

PMG ELDORADO BILLFISH CLASSIC 2026

TOURNAMENT RULES

26th - 28th February 2026

Anglers Entry Fee: \$150 per angler

Junior Anglers Entry Fee: \$100 per angler

NZSFC Nationals Angler Entry Fee: \$25 per angler (optional)

Inclusive of one prize giving dinner at 6-00pm Saturday 28th February 2026.

Entry Fees:

No team or angler can compete in the tournament unless their entry fee and membership payments have been made in full prior to start fishing.

A team must consist of two or more anglers and no more than eight anglers.

Pre-registration is encouraged, this can be done online www.swordfish.co.nz or email office@swordfish.co.nz

Tournament Memberships:

If an angler is not a member of a club affiliated to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council then they must also pay a tournament membership of \$30 before their team starts fishing.

Meet the Teams Registration and Briefing:

Wednesday 25th February commencing at 5-00pm with the briefing starting at 7-00pm in the Russell Clubhouse of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club.

All crews must be represented by at least one fishing member of the crew and must register and make full payment of Entry Fees and Tournament Memberships on this night to be eligible to fish the tournament. Late entries will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances.

Any communication or notice to one team member is notice to all team members, whether at the briefing, over VHF Radio CH3 or by phone.

Prize Giving:

Saturday 28th February dinner commences 6-00pm and prize giving commences 7-00pm at the Russell clubhouse of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club.

Fishing Days and Times:

Thursday 26th February start fishing 8-00am stop fishing Saturday 28th February 3-00pm

Team Boat:

All teams must fish from the boat entered on their entry form for all 3 days of the tournament. If for any reason a change of boat is require due to mechanical failure or inability of their boat putting to sea then a change of boat must be approved by the convenor.

Teams who have pre-entered have until Wednesday 29th January to make changes to their nominated boat if they wish.

No Start Line:

There is no start line. Teams attending briefing may head out to sea or to launch areas immediately after briefing. No tournament lines are allowed in the water until the 8-00am announcement on VHF radio CH 3 to start fishing. You may catch bait prior to 8-00am.

Fishing In

Teams may nominate to fish in, however they must advise the tournament convenor by Tuesday 28th January and provide an email address to enable rules to be sent out prior to the tournament. All angler entry fees and tournament memberships must be paid prior to Wednesday 25th February 5-00pm.

Teams fishing in must attend briefing by **Facebook Live**.

Teams fishing in may not enter the fishing area, or if based in a harbour or marina within the fishing area they may not leave the harbour or marina until 8-00am on Thursday 30th January.

Omni Directional Sonar

Must be turned off for the duration of the tournament.

Tournament Radio & Round Ups:

The official tournament communications are by radio, call sign will be Swordy Sports VHF CH 3, or by phone on 0274088804

All fish hooked up must be called in on VHF Channel 3 or by phone ASAP or relayed if out of range. Also, the outcome must be advised ASAP through to Swordy Sports on VHF Channel 3.

Radio Round ups will be at 12-15pm and 4-00pm Thursday & Friday and 12-00pm Saturday.

Eligible Fish Species:

- Marlin - Striped Marlin, Blue Marlin and Black Marlin must all be over 90Kg
- Short Billed Spearfish must weigh over 10kg or over line weight.
- Broadbill Swordfish must exceed line weight.

Prize Categories:

Eldorado Billfish Classic is a Points Tournament

- Winning Team Most Points
In the event of a tie for all points' prizes the first team or angler to secure the points will be the winning team or angler.
- Daily first marlin tagged
- Daily last marlin tagged
- Overseas Team Most Points - At least 50% of an overseas team must be International anglers that do not reside in New Zealand, but are visitors only.
- Male Angler most points
- Lady Angler most points.
- Striped Marlin angler most points

- Junior Angler Most Points
- First Junior first tournament fish caught
- Winning Skipper and Crewman Team Most Points
- First Billfish
- Last Billfish
- Heaviest Other Species (does *not* include sharks)
- Biggest F&%k up of the Tournament

Side Bets

You will have the option to place a \$200 side bet on your boat. Please indicate on your registration form if you intend place your bet and make payment with your entry fees.

Teams wishing to enter their team in the side bet must do so prior to 11-59pm on Wednesday 25th February 2026.

Heaviest Marlin wins the side bet pool with 10% going to the Club. The Heaviest qualifying marlin of the tournament wins. In the event that the winning marlin is not caught by a team in on the side bet then it will go to the next heaviest marlin and so on. If no marlin are weighed, a winning boat will be drawn from those who have entered the side bet.

Points Formula:

Tagged (Marlin & Broadbill) on 37Kg line 500 points, 24kg line 650 points, 15kg line 800 points.

Tagged Shortbill Spearfish 37Kg line 150 points, 24kg line 200 points, 15kg line 250 points.

Weight of fish x 100 divided by line weight for Marlin, Broadbill, Shortbill and Spearfish

Fishing Area:

Northern boundary is no further west than Longitude 172.45E and no further north than Latitude 34.20S no further south than latitude 35.40S No eastern boundary exists. All fishing must take place on the east coast of the North Island within the prescribed fishing areas. All fish caught outside this area are deemed non-tournament fish.

Line Weight:

Max 37kg

Minimum 15kg

Braid/ Spectra and Fusion type Line:

Braid/ Spectra and fusion type lines may be used as backing as approved by the NZSFC and IGFA (Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used. Wire lines are prohibited. The use of backing is permissible. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 5 meters (16.5 feet) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line and may not exceed 37 kg (80 pound) line class.)

Tournament Fish Rules:

All fish must be caught in accordance with IGFA and NZSFC rules to qualify for this tournament.

All qualifying fish must have the double line, leader, lure and or hook available for inspection if requested.

All fish must be caught from a vessel, no land based caught fish are eligible for this tournament.

All fish caught in this tournament will be recorded as catches for the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club Inc and may not be claimed for recognition by any other club.

Reuse of a lure:

You must cut leader on a 45deg angle.

That leader in two pieces along with the lure must then be made available for inspection should it be requested.

All fish must be caught in accordance with BOISC, NZSFC and IGFA rules to qualify for this tournament.

Dead or Alive Bait Hooks:

All tournament participants must use **non-offset circle hooks** for all species whenever live or natural bait are being used.

Weigh Stations:

Weigh stations will be available in Russell and Paihia at the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club weigh stations between 4-00pm and 7-00pm or by arrangement with weigh masters.

Saturday 1st February fish must be weighed at Russell between 3-00pm and 5-00pm.

No fish accepted after official weigh times on Tuesday.

Fish may be courtesy weighed at any Zone One Weigh Station. Please call other clubs in advance to arrange your weigh in and ask them to forward details of weigh in to office@swordfish.co.nz or text to mobile 0274088804

All weighable fish must be weighed within 36 hours of having been landed and can be weighed at any Zone 1 club except for the last day.

Bay of Islands weigh masters may be contacted through Tournament Base.

Weigh Sheets and Tag Cards:

All fish captured and tagged and released must be accompanied by a correctly filled out Bay of Islands Swordfish Club Weigh sheet when handed in at the weigh station or handed into tournament control. All tagged fish claims must also be accompanied by the correctly filled out tag card with the weigh sheet. Please make sure your weigh sheets and accompanying tag cards are correctly filled out as this can lead to fish being disqualified if they are not correct. Ensure weigh sheets are signed by both angler and skipper.

On the last day all physical (hard copy) weigh sheets, tag cards and photos must be delivered to the Convenors by 5-00pm in the Russell weigh station or clubhouse.

No electronic transmissions will be accepted.

NZSFC Nationals Tournament

This tournament will run concurrently with the NZSFC Nationals. Teams may choose to enter and fish both events, and eligible catches can count for both tournaments. Please note that for any fish to qualify for the NZSFC Nationals, anglers must pay Nationals entry fee (\$25 pp) and all Nationals rules also apply and must be followed in conjunction with these tournament rules.

Conduct:

Any participant in a Bay of Islands Swordfish Club-sanctioned tournament who engages in misconduct, inappropriate behaviour, or any action that brings the Club into disrepute may face a stand-down from all Club tournaments.

Serious misconduct or significant breaches will result in a minimum stand-down period of one (1) year.

Severe breaches, including but not limited to gross misconduct, violence, intimidation, or deliberate actions which may damage the Club's reputation, will result in a minimum stand-down of five (5) years.

If a breach is committed by an individual member of a team or crew, the stand-down will apply to the entire team and vessel involved in the tournament.

The Executive Committee of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club will determine the severity of the breach, the parties affected, and the appropriate stand-down period. All decisions made by the Committee are final.

Disputes:

Payment of the entry fee constitutes acceptance of the above rules and acceptance of any decision made by the Committee, in accordance with the BOISC Constitution.

Any dispute should be put in writing to the convener prior 1900 hrs on the day of the incident.

Disputes over a fish's weight must be resolved before the fish is removed from the weigh station.

These disputes will be resolved by the weigh master and tournament convener, and their decision will be final.

SAFETY MESSAGE PLEASE READ BEFORE PARTICIPATING

The 2026 Eldorado Billfish Classic has been arranged for 3 days and it is the skipper's responsibility to determine that on any one day, the sea conditions and weather forecasts are safe for his/her boat to put to sea. It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure that the boat they intend to participate in is capable of putting to sea and meeting local coastguard and all Club requirements. Participation in the BOISC hosted tournament does not diminish each skipper's sole responsibility under maritime law nor shift any of the responsibility to the Club even if the event officials make the decision on the conditions for that day.

GENERAL BOISC FISHING RULES

These rules form the backdrop of the 2026 Eldorado Billfish Classic Tournament Rules. The Club has an obligation to recognise the skills and achievements of its members primarily in the practice of angling. One method of recognition is granting awards and trophies at the annual prize giving and the awarding of pins, patches, certificates and other prizes during the season.

The Club believes that the nature of and the reason for awards must be to recognise abilities and accomplishments that bring credit not only to the members but also to the Club, it is further believed that it will be beneficial to the health and wellbeing of the Club, when awards are within reach of the member. There are some aspects of angling that cannot be controlled through rule making. Angling regulations cannot ensure an outstanding performance from each fish; records cannot indicate each of the members.

The amount of difficulty in catching the fish. Captures in which the fish has not fought or has not had a chance to fight do not reflect on the person fishing and only the angler can properly evaluate the degree of achievement in establishing the catch. Only fish caught in accordance with IGFA angling rules and within the intent of these rules can be considered for world records.