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2026 LIZARD ISLAND BLACK MARLIN CLASSIC

Sun, 18th – Fri, 23rd October 2026

*Game Base: Sovereign Resort Cooktown
128 Charlotte St, Cooktown QLD 4895*

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FEES & RULES

“Early Bird” Entry Fee of \$825 per Angler if entry completed by 16th August 2026. Entries completed after 16th August 2026 \$875 per angler. If only one angler, the minimum entry fee is \$1,750.00. Entry includes briefing night BBQ/ Dinner, Tournament Shirt and Presentation Dinner.
Drinks are not included all fees in AUD and include GST.

Extra Dinners: A Hospitality Fee of \$550 per Crew Member or Guest includes: Briefing Dinner, Presentation Dinner and Crew/Guest pack.

Extra Shirts: \$50.00

Optional Calcutta Pool: \$2,000 per boat with the following split:

65% Winning boat
25% Second Place
10% to LIGFC

Note: Nomination Forms are available
<https://lizardislandgamefishingclub.com.au/2026-black-marlin-classic>

Membership: All Anglers, Skippers and Crew must be financial members of a Game Fishing Club affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) or the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA). Membership of Lizard Island Game Fishing Club Qld Inc (LIGFC) is available to non-members LIGFC fees (Renewals or new Member) \$200.00 each incl GST.
IGFA Members can only use that membership if they are overseas resident.



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1. Tournament Program Dates:

Sunday 18th October 2026: **Compulsory** Briefing at Sovereign Resort; located at the Corner of Green & Charlotte Street, Cooktown, 1930hrs for 2000hrs start. It is mandatory for at least one team member and Captain of the boat to attend the Briefing.

Friday 23rd October 2026: Presentation Dinner at Sovereign Resort; located at the Corner of Green & Charlotte Street, Cooktown 1900hrs for 2000hrs start. To be eligible to receive trophies attendance is compulsory

Fishing: Monday 19th October through to Thursday 22nd October 2026: Fishing from 1100hrs to 1730hrs each day and Friday, 23rd October: Fishing from 1000hrs to 1500hrs. All tag cards must be returned to a Tournament official by 2000hrs on Friday 23rd October 2026 to be eligible for prizes.

2. Late Team Changes: Tournament Officials will attend the Sovereign Resort from 1600hrs on Sunday 18th October 2026 for final Team's Registration and any late changes to Anglers. No changes to anglers may be made after 1930hrs Saturday 19th October 2026.

3. Sailpast: The Official Tournament opening and compulsory sailpast of entered vessels will commence at 0730hrs on Monday 19th October 2026 from Cooktown followed by start fishing at 1100hrs.

4. Tournament Fishing Zone: The northernmost point of Jewell Reef to the southernmost point of Jenny Louise Shoal. On Day 1, Teams must start from Cooktown and may elect to stay out on the Reef after "Stop Fishing". All boats must return to Cooktown for the Presentation Dinner. All boats fishing must be outside the reef.

5. Eligibility: The LIGFC Tournament Committee reserves the right at its absolute discretion to refuse to accept entry to the tournament from any boat, Captain, Crew and or Angler. The Tournament Committee is not required to provide a reason for its decision. Entry is open to all Members of Clubs affiliated with GFAA and or IGFA. Only foreign residents to use IGFA membership. Club membership details must be provided on the entry form. If not already a financial member of a qualifying Club, Anglers must join LIGFC.

6. Eligible Species: Black Marlin (*Makaira Indica*), Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*). Black Marlin is the species that abound in the waters of The





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Coral Sea of Lizard Island where they aggregate each year to breed resulting in "granders" being tagged every year.

7. **Eligible Tackle:** As published in the GFAA Angling and Equipment Rules. Non-offset circle hooks must be used for live bait fishing.
8. **Eligible Line Class:** This is a heavy tackle Tournament and only 37kg and 60kg line may be used.
9. **Tag & Release Only:** No fish will be weighed in the Tournament. Fishing and Tag & Release Rules are as published in the GFAA Angling Rule and Equipment Regulations.
10. **Point Score:** One Thousand (1000) points per live Marlin tagged and released in accordance with the Rules, irrespective of whether 37Kg or 60Kg line was used. All tagged fish must be filmed with the ribbon colour in the picture and on the tag pole when being tagged.
11. **Number of Days Fished:** Competitors may elect to fish all or any number of competition days within the Tournament dates. There is no reduction in fees for fishing less than 5 days.
12. **Judges:** LIGFC Qld Inc shall appoint Tournament Judges whose decisions shall be final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into relating to the Judges decisions. The Dispute Committee will comprise of 1 member from LIGFC and 2 other clubs. All protests must be submitted **in writing** and received no later than (2) hours after cease fishing on each day. The committee's decision will be final, and no further discussion will be entered into.
13. **Late Hook Ups & Tags:** Any fish hooked after the final Radio Sched, but before Stop Fishing. **MUST** be reported to the Radio Base and acknowledged to be eligible. The fish may then be played out but subject to the conditions of Rule 1.
14. **Radio Scheds:** All hook ups, fish lost, tags and releases must be immediately reported to Radio Base. The time of the Tag & Release is deemed to be the time at which the Tag & Release is reported and acknowledged by Radio Base. Details of the Radio Scheds will be given at the Briefing Dinner. All competing vessels must carry a VHF radio in good working order. All competing vessels must always remain contactable via radio, by either Radio Base or another vessel. Failure to maintain radio contact may result in team disqualification. A boat logging off from Radio Base for the day (even before cease fishing) will be deemed as





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no longer fishing within the tournament for that day and thereby no longer be eligible to score points for fish caught after doing so. (This in no way means a boat may not log on with Marine Rescue Services for safety purposes).

All Radio sheds to be on Channel 82 as follows:

Sched 1: 1315hrs

Sched 2: 1515hrs

Sched 3: 1700hrs

15. Tags: GFAA only recognises NSW Fisheries Billfish Tags in Australian waters. **ONLY** these Tags will be eligible in this Tournament. Tags are available from your local GFAA or QGFA Clubs or contact Mick Meiers. Some Tags will be available at the Briefing.

16. Protests: A protest must be submitted in writing to the Judges by 1900hrs on Day 5.

17. Tackle Inspection: Equipment and tackle used may be inspected at random by Judges.

18. Misconduct: The Tournament Committee may on its own initiative investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic. The Committee may invoke penalties of loss of points, or disqualification of fish, angler, boat or team, when misconduct is deemed to have taken place likely to bring the Club or our Sport into disrepute.

19. Liability: Lizard Island Game Fish Club Qld Inc will not accept liability for any claims for damages or injury by or to any person or persons regarding this Tournament. All boats nominating to fish the tournament are required to have current boat insurance. Details of such insurance must be completed on the entry form supplied along with a photocopy of your insurance certificate. Should a boat not have insurance, nor be able to supply evidence of insurance and certificate prior to the commencement of the tournament, that boat shall be excluded from participating in the tournament. All onboard safety remains the responsibility of the owner / skipper.

MEDIA CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Lizard Island Game Fish Club Qld Inc (hereinafter called The Club) may enter into an agreement with an entity to have electronic media and production rights, which includes the





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right to commercial production of electronic media for use filming television and distribution.

2. It is a condition of entry into the Tournament that a competitor may not conduct or permit to be conducted any activity during the Tournament including filming, videoing, photography or interviewing of the activities of the competitor's boat, crew or visitors during the Tournament or to the activities which is used for or may be used for the production of any commercial electronic media release, whether before, during or after the Tournament, without the written permission of the Club. Conduct or permit any activities to be conducted either during, before or after the Tournament which uses or refers to The Club, its logo, the Tournament name or relating to the participation in the Tournament which is used for or may be used to produce any commercial electronic media release without written permission of The Club.

