

AIBT

Australian International
Billfish Tournament
60th Anniversary
28th Sat to 31st Sun
January 2023
Host Club - Sydney GFC





Sydney Game Fishing Club

Australian international billfish tournament

2023



Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th January 2023

TOURNAMENT RULES & INFORMATION

1. Entries

Completed entry forms and fees should be delivered to Sydney Game Fishing Club no later than 5:00pm on Thursday preceding the Tournament start date by post or email.

Entry is \$300 for boats.

The entry fee includes Sunday breakfast for competing anglers.

2. Entries Jackpot

The winning boat is the boat with the highest cumulative Tag and Release Marlin points. 60% of the pool goes to the winning boat 40% pool to Sydney Game fishing club.

Please note – evidence of all marlin tags will be required by the tournament committee per the Evidence of Tag and Release section of these rules.

In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the earliest time of first recorded marlin tag and release.

SGFC Tournament Committees decision is final.

3. Presentation of Trophies

A presentation dinner will be held at SGFC, Watsons Bay commencing at 7pm on the Sunday after the Tournament. The cost of this dinner is included in the entry fee for registered anglers only. Additional people can be accommodated at \$25 each, space permitting. Booking of extra tickets is highly recommended.

EW Palmer Perpetual trophy for the winning team Donated by Mr Ern Palmer AO, GFFAA President 1962 – 63

A photo plaque will be provided to each angler in the winning team as well as the winning teams, club and team members names will be added to the Perpetual trophy, plus the same will be printed in the GFAA annual journal.

Moreton Bay Perpetual Trophy Donated by Moreton Bay Game Fishing Club, Brisbane in 2003 for the runner up Champion Team in the AIBT

A photo plaque will be provided to each angler in the runner up team as well, club and team members names will be added to the Perpetual trophy, plus the same will be printed in the GFAA annual journal

Mal Ramsay Perpetual Trophy Donated by Mr Malcolm Ramsay GFAA President 1984- for the Champion Angler

A photo plaque will be provided to the angler, as well as the anglers club and name will be added to the Perpetual trophy, plus the same will be printed in the GFAA annual journal.

AIBT Trophy for the Champion International Angler Donated by GFAA

A photo plaque will be provided to the angler, as well as the anglers club and name will be added to the Perpetual trophy, plus the same will be printed in the GFAA annual journal.

4. Fishing Days and Times

Fishing will start at 8.00am on the Saturday and Sunday of the Tournament and fishing will end at 4:30pm on Saturday and Sunday end of fishing 3.30pm of the Tournament.

Fish hooked before stop fishing may be played out. On Saturday there is no cut-off time for boats to return to port. On Sunday all boats with fish to weigh or tag cards to present must be at their designated weigh station by 5.30pm, there will be no exceptions to this requirement.

5. Fishing Area

The fishing area for the Tournament is limited to Sydney GFC prescribed ocean waters, which essentially extend from Norah Head to Wollongong Lighthouse and 60 nautical miles seawards from the NSW Coastline.

6. Teams

This Tournament is open to teams comprised of anglers who are financial members of any club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, IGFA or ANSA. Any ANSA member wishing to fish in a NSWGFA Sanctioned Tournament, MUST fish on a NSWGFA Registered Boat. Proof of financial membership must be produced if requested.

There is a minimum of 2 anglers per team required for boats under 7 metres, and minimum of 3 anglers per team required for boats 7 metres and over.

For avoidance of doubt only the angler of a fish must be registered, others who play a part in the capture such as the skipper or the leader man do not have to be registered.

By submitting this entry form and / or paying entry fee(s) all team members will be deemed to have accepted the Tournament Rules without limitation or amendment.

7. Saturday Night Dinner

Dinner will be available at the clubhouse on Saturday evening. The cost of this is not included in the entry fee.

8. Sunday Breakfast

A cooked breakfast will be available at the clubhouse on Sunday morning. The cost of this is included within the entry fee for all registered anglers. Breakfast will be served by 5am.

9. Late Entries

Late entries will be accepted only at the discretion of Sydney Game Fishing Club Ltd. If accepted they may attract the payment of a \$50.00 per boat late entry fee.

10. Replacement of boats and Competitors

Replacement of boats or competitors will not be allowed for any reason once fishing has commenced.

11. Seaworthiness of Boats

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that their boat is completely seaworthy and meets NSW Maritime Authority safety standards and the safety standards of that owners Club. There is a minimum boat size of 5.0 meters.

All boats must carry a 406Mhz EPIRB, and have two working marine radios, one of which must be VHF frequency.

The Boat Safety Information Form must be filled out and provided with your Entry Form.

12. Insurance

In accordance with NSWGFA/Central Zone directives, each competing vessel must carry public liability insurance with a recommended minimum cover of \$10 million. Details of the insurance cover in place must be included on the Boat Safety section of the entry form.

13. Leaving Port

Boats may elect to fish from their home port on the Saturday and Sunday.

14. Return to Port

On Saturday of the Tournament, boats may return to their home port if they wish, alternatively boats can come back to SGFC Clubhouse.

On Saturday and Sunday nights, regardless of destination, all boats must report their sign-off to Tournament Base on the radio when they enter their returning port.

Tournament Base must be notified of your planned return port each day.

Failure to report on your return may invoke a penalty at the absolute discretion of the Tournament Committee. Boats which elect to continue fishing after-hours are to report that decision to SGFC Tournament base, which will be accepted as a sign-off.

15. 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, boats must have completed and have ready for presentation all equipment used to affect the tag & release and applicable paperwork.

16. Submission of Tags or Captures

Tag & Release cards must be submitted on the day tag and must be brought to the weigh station aboard the vessel on which the fish had been fought. The transfer of, tag & release cards or to another vessel is not permitted.

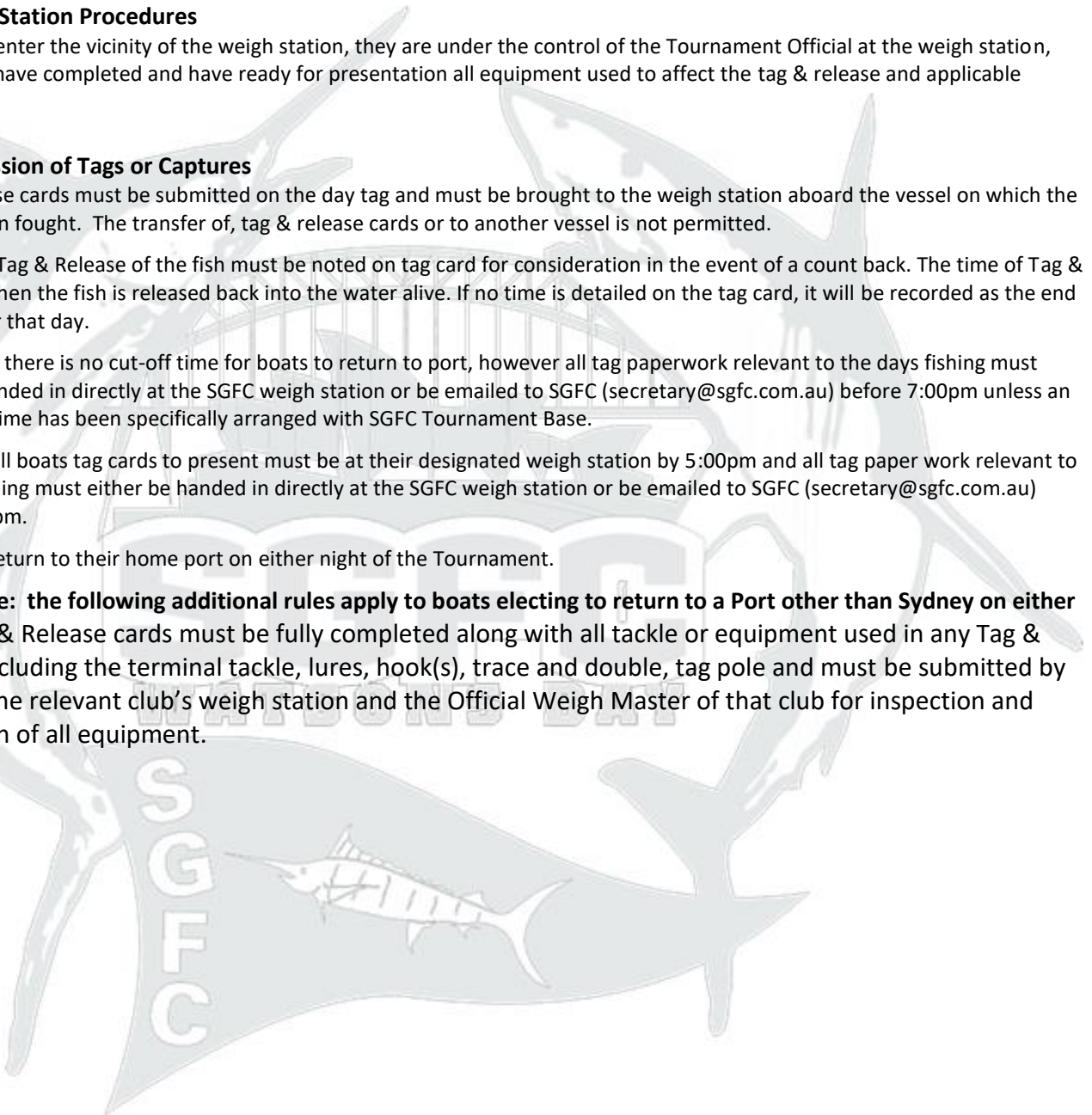
The time of Tag & Release of the fish must be noted on tag card for consideration in the event of a count back. The time of Tag & Release is when the fish is released back into the water alive. If no time is detailed on the tag card, it will be recorded as the end of fishing for that day.

On Saturday there is no cut-off time for boats to return to port, however all tag paperwork relevant to the days fishing must either be handed in directly at the SGFC weigh station or be emailed to SGFC (secretary@sgfc.com.au) before 7:00pm unless an alternative time has been specifically arranged with SGFC Tournament Base.

On Sunday all boats tag cards to present must be at their designated weigh station by 5:00pm and all tag paper work relevant to the days fishing must either be handed in directly at the SGFC weigh station or be emailed to SGFC (secretary@sgfc.com.au) before 5:30pm.

Boats may return to their home port on either night of the Tournament.

Please Note: the following additional rules apply to boats electing to return to a Port other than Sydney on either night Tag & Release cards must be fully completed along with all tackle or equipment used in any Tag & Release including the terminal tackle, lures, hook(s), trace and double, tag pole and must be submitted by water to the relevant club's weigh station and the Official Weigh Master of that club for inspection and verification of all equipment.



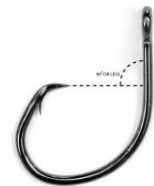
17. Radio Communications

Radio Skeds must be conducted in accordance with the NSWGFA "Guidelines for Radio Skeds for Tournament" effective as at the time of the Tournament.

Tournament Base, or the nominated radio boat, will call each boat in number order on VHF Channel 22 & VHF Channel 82 on two hourly skeds commencing at 9:10am and a final sked at 4:40pm. The number of people onboard should be advised during the first sked for the day.

1. Boats are to report on each sked as follows–

- a. Boat Number
- b. Boat Name
- c. Accurate fishing report using the "0-0-0" system – strikes, hook-ups, captures & specify line class and angler name accurately. If possible, boats are to give suspected fish species for strikes and hook ups not landed as well as for captures. Short Measurement of captured fish and accurate weight of captured fish must be reported in fishing report.
- d. Position using Central Zone grid chart, and whether travelling, trolling, anchored or drifting. Please Note:
 - i. If any vessel is unable to fish on either competition day, it is a requirement that the SGFC Tournament base be notified, either by radio or by telephone. Clubhouse telephone is 02-9337-5687.
 - ii. Should any vessel suffer total radio failure, the skipper must attempt to notify another vessel of the problem, and then MUST return immediately to port. Once in port it is the responsibility of the skipper to sign off with SGFC Tournament base at Watson's Bay.
 - iii. If vessel misses two (2) radio skeds, this will trigger the relevant safety authorities being informed.
 - iv. Captures and tags not reported or not reported accurately on each radio sked shall not be counted and shall not be eligible for trophies.
 - v. All boats are to report on EVERY sked. All boats must report to Base on returning to port. Radio silence must be observed for 10 minutes before the end of stop fishing to allow for report of late hook-ups. Fish caught subsequent to the last sked prior to the end of fishing should be radioed through to base at the time of the capture.
 - vi. On the final sked of each day each boat is required to confirm their tally of weighable fish landed, tag & release results for the days fishing and expected time to arrive at designated returning port.



18. Bad Weather

If a "Gale Warning" or higher category of warning is issued after the commencement of fishing only those fish captured or tagged prior to, or at, the time fishing is cancelled will count in the Tournament. Any fish still being played which are subsequently captured or tagged will not count for this Tournament

The cancellation of fishing will only apply until the Gale warning is lifted (by BOM)

In the event that prior to the Tournament the weather looks unfishable the Tournament committee has the right to cancel and reschedule the Tournament at their discretion.

19. Fishing Rules

Fishing rules as published by GFAA and NSWGFAA (point score system) shall prevail throughout the Tournament, which covers all eligible NSWGFA line classes and species. NSWGFA Tag & Release rules will apply. Current rules are available online at the NSWGFA website.

All anglers must carry a Saltwater Fishing Licence if applicable. Bag limit and size restrictions must also be adhered to. All competitors are reminded that it is an offence to tie up any vessel and to objects such as wave-riders, FADs or fish trap buoys, and disqualification from the Tournament may result for breaches of this fisheries regulation.

20. Circle Hook Definitions

A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank of the hook. If an imaginary line is drawn and follows the trajectory of the point of the hook to the shank - the angle made where the imaginary line crosses the shank should be 90 degrees or less."

21. Measure & Release

Yellowtail Kingfish under 70cms will apply for Junior & Small Fry Personal Points only and not boat points. Use measure & release cards.

22. Tag & Release

To be eligible for scoring in the Tag & Release section of this competition, completed tag cards including capture sheet must be lodged as follows:

- All Billfish must be tagged with a Billfish tag. This is the only tag that will be recognized for Billfish in any Tournament, competition, point score or trophy. The Billfish Tag is for Billfish only point score (ie no other species).
- All Tag & Release cards must show the time the fish was tagged and released and must be handed in at the weigh station to the weigh master on return to SGFC. If no time is included, the time will be recorded as at close of fishing on the day the tag was made, unless known to have been caught later.
- Fish must be fought according to NSWGFA rules and regulations to qualify for Tag & Release.
- Terminal tackles to be supplied hook, trace, double and at least 3 meters of line.

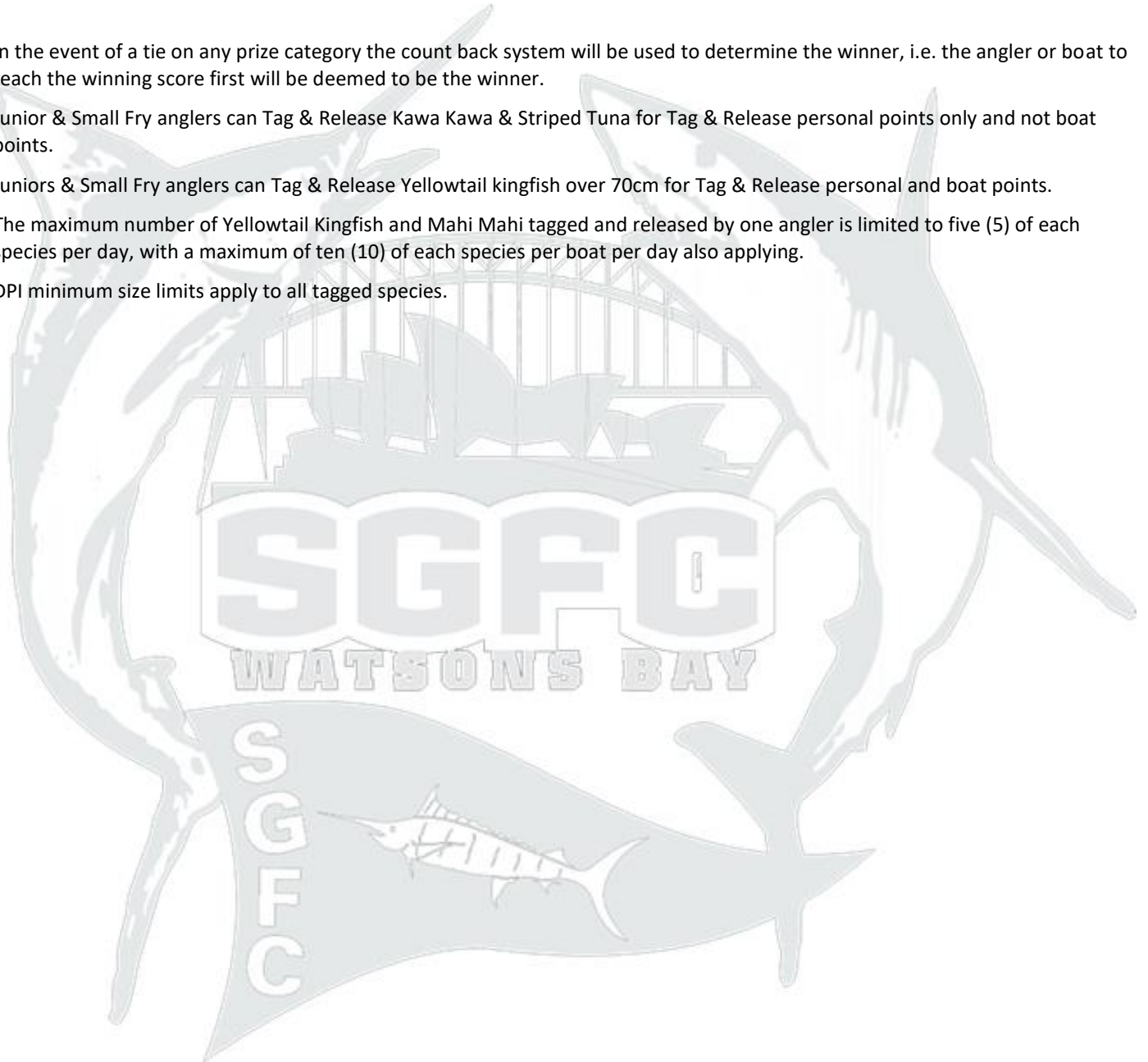
In the event of a tie on any prize category the count back system will be used to determine the winner, i.e. the angler or boat to reach the winning score first will be deemed to be the winner.

Junior & Small Fry anglers can Tag & Release Kawa Kawa & Striped Tuna for Tag & Release personal points only and not boat points.

Juniors & Small Fry anglers can Tag & Release Yellowtail kingfish over 70cm for Tag & Release personal and boat points.

The maximum number of Yellowtail Kingfish and Mahi Mahi tagged and released by one angler is limited to five (5) of each species per day, with a maximum of ten (10) of each species per boat per day also applying.

DPI minimum size limits apply to all tagged species.



23. Tag and Release Line Class Points

Line Class	4 – 10 kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
Marlin					
Marlin – Black	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Marlin – Blue	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Marlin - Striped	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Billfish – Other Game Fish					
Broadbill Swordfish	12,500	11,500	10,000	8,500	7,500
Sailfish	6,250	5,750	5,000	4,250	3,750
Short Bill Spearfish	6,250	5,750	5,000	4,250	3,750

24. Protests

Any protest must be submitted in writing by the boat captain to the Tournament Committee. Protests must be submitted by 10:00pm on the Saturday & 6pm on the Sunday, or if an extension of the paperwork submission time has been granted to the relevant boat one hour after the paperwork has been submitted. The decision of the Tournament Committee will be final.

25. Conduct

It is an expectation that all participants will always conduct themselves in a responsible and courteous manner to Tournament officials and other competitors through the Tournament. Penalties for misconduct may include disqualification from the Tournament. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.

26. Indemnity

Sydney Game Fishing Club accepts no responsibility for the actions by entrants in this Tournament and shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to property or persons during the Tournament. In consideration of accepting this application to participate in the event, all competitors agree to release or indemnify Sydney Game Fishing Club, the Tournament Committee and any or all of their employees, servants, agents and voluntary workers against all claim's proceedings or actions for loss or damage to property or person.

27. Prizes & Trophies

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories. The minimum prizes to be awarded in respect of each category will be displayed prominently in the clubhouse prior to commencement of fishing.

A Presentation Dinner for all prizes will be held at the SGFC Club House on the Sunday night following the Tournament, commencing at 7pm.

Prizes and Trophies – Tag & Release

1.	Champion Boat T&R Marlin only EW Palmer Perpetual Trophy for the winning team	Boat with highest cumulative Tag & Release Marlin Points
2.	Runner-Up Boat T&R Marlin only Moreton Bay Perpetual Trophy	Boat with 2 nd highest cumulative Tag & Release Marlin Points
3.	Champion Angler Mal Ramsay Perpetual Trophy.	Angler highest cumulative Tag & Release Marlin Points
4.	AIBT Trophy for the Champion International Angler	International Angler highest cumulative Tag & Release Marlin Points
5.	Champion Junior Angler T&R	Junior angler with highest cumulative Tag & Release Points
6.	Champion Small Fry Angler T&R	Small Fry angler with highest cumulative Tag & Release Points

Sydney Game Fishing Club, PO Box W23, Watsons Bay, NSW 2030

Email: secretary@sgfc.com.au

Enquiries: Edward Aspden 0416 238 557

president@sgfc.com.au



Sydney Game Fishing Club AIBT Tournament

NSWGFA Rules apply

ENTRY DETAILS

Boat Name: _____ Club: _____

Boat Owner: _____

Home Address: _____

Email address: _____

Home Number: _____ :

Mobile: _____ Vessel / Sat Phone: _____

ANGLER NAMES

PAYMENT

Charge My Card (circle one) Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ CCV: _____ Expiry: ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Acknowledgement: My crew and I agree to abide by all Tournament rules and all Tournament Committee decisions. I have completed the Safety Form overleaf. I confirm that the vessel described thereon meets or exceeds all relevant NSW Maritime Authority Safety Regulations and requirements for a vessel of its size. In addition, we agree that participation is at our own risk and that the holding of the Tournament is not to be construed as an invitation to go to sea in conditions beyond the capability of the craft or its crew.

Boat Captain Signed _____ Date _____

NOTE: Tournament Safety Rescue Information Form must be completed on following page

Tournament Safety Rescue Information Form

Boat Name _____ Registration Number _____

Boat on the Club Register of _____ GFC Length _____

Make _____ Colour-Hull _____ Deck _____

Colour - Flybridge _____ Distinctive Features or Markings _____

Engine(s) Type _____ Number _____ H.P _____ Fuel Type _____

Capacity _____ Range _____ Speed-Cruising _____ Max Speed _____

Name of Boat Insurer _____ Policy Number _____ Renewal Date _____

Vessel Moored/Garraged At _____

In the case of Trailer Boats - Trailer Registration Number _____

Emergency Contact Name (Not to be onboard vessel) _____

Boat Captains Address _____ Tel. _____

Boat Captains Mobile Number _____ Email _____

Boat Owners Name (if not the Boat Captain) _____ Tel. _____

Boat Owners Address (if not the Boat Captain) _____

Note: Contact the email address that you provide on this form may be used by Any Central Zone Club or NSWGFA Central Zone for the purpose of informing you of future Tournaments or services.

	YES	QTY	DETAILS	NO
Radios on Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	SSB HF FREQUENCIES _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	27MHZ FREQUENCIES _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	VHF FREQUENCIES _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	MAKE _____ Registration # _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	QTY	DETAILS	NO
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	TYPE _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
BILGE PUMPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	MANUAL/MECH _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
FLARES	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	TYPE _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMOKE SIGNALS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
DINGHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	TYPE & COLOUR _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIFERAFTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	MANUFACTURE & CAPACITY _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIFEBOUYS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	TYPE & COLOUR _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIFEJACKETS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	COLOUR _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
RADAR	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	RANGE _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEPTH SOUNDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	DEPTH _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMPASSES	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	HAND - HELD/FITTED _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEA ANCHORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANCHORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	MUD/REEF _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	NUMBER OF DAYS PER PERSON _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRESHWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	NUMBER OF DAYS PER PERSON _____	<input type="checkbox"/>