



**MERIMBULA BIG GAME AND LAKES
ANGLING CLUB INC.
PO BOX 76, MERIMBULA NSW 2548**

President: Shane Mayberry 0428 424 496
Secretary: Fiona Beasley 0412 831 036
Website: www.mbglac.com.au



BSR. Big Smart Reels 2026 March Marlin Tag & Release Event

March 1st to March 31st, 2026

The President & Committee of the MBGLAC are running this event for all financial members who are also affiliated to NSWGFA to participate in the Merimbula March Marlin event.

EVENT RULES

The Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club Inc, welcome all club members to participate in a new and exciting competition format for our game fishing event. With a month long, but limited to 9 days of fishing, we believe this format will allow you, the angler, and the Skipper and boat to choose when it best suits you to fish, so you are not controlled by work requirements or the weather. Be it fishing during the week or on the weekends. It is not a sanctioned event, but NSWGFA has given us the go ahead and are very interested in the results. It has been designed for club members, providing maximum flexibility. Further, getting our juniors involved in this event, MBGLAC offers great opportunities for them. We currently have many projects suited to the needs of our juniors. We are a family-oriented club and enjoy the family aspect, so why not start the journey, and start at the top, by fishing the March Marlin fishing event. The Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club wishes everyone the best of luck in 2026.

1. VENUE

Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club (MBGLAC) clubhouse situated in Spencer Park Merimbula will be the hub of all fishing activities throughout the month. Boats can launch and return to Merimbula, Eden, Tathra or Bermagui.

2. EVENT COMMITTEE

Shane Mayberry 0428424496, Matthew Walmsley 0402104325, Leanne Hoath, 0477493961

3. ENTRY FEES

All anglers competing in the event must be financial members of the MBGLAC and affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA), NSWGFA.

Merimbula NSWGFA Affiliated members	\$ 60.00
Other club GFA Affiliated Members (inclusive of MBGLAC membership to 31 May 2027)	\$70.00
Junior Affiliated Member [Must have parent consent]	\$30.00
Non-Member & Non NSWGFA Affiliated Member	\$160.00

[This gets you a MBGLAC 15-month family membership and NSWGFA Membership till 31 May 2026]

Juniors and Small Fry wishing to be eligible for senior prizes must pay the full adult fees above and will be deemed to fish as an adult angler for the event.

All fees are to be paid in full at least one [1] day before commencement of the first day's fishing.

All boat owners (skippers) must ensure once entered to take a picture of your receipt along with the entry form and boat safety sheet and email to admin@mbglac.com.au so that you can be added to the FaceBook messenger group chat. You must accept the invite before you are fully included in the chat group.

All anglers, other than the skipper of a boat, must ensure once entered, to take a picture of their receipt and entry form and email it to the above email address to show you are fishing for entry purposes. Then they will be added to the boat crews on the days of fishing and the Messenger Group if not previously recorded.

Anglers can fish on multiple boats, but for only nine [9] pre-nominated fishing days.

Day nomination is compulsory for the boat and crews via the messenger group chat, or if you are having trouble with that, via a text message to Shane Mayberry 0428 424 496, where you will be added with all crew members and boat name for that day's fishing.

4. CONDUCT

It is an expectation that all participants will always conduct themselves in a responsible and courteous manner to event organisers and all participants throughout the month. Penalties for misconduct may include disqualification from the event.

5. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

All anglers must carry Saltwater Fishing Licenses (if applicable). Bag limit and size restrictions must also be adhered to. All participants are reminded that it is an offence to tie any vessel to objects, such as wave riders, FADs, or fish trap buoys.

6. TEAMS

Fishing teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) registered anglers with no maximum. Observers are allowed but they must be members of the MBGLAC and must not participate in the fishing or tagging of the fish.

7. REPLACEMENT OF BOATS AND COMPETITORS

As there are nine [9] allowable days of fishing, crews can change between boats from day to day. However, once assigned to a boat for the day, they must finish the days fishing on that boat. That crew member still only has nine days of allowable fishing time for this competition.

8. BOUNDARIES

Boats can fish out of Merimbula, Eden, Tathra, and Bermagui - the fishing boundaries are due east of Goalen Head [36.33's] to the north and due east of the southernmost Point of Disaster Bay to the South [37.19's].

9. FISHING TIMES

Fishing times are:

Start Fishing Sunday March 1st, 2026, at 7am. Fishing must cease at 6pm daily.

Stop fishing Tuesday March 31st, 2026, at 6pm.

Fishing and burleying cannot commence prior to 7.00am on all days. For safety reasons there is no night-time fishing.

10. SEAWORTHINESS OF BOATS

The seaworthiness of boats is the responsibility of boat skippers and crews. **SAFETY** is of prime importance, and we ask you not to take any risks. Boats putting to sea do so at their own risk. All boats must be equipped to the required NSW Maritime Safety Standards and statutory regulations. Boat skippers are asked to ensure that they have tested and only go to sea with a fully functioning radio. The Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc. will not be responsible for any accident and/or injury incurred during the Event.

11. INSURANCE

All competing vessels must be comprehensively insured and carry Public Liability Insurance. Details must be completed on the entry forms. Failure to provide this information will result in exclusion from the event.

12. FISHING RULES

a) This event will be fished under the rules and tackle regulations of GFAA & NSWGFA.

b) **LINE CLASSES** - Eligible line classes are: 4kg, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg, 60kg.

c) **LINE AND BACKING**

The use of monofilament and multifilament backing is permissible. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strain of the first 5 metres of the line preceding the double, leader, and hook. This section must comprise of a single homogenous piece of monofilament line. Please note for record claim purposes this length needs to be a single homogenous length of 16 metres. The club recommends anglers use at least 20 metres of top shot monofilament.

d) **CIRCLE HOOKS** – must 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)**. NB. No points will be scored for any species caught while using live baits and/or trolling baits with “J” hooks.



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

e) **MULTIPLE HOOK-UPS**. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished, only the fish being fought by the anglers will count. Any fish left in holders will not be eligible.

13. POINT SCORING

POINT SCORE: - This is a Tag and Release MARLIN competition only.

Whilst the event runs for the whole of March, skippers and their boat and anglers are limited to 9 pre-nominated days of points towards the competition. Angler, skipper and boats shall pre-nominate on the messenger chat group prior to getting on the water.

Rules for Tag & Release

1. All angling rules and equipment regulations apply until the fish is tagged and released.
2. The method of releasing a tagged fish – the hook is to be removed or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish.
3. NSWGFA anglers must use billfish tags to tag all billfish species. This is the only tag that will be recognised for billfish. This billfish tag is for billfish only point score (i.e., no other species)
4. Billfish only tags: The tag needle must protrude a minimum of 45mm and no more than 76mm from the end of the tag pole or holding device, nor shall it exceed 6mm in diameter.
5. Tag poles must not exceed 4.47m (15ft) in overall length.
6. The tag pole or holding device must be in hand when the fish is tagged.
7. One or more persons, in addition to the person holding the leader, may assist in tagging and releasing the fish.
8. A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured to the fish and the fish is released back into the water alive.

14. RADIO & REPORTING

All boats must be equipped with 27.88 MHz and 27.94 MHz, or **VHF CH 22** preferred, and all boats must log in with Marine Rescue on the days they nominate to fish on their way out and log off on their return. There will be no radio skeds. Marine Rescue are monitoring all boats all day at sea for your safety.

All boats must join the Messenger chat group. You need to **accept the Messenger chat invitation before you sign on.** This ensures you can see all group messages.

Please note: you will only see messages that are sent after you have accepted the invitation. **You will not see any messages that were sent before you accepted.**

Skippers, when reporting in the morning on the messenger chat group, must state the boat's name and the full names of all the fishing crew and MBGLAC observers (if any) for the days fishing.

All Tag and Release cards must be filled in clearly each day, then photographed and emailed to admin@mbglac.com.au by 8pm for that day. Failure to submit by 8pm, fish caught on that day, will not be eligible.

Anglers then have a further 14 days to submit entries to the MBGLAC capture portal for their club points if they choose to do so.

It is requested that at the end of your day's fishing, enter a 0-0-0 report (or the day's fishing results) on the Messenger chat group as a courteous gesture for other competitors as to how the fishing is going. This is optional.

15. CANCELLATION OF EVENT– GALE WARNINGS

In the event of a gale warning, fishing stops immediately in part or whole. Only fish tagged prior to cancellation will be eligible for the day's fishing. Fish hooked, captured, or tagged after cancellations are not eligible. In the event of a gale warning being declared by the relevant authorities for the Eden Coast, after the start of fishing, the event will be cancelled. All skippers must return to port. Cancellation will only apply until the gale warning is lifted. In the event of a gale warning being declared prior to midday the angler will have this nominated day reinstated for another day and any fish reported will be forfeited, unless the angler expressly wishes to retain the day in his 9 in total and all fish caught before the gale warning will be submitted and accepted for the event.

The daily event will be suspended for gale warnings declared after midday and all anglers must return to port, submit all fish caught prior to the cancellation and the day is included in the angler's 9 days.

16. WEIGHSTATION

Weighmaster

This is a Tag and Release marlin competition only, so tag cards are to be filled in clearly and emailed to admin@mbglac.com.au by 8pm on that days fishing to be eligible.

17. PROTESTS

All protests must be in writing, signed by the team captain, and emailed to the event coordinator each day by 8pm, except for Tuesday the 31st of March when it must be lodged prior to 5.00pm.

18. BRIEFING & LATE REGISTRATIONS

Anglers are invited to attend the MBGLAC clubrooms on Thursday 26th of February 2026 for a briefing commencing at 7pm.

This will also be an opportunity to swap knowledge in regard to where and how to successfully target the marlin in our waters.

The briefing will also be a recorded and will be made available via the FaceBook messenger group chat on Friday 27th February 2026. You can enter any time after the 26th of February 2026.

All entrants and especially. travelling boats and late entrants should watch this video prior to fishing.

19. TIE

In the event of a tie, first to the winning score will be the winner. This will be determined by the first fish caught on a count back system.

20. TROPHY PRESENTATION

The March Marlin presentation will be held at the MBGLAC clubrooms on Sunday 12th of April at 1:30pm and also via a live stream on FaceBook. Clubrooms will open at 11am for a drink and sausage sizzle. Changes to these times and dates will be communicated by the event committee.



BSR March Marlin Tag and Release Event
Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.
BSR March Marlin 2026
March 1st to March 31st

Angler's Name:
Angler's Home Address: Post Code.....
Email Address
Angler's Home Phone No During Event
Angler's Address During Event:
Emergency Contact Phone
Mobile Number on board (Please ensure your mobile is not on "divert")

Please note that Juniors are under 16 years of age and Small Fry under 11 years of age as at the date of the Event. Anglers must be a financial member of the MBGLAC at the date of the Event and must be prepared, if required, to produce evidence of club membership. Juniors and Small Fry registering as Seniors are not eligible for Junior prizes.

EVENT ENTRY FEES

Details	No. Entrants	@ Each	Total \$
MBGLAC Senior Anglers		\$60.00	
MBGLAC Junior and Small Fry Anglers entry fee		\$30.00	
All Competitors must be NSWGFA affiliated and a member of the MBGLAC. Payment includes event entry, MBGLAC membership through to May 2027 and NSWGFA affiliation through to 31 May 2026.		\$160.00	
Other club member with GFA Affiliation will need to join MBGLAC with payment including MBGLAC membership through May 2027		\$70.00	
Observers (Membership fee till 31 May)		\$30.00	
Juniors GFA is free if a parent is NSWGFA affiliated		\$ NIL J&SF	
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED			\$

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED CHECKLIST & INSURANCE DETAILS IF YOU ARE THE BOAT OWNER WITH A PICTURE OF ALL PAGES TO EMAIL admin@mbglac.com.au

Bank Details for Transfer of fees MBGLAC: BSB 802-124 (Cuscal). Acc. 1000 77906. Ensure all surnames are included in bank payment details.

Enquiries: - Shane Mayberry 0428 424 496

BOAT SPECIFICATION SHEET



Boat Name: Registration:
 Callsign.....
 Boat Make..... Length:

 Car Registration: Trailer Registration:

 Type: Full Cabin..... Half Cabin....., Other.....
 Colour – Hull: Deck:
 Superstructure.....
 Make of Engine/s HP:

 Fuel Type: Capacity.....
 Range..... Cruising Speed..... Maximum.....
 Other Pertinent Information.....

A serviceable radio (tried and tested) with at least frequencies 27.88 and 27.94 or VHF must be fitted to all boats.
 27mhz Yes/No Frequencies..... VHF Yes/No Frequencies.....

SAFETY EQUIPMENT - Do you have on board?

Items marked **are compulsory in NSW offshore waters.

	First Aid Kit	Yes/No		Flares-Parachute	Yes/No
**	Compass (mounted)	Yes/No	**	2 Orange Smoke (Day)	Yes/No
	Compass (handheld)	Yes/No	**	2 Red Star (Night)	Yes/No
**	Bailing Bucket	Yes/No	**	Fire Extinguisher	Yes/No
	Depth Sounder	Yes/No	**	Life Jackets (One per person)	Yes/No
	Life Raft	Yes/No		Bilge Pump	Yes/No
	Emergency Rations	Yes/No	**	Anchor (Min line 36.5mts)	Yes/No
**	Marine Radio (2 way)	Yes/No		Sea Anchor	Yes/No
**	Fresh Water (2 Litres per person)		**	Distress "V" Sheet	Yes/No
	Radar/Radar Reflector	Yes/No		Reflective Mirror	Yes/No
	GPS	Yes/No		Mobile Phone	Yes/No
**	Paddle (single engine and under 6m)	Yes/No			
**	E.P.I.R.B. EPIRB Registration No: (This number required in the event of a marine rescue)	Yes/No			

INSURANCE DETAILS

Does your Policy include third party property & third-party personal Liability Cover? Yes/No

The Insured _____ Policy # _____ Liability Cover \$ _____

The Insurer _____ Policy Type _____ Expiry Date _____

No entry will be accepted without third party property & third-party personal liability cover.

DECLARATION

The following is to be signed by each Team Captain on behalf of himself/herself, his/her team members, and guests.

I declare that the information provided on this event entry form is correct. I understand that participation in this event by myself and my team members is entirely at our own risk. I agree that the holding of this event is not to be construed as an invitation to put to or remain at sea in conditions beyond the capability of our vessel or its crew. I agree that fishing and/or navigation may be hazardous and consent voluntarily to all risks associated therewith, however occasioned and further agree that the Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc, its members, office bearers and event organisers shall not be responsible or liable for any loss or damage to any person or property, personal injury or death, howsoever occasioned at any time and whether caused by the recklessness or negligence of the Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club Inc, its members, office bearers, or event organisers or any cause whatsoever.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT):

SIGNATURE: **DATE:**

Prize Categories:

Every entrant goes into the draw to win the BSR MAJOR PRIZE of a BIG SMART [Electric] REEL valued at \$6999.

Highest point scoring angler over 3 days

NB. Anglers who fish a maximum of 3 days ONLY will be eligible. Anglers will be ineligible after four or more days of fishing.

2nd highest point scoring angler over 3 days

NB. Anglers who fish a maximum of 3 days ONLY will be eligible. Anglers will be ineligible after four or more days of fishing.

Travelling Angler Lucky Draw Prize.

Must live outside a 100km radius from Merimbula.

First Marlin Tagged

Open to all entrants.

The following boat and angler prizes will be calculated from the pre-nominated 9 days:

Highest point scoring boat - Don O'Connell Perpetual Trophy

2nd Highest point scoring boat

3rd Highest point scoring boat

Highest point scoring male angler

2nd Highest point scoring male angler

Highest point scoring female angler

2nd Highest point scoring female angler

Highest point scoring junior angler

2nd Highest point scoring junior angler

Highest point scoring small fry angler

2nd Highest point scoring small fry angler