



5th Annual Fishing for Wishes Tournament



April 18, 2026

700 W Wheeler Ave., Aransas Pass, TX 78336

Tournament Rules

1. REGISTRATION/RULES

- 1.1. Fishing for Wishes is a Team Format Tournament. A team will consist of 1 to 4 anglers.
- 1.2. Team entry must be **PAID IN FULL** at the time of registration. **Registration will be available online until the registration table is closed on 4/17/2025 at beginning of Captains Meeting.** Teams with Incomplete or Partially/Unpaid Registration are ineligible to participate in the tournament.
- 1.3. Side Pots can be registered/paid for in advance when completing the online registration form. If not paid for during registration, side pots may be added to the team at the Captain's Meeting Only.
- 1.4. All teams must include "Team Name" and "Captain Name" on the entry form. Each team entered in the guided division must enter the Guide's name on the entry form.
- 1.5. If a team has a guide on their boat, the entire Team will be entered into the Guided Division. The whole Team is disqualified if it has a Guide on the boat and is not clarified as "Guided Division" on the entry form. A Guide is anyone who holds a captain's license and has been compensated for taking someone fishing within the past 12 months. If fishing with a Guide, the guide is not allowed to fish, unless the Guide is one of the four anglers on the team's registration.
- 1.6. Entry fees will be \$115 per angler until **03/15/2026**. Beginning **03/16/2026** entry fees will increase to \$130 per angler. **Entry fees are non-refundable.**

- 1.7. Payment for side pot categories must be received for a team to be eligible. There are 5 side pots and each side pot is \$100 per team. Side Pots categories are Sweet 17, Spot Pot, Heaviest Flounder, Texas Slam, and Blackjack Redfish. Costs for side pots are in addition to the team entry.
- 1.8. Registration includes an angler swag bag and dinner/beverages on Saturday, April 18, 2026. General Anglers will be provided with beer, soda, and water. VIP Sponsors will receive sponsor beverages including liquor as per their package. Please note that all sponsored boats and VIPs must wear wristbands provided by Fishing for Wishes to receive their VIP benefits. BEVERAGES ONLY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2026.
- 1.9. The tournament will go on rain or shine, excluding hurricane weather conditions.
- 1.10. The fishing boundary will be Texas Bay water only. You may trailer from anywhere.
- 1.11. All anglers must sign a release form before fishing. If the form is not signed, your Team will not be allowed to fish. (This is done digitally with the check mark at the end of team registration online)
- 1.12. Friends for Wishes shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm, or injury to any spectator, entrant, sport fisherman, companions, boat Captains, crew members, vessels, and equipment that may occur during the tournament.
- 1.13. All anglers must have a valid/current fishing license from Texas Parks and Wildlife to fish in this tournament.
- 1.14. Each Team's Captain must attend the Captain's meeting for official check-in. If not present at the Captain's Meeting, the Team assumes knowledge of all rules and rule changes.
- 1.15. Rules are subject to change. If there are any questions regarding these rules, email the FFW Fishing Tournament Chairman at ffwfishingchair@gmail.com before 4/17/2026. Decisions made by the tournament director will be final.

ON THE WATER

2. Teams must catch all fish on rod & reel using live or artificial bait. ONE rod & reel will be allowed in the water per angler during tournament hours. No trapping, trout lines, gigging, cast nets, etc. Any team caught in these acts will be disqualified.
3. The start of the fishing will be 30 minutes before sunrise on 4/18/2026. You can fish wherever you want. The official start time used at the tournament for lines in the water will be given at the Captain's Meeting on 4/17/2026.
4. All fish must be caught on 4/18/2026 from the official start time provided at the Captain's Meeting. Any fish that appears to have been frozen or dead for an extended period will be disqualified.
5. Alcoholic beverages are permitted on the boat. If the Captain has consumed alcohol, the team may designate another member to take the polygraph test instead. Should that team member fail the test, the team will face disqualification.

6. Team members of the entered team may be subject to a polygraph examination at the discretion of the tournament director or in the event of a protest. A team that fails to pass the polygraph will be disqualified immediately and will be banned from participating in any future Fishing for Wishes Tournaments.
7. All anglers on the Team must remain within the eyesight of the boat/kayak Captain while wading fishing.
8. All anglers on the same Team must leave the ramp together and remain together throughout tournament hours. No dropping off or picking up team members throughout the day. Teams must fish out of the same boat and may not split up into different boats. Kayak teams may fish in separate kayaks but must remain in the eyesight of the Captain throughout tournament hours and must launch together and return together.
9. If you are fishing as a team of one, you are considered the Captain.
10. Any angler, who displays poor sportsmanship, violates any Tournament Rule(s), or any state or local game laws may be disqualified without recourse. In addition, any act of an angler, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon the Fishing for Wishes tournament may be subject to disqualification from this and all future tournaments.

WEIGH-IN

11. **Weigh-in** starts at 2:00 PM CST on 4/18/2026 and closes at 4:00 PM CST sharp on 4/18/2026 at 700 W Wheeler Ave., Aransas Pass TX. 78336. One team member with team's fish must be in line by 4:00 PM CST for fish to count. The Tournament Director will keep the official time. No line-cutting will be accepted. Someone from the Tournament Committee will be standing in the back of the line at 4:00 CST PM for the line cutoff.
 - 11.1. Any fish that appears altered or tampered with in any way, shape, or form is grounds for automatic disqualification of said fish (even if the cause is from natural causes). All decisions made by Weighmaster and tournament officials are final. In some cases, Fishing for Wishes may include a Texas Game Warden.
 - 11.2. NO CULLING AT SCALE. HAVE FISH DECLARED BEFORE ENTERING THE SCALE AREA. If fish are not picked by the time you get to the scale, you will be sent to the back of the line.
 - 11.3. No tagged, or oversized fish will be allowed in any category.
 - 11.4. In case of a tie in all side pots, ties will be broken as follows:
 - Spot Pot 1st Number of Spots to Weigh In, Then by Weight, Then by Length
 - Sweet 17 1st by Length, Then by Weight, Then by Time
 - Heaviest Flounder 1st by Weight, Then by Length, Then by Time
 - Blackjack Redfish 1st by Length, Then by Weight, Then by Time
 - Texas Slam 1st by Weight, Then by Time
 - 11.5. Once you have entered the weigh-in line, no scales or means of measuring will be available from the Weighmaster or Tournament Committee members. The Captain is the only angler allowed at the weigh-in scale. If the wrong fish is selected or disqualified, it cannot be replaced with another

fish at any time once the weigh-master has touched the fish. The fish you pick is the fish you enter.

PROTEST

12. All protests must be presented to the FFW tournament director no later than 4:10 PM CST with a \$500 cash deposit. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be returned. If not, the deposit will be retained by FFW. The Gulf Coast Weighmaster Services and the FFW fishing committee will make all decisions before the awards are presented. In some cases, Texas Game Wardens may be included. All decisions made by Gulf Coast Weighmaster Services and Tournament Officials are final.
13. The tournament has the right to refuse entry to any angler for any reason.

Team Divisions – Guided & Non-Guided

Team Categories

PLEASE READ RULE 11 and 11.1-11.5 REGARDING ELIGIBLE FISH AT THE SCALE

Heaviest Stringer – (3) Redfish 20"-28" & (1) Speckled Trout 15" to 20" 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awarded.

Heaviest Speckled Trout - (1) Speckled Trout 15"-20". It must be the same Trout used in the Heaviest Stringer Category. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awarded.

Heaviest Redfish – (1) Redfish 20"-28". It must be the same Redfish used in the Heaviest Stringer Category. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awarded.

Payouts will be based on total general fishing entries.

Side Pots

ALL SIDE POTS WILL BE COMBINED NON-GUIDED AND GUIDED

Spot Pot (1) Redfish 20"-28" with the most spots. This Redfish does not have to be a part of the Heaviest Stringer or Heaviest Red Category. You must have more than 2 spots to be able to enter. 1st & 2nd place only awarded. ONLY ONE FISH PER TEAM AT SCALES

SWEET 17 (1) Speckled Trout closest to 17" without going over. It does not have to be the same Speckled Trout used in the Heaviest Stringer/Heaviest Speckled Trout Category. 1st & 2nd place only awarded. **ONLY ONE FISH PER TEAM AT SCALES**

Heaviest Flounder (1) Flounder 15"- No Max. It must be entered into the Flounder Side pot. To be eligible. 1st & 2nd place only awarded. **ONLY ONE FISH PER TEAM AT SCALES**

Texas Slam – (1) Redfish 20-28", (1) Speckled Trout 15"-20" (1) Flounder 15"- No max. Speckled Trout, Redfish, & Flounder must be the same fish used in Heaviest Stringer/ Heaviest Red/ Heaviest Trout/ Heaviest Flounder Categories. 1st & 2nd place awarded. **ONLY ONE FISH PER TEAM AT SCALES**

Blackjack Redfish (1) Redfish closest to 21" without going over. It does not have to be the same Redfish used in the Heaviest Stringer/Heaviest Redfish Category. 1st & 2nd place only awarded. **ONLY ONE FISH PER TEAM AT SCALES**

If any Side Pot category is not used, that money will go straight to Friends for Wishes benefitting Make-A-Wish to go towards granting a Wish. Spot Pot, Sweet 17, Heaviest Flounder, Texas Slam, and Blackjack Redfish will be paid out 80/20. 20% of entries go to Friends for Wishes benefitting Make-A-Wish. 80% will be paid out, 60% to 1st and 40% to 2nd place.

Calcutta

The Calcutta auction will start immediately after the Captain's meeting on 4/17/2026. You MUST have a bidder number to bid. Bidders' numbers can be obtained from our Auction Bidder Sign-up Table where all contact information must be provided. Calcutta payout is based upon paid entries in the Calcutta entries via Auction 4/17/2026 ONLY. A team has the first option of buying their boat for \$250.00, which will kill the bidding for that boat. All Calcutta boat purchases can only be made during the Calcutta auction. You may pre-buy your team online during registration or at the Captain's Meeting, but pre-buying will be cut off at 6:00 PM CST (NO EXCEPTIONS)

ALL BOATS/TEAMS WILL BE UP FOR BIDDING IN THE CALCUTTA AUCTION.

The auctions will be separated into two different auctions, Guided and Non-Guided. All payments must be final before the close of the Auction from the original buyer. Next-day negotiations are not permissible.

- If another party successfully wins the bid for your boat and you are interested in forming a partnership with them, please be advised that all financial transactions and agreements must be completed by the end of the Calcutta auction.
- All transactions are solely between the original buyer and the boat. FFW disclaims any responsibility for transactions involving parties other than the original buyer.
- If a buy-in occurs between the original buyer and the boat, FFW will distribute the check exclusively to the original auction buyer. The allocation of funds will be the responsibility of the two parties involved.

There will be only a 1st place Calcutta payout in the Guided and Non-Guided divisions. Payout will be 80/20 with 20% of the Calcutta pot going to Friends for Wishes benefiting Make-A-Wish and 80% going to the winning bidder of that team in each division.

To learn more about Friends for Wishes and the Fishing for Wishes Tournament, visit our website or Facebook page and join us in making a difference!

Tournament Website: <https://fishingforwishes.profishingtournaments.com/>

Tournament Facebook Page: Search for "Fishing for Wishes Texas"

Friends for Wishes Website: <https://friendsforwishes.org/>