



FREEDOM BOATS USA

Freedom Boat Owners Tournament 2026 Rules and Regulations

1 to 3 Man Teams

Live or dead weigh-in

Registration will be online at www.freedomboatsusa.com or at the captains meeting the Friday September 18, 2026, Friday evening before the event.

All Texas Parks & Wildlife's regulations apply.

Anyone under the age of 18 must fish with a legal guardian

Heaviest Team Stringer consists of a max of:

3 Speckled Trout

2 Redfish

1 Flounder

- **Trout** being weighed in must be from **15 to 20 inches**. You may have your legal Texas limit in possession which dictates that each angler may only retain three trout between 15 to 20 inches. **Redfish** must measure between **20-28 inches**, no oversized redfish. Ice may not be used to shrink oversize fish.

Main Team stringer is 3 Trout, 2 redfish and 1 Flounder.

- If 3 anglers are fishing in the same boat, they must form 1 team. 3 anglers per boat max. If a person is not in the tournament, they may not be in the boat during tournament times. The only acceptance is if your boat is designated to be a camera boat.
- **Measuring Fish**

The Check it Stick is the official measuring device Official Check it Stick will be available at the Captain's Meeting to compare you measuring device to.

Fish will be measured by placing the nose/bottom jaw of the fish against the "zero" end of the stick belly toward bump person and sweeping the tail to the middle of the Check it Stick, belly to bump person to determine the longest point of the fish.

No altered fish tails will be accepted. Any fish that appear altered or have cut, altered, deformed tails are subject to review by the weighmaster. If there is question on a fish, the angler may be disqualified or polygraphed. Failure of a polygraph in this matter can result in being banned from any future tournaments.



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- **Fishing Methods**

All fish must be caught by rod and reel with artificial lures and or natural bait. All fish must be caught during the day of the event during tournament hours. Adults can cast for kids but the child angler must reel in their own fish. No sharing or pooling of fish with another team. Scented and spray on scents are legal for lure only events. Anglers may only use one rod at a time, no trolling or multiple rods. A cast must be fully retrieved before another is made.

- **Alcohol**

The boat operator may not consume alcohol until he/she reaches the weigh in parking lot. If you feel you are in contention for the win, please do not consume alcohol until after the polygraph.

- **Polygraph and Protests**

All winners will be subject to a polygraph test onsite or at a later date at the request of only the weigh master or tournament directors before collecting their prize.

Protests made by contestants must be made no later than 15 minutes after the last fish are weighed. Written protest must be accompanied by a \$300 deposit, which will be refunded if the rules committee upholds the protest.

Any angler not following any of these rules can be disqualified from this or any future events.

The weigh master and staff have the right to retain any fish for further inspection.

- **Weather Cancellations**

If the weather looks inclement, it is the angler's responsibility to check the website or call 832-474-1685 to see if the event is on. If you do not see or hear a message, the event has not been cancelled. If it is cancelled, messages will be posted by 12am and, information will be posted on Facebook.

- **Times-**

Weigh in site will be announced on **Facebook**. Take off time is at **6:33am from immediate launch area**.

Weigh in time is between **1pm to 3pm on Saturday, September 19, 2026**.

There is no morning check in. You can launch from any location as long as you are in line before weigh in ends.

You may fish up until weigh in, however you must be in line with your fish before the official end time of the tournament, or you will be disqualified.

In the event of a tie, the first team to weigh-in will break the tie.



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- **Communications**

No radios or cell phones (including Text Messages) may be used to contact or be contacted by anyone with any fishing related questions or information until the angler arrives at the boat ramp. If someone sends you a text message asking how you did, do not reply!! This will include Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, etc... The best thing to do is not post, comment, email, tweet on anything of that nature until you have arrived at the weigh-in parking lot. If an emergency occurs, please contact the proper authorities and contact the tournament director.

- **Tournament Boundaries**

Boundaries, Beach and Jetty fishing is permitted up to ½ mile off each structure for either event. You may fish any Texas bay systems. Any person fishing out of the boundaries will be disqualified. Behind weirs/dams or private ponds or lakes are off-limits. Along with any locations that you know are off limits but may have access, or have fallen/ signs

- **Fishing Distances**

Contestants fishing as a team must fish no farther than 300 yards apart if wading from a boat. Waders must stay within 300 yards of their boat.

Waders or boaters must remain 75 yards away from another wader or boat in competition unless passing through a navigable channel. If closer, they must be Okayed by the other angler, if one angler is waved in all anglers may enter the area. Use courtesy rule with non-competitors. Anglers must not exceed 5mph when within 50 yards of another boat, unless passing through a navigable channel

- **Captain's meetings/Optional divisions:** Freedom Boats captain's meeting-onsite registration will be between **6-8pm** the Friday before the tournament. Venue – **5D Steakhouse, Port O'Connor, TX - 77982.**

Captain's meeting will start at 7:15pm

A **captain must be designated** at the captains meeting or upon registration.

This is not a mandatory captains' meetings. It is advised they everyone attend the meeting in order to ask questions, and get valuable information about the tournament. We will also be giving out shirts and surprise giveaways during the captains' meetings.



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- **Payouts / Entry Fees**

100% Payback

Entry Fee is **\$200** Per. Person for adult, **\$100** for teenagers (13-17yrs) and **free** for juniors (under 13 years) - 100% Payback (check website for age categories). This includes dinner for Friday (Sep 18th) and lunch on Saturday (Sep 19th), three (3) raffle tickets for the boat raffle (**given to adults 18yrs and older only**), three (3) raffle tickets for the door prizes and entry to the tournament. For the boat raffle, a participant may only be drawn once for the fifteen (15) finalists. If he/she name was drawn again, that ticket will be discarded, and another one will be drawn in their place. There is no transferring of raffle tickets once a name has been drawn for the final raffle. Participants may not borrow a Freedom boat. Even if they are a Freedom Boat owner, they must fish out of the boat they own or with the person who owns the boat.

- Main division (payout will be announced after completion of the registration)
- **Side pots** will be **\$75 per team** per category.
- Heaviest Redfish.
- Most Spots on Red.
- First Texas Slam to weigh in. (Trout, Redfish, Flounder).
- Trout Stringer.
- Heaviest Flounder.
- Big Ugly.
- Total cost for all side pots is \$450.

Late Registration:

\$40 per person late fee, no exceptions - will be assessed for any entries between 11:59pm Thursday and 6pm Friday before event (call 361-552-4975 or 832-474-1685 with an authorized credit card). **If you sign up at the captain's meeting, no Late Fees will apply.**