90th Anniversary Blue Water Classic
Bermagui 24-26th January 2026
Tournament Rules

Est 1936

1. **WELCOME.**
The Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club Committee welcomes and cordially invites all anglers who are financial members of a club affiliated with NSWGFA or GFAA to participate in the
90th BLUE WATER CLASSIC - 2026
The Tournament Committee consists of:

Maris Dumburs – 0412 195 538 Ron De La Mare - 0428 244 955 Paul Blacka 0429 668 722

NOTE. The skipper and any person involved in affecting a capture or T&R must be a paid angler. It is permissible to have observers onboard, but they must not assist in driving the boat, radio communication or the process of fishing whatsoever. Observers are restricted to a maximum of one per boat.

2. **ENTRIES.**
All Boat Skippers must read all tournament rules and forward all signed fully completed entry forms and fees to the Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club by **6.00pm Friday 23rd January 2026 (briefing night).**
If you are unable to make the 6pm deadline in person a phone call prior to 6pm with team details and full payment can be made to 0412 195 538 with completed form submitted prior to 7pm briefing night.

Fees: Adult - $140.00 **or $120.00 if full payment is received by 5pm Monday 19TH January 2026**
Juniors - 11–16 years old at commencement of briefing - $50.00
Small Fry - under 11 years at commencement of the briefing - $30.00
Presentation dinner - $60.00, Children's meal - $20.00,
BBQ - $20.00

Juniors and Small Fry are eligible for Senior prizes **ONLY** if they pay the adult entry fee. However, please be aware that if a Junior or Small Fry wins a senior category, they are unable to win the Junior/Small Fry category as well.

SHOOT OUT. Entry is $250.00 and is optional to all entries.
Refer to separate Shoot Out Rules Sheet.

3. **LATE ENTRIES.**
All entries must be received with full payment prior to 6.00pm Friday 23rd January 2026.
No late entries will be accepted.

4. **BOAT TEAMS. For the SAFETY of all Anglers**
All boats shall consist of a minimum of 2 Senior anglers with a maximum limit to the number of anglers as per NSW Maritime Vessel Capacity.

5. **REPLACEMENT OF BOATS AND COMPETITORS.**
No replacement of boats and competitors will be allowed after the commencement of the tournament. Anglers may not effect a capture or tag & release on any other vessel than the vessel he/she is registered on, Captured fish, tag & release card, the angler, all equipment used in the capture or tag must be presented to the weigh station on the vessel on which the capture or tag & release was effected and may not be transferred to another vessel however in the case of an emergency situation the Tournament Committee may at their discretion allow the transfer of an angler/fish and equipment used to effect capture or tag.

6. **SEAWORTHINESS OF BOATS.**
All boats must comply with NSW Waterways Regulations for safety equipment and the safety standards of the vessel's home club. A "Boat Safety Rescue form" is included as part of the entry form and must be completed and signed by the boat skipper. All Boats must carry a **406 MHz EPIRB.**

7. **INSURANCE.**
It is mandatory for all boats to carry Third Party Property Damage and Third Party Personal Injury Insurance to be a minimum value of $5,000,000 and a copy of policy details **MUST** be supplied with the boat entry form before entry can be accepted.

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8. **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.**
All Anglers must carry Saltwater Fishing Licenses. Bag limit and size restrictions must also be adhered to. All competitors are reminded that it is an offence to tie any vessel to objects such as wave riders, FADs or fish buoys

9. **FISHING DAYS & TIMES.**
Day 1 – 7.00am – 5pm Saturday 24th January 2026
Note: Any fish hooked and reported to Tournament Base prior to cease fishing may be played out and if caught or tagged they will be eligible for the tournament

Day 2 - 7.00am – 5pm Sunday 25th January 2026
Note: Any fish hooked and reported to Tournament Base prior to cease fishing may be played out and if caught or tagged they will be eligible for the tournament

Day 3 - 7.00am – 3pm Monday 26th January 2026
Note. Any fish hooked and reported to Tournament Base prior to cease fishing may be played out and if caught or tagged will be eligible for the Tournament provided the angler, fish and/or tag (and full equipment) is presented to the weigh station by 4:00pm

NOTE: On the final day all boats must be inside the main entrance of the harbour by 4.00pm with fish captures and/or T&R cards to be eligible for Tournament Trophies.

NOTE 2: ALL TAG CARDS MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE WEIGH MASTER FROM A BOAT MOORED AT THE WEIGH STATION GANTRY. TAG CARDS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR TOURNAMENT POINTS OR TROPHIES IF BROUGHT OVER LAND UNLESS PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE WEIGH MASTER

10. **FISHING BOUNDARIES.**
The fishing area for the tournament is 36º00.0' North; 36º47.6'South Latitude; 150º40.4' East Longitude
NOTE– You must stay on the grid map.

11. **BAD WEATHER.** To avoid taking unnecessary risks in the event of bad weather, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the day will be a competition day or not. Boats should establish early morning contact with Tournament Base or members of the Tournament Committee at the Weigh Station. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of fishing then the Tournament Committee will confer and will decide whether the competition will be called off for the remainder of the day. Any fish captured/tagged prior to the tournament being called off would 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 until the Gale 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 tournament 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 returning to the harbour remains with the competitors.

12. **LEAVING PORT.**
Boats may fish from their home port on Saturday 24th January 2026 but CANNOT commence burleying, trolling or fishing before the Tournament base announces the official start of fishing at 7:00am. If a boat is not within the prescribed fishing area, it cannot commence fishing until such time that it is within the tournament fishing boundary. Boats wishing to leave from their home port on Day 1 of the tournament must enter by the due date so that a tournament chart can be sent to the Boat Skipper. Boats travelling from their home ports must sign on prior to commencing fishing and MUST spend two nights in the Bermagui Harbour.

13. **RETURN TO PORT.** On Monday 26th January 2026 boats may elect to return directly to their home port after fishing, but must still affect a sign-off with Tournament Base. Failure to sign off will invoke a penalty of 5,000 Capture & T&R points.

Note: All captures and tag & release cards must be logged at the tournament weigh station as per tournament rule 9.

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AVENUE PROMOTIONS

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14. WEIGHSTATION PROCEDURE.

Once boats enter the vicinity of the weigh station, they are under the control of the Tournament Official at the weigh station and MUST obey all instructions issued by the Tournament Official. Before coming alongside the weigh station, boats must have completed and have ready for presentation all equipment used to effect the capture and Tag & Release and all applicable paperwork. The weigh station will be open from 2.00pm each day. **Note: The weighmaster has the right to disqualify any fish that is deemed mutilated. As per NSWGFA Rules**

Note: All tackle will be inspected at the gantry when a capture or Tag & Release is presented for the tournament.

15. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

- **Radio Scheds will be conducted in accordance with the NSWGFA *"Guidelines for Radio Scheds for Tournaments"* as are in effect at the time of the tournament.**
- **Tournament Base will operate on 27meg Channel 94 and VHF Channel 22 from 0630hrs until all vessels have returned to Port and signed off.**
- **Tournament Base will call each boat in numerical order on radio frequency 27meg Channel 94 and VHF Channel 22.**
- **The radio Schedule times will be conducted at two hourly intervals commencing at 9.05am each day.**
- **Boats must keep the air way clear 10 minutes prior to the end of fishing so late hook-ups may be recorded by the Tournament Base on each fishing day.**
- **The number of people onboard is to be advised during the first sched for the day.**
- **Boats are to report on each sched as follows:**
    1. **Boat Number**
    2. **Boat Name**
    3. **ACCURATE Fishing Report – Using the "000" system i.e. Strikes – Hook-ups – Captures/Tags and specify Species – Line Class – Angler and accurate approximation of weight of fish. (Use the weight /length graph)**
    4. **Position – Using the grid chart reference and whether the boat is currently trolling, drifting etc.**

➢ **A penalty of 5000 capture points and 5000 T&R points will be imposed on boats failing to report unless a satisfactory explanation is given.**

➢ **Note: - IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL 000**

Please Note:

- ➢ If any vessel is unable to fish on any competition day, it is a requirement that Tournament Base is notified either by radio or by telephone before the second sched starts as a priority.
- ➢ Should any vessel suffer total radio failure, the Boat Skipper must attempt to notify another vessel of the problem and have them notify Tournament Base, they must then immediately return to port. Once in port it is the responsibility of the skipper to sign off with a Tournament Official as listed in Tournament Rule 1.
- ➢ It is mandatory for all vessels to report on each sched, failure to report on two radio scheds, or within 2 hours of the last sched, Tournament Base will commence the emergency procedures.
- ➢ Captures and Tags not reported on the next radio sched after capture or releasing will not be eligible in the tournament point score or trophies.
- ➢ **All boats are to report EVERY sked**.
- ➢ All boats must report to Tournament Base on returning to port.
- ➢ Radio silence must be obeyed for 10 minutes prior to cease fishing for the day to allow for the report of late hook-ups.
- ➢ At the final sched for the day each boat is required to confirm their ETA back to port and their current grid position.

Tournament Base Phone No: 0407 692 028

Note. All boats are requested to avoid chatter on tournament frequencies.

CARLSON MARINE
BILLFISH TACKLE SUPPLY
TIAMAT LURES

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16. FISHING RULES.

The 2026 90th BLUE WATER CLASSIC tournament will be fished in accordance with the "Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations" of the GFAA, NSWGFA as are in effect at the time. The NSWGFA Tag & Release and Measure & Release rules will apply

(1) Monofilament, multifilament and lead core multifilament lines may be used. However, Wire lines are prohibited. The use of backing is permitted, however, the catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first five metres of the line directly preceding the double, leader and hook. This section must be comprised of a single homogenous piece of line.

(2) LINE CLASSES - which will be recognized are 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg.

(3) ELIGIBLE SPECIES – As per the NSWGFA eligible species list (Sharks T & R ONLY)

(4) CIRCLE HOOKS – Are permitted to be used for live baiting and trolling natural baits. (Whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected), Except in the case of targeting Narrow Barred Mackerel (Scomberomorus Commerson)

A Circle Hook is a hook with its point turned 90°or less back towards the shank of the hook.

NB: no points to be scored for any species caught while using live baits and/or trolling baits with "J" hooks.

(5) THE USE OF IDENTIFIABLE MARLIN – carcasses is prohibited for use as tethered burley. Burley under floats is prohibited.

(6) MULTIPLE STRIKES – in the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish will be eligible for point score.

(7) CAPTURE –

Minimum Weight to Qualify -

(a) MARLIN –

Senior - must weigh a minimum of 70kg on line classes 8kg and 10kg and a minimum of 90kg on 15kg line class and over.

Junior/Small Fry - must weigh a minimum of 60kg on line classes 8kg and 10kg and a minimum of 80kg on 15kg line class and over.

(b) YELLOWFIN AND SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA –

Senior - 15kg on line classes 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 classes.

Junior/Small Fry -15kg on line classes 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 classes.

(c) SHARKS – No sharks will be weighed for capture points for this tournament.

(d) OTHER GAME FISH – Seniors/Juniors/Small Fry -must weigh a minimum weight to be equal to line class.

(e) Maximum Points – All captures on line classes up to and including 10kg shall be a maximum of 15,000 plus one point per kilo of fish weight. All captures on lines classes 15kg and over shall be a maximum of 20,000 plus one point per kilo of fish weight.

(f) **Small fry angler points only – Striped Tuna**

No Capture Points for Striped Tuna – Measure and Release **ONLY.**

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(8) TAG & RELEASE

All Tag & Release cards and Capture certificates must be presented to the weigh person at the weigh station from the boat each day

(a) BILLFISH TAG – All Billfish must be tagged with the billfish tag; this is the only tag that will be recognized for billfish in this tournament. The billfish tag is for billfish only point score i.e. no other species.

(b) LINE CLASS - must be provided on the tag & release cards. If no line class is provided it will be deemed to have been caught on 60kg tackle.

(c) TIME – Failure to record time of release on the tag card will result in the time being recorded as at the end of the days fishing or after the last fish of the day has been tagged, whichever is the latter

(d) NSWDPI TAGS – only NSWDPI tags can be used, no other type tag will be awarded points or trophies.

Points - Will be calculated as per NSWGFA point score tag & release line class point score. NOTE- amendments to shark tag and release points- minimum length is still 100cm

SPECIES	8-10 kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
Sharks	3750	3450	3000	2550	2250
Blue Sharks	3125	2875	2500	2125	1875

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.
(Full score system in Tournament Bag)

(e) SMALL FRY – STRIPED TUNA

No tagging of striped tuna for small fry – Measure and release **ONLY.** The release must be accompanied with a completed release certificate – (see tournament bag). Points will be calculated as per the NSWGFA point score factor system. In the event of a tie on any prize category the count back system will be used in determining the winner.

Striped Tuna / Small Fry Points. These species are eligible for small fry points score trophy **ONLY** and will **NOT** be totaled in any boat point score of team trophy

THE METHOD OF RELEASING TAGGED FISH – The hook is to be removed or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish. A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured in the fish and the fish has been released back into the water alive. A tagged fish should not be reported to Tournament Base until all these conditions have been met.

Note: A GFAA Measure & Release card is to be used to record Yellowtail Kingfish (under 70cm) and striped tuna (small fry only) release information.

17. FISH HANDLING.

All fish are to be removed from the weigh station after weighing. In the event of fish given away for eating competitors must NOT clean or fillet in the vicinity of the weigh station. Unwanted fish must NOT be left at the Weigh Station but must be taken out at least 2nm outside the port and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Note: Fish MUST NOT be disposed of in a Marine Park. Failure to comply with this rule will invoke a penalty against the offending boat.

18. PROTESTS.

Protests, if any, **must be submitted in writing by the Boat Skipper to the weigh station in writing by 6pm on Day 1 & 2 or 4pm on Day 3.** The Tournament Adjudication Committee's determination of any protest or rule interpretation will be final.

19. MISCONDUCT.

The Tournament Committee may on its own initiate an investigation and act upon any incident of misconduct by an angler on a boat, be he/she registered for the tournament. The committee may impose penalties of loss of points, disqualification of fish, angler, boat or team and refusal of entry to any future Club Tournament. All competitors are reminded that as a member of the Club they are regarded as a representative of that Club, as such, any unbecoming behavior reflects adversely on the Club and indeed on all Game Fishers, hence, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.

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20. SALE OF FISH.
Competitors are reminded that it is illegal for recreational or un-licensed anglers to sell their catches. Anyone found to have sold their catch will be disqualified from the tournament.

21. PENALTIES.

- Radio Communication – failure to sign off, inappropriate language, failure to answer two consecutive radio scheds – loss of (5,000 capture & T&R points for each breach)
- Misconduct – penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Committee – see rule (19)
- Sale of Fish – disqualification from tournament – see rule (20)
- Failure to report the capture or Tag and Release in the next sched after capture or releasing will result in the fish not being eligible in the tournament point score or trophies

22. BRIEFING.
The Tournament Briefing will be held at the Bermagui Country Club at 7pm on Friday 23rd January 2026.
In the interest of sea safety and proper instruction, it is mandatory that a member of each boat is represented at the tournament briefing. (Boats traveling by sea will be granted exemption if requested by the Skipper of the team after consultation with the tournament committee.
Phone 0412 195 538 Maris Dumburs

23. TOURNAMENT FUNCTIONS will be run as per COVID19 Guidelines at the time.
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- Briefing – Bermagui Country Club 7pm Friday 23rd January 2026
- Tournament Barbeque – Bermagui Country Club 6.30pm Saturday 24th January 2026
- Lucky Angler draw – Bermagui Country Club – to be drawn after the Barbeque
- (Lucky winning Anglers must be in attendance at draw)
- Tournament/ Presentation dinner – Bermagui Country Club 6.30pm Monday 26th January 2026

24. CONDUCT.
It is an expectation that all participants will conduct themselves in a responsible and courteous manner to the Tournament Officials and other competitors at all times throughout the Tournament. All anglers, particularly boat captains, are requested to display a degree of courtesy regarding burley trails and troll patterns behind boats.
Penalties for misconduct may include disqualification from the Tournament.

25. INDEMNITY.
The Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club accepts no responsibility for any action by entrants to Tournament and shall not be held liable for any damage or loss of property or person during the Tournament. In consideration of accepting this application to participate in the event, all competitors agree to release or indemnify the Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club, the Tournament Committee and any of their employees, servants, agents and voluntary workers against all claims, proceedings or actions for loss of damage to property or person.

26. MEDIA POLICY

- **Only** the Club President can make comments to the media
- Competitors are NOT to post information/photographs on forum sites
- Competitors must NOT approach the media or answer any queries from the media. If competitors are approached by the media they are to contact the Club President with the details who will then carry out the requirements of the NSWGFA Media Policy.
- The Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club cannot be used in any media publication without the express permission from the Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club.

Extreme Fishing Charters
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