

# Cairns Black Marlin 50th Anniversary & Australian International Billfish Tournament RULES

**The tournament is tag and release only.**

**Only non-offset circle hooks may be used for bait.**

**GFAA Rules and Equipment Regulations apply.**

## **Sailpast**

All boats must participate in the sailpast at 0700 hours on Monday morning, 26 September, 2016, proceeding past the Cairns Marlin Marina in single file as outlined at the briefing.

## **Fishing Area**

The fishing area is east of the Great Barrier Reef, between the northern end of #6 Ribbon Reef and the southern end of Channel Reef. Be aware of Green Zone rules/regulations.

## **Line Class**

Heavy tackle 24kg, 37kg and 60Kg only, that conforms to GFAA rules.

## **Scoring**

There is no line class point score, a tag counts as one [1] fish. Most fish tagged wins. NSW DPI "Billfish only" tags are to be used.

All billfish must be tagged and released. Only marlin ( blue, black and striped marlin) count towards point score.

## **Anglers**

Maximum 4 anglers per team.

Anglers must be current financial members of a club affiliated with IGFA , GFAA or QGFA or another GFAA member state's club (IGFA e-memberships does not suffice) to be eligible to fish. Proof of membership may be required.

Non-members will be invited to join the Cairns Bluewater GFC (apply at registration).

## **Vessels**

Vessels must be 8 metres or greater in length.

Team arrange their own boat and any related charter fees. Boats must be seaworthy and have public liability insurance. In case of bad weather, participation is the responsibility of the skipper.

### **Compulsory Attendance**

Boat Skipper and Team Captain **MUST** attend the registration and welcome reception/briefing.

All boats must be present at the Cairns Marlin Marina before the sailpast with equipment available for checking by the tournament judges.

### **Compulsory Return to Port**

All Vessels and Anglers **MUST** return to the Cairns Marlin Marina on Thursday 29 September, by 1930hrs to qualify for any prizes.

Captains must advise Tournament Base upon return to the Marina or otherwise before 1930 hours, 29 September.

### **Judging and Protests**

Tournament judges will be appointed by the committee. Protests must be submitted in writing and in the hands of the judges by 1930 hours on Thursday, 29th September.

The judges' decision is final.

### **Fishing Times and Scoresheets**

Fishing times will be 1000 hours to 1700 hours, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday will be 1000 hours to 1600 hours.

All hookups, tags, and lost fish must be reported as soon as possible to Tournament Base and acknowledged.

Tag cards and score sheets must be handed to judges at the Marlin Marina by 1930 hours on Thursday 29th in order to qualify for prizes.

### **Radio Skeds**

Radio Skeds will be conducted on VHF channel 81 by Tournament Base at 1205, 1405 and 1705 hours on Mon to Wed.

Thursday at 1205, 1405 & 1605 hours.

Captains must on 1st Sked for the day advise number of people onboard (POB) and location. And at last Sked for the day advise location staying overnight i.e. anchorage or returning to a port.

VHF channel 23 or 82 in the Cooktown area may be used for relays if required. Mobile phones and Satphones must be used if Radio comms cannot be established. Any phoned in sked information will be relayed to all participants on the radio.

In a situation that a boat is not able to contact base via VHF they must relay through another vessel or try via mobile phone or satphone or other. Failure to contact base on two successive skeds will result in disqualification of the day's results.

**All anglers and crew should comply with the Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association 'Code of Practice'.**

# AWARDS LIST

- Champion Boat/ Team / **EW PALMER TROPHY CHAMPION TEAM (AIBT)**
- RUNNER-UP CHAMPION BOAT/ TEAM / **MORETON BAY TROPHY RUNNER UP TEAM (AIBT)**
- CHAMPION SKIPPER AND CREW
- **MAL RAMSAY TROPHY CHAMPION ANGLER (AIBT)**
- CHAMPION MALE ANGLER
- CHAMPION FEMALE ANGLER
- JACK ERSKINE MEMORIAL TROPHY (CHAMPION 'MASTER' ANGLER)
- FIRST MARLIN TAGGED DAILY
- DAILY CHAMPION TEAM (MOST MARLIN TAGGED)
- LAST MARLIN TAGGED DAILY

The Champion Boat will receive FREE entry to Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic.

**Gala Dinner and Presentation & Hall of Fame Awards will be held from 1830pm on 30 September 2016 at the Cairns Convention Centre.**