



2026 Cairns Hardware Cardwell Barra Bonanza Rules

Welcome to the 20th Cairns Hardware Cardwell Barra Bonanza and thank you for nominating. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 22nd October 2026.

All competitors must be registered by 6.00 pm and must be present for the briefing at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 22nd October 2026.

One team member from each team **MUST BE PRESENT** to collect angler/team bags with angler ID cards. If the team bags are collected by anyone other than a team member, **no claims can be made by that team to dispute any outcome of the event.**

- Start of fishing is 6.00 am Friday, 23rd October 2026.
- Fishing closes at 3.00 pm Saturday, 24th October 2026.
- Anglers can fish throughout the night of Friday, 23rd October 2026.

Final fish submissions are to be no later than 4.00 pm Saturday, 26th October 2026.

Any line class may be used. All captures must be caught on rod and reel or hand line. Teams will consist of a minimum of 2 anglers per team and a maximum of 3 anglers per team. There is no requirement for all team members to fish in the same boat.

To be eligible as a Senior Team, all team members must be of senior age which is 16 years of age at the tournament start date of Friday, 23rd October 2026. However, juniors can nominate as senior team member by paying a senior nomination fee, but they will not be eligible to participate in any element of the Junior Competition.

To be eligible as a Junior Team, all team members must be **under 16 years of the age at the tournament start date of Friday, 23rd October 2026.**

Mixed teams of senior and junior anglers (**other than defined above**) will not be eligible for any team prizes.

The Calcutta will only involve Senior Teams with all members of the team being of senior age which is 16 years at the tournament start date of Friday, 23rd October 2026. **No Juniors can be involved in Calcutta.**



Prize Categories

MAJOR prize categories are for Barramundi. All Barramundi caught are eligible for submission. The MAJOR prize categories for the Cairns Hardware Cardwell Barra Bonanza 2026 will be determined by accumulated length of all Barramundi 58cm or larger caught (as determined by the Queensland Fisheries Regulation size limits).

MINOR prizes are for Mangrove Jack, Javelin fish (Grunter) & Threadfin Salmon (all species). **Only fish that meet Queensland Fisheries Regulation size limits will be accepted for these minor categories.**

John Carter Trophy - Grand Champion Barramundi: The largest single Barramundi caught by a senior angler during the tournament.

Champion Veteran: The largest single Barramundi caught during the tournament by any angler aged 60 years or over at the tournament start date of Friday, 23rd October 2026. The winner of this category is also eligible for the John Carter Trophy (Grand Champion Barramundi).

Senior Male Champion: This prize will be won by the senior male angler with the largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Senior Female Champion: This prize will be won by the senior female angler with the largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Runner Up Senior Male: This prize will be won by the senior male angler with the second largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Runner Up Senior Female: This prize will be won by the senior female angler with the second largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Champion Senior Team: This prize will be won by the senior team with the largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Runner Up Senior Team: This prize will be won by the senior team with the second largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.



Grand Champion Barramundi Junior: The largest single Barramundi caught by a junior angler during the tournament.

Champion Junior: This prize will be won by the junior angler with the largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Runner Up Junior: This prize will be won by the junior angler with the second largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Champion Junior Team: This prize will be won by the junior team with the largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Runner Up Junior Team: This prize will be won by the junior team with the second largest accumulated length of Barramundi 58cm or larger caught during the tournament.

Mangrove Jack: This prize will be won by the junior or senior angler with the largest accumulated length of five legal Mangrove Jack caught during the tournament.

Largest Daily Mangrove Jack: This prize will be won by the junior or senior angler with the largest Mangrove Jack caught on Friday and Saturday ie. there is a prize for each day.

Javelin Fish (Grunter): This prize will be won by the junior or senior angler with the largest accumulated length of five legal Javelin Fish (Grunter) caught during the tournament.

Largest Daily Javelin Fish (Grunter): This prize will be won by the junior or senior angler with the largest Javelin Fish (Grunter) caught on Friday and Saturday ie. there is a prize for each day.

Threadfin Salmon: This prize will be won by the junior or senior angler with the largest accumulated length of five legal Threadfin Salmon caught during the tournament.

Largest Daily Threadfin Salmon: This prize will be won by the junior or senior angler with the largest Threadfin Salmon caught on Friday and Saturday ie. there is a prize for each day.

Mystery Length: Barramundi, Mangrove Jack, Javelin fish (Grunter) and Threadfin Salmon will all have a mystery length prize which can be won by a senior or junior angler.



Best Photo: There will be a prize for the best photo captured through the comp that is sent into the Cardwell Sportfishing Club's email address fishing@cardwellsportfishingclub.com.au.

Senior Entry Chance Draw: All senior anglers will go into the draw for a chance to win the boat package. The **entrant must be present and produce their angler ID card** to claim the prize. If the entrant is not present the prize will be redrawn until there is a winner.

Junior Entry Chance Draw: All junior anglers will go into the draw for a chance to win a \$1000 Voucher. The **entrant must be present and produce their angler ID card** to claim the prize. If the entrant is not present the prize will be redrawn until there is a winner.

All entrant draws will be conducted using a random number generator on a computer. There will be random draws throughout both nights so remember your angler ID cards.

IN THE EVENT THERE IS A TIE IN ANY PRIZE CATEGORY, THE FIRST ANGLER TO CATCH THAT SIZE FISH WILL WIN, BASED ON THE TIME AND DATE OF CAPTURE, NOT THE TIME WHEN THE FISH ARE SUBMITTED INTO THE APP.



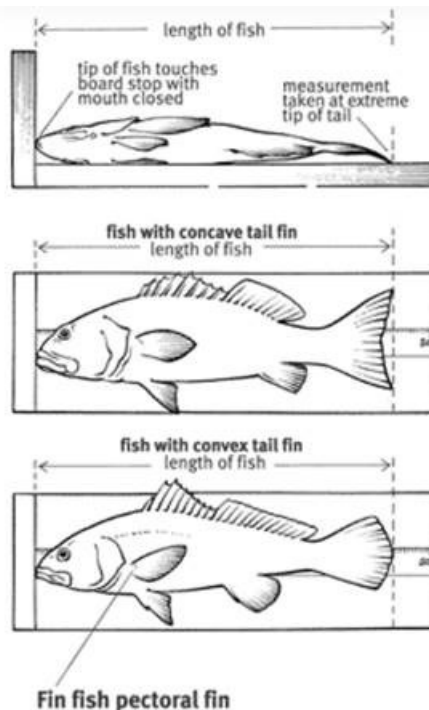
Fish Submissions

Cardwell Barra Bonanza is a catch and release tournament so all fish submitted must be alive.

All fish are to be photographed and submitted in the “TRACK MY FISH” app. Your camera must have access to your location service in your phone/tablet. All fish must be clearly photographed on the 2026 Barra Bonanza brag mat with your Angler ID tag clearly visible, preferably in the top left corner of the brag mat. Fish submissions using any other app will not be accepted.

Please do not submit photos of species not included in the competition.

Fish are to be measured according to their length overall i.e. from the end of the tail to the leading edge of the jaw with the fish lying flat and tail in a natural position. The fish must not be manipulated to increase or decrease its length. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries guide for measuring fish applies. See below:



Fish are to be submitted in the “TRACK MY FISH” app with rounding down to the nearest whole centimetre. Fractions of centimetres will not be accepted. For example, if a fish is 79.5 centimetres it is to be submitted as 79 centimetres.



Fishing closes at 3.00 pm on Saturday, 24th of October 2026.

No submissions will be accepted after 4:00 pm on Saturday, 24th October 2026, so you need to ensure you have phone/tablet data access before 4:00 pm on Saturday, 24th October 2026.

Any photos submitted that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified.

Cardwell Sportfishing Club reserves the right to disqualify any angler or any fish submitted during the event. No refund of nomination fee will be offered.

Cardwell Sportfishing Club reserves the right to decline an angler's nomination. If the nomination is declined the angler will receive a full refund.

Cardwell Sportfishing Club reserves the right to change any rules or terms and conditions. Entrants will be notified of any changes should this occur.

Disputes

Anglers can only dispute issues relating to their own catch or their Team's catch. Disputes can only be submitted between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Saturday, 24th of October 2026. No disputes will be considered after this time.

Disputes regarding fish/photos will be handled by Cardwell Sportfishing Club's Executive Committee with assistance from Infofish, if required. Any decision made will be final.

Other disputes will be handled by Cardwell Sportfishing Club Committee and their decision will be final.

Fishing Restrictions

Fishing restrictions are in place around all prawn farms. Fishing near these farms could introduce serious diseases. All fishing is prohibited within 100 meters of prawn farm water intakes and outlet channels and all fishing is prohibited in drainage channels surrounding these prawn farms. Anglers found fishing in these areas will be disqualified.



Boundaries

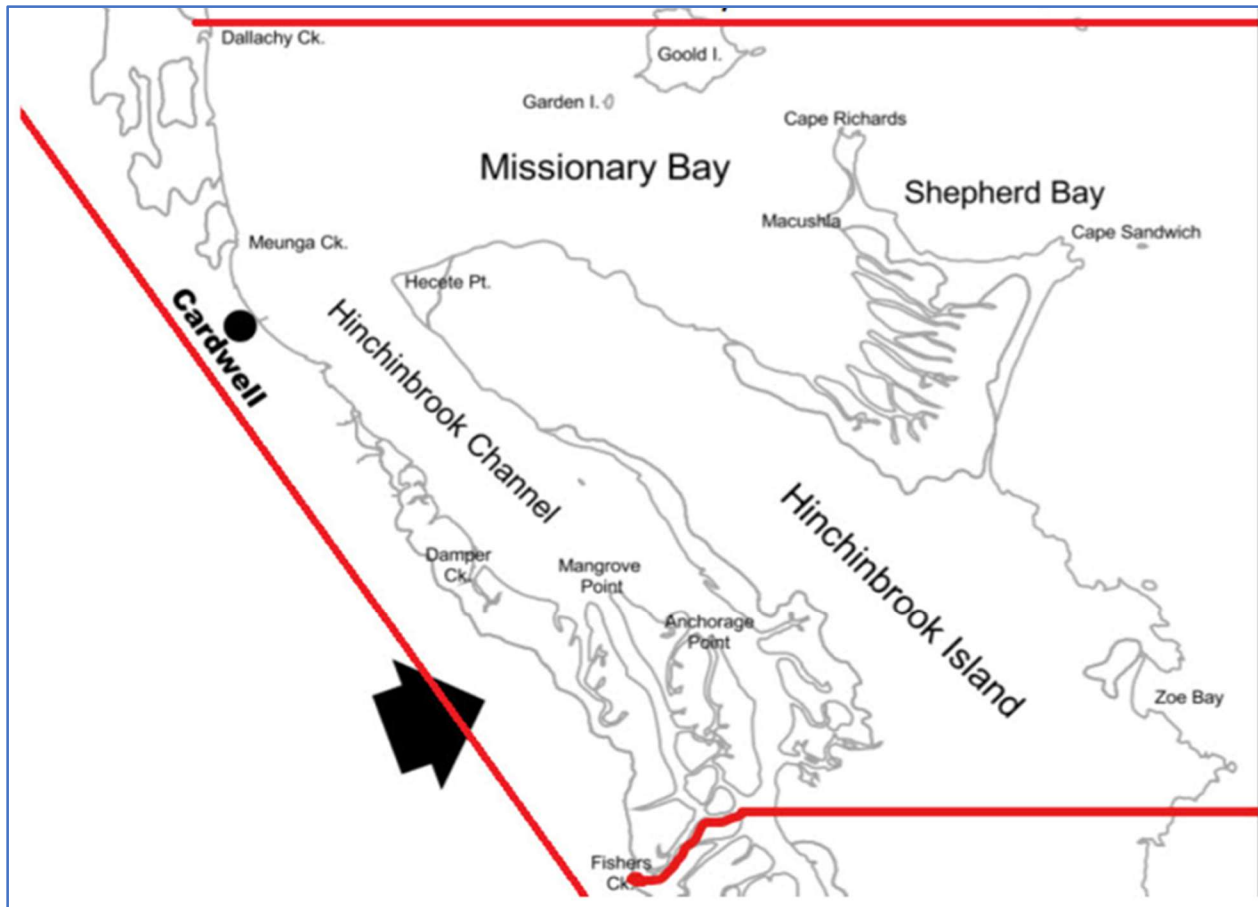
Southern Boundary is the southern bank of Fishers Creek and east from the mouth from 18.26.138

Northern Boundary is the northern bank of Dallachy creek and east from the mouth from 18.09.946

Western Boundary is the Bruce Highway

Any fish submitted outside of this area will be disqualified.

Within the competition boundaries there are GBRMPA Zones. Anglers must observe any rules for fishing in these Zones. Cardwell Sportfishing Club is not liable for people who break these rules for the local area.





Nomination Fee

Upon team/angler registration being received from the nomination website, a payment notice must be emailed to cardwellbarrabonanza@outlook.com within 24hrs to confirm the team/angler's nomination. If this is not supplied your nomination is not guaranteed.

Cancellations

A full refund will be given to an entrant who cancels up to 6 weeks before the event ie if you want a refund you need to cancel before Friday, 11 September 2026. No refund will be given to an entrant who cancels inside 6 weeks before the tournament begins.

However, the entrant is still eligible for a chance at the entrant prizes and must be present with their angler ID tag at the presentation night.

Consumption of Alcohol

Event organisers have a duty of care to competitors and guests and request that consumption of alcohol is kept within the confines of the law. Event organisers reserve the right to refuse the sale of alcohol to any competitors or guests.

Alcohol must be consumed within the boundaries of the Cardwell Sportfishing Club venue. Anyone consuming alcohol can be asked to provide photo identification at any time. Tickets bought for consumption of alcohol are non-refundable.

No BYO alcohol is permitted to any event site within the Cardwell Sportfishing Club venue. Alcohol can be purchased on-site. The Cardwell Sportfishing Club promotes the responsible consumption of alcohol.

Designated Outdoor Smoking Area (DOSA)

Patrons can order their drinks then take them into the DOSA, and smoke and drink there. A DOSA is an outdoor area where patrons who wish to smoke may take their drink while they have a cigarette break, before returning to their group or companion. Food cannot be taken into or consumed in the DOSA. "Food" means anything you can eat, and includes all food items, such as meals and snacks (ie, chips and nuts).



Liability

The Cardwell Sportfishing Club and its members do not accept any liability for the insurance cover of any competitor/s, other persons or property involved or associated in any way with the Cardwell Barra Bonanza tournament. All such persons are totally responsible for their own insurance or liability cover of any kind which covers themselves, their property or equipment and any third party/s.

Coast Guard

There are three functioning Coast Guards within the Cardwell area which can be contacted by radio on weekends and public holidays and/or by telephone outside normal operational hours as follows :

- Cardwell Coast Guard VMR423 Ph: 0427 668 556 or 4066 5052
- Ingham Coast Guard VMR407 Ph: 07 4777 8110
- Tully Coast Guard VMR412 Ph: 07 4066 9300 or 0427 669 300.

All skippers are encouraged to log their trip using the Coast Guard's QR Code located at Port Hinchinbrook boat ramp. This app allows Coast Guards to monitor who is on the water and approximate location should a mishap occur. This app does not track your boat's position.

BE CROC WISE

Cardwell is in the middle of Croc Country. You must **always remain alert** to the risks of crocodiles when fishing in and about Cardwell.

Please take the time to follow this link about being croc wise in croc country

[Be Crocwise in Croc Country—communication resources | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government](#)



Boat Ramps In Cardwell & Region

- Port Hinchinbrook Public Boat Ramp
- Sheridan Street / Marine Parade Public Boat Ramp
- Meunga Creek Boat Ramp
- Fishers Creek Boat Ramp (located about 20 minutes South of Cardwell)

Note: all boat ramps in the region have tidal access restrictions. As a general rule, tides >1.6m and some degree of local knowledge is required to safely access these boat ramps.

