PMG Ice Breaker Tournament 2026

Paihia Clubhouse
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December 2026

Anglers Entry Fee:
An entry fee of $100 per angler

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.

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:
Friday 4th December commencing at 5-30pm with the briefing starting at 7-00pm in the Paihia Clubhouse of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club.
All crews must be represented by a 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:
Sunday 6th December commences from 7:00pm at Paihia Clubhouse

Fishing Days and Times:
Fishing Commences 7-00am Saturday 5th December and Stop Fishing 3-00pm Sunday 6th December.

No Start Line:
There is no start line. You are allowed to be on your favourite fishing ground at time of start fishing. No tournament lines are allowed in the water until the 7:00am announcement on VHF radio CH 3 to start fishing. You may catch bait prior to 7:00am.

Fishing in From Other Areas
There will be no allowance for fishing in.

Omni Directional Sonar
Must be turned off for the duration of the tournament.

Eligible Fish Species:
Billfish (Marlin & Broadbill does not include Shortbill Spearfish), Shortbill Spearfish, Yellow Fin, Blue Fin and Big Eye Tuna, Snapper and Kingfish.
Note, **Game fish** species are Billfish, Shortbill Spearfish, and Tuna (Yellow Fin, Blue Fin and Big Eye).

Prize Categories:

- Cash prize - 1st heaviest Marlin
- Cash prize - 1st heaviest Broadbill
- Cash prize - 1st heaviest Tuna (Yellow Fin, Blue Fin and Big Eye).

- Cash prize - 1st 2nd largest snapper and kingfish measured and released
- Cash prize - 1st 2nd tagged and released game fish species, Billfish (Marlin & Broadbill) Shortbill Spearfish, and Tuna (Based on accumulated points)
- Cash prize - Average length Snapper
- Cash prize - Average length Kingfish
- Cash prize - Angler most points (Marlin, Broadbill, Shortbill Spearfish and Tuna) using the Game Fish formula, tagged and measured and released snapper & kingfish combined using points as described below.
- Heaviest other species (does not include sharks)

Prizes not won other than cash prizes will be drawn in a lucky draw. Anglers must be present at the prize giving to receive a lucky draw. **Cash prizes will only be awarded if won, these are non-transferrable and will not be drawn as a lucky draw.**

In the case of a points draw the angler or team scoring their final points first wins. (Recording catch times is important).

Points Formula
Weight of fish x 100 divided by line weight. Applies to Billfish (Marlin &
Broadbill) Shortbill Spearfish and Tuna.
Weighed Snapper and Kingfish weight in kilos x 5, no fish formula applies.
Measured and released Snapper and Kingfish 1 point per cm, only top 5 scoring fish for each team, a maximum of two for each angler per day of each species recognised. Snapper must measure over 40cm and kingfish over 90cm.
Tagged Billfish (Marlin & Broadbill) 500 points
Tagged Shortbill Spearfish 150 points
Tagged Tuna 100 points (Yellowfin, Blue Fin, Big Eye)

Tournament Winner:
The overall winner will be awarded to the angler with the most points as per above.

Fishing Area:
Bay of Islands Swordfish Club Grid Map Areas (East Coast only).

Weigh Stations:
Weigh stations will be available in Russell and Paihia at the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club weigh stations between 5-00pm and 7-00pm or by arrangement with weigh masters on Saturday 5th December on 3-30pm to 6-00pm Sunday 6th December. All fish must be weighed on the day of capture unless still being played when stations close on Saturday. No fish accepted after official weigh times on Sunday 6th December.
Bay of Islands swordfish Club weigh masters may be contacted through tournament
base, channel 3 or listed phone numbers in club Yearbook.

Calling in catches:
All catches must be called in on VHF CH3 within 30 minutes of the capture being completed. All hook ups must be called in also on
VHF CH3. If unable to make contact with VHF CH3 then calls may be relayed or phoned into 027 685 5066

Line Weight:
Max 37kg
Minimum 15kg for Billfish (Marlin & Broadbill) and Tuna.
No line weight restriction for Snapper and Kingfish.

Dead or Alive Bait Hooks:
All tournament participants must use non-offset circle hooks for all live or natural bait when being used for all game fish species.

Tournament Fish Rules:
For all tournament awards fish must exceed the following weights or measurements if weighed in.
Marlin and Broadbill 90kg
Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Shortbill Spearfish 15kg, Big Eye 20kg, Blue Fin 30kg or exceed line weight
Snapper must exceed 30cms in length. Snapper must exceed 40cm for measure and release.
Kingfish must exceed 90cms in length. Kingfish must exceed 80 cm for measure and release.
All qualifying fish must have the double line, leader, lure and or hook available for inspection if requested.
All tagged and released marlin must have a dated and timed viewable digital photo of the fish with the tag visible.
All fish must be caught in accordance with IGFA and NZSFC rules to qualify 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.
All fish must be caught from a vessel, no land based caught fish are eligible for this tournament.

Measure and Release:
Snapper and kingfish may be measured and released. A photo must be supplied prior to 6pm on Sunday 6th December 2026 (Please email photos to olivia@trucker.co.nz or pxt to 027 685 5066).
An official IGFA or NZSFC measure device must be used and they are available from the club.
See IGFA All Tackle Length Rules in starter kit.
A limit of 5 per day per team or 2 per day per angler of each species may be entered for measure and release. The photo must include angler identification card as supplied in starter kit.
A video of the release is also required and must show the fish being freely released from the measuring device and swimming away. Photo and release video must be viewed on recording device by the tournament organisers.

Catch Limits:
Marlin, Broadbill (Billfish) and Tuna - a limit of two of each species per team per day and one of each species per angler per day may be weighed in.
No limit on the number of Marlin, Shortbilled Spearfish and Tuna that may be tagged and released.
Snapper and Kingfish a limit of 5 per species per day per team or two of each species per day per angler may be weighed in.

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 kilogram (80 pound) line class.)

Weigh Sheets and Tag Cards:
All fish captured, tagged or measured 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.
All qualifying fish must have the double line, leader, lure and or hook available for inspection if requested.
On the last day all physical (hard copy) weigh sheets, tag cards and photos must be delivered to the Convenors by 6.00pm at the Paihia Clubhouse of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club.

Radio Round Ups:
The official tournament radio call sign will be "PMG Ice Breaker" VHF CH 3. Radio Round ups will be at 12noon and 4-00pm Saturday and 12 noon Sunday

Stop Fishing:
VHF CH3 will call STOP FISHING and their call will be the official stop fishing time. Any fish hooked up before stop fishing can continue to be played until boated or tagged.
If the weigh sheet and accompanying tag card or the fish cannot be bought to the weigh station during the official weighing times then the tagged or weighed fish will not be eligible for the tournament.

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 Notice: THE PMG ICE BREAKER TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR 2 DAYS OF COMPETITION AND IT IS THE SKIPPERS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE THAT ON ANY ONE DAY, THE SEA CONDITIONS AND WEATHER FORECASTS ARE SAFE FOR HIS 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 COAST GUARD REQUIREMENTS.
PARTICIPATION IN THE PMG ICE BREAKER TOURNAMENT DOES NOT DIMINISH EACH SKIPPER'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER MARITIME LAW NOR SHIFT ANY OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAY OF ISLANDS SWORDFISH CLUB EVEN IF THE EVENT OFFICIALS MADE THE DECISION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THAT DAY.