BOOTS & BUCKLES on The Bay

Jr. Angler Fishing Tournament

April 18, 2026
Matagorda Harbor Pavilion
(Next to Harbor Bait & Tackle)
Matagorda, Texas

Tournament Rules & Regulations

1. Entry fee is $50 per child (6-12 years old) & (13-18 years old) aged 18 and under on the day of the tournament. Will be limited to the first 50 paid entries. All entry fees must be paid by 8:30 pm on April 17, 2026 (the day before the tournament). A release of liability must be signed by parent / legal guardian prior to start of tournament.

2. Jr. Angler must declare whether fishing as an individual in the Jr. Angler Tournament or as part of the 4-man team. Jr. Angler may not participate in both. Declaration must be made at the time of registration.

3. Captain's Party (not mandatory if pre-registered) will be held at 7:00 pm at the Matagorda Harbor Pavilion in Matagorda on April 17, 2026 (location subject to change). The rules will be presented, and any questions will be answered.

4. The tournament officially begins at 6:00 am on Saturday, April 18, 2026, unless threatening weather is present (see Safety & Weather).

5. Fishing guides are not allowed to enter the tournament. Jr. Anglers may use a guide (at their expense). The guide is allowed to bait hooks, net fish, get out backlashes but is **NOT** allowed to cast or retrieve.

6. There are no boundaries. All waters fished during the tournament shall be legally accessible to the public.

7. All Jr. Anglers must leave and fish from one exclusive designated vessel (boat or truck). Jr. Anglers do not need boat access to enter the tournament.

8. All Jr. Anglers must always fish within plain eyesight of their exclusive vessel.

9. All fish must be caught by rod and reel in strict adherence to State Laws.

10. Live or artificial bait is acceptable. No bait acquired by illegal means, no pre-baiting fishing spots and no culling of dead fish.

11. All fish to be weighed in must be legal size (no oversized "tagged" redfish or trout).

12. All fish to be weighed in **MUST** be caught after 6:00 am on April 18, 2026, when the tournament officially begins.

PAYOUT

13. **GRAND CHAMPION 3 FISH STRINGER** - NO OVERSIZED OR TAGGED REDS OR TROUT ARE ELIGIBLE. **2** Grand Champion Buckles (6-12 years old) & (13-18 years old). **Additional prizes and places may be awarded based on the number of** Jr. Angler entries per division**. Places and awards to be paid will be announced at the Captain's Party.**

14. All entrants are subject to random polygraph testing. You must be present within 15 minutes if called for a test or you will be disqualified. Alcohol can affect the polygraph test results. Any entrant that is unable to complete or take the test will be disqualified.

15. The winner is determined by the heaviest weight. In the event of a tie, the fish weighed in first, **WINS**.

16. Violation of any rule or un-sportsman like behavior will disqualify the entrant.

17. A written protest can be made, accompanied by a $300.00 cash fee no later than 4pm on the day of the tournament. The fee will be refunded if the protest is judged valid. The decision of the tournament director and their appointed committee (4 people min) concerning any tournament matters is final.

WEIGH-IN

18. The weigh station will be located at Matagorda Harbor Pavilion, Matagorda, TX.

19. The weigh-in station will open at 2 pm and close at 4 pm the day of the tournament. To weigh in your fish, you must be recognized in line by a committee member before 3pm.

20. All fish will be weighed on the same scale.

21. Fish will be weighed in the following categories.
    a. Up to a 3 fish stringer (redfish, flounder, and trout)
        i. Only one of each fish (shown above) can be weighed in

22. The largest fish in each category will be chosen by the contestant, weighed in one time and marked by the weigh master.

23. Any entrant who attempts to enter a fish that is not of legal size will be disqualified. No redfish over 28 inches will be accepted. **All fish must be caught by registered tournament entrants, during tournament hours, on the day of the tournament. ALL ANGLERS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE FISHING AND BOATING REGULATIONS AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL LICENSES/PERMITS REQUIRED BY LAW.**

24. Official records maintained by the weigh master and not the status board will determine the winner.

25. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be in a fresh, edible condition. Frozen, thawed, spoiled or mutilated fish, or fish altered from its natural state will be disqualified. Weigh master and tournament directors have final decision on validity of fish.

SAFETY & WEATHER

26. Boat operators should check their safety equipment prior to the tournament, and it is recommended that while wade fishing, you wear a PFD.

27. If threatening weather is present, the tournament start may be delayed. The decision to delay the start time will be made at 6:00 am and not before. It is the responsibility of the contestants to verify the status of tournament by contacting Harbor Bait & Tackle at 979-863-7620.

28. If severe or threatening weather compels the tournament committee to cancel the tournament, the tournament will be rescheduled.

For tournament questions and information

Fair Office	ajan@fbcfa.org
Tournament Chairman – Darren Ondruch	281-541-6397
Tournament Co-Chair – Garren "Pugs" Schmidt	832-473-3716

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The Fort Bend County Fair Association reserves the right to refuse application or entry from any prospective entrant with or without cause. Any applicant refused entry will be entitled to a full refund of the entry fee. All tournament entrants and participants must be willing to submit to a polygraph. Results of the polygraph are final. Violators will be banned from future participation in this tournament.

All rules are subject to change --- final rules will be provided at check-in.

Directors, volunteers, sponsors, organizers and any other entities involved in the Boots & Buckles on the Bay fishing tournament are not responsible for any accidents or injury, nor loss, damage or theft to any property.

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