



## 2023 Dundee Billfish Bash Rules

**Briefing night** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Darwin Trailerboat Club  
Briefing commences 6.30pm SHARP

The briefing is compulsory for all teams to attend, the Skipper of each team will be required to sign the entry 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.

### **Competition fishing dates, times & tidal information** **22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

Teams must log on and off with Billfish base station **every day** on channel 72 and provide the following information in the morning:

- (a) Boat name
- (b) Number of persons on boat
- (c) Amount of fuel on board
- (d) Which area you intend fishing

At 0700 hours Billfish base will advise the commencement of each day/lines in on channel 72.

**Saturday 22nd April**                      **Lines in**      **7.00 am**      **Lines out**      **5.00 pm**

**Sunday 23rd April**                      **Lines in**      **7.00 am**      **Lines out**      **3.00 pm**

**All tags must be with Billfish Base at Dundee Lodge by 4.30 pm in order to qualify for prizes.**

**Presentation starting as soon as all tags are handed back and verified.**

### **Team requirements**

All teams require a minimum of two anglers.

Any other persons aboard the vessel are permitted to assist the competitors, 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 may drive the vessel during the competition times. Only registered anglers will collect points for their fish. Non-registered anglers tags will not count towards the vessels point score for Champion Team.

All teams will be issued tags from DGFC. All tags including unused ones have to be returned to Billfish base at the completion of the competition for your points to count. All teams will be issued with 5 billfish tags at the briefing night. Additional tags will be available from committee boats during the day or on Saturday night.

**Tackle, equipment & rules**

Line can be of monofilament or braided construction. Anglers are encouraged to follow GFAA rules in regards to leader/double lengths. Teams are encouraged to use lines of no less than 10kg breaking strain to ensure the best chance of survival of the tagged fish.

In-Line circle hooks are encouraged to be used ahead of offset circle hooks and J hooks to ensure the fish is hooked in the mouth when using baits. Lures are to comply with GFAA rules with some part of the final hook to be inside the skirt, double hook rigs for lures are acceptable for use as per GFAA rules also.

Line class 10 kg minimum recommended  
 Line class 60 kg maximum

**Point scoring**

Marlin 1200 points **(Must be tagged & photographed)**  
 Sailfish 750 points **(Must be tagged & photographed)**

\*Note - NSW Billfish tags to be used

Record all details on the tag card as required. **Incomplete tag card will forfeit the points for that fish**

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au  
 Tag to be used in billfish only

NO B 056252  
 DATE: 29/03/2008  
 TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCALITY: NORAH HEAD CANYONS LAT: 33.15S LONG: 152.17E  
 SPECIES: STRIPED MARLIN FIGHT TIME: HOURS: 0 MINUTES: 20  
 LENGTH (cm): 230 TL: EST: MEASURE: EST WEIGHT (kg): 80  
 METHOD: DEAD BAIT: LURE: X LINE CLASS (kg): 24 CIRCLE HOOK: NO X NON OFF-SET: NO X  
 HOOK LOCATION: MOUTH: X GUT: BODY: BLEEDING FROM GILLS: YES: FISH CONDITION: EXCELLENT: X LIVE: MARGINAL:  
 ANGLERS NAME: AARON FISHER PHONE: 024392 1355  
 ADDRESS: 17 SEAVIEW DR NORAH HEAD NSW P/C: 2263  
 CLUB: N/A BOAT NAME: TAG ME II SKIPPER: JOHN FISHER  
 REMARKS: HEALTHY FISH, SWAM AWAY STRONGLY  
 FIRST TAG & RELEASE? X

PLEASE COMPLETE & MAIL TODAY, OTHERWISE TAGGING IS OF NO VALUE.

This is a Tag & Release competition only. No fish will be weighed at Dundee Lodge, any fish returned to be weighed at Dundee Lodge will not be eligible for any points and/or any prize categories.

Teams are encouraged to obtain accurate length of fish for more detailed records on the tag card.

**It is strongly recommended that fish are not removed from the water, due to the potential for injury to anglers and damage to the fish, please take the time to revive your captures!**

Tagged fish are not required to equal line class. (unless planning to be entered in the GFAA Junior Tournament)

All tackle 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.

### **Junior Anglers**

This is not a NTGFA sanctioned tournament therefore the rules regarding the hooking of fish and control of the rod are waived for juniors **ONLY**. Team are permitted to help small children to hook their fish and assist in the fight but the angler is the only one who is able to wind the reel with the fish hooked. Passing a rod to a junior when the fish is well within the fight or boat side is not ethical. We are fishing for fun and to encourage our kids. Rods cannot be passed to another adult angler after the hook is set as per GFAA rules.

### **Radio schedules, channel 72**

In addition to other radio schedules the following will apply:

a) Billfish tagged: tag time is to be recorded and radioed in as soon as possible to Billfish base on channel 72 along with angler and species.

b) In the event a team cannot raise Billfish base on channel 72, teams may utilise a satellite phone to contact Peter Dienhoff on Mobile 0419 863 873 / Sat Phone 0147 157 669 or via radio relay on 72 from another vessel.

c) 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 each day.** 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) In the event of a tie for overall team points, the team to reach the score first is 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.

### **Tag submission requirements**

- A. All results are provisional until tag card is received by Billfish base either on Saturday night or Sunday afternoon at the completion of the competition.
- B. All fish tags submitted for points or prize categories must be completed in full and in a legible manner.
- C. Teams may choose to have their tags brought in by another team if planning to stay overnight on board their vessels, this is done at the risk of the team involved.

- D. 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. Teams who wish to use Billfish foundation tags are welcome to do so. The same rules apply for witnessing of tag card for confirmation of points.

### ***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.

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.

If the weather is predicted to exceed 15 knots sustained (not gusts) for more than 3 hours the committee reserves the right to suspend fishing until further notice, this will be broadcast over channel 72

### **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, foul language will not be tolerated as this is a family event.

Emergency frequency only - channel 16

Billfish base station - channel 72

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 log on to Billfish base station on channel 72 after 7AM each day:

On completion of the day teams are to radio that they are back on the trailer or location of safe anchorage for the night.

### ***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 can enter the water before the lines in call 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. Skippers are to familiarise themselves with these areas, anyone found fishing in the protected areas will be disqualified.

### **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 Dundee 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.

### **Acceptance of conditions of entry**

We acknowledge and agree that, if the Darwin Game Fishing Club decides to postpone and/or cancel the 2023 Billfish Bash for reasons outside of the control of the Club, or not reasonably foreseeable by the Club (such as an outbreak of a pandemic, a flood, the imposition of biosecurity restrictions, a natural disaster, an outbreak of war, or civil unrest), then the Club will endeavour to offer teams the option of carrying forward their entry to a future Billfish Bash, or providing a refund of entry fees. Any refund of entry fees, or carrying forward of entry fees to a future competition, will be subject to such deductions as the Club, acting reasonably, determines as representing the expenses incurred by the Club in preparation for the cancelled or postponed event. We acknowledge and agree that we will have no claim against the Club for any failure by the Club to offer a refund or for any deductions made by the Club in accordance with this clause.

### **Categories:**

- Champion Billfish Team
- Champion Billfish Male Angler
- Champion Billfish Female Angler
- Champion Junior Billfish angler (juniors are defined as under 16 as at 2nd April 2022)
- Runner Up Junior Angler
- First Billfish tagged on each day