

The top shot must be a minimum of 5m directly preceding the double, leader & hook. This section must be comprised of a single homogenous piece of line.

Line class 10 kg minimum

Line class 60 kg maximum

Multifilament style lines (Dacron or Braided style lines) must have a monofilament top shot rigged. Direct connection to a leader by multifilament line will see the catch disqualified.

Point scoring

Point scoring will be as follows:

	10kg line	15kg line	24 kg+ line
All Sailfish and Marlin <1200mm LJFL	750 points	725 points	700 points
Marlin 1200mm and over LJFL	1500 points	1450 points	1400 points

All Sailfish and Marlin must be tagged and photographed to qualify for points.

**Note - NSW Billfish tags to be used*

Record details of 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.

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.

Due to the Lack of Radio Coverage, Radio schedules will not take place.

When a billfish is tagged, the tag time is to be recorded and radioed in as soon as possible to Billfish base at mobile number **0412 848267**.

Relaying of information to another competition vessel is acceptable under the condition that the relay vessel forwards the information to Billfish base via satellite phone. ****Note-The onus is on the vessel that hooks and tags a Billfish to ensure their information is received by Billfish base each day.**

Tie-breaker rules

In the unlikely event that there is a tie, then the team first to record their total number of points will be declared the 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.

It is strongly recommended that fish are not removed from the water, due to the potential for injury to anglers. The tape provided in your kit box must be fastened on your tag pole and must be visible in all photos taken of your fish.

Tag submission requirements

Teams must return Billfish tag cards and photos to the Darwin Trailer Boat Club between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on Sunday 18 October 2020.

Failure to do so will result in the submissions being disqualified.

- a) All fish tags or score sheets submitted for points or prize categories must be completed in full and in a legible manner.
- b) 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.

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.

Please note that all teams must have a satellite phone on board.

All Skippers are expected to assess prevailing weather conditions to ensure they do not expose their team or vessel to any foreseen safety concerns. Should a Strong Wind Warning (25 knots) be declared, teams must cease fishing until further advised.

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.

Pre lines in

Lines in is not permitted until 0700 hours on each day. 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 can enter the water before lines in at 0700 hours each day.

Reef Fish Protection Areas

A network of temporary reef fish protection areas was implemented in 2015, and there is no recreational fishing of any form permitted within these areas. A fact sheet with the coordinates of these protected areas will be provided in your kits and teams must abide by the restrictions.

Score board updates & weather updates

Billfish base will update the scoreboard on a daily basis and will be posted to the Darwin Game Fishing Club Facebook page. Results will be made known to teams when they call in each morning.

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:

- Champion Billfish team overall
- Champion Billfish angler
- Champion Junior Billfish angler (juniors are defined as under 16 as at 23 October 2019)
- *Runner up Billfish team below 6 metres
- *Runner up Billfish team 6 metres and over
- Most Meritorious Capture
- First Billfish tagged on each day
- Best photo submitted
- Wood Duck award (to be confirmed)

*** Please note that the boat size in the Runner Up Billfish Team categories may change to ensure as close to an equal number of boats in each Runner Up category. The boat size, as well as teams in each category will be announced at the Briefing Night.**