



## Texas Redfish Series – Official Tournament Rules & Competition Format

### 1. Authority, Interpretation & Acceptance

These rules govern all Texas Redfish Series events for the 2026 season unless otherwise amended. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules rests solely with the Texas Redfish Series Tournament Director. The Tournament Director may impose penalties deemed appropriate, including but not limited to disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, loss of points, suspension, or permanent ban from future events. All decisions of the Tournament Director are final.

### 2. Tournament Format

- Format: Team tournament
- Team Size: Up to two (2) anglers per team
- Divisions: Single open division
- Fishing Platform: Boat only

### 3. Entry Fees & Optional Side Pots

- Main Entry Fee: \$250 per team, per stop
- Optional Side Pots:
  - Big Fish: \$100
  - Calcutta: \$100

### 4. Event Schedule, Locations & Weigh-In Details

Texas Redfish Series events consist of multiple tournament stops. Each stop includes a mandatory Captain's Meeting, official tournament day, and scheduled weigh-in window. Attendance at the Captain's Meeting is required for participation.

#### **STOP #1 – CORPUS CHRISTI**

Location: Doc's Seafood and Steaks

Weigh-In Location: The Waterline under Doc's Seafood and Steaks

Address: 13309 S Padre Island Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78418

- Mandatory Captain's Meeting & Late Registration:  
Friday, March 6, 2026 — 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- Tournament Day:  
Saturday, March 7, 2026

- Weigh-In Time:

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

All teams must be in line with fish in hand no later than 3:00 PM. Failure to meet this requirement will result in disqualification.

## **STOP #2 – FREEPORT**

Location & Weigh-In: Capt. Mark's Bastrop Marina

Address: 4515 Trammel St, Freeport, TX 77541

- Mandatory Captain's Meeting & Late Registration:

Friday, April 10, 2026 — 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

- Tournament Day:

Saturday, April 11, 2026

- Weigh-In Time:

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

All teams must be in line with fish in hand no later than 3:00 PM. Failure to meet this requirement will result in disqualification.

## **5. Eligibility & Guides**

Licensed fishing guides may register and compete as anglers. Teams may not hire, contract, or compensate guides to fish or assist in this event. Guide-caught fish are only eligible if the guide is a properly registered participant.

## **6. Legal Compliance**

All participants must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All participants must have a valid TPWD Saltwater Fishing License.

## **7. Sportsmanship & Conduct**

Professional conduct is required at all times. Unsportsmanlike behavior, interference with other teams, or actions detrimental to the Texas Redfish Series may result in disqualification.

## **8. Safety**

All boats must comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. A functional ignition kill switch must be worn whenever the main engine is operating. All boats must have all navigation lights functioning (red / green / white). Any boats with 1 or more non-working navigation lights will be held until official published sunrise for that day.

## **9. Alcohol & Drugs**

The possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament hours is prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification.

## **10. Boats, Motors & Equipment**

- Minimum boat length: 15 feet
- Tower boats are permitted

- Horsepower may not exceed manufacturer rating
- Boats must be equipped with a functional livewell capable of sustaining live fish

### **11. Run-and-Gun / Main Engine Rule**

If a participant makes a cast while the boat's motion is caused by the main engine, the boat must come to a complete stop before the main engine may be used again. A stop is defined as the boat no longer being on plane (commonly referred to as 'in the hole').

### **12. Fishing Methods**

Artificial lures only. One rod per angler may be used at a time. Trolling is prohibited. All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.

### **13. Fishing Locations**

Fishing is permitted only in publicly accessible waters. Distance and courtesy rules apply. Restricted, private, or posted waters are prohibited. Competitors must be 50 yards apart when fishing during tournament hours.

### **14. Practice, Communications & Information Sharing**

14 days prior to tournament date communication restrictions apply with non-tournament competitors. Tournament competitors are ONLY defined as paid entrants to the event ("intent to pay" does not qualify as a competitor). A tournament competitor may communicate with any other tournament competitor. A tournament competitor MAY NOT communicate with a non-tournament participant about ANY tournament circumstances (weights, locations, success, etc.) EVEN IF THAT INFORMATION IS UNSOLICITED. During tournament hours, electronic communication related to any fishing information is prohibited. Pre-fishing / scouting can begin at any time and will officially end at 5pm day before the event (start of the captain's meeting).

### **15. Participants Must Remain in Boat**

Wading or exiting the boat to fish is prohibited except in emergency situations.

### **16. Tournament Start, Launch & Weigh-In**

Official take-off will occur exactly at published Civil Twilight for that date (sun 6-degrees below horizon). Boat launch order shall be determined by a random boat number draw conducted at the mandatory Captain's Meeting, in which each team draws its own number. Boats will be released in numerical order at official take-off. Weigh-in is conducted from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

### **17. Scoring & Limits**

Eligible species: Redfish only (20-28 inches). No oversized Redfish allowed. Limit is two (2) fish per team per day. Teams are ranked by total weight.

### 17A. Fish Measurement & Verification

A **Check-It-Stik slant measuring board** and **Perfect Pincher** will be used for all official fish measurements. The measuring board will be **wet and/or coated with fish slime** prior to each measurement to ensure smooth, consistent, and accurate placement of fish.

The **exact measuring procedure** will be explained by the **Official Weighmaster** during the mandatory Captain's Meeting.

The **Official Weighmaster's determination is final** on all fish-related decisions, including but not limited to:

- Undersize or oversize measurements
- Fish that appear altered, mutilated (naturally or unnaturally)
- Frozen or fog-eyed fish
- Any fish deemed questionable or non-compliant

No measurement or fish condition determinations are subject to protest.

### 18. Dead Fish Penalties

- One dead fish: 8-ounce deduction
- Two dead fish: 2-pound deduction
- If Big Fish is dead, it will receive an 8-ounce deduction.

### 19. Boat Number Identification

Assigned boat numbers must remain with the boat and be returned before the close of weigh-in.

### 20. Cheating, Protests & Discipline

All protests must be accompanied by photographic or video evidence and a \$100 cash protest fee per complaint. Evidence may be submitted during or after the tournament. If a team is found guilty, they will be disqualified and all points for that event and any subsequent events will be vacated. Fish weight cannot be protested.

Any participant found guilty of cheating in any redfish tournament within twelve (12) months prior to this event is ineligible. The only accepted evidence of prior guilt is a verifiable statement from that tournament's director. All guilty determinations will be published on the Texas Redfish Series Facebook page. Protest fees will be returned upon confirmation of guilt.

### 21. Insurance

A minimum of \$100,000 liability insurance coverage is required for all participating vessels.

### 22. Ties

Ties will be broken by earliest weigh-in time.

### **23. Waivers**

All participants are required to sign the official liability waiver at the mandatory Captain's Meeting on Friday. Any participant who does not sign the waiver will not be permitted to participate in the tournament.

### **24. Amendments**

Texas Redfish Series reserves the right to amend these rules at any time to ensure safety, fairness, and competitive integrity.

## **Awards, Categories & Payout Structure**

### **HEAVY STRINGER**

The Heavy Stringer category is determined by the combined weight of up to two (2) Redfish, each measuring 20 to 28 inches, presented at weigh-in.

- Placements Awarded: 1st through 3rd place
- Payout Structure:
  - 1st Place: 70%
  - 2nd Place: 20%
  - 3rd Place: 10%

### **BIG FISH**

The Big Fish category is awarded to the single heaviest individual Redfish, measuring 20 to 28 inches, taken from a team's Heavy Stringer submission.

- Placements Awarded: 1st place only
- Payout Structure:
  - 1st Place: 100%

### **CALCUTTA**

The Calcutta payout is awarded to the highest-placing Heavy Stringer team that registered and paid into the Calcutta.

- Placements Awarded: 1st and 2nd place
- Payout Structure:
  - 1st Place: 80%
  - 2nd Place: 20%

Only teams that have entered the Calcutta are eligible for Calcutta payouts.