



GARMIN®



42nd GOLDEN LURE FISHING TOURNAMENT PORT MACQUARIE 9TH to 17th JANUARY 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES

A. PRIZES

Tournament trophies / awards and categories are listed in the brochure and suitable mementos will be presented at the completion of the tournament. In the event of a tie for a prize category, the angler or boat to reach the winning points first will be deemed to be the winner on the count back system.

B. ENTRIES

Anglers entering the tournament must be financial members (or life members) of a club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, ANSA (Any ANSA member wishing to fish NSWGFA Sanctioned tournament, must fish on a NSWGFA Registered boat) or a Bona fide international member of IGFA and be able to produce proof of membership. There must be a minimum of 2 adult anglers per boat with a maximum limit to the number of anglers on each boat to comply with NSW Waterways Authority vessel capacity plate. All anglers are reminded to observe the NSWGFA Media Policy. *NOTE: The skipper and any person involved in effecting a capture or T&R must be a paid angler. Any vessel found to be using a person not entered in the tournament assisting in a capture or tag & release will be disqualified from the tournament.*

1. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to the Tournament

- ENTRY FEES. Entry fees are \$250.00 for an adult angler; \$70.00 junior angler; \$40.00 small fry angler; which includes Tournament Shirt.
- ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER WEDNESDAY 7th January 2026 will attract a \$100 late entry fee. Entries Close 1700 hrs on the 7th of January 2026.
- ENTRY DRAW. All entries received by 1600 hrs (4:00 pm) 26th December 2025 will be entered into a cash prize draw to the value of \$250.00. The draw will be at the end of briefing night

C. TOURNAMENT RULES

- A BRIEFING** of all skipper crew & family will be held at Port Macquarie Panthers on Friday 9th January 2026 at 1800 hrs (6:00 pm). It is mandatory that every boat be represented at the briefing by all registered tournament anglers. An attendance register will be in operation, and it is therefore necessary that the representative(s) present themselves by 1800 hrs to the Tournament Fishing/Adjudication Committee representative.
- NO REPLACEMENT** of boat or competitors for whatever reason will be allowed after 1600 hrs (4:00 pm) Friday 9th January 2026. Anglers may not transfer or affect a capture or T&R on any other vessel than the vessel he/she is registered on. *NOTE: In the interests of safety and with the prior approval of the Fishing/Adjudication Committee, a boat may assist in transportation of a fish back to harbor for weigh in.*
- SEAWORTHINESS OF BOATS:** It is the responsibility of individual skippers to ensure all craft are seaworthy and carry all safety equipment as laid down by the Statutory Authorities. *It is mandatory for all boats to carry Third Party Property Damage and Third-Party Personal Injury Insurance to a minimum value of \$5,000,000 and policy details must be supplied with entries before they can be accepted.* The organizers reserve the right to sight full Insurance policies at any time during the conduct of the tournament. Please refer to and complete the Boat Safety Registration Form and return it with your entry.
- BOAT NUMBER:** Supplied on briefing night is to be prominently displayed on the starboard side of the vessel.
- SAIL PAST - Saturday 10th January 2026** the tournament will commence with a "Sail Past" of the Lady Nelson Wharf at 0745 hrs (7:45 am). All boats must assemble in the vicinity of the Port Marina at 0730 hrs (7:30 am) and log on with Tournament Base. Boat No. 1 will lead the Sail Past, and all boats are requested to follow in numerical order. All skippers must acknowledge the salute from the dignitaries at Lady Nelson Wharf. Boats will then maintain their position and proceed in single file and in boat order through the bar until at sea and past the Sea Rescue Duty Boat. There is to be no overtaking of vessels whilst crossing the bar and all boats MUST maintain a 100 meters distance from other vessels whilst navigating the bar
- FISHING DAYS AND TIMES.** The 2026 Golden Lure Tournament will be fished from 0900 to 1700 hrs on Saturday 10th January 2026; 0700 to 1700 hrs on Sunday 11th January 2026; 0700 to 1700 hrs Thursday 15th January 2026; 0700 to 1600 hrs Friday 16th January 2026. *The Tournament Committee reserves the right to move major fishing competition days to any lay day subject to forecast weather conditions. Should Friday's fishing be moved to a mid-weekday, fishing times will be 0700 hrs to 1700 hrs.*

At the conclusion of each day all capture and T&R certificates shall be handed to the Weigh master at the weigh station to be eligible for the competition.

NO game fish species are to be targeted and NO burleying or teasing of fish shall take place before "START FISHING" is called by Tournament Base. (Gathering of bait fish is permitted)

Any fish hooked and reported to Tournament Base before finish time may be played out and if caught will be eligible for the tournament provided the fish is presented to the weight station IMMEDIATELY on return to port.

- LEAVING AND ENTERING PORT:** Boats must leave Port Macquarie harbor on each tournament day and return to Port Macquarie harbor on completion of fishing. When leaving & entering Port Macquarie Harbor, boats should maintain a safe position of 100m apart and not overtake other vessels until safely through the bar. Any boat in

transit and not present at opening day start is required to enter Port Macquarie harbor and report to Tournament Base before leaving to commence fishing.

The safety organisation for competing boats is considered paramount. All boats must report by radio to Tournament Base on return to port. If unable to make radio contact, they must make contact with another competing boat and have them relay Tournament Base before going to moorings.

Failure to report on return to port will invoke a penalty of loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 T & R points for the day by the boat concerned. **Tournament Base will be notified each morning by the Fishing / Adjudication Committee if the day is a fishing day.**

8. **SKIPPER & CREW EVENING:** With regards to lucky draw prizes at the Skipper & Crew Night, the Angler or a Boat Representative are required to be present to receive the prize.
9. **FLAGS:** All boats are to display the appropriate Capture and/or T&R Flags on return to port. The weigh master will then direct boats accordingly to the appropriate areas.
10. **MISCONDUCT:** The Tournament Committee may on its own initiative investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the Tournament. The Fishing/Adjudication committee may invoke penalties or loss of points or disqualification of fish, angler or boat where misconduct is deemed to have taken place
11. **COURTESY:** All anglers, particularly boat captains, are asked to display a degree of courtesy regarding burley trails and troll patterns behind boats. All anglers are reminded that as members of a Club they are regarded as representatives of their Clubs. As such any unbecoming behavior reflects adversely on the Club. Hence the Tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.
12. **PROTESTS:** Any protests relative to Captures or Tag & Release must be submitted in writing by the Skipper to the Tournament Coordinator no later than 1000 hrs (10:00 am) on the day following the incident concerned. Each protest must be accompanied with \$100.00 fee, refundable in the event of a successful protest. Protests will then be lodged with the Fishing/Adjudication Committee. The Fishing/Adjudication Committee shall consist of:
 1. 3 x PMGFC Inc Appointed Members
 2. Plus, Local persons with specific knowledge and expertise may also be invited on to the Golden Lure Fishing/ Adjudication Committee and shall have full voting rights on any matter relating to this role.
 3. Plus 2 x visiting Club members as selected by the Tournament Committee.

The Tournament Committee may also nominate a member of the executive of NSWGFA to be appointed to the Fishing/Adjudication Committee as an additional judge, should they decide.

13. **BAD WEATHER:** To avoid taking unnecessary risks in the event of bad weather, the Fishing/Adjudication Committee will decide whether the day will be a competition day or not. The Fishing/Adjudication Committee will confer and notify Tournament Base on the decision to be broadcast. Boats should establish early morning contact with Tournament Base. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of fishing the Fishing/Adjudication Committee will confer and decide whether or not the competition will be called off for the remainder of the day and will notify Tournament Base of the decision to be broadcast. All fish caught prior to this time will be eligible for the competition. **NOTE: A declaration of a Gale Warning by the appropriate government weather authority will automatically require the cancellation of the tournament. NOTE: Cancellation will only apply until Gate Warning is lifted.** In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to cease fishing immediately and return to port. The committee accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals whether to put to sea or not having regard to the Committee's decision on the Tournament for the day. The ultimate decision on return to harbor remains with the competitors
14. **INDEMNITY:** The Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club Inc accepts no responsibility for actions by entrants in this Tournament and shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to any property or person during the Tournament. In that regard all competitors indemnify the Tournament Coordinator, Tournament Committee, Fishing/Adjudication Committee, the Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club Inc and all voluntary workers against any claim for loss or damage to property or person.
15. **EVIDENCE OF LOCATION – IN SHORE / OFFSHORE:** GPS Coordinates may be requested at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

D. FISHING RULES

The 2026 Golden Lure Fishing Tournament will be fished under the "Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations" of the NSWGFA and GFAA as are in effect at the time. NOTE: Tag & Release rules are also published by NSWGFA and will apply. In addition to the NSWGFA Point Scores, Fishing Rules and Minimum Weights will apply. **NOTE: The NSWGFA Marlin & Shark Length/Weight Curves reference booklet, is Included in Tournament Box & Briefing Bags, is to be used when measuring Marlin and Shark Species for reporting accurate Capture measurements to Tournament Base. Penalties will be imposed for any breach of these rules.**

1. **LINE CLASSES** Which will be recognised are 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg.
2. **LINE AND BACKING**
 1. The use of backing is permissible. (Note: There is NO restriction on the type or size of backing used as long as it is monofilament, lead core multifilament but not wire)
 2. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first five meters of the line preceding the double, leader and hook. This section must be comprised of a single homogenous piece of line (for record claims, 16m of the single line must be supplied).

Multifilament lines are ONLY ALLOWED when used as backing.

3. **MINIMUM WEIGHT TO QUALIFY**
 1. MARLIN - Junior and Small Fry Anglers - a minimum of 60 kg on line classes 8kg and 10kg a Minimum of 80kg on line classes 15kg and above.
MARLIN – ALL OTHER Anglers – a minimum of 70kg on line classes 8kg and 10kg and a minimum of 90kg on line classes 15kg and above.

Reminder: Marlin must be a minimum of 150kg to qualify for the Champion Boat Heaviest Margin Prize

2. TUNA – 15kg on line class up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line and for Junior Anglers equal to the line class in all cases.
SHARKS – Junior and Small Fry Anglers- a minimum of 60kg on line classes 8kg and 10kg and a minimum of 80kg on line classes 15kg to 37kg and a minimum weight of 120kg on 60kg line class.
SHARKS – All other Anglers

Both these species are classified as NON-Table Sharks.

Tiger Sharks. New Min. Weights

Line Classes 6 – 10kg	min	120kg which is an increase of 50kg, current is 70kg
Line Classes 15 – 24kg	min	200kg which is an increase of 110kg, current is 90kg
Line Classes 37 – 60kg	min	250kg which is an increase of 160kg on 37kg and 130kg on 60kg, current is 90kg on 37kg and 120kg on 60kg

Blue Sharks. New Min. Weights

Line Classes 6 – 10kg	min	100kg which is an increase of 30kg, current is 70kg
Line Classes 15 – 24kg	min	125kg which is an increase of 35kg, current is 90kg
Line Classes 37 – 60kg	min	150kg which is an increase of 30kg, current on 120kg on 60kg

Reminder: Shark must be a minimum of 150kg to qualify for the Champion Boat Heaviest Shark Prize. NOTE: This motion does not include or affect the current minimum weights of shark species classified as Table Sharks which are Smooth Hammerhead, Mako, Porbeagle, Thresher and Whaler.

3. OTHER GAME FISH AND BROADBILL – minimum weight to be equal to line class.
4. **CAPTURES:** Must be accompanied with completed capture certificate book and presented by boat to the Weigh Person at the Weigh Station immediately on return to port each day. Date and time of Capture and the line class must also be included. Failure to do so will render the fish ineligible for count back in tied situations. Angler name and number, boat name and number and fish name and number must also be included. Only correctly completed certificates will be accepted and entitled for tournament points. Points shall be awarded using the current scoring NSWGFA 'factor' system.
5. **NO SHARKS** to be weighed with restrictive device on jaws. Sewing up of shark jaws will automatically disqualify the capture. No shark will be weighed with a choker in place.
6. **TAG & RELEASE:** All tag cards must be completed and presented by boat to the Weigh Person at the Weigh Station immediately on return to port each day along with a current and completed NSWGFA Capture Certificate book including angler's name and number, boat name and number, fish name and number, date, time and line class. If no line class is printed on the T & R card and certificate, the fish will be deemed to have been released on 60kg line. Only correctly completed certificate books and tag & release cards will be accepted and entitled for tournament points. No more than five (5) entries per page.

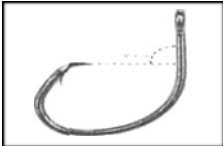
THE METHOD OF RELEASING TAGGED FISH: The hook is to be removed, or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish.

NOTE: All Billfish must be tagged with "Billfish Tag" only and such tag must not be used for any other species This is the only tag that will be recognised for Billfish in this Tournament

7. **IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES:** In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Fishing/Adjudication Committee shall be final.
8. **DISPOSAL OF FISH:** Unwanted fish must not be left at the Weigh Station but be taken by the captor's boat to sea outside the 50-meter-deep line and disposed of in an appropriate way. No fish are to be disposed of in a Marine Park. Competitors must not clean or fillet fish or remove shark jaws in the vicinity of the Weigh Station. There is a cleaning table adjacent to the public launching ramp. Fish carcasses must not be hung off boats, moorings or marina.
 1. **FISH HANDLING** In the event of any shark or marlin given away for eating, only the fillets may be given, and the remaining carcass is the responsibility of the skipper and crew. **NOTE: Penalties will be imposed for any breached of these rules.**
 2. **SALE OF FISH:** Competitors are reminded that it is illegal for recreational anglers to sell their catches. The following has been adopted by the Association. "That any fish weighed for NSWGFA Trophies shall not be sold or bartered. Such fish shall be ineligible for any trophies or awards of the Association". Anyone found to have sold their catch will be disqualified from the Tournament
9. **BAG LIMITS:** The NSW Government laws on bag limits must be abided by all anglers. **NOTE: Anglers are advised the eligible Tag & release length for Kingfish species is a minimum length of 70cm and the minimum length for Shark species is 100cm in NSW.**
10. **CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY** are permitted to be used for live baiting or trolling natural baits (whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected). Except in the case of targeting Narrow Barred Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Commerson*)

NB: NO Points to be scored for any species caught whilst using live baits and/or trolling natural baits with "J" hooks.

CIRCLE HOOK DEFINITION
A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank of the hook.


11. **KAWA KAWA & STRIPED TUNA FOR JUNIORS:** These species are eligible for junior point score trophies and prizes only and WILL NOT be totalled in any boat point score or boat trophies.
NOTE: STRIPED TUNA are not to be tagged. They need to be measured & released and recorded on measure & release certificates.
12. **SCIENTISTS:** It has been the practice of Port Macquarie GFC to invite Research Scientists to the Weigh Station to gather measurements, weights and sometimes samples from fish weighed in. Only scientists that

have NSWGFA accreditation will be allowed access to the Weigh Station to gather information. These people will be officially identifiable. Anglers are requested to co-operate with these people and no other scientists

E. OPERATIONS

As per NSWGFA Guidelines for Radio Schedules for Tournaments as are in effect at the time

1. **COMMUNICATIONS:** 'Tournament Base' will operate on 77VHF and 80VHF (27Mhz via relay with marine rescue Port Macquarie) from 0600 hrs (6:00am) until all vessels have returned to port and signed off. Tournament Base will announce "Start Fishing" each morning and will relay latest weather information when available. Radio schedules will be conducted every two (2) hours at each 30 minutes past the hour with the final day's Schedules at cease fishing time. The first Sched on 10th January will be at 0930 hrs (9:30am) and the final Sched at 1700 hrs (5:00pm). On 11th and 15th January Schedules will commence at 0730 hrs (7:30am) with final Sched at 1700 hrs (5:00pm) and on 16th January first Sched will be at 0730 hrs (7:30am) with final Sched at 1600 hrs (4:00pm). If a vessel(s) is still at sea fighting a fish after the last Sched, Tournament Base, when it is clear of sign offs, should contact the vessel(s) hourly noting their grid position until signed off. Grid maps will be supplied to all vessels to report position on each Sched. **Boats are required to log on with Tournament Base on 77VHF providing (i) Boat Number, (ii) Boat Name, (iii) Number of persons on board prior to leaving the harbour.**
2. **REPORTING PROCEDURES:** On each day, boats will be called in numerical order and will sign on by reporting the following:
(i) Boat number (ii) Boat name (iii) Position in reference to grid map (iv) Fishing activity (travelling, anchored, drifting, trolling) (v) Accurate Fishing Report using the "0 0 0" system, (i.e. Strikes, Hook-ups and Captures) plus details of species, Tag and Release or Capture (with short length measurement using the guide book provided), line class, anglers name and number. If possible, boats are to give Species for Strikes and Hook-ups which are not landed. Tournament Base will acknowledge each reply by repeating the report so that the competitors will be aware of all reports. Schedules throughout the day shall be as above less P.O.B. (persons on board). Last Sched as above but will include E.T.A. (estimated time of arrival back in port).

NOTE 1: All competitors must give accurate fishing and location details during fishing reports as per Sched Map North and South Boundaries and must accurately complete all Certificates / Tag and Release Cards to gain allotted points. **Skippers must radio tournament Base when a hook up is affected at the time of the event and then radio Tournament Base again to confirm the outcome. It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure all communication is acknowledged by Tournament Base.**

NOTE 2: Boats are asked to maintain RADIO SILENCE for 10 minutes before FINISH FISHING TIME to allow for all reports of late hook-ups. All boats are to sign off with Tournament Base when they enter port at the end of their days fishing before proceeding to their moorings/trailer.

NOTE 3: All boats are requested to avoid chatter on tournament frequencies. If competitors wish to talk to each other, please use another frequency and leave the Tournament frequencies clear for safety and/or business only.

3. **FAILURE TO REPORT ON SCHEDULES.** It is mandatory for all vessels to report on each Sched. Failure to report on two consecutive Schedules will activate an emergency procedure.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE:

- I. *Issue a description of the vessel including all details by radio to tournament vessels.*
 - II. *Instruct all vessel/s near the last known position to start a search of their area.*
 - III. *After one hour searching by Tournament vessel/s it is recommended the Tournament coordinator notify the local search & rescue authorities of the possible missing vessel/s and detail all actions taken. The overall responsibilities of search and rescue in NSW is the NSW Police Service.*
4. **VESSEL RESPONSIBILITY:** (i) Vessels must answer each Sched with the required details. (ii) If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel or through Port Macquarie or South West Rocks VMR, it must return to port and notify radio base of their actions by other means (phone etc). Remember that if two Schedules are not answered the emergency procedure will be activated. (iii) It is a vessel's responsibility to notify Tournament Radio Base of their intention NOT to fish on any given day of the tournament. If no notification is received and the vessel fails to report on two consecutive Schedules the Tournament Base operator will start the emergency procedure.
 5. **WEIGH STATION AND PROCEDURES.** The Weigh Station will be open from the commencement of fishing on each tournament day until all boats have returned to Port and all captures from the day have been presented. All tackle used in capture or T&R must be ready for presentation at the Weigh Station together with the angler i.e. the Rod & Reel, Line, Lure, Hook(s), Terminal Tackle, Gaff(s), Tail Rope(s), etc. along with all relevant documentation. The Weigh Station will close at 1800 hrs (6:00pm) on the last competition day. Any fish not presented by this time will not qualify in the GOLDEN LURE TOURNAMENT unless provision has been made with the Fishing/Adjudication Committee where a boat has been delayed returning to Port *due to* extenuating circumstances.

F. PENALTIES

PENALTIES WILL APPLY TO BOTH CAPTURE AND TAG & RELEASE POINTS FOR:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| BRIEFING: | Non-Attendance - Loss of 2,000 Capture and 2,000 Tag and Release points. |
| FISH DISPOSAL: | Failure to dispose of carcasses in an acceptable manner, cleaning or dissecting fish in the harbor/ marina or nearby (unless at a designated cleaning area) – Loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 Tag and Release points. |
| MISCONDUCT: | Penalties at the discretion of the Fishing / Adjudication Committee. |
| SALE OF FISH: | Disqualification from the Tournament. |

RADIO: Failure to sign off – Loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 Tag and Release Points. Failure to answer two consecutive radio schedules – Loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 Tag and Release Points.

SAILPAST: Breach of Sail Past regulation - Loss of 2,000 Capture and 2,000 Tag and Release points other than for genuine reasons at the Fishing/Adjudication Committee's discretion.

CAPTURING OF UNDERWEIGHT MARLIN & SHARK SPECIES:

Will incur a loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 Tag and Release points.

NOTE: *This penalty will not apply if the called measurement to Tournament Base re Marlin and Shark species complies with the NSWGFA Marlin & Shark Length/Weight Curves Chart dated July 2010.*

NOTE: *Notwithstanding the above penalties, the Tournament Committee reserves the right in any particular circumstances to disqualify any Capture, T&R, Angler or Boat for disregarding any Tournament Rule or Instruction.*

G. PRESENTATION

To conclude the 2026 Golden Lure Tournament a Presentation will be held on Saturday 17th January 2026 at Port Macquarie Panthers commencing at 11:30am. At this function provisional winners will be announced and presented with Tournament Trophy Mementos. Tickets for all registered Anglers are included. Additional entry tickets can be organized through admin@pmgfc.com.au or on Skipper and Crew Night.

H. TAMMY AND RICHARD KIRKBY MEMORIAL CHARITY LADIES' AND JUNIORS' DAY

To be fished on Tuesday 13th January 2026. This day is open to all Lady Anglers and Junior & Small Fry Anglers both male and female. The Tammy Kirkby Ladies' & Juniors' Day will be fished under NSWGFA Rules and Tackle Regulations, and NSWGFA Tag & Release & Capture Rules. Fishing will commence at 0800 hrs (8:00 am) and cease at 1600 hrs (4:00pm). Radio schedules will be called, and procedures will be as for the major 2026 Golden Lure Tournament Competition. NSWGFA minimum weight rules apply.

ENTRY: Boat entry is \$50.00 donation to a nominated charity.

There is no angler entry fee if the angler is a registered club member. Day membership is available for unregistered anglers at \$25.00 each to be eligible to fish on the day.

All Captures and Tag and Release paperwork is to be presented to the Weigh Person - weigh station will be open from start of fishing on the tournament day until all boats have returned to Port and all captures from the day have been presented.

CATEGORY AWARDS ARE:

Capture	Champion & R/UP Lady Adult Angler
Tag and Release	Champion & R/UP Lady Adult Angler
Capture	Champion & R/UP Junior Angler
Tag and Release	Champion & R/UP Junior Angler
Capture	Champion & R/UP Small Fry Angler
Tag and Release	Champion & R/UP Small Fry Angler

All completed Entry Forms may be returned via post to:

Tournament Committee

Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club
PO Box 9812

PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: The Tournament Committee shall consist of the Tournament Coordinator and nominees of the Host Club being Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club

