

# Mid-Coast Smackdown Fishing Tournament

## 2026 TOURNAMENT GENERAL RULES

1. This is an AMATEUR TOURNAMENT. Guided and Non-Guided divisions available.
2. Entry Fee is \$500 per team until **May 18th, 2026**. Entry Fees increase to \$600 after **May 18th**, All entries must be paid by the start of the captains meeting.
3. At least one team member must be present for Captains meeting at **the Fulton Convention Center** on Friday **May 29, 2026**. All teams must be checked-in before the end of the Captains Meeting. Captain's meeting will be from 5:30PM-6:30PM.
4. Tournament fishing will begin at 5:00 AM **Saturday May 30, 26** through **3:00 PM Saturday May 30, 26**.
5. Any team observed breaking any listed rule will be disqualified and all money will be forfeited.
6. All team participants must be wearing bracelets, issued at check-in, indicating paid entrance into tournament.
7. All bait types may be used during this tournament; live, dead, and/or artificial.
8. **NO FISHING BOUNDARIES!!!** Guided and Non-Guided teams can launch from anywhere.
9. Limit 4 registered fishermen per boat team. Guide may fish on the guided division boats as 1 of the 4 registered team members.
10. Fisherman fishing out of boat must remain in sight of their tournament entered boat. Fishermen may wade in water but must be in sight of all team members.
11. All federal, state, and tournament rules will be abided by, including possession of a valid fishing license. Valid fishing license must be available for inspection at time of weigh-in.
12. All fish must be caught by in adherence to Texas State law; rod, and reel only.
13. Kayaks will be allowed to have mechanical (foot pedals or paddle), electrical power (trolling motors), and/or gas engine. Transporting of kayaks from another vessel will NOT be allowed. Kayaks may launch from any ramp, beach, or water access. Kayaks will have to pick either guided or non-guide division.
14. Guided Division is classified as any team member that has Texas All Water License, Coast Guard Certification License, and/or has been paid or advertised for a fishing trip in the past 3 years.
15. Live weight in will be available but no penalty for dead fish will be assessed. A .10 of a pound will be added to stringer weight, side pot, and/or Calcutta stringers for fish check in live, live fish weight will be applied accordingly to what matches for that fish. Maximum of .3 pounds will be added to total stringer weights including Calcutta. Living statuses will be determined by weight master. All live fish will be held and released by weight master.
16. All teams that check in fish at time of weight in will be entered into a drawing of \$1,000 (cash/check). Winning team will be picked from poker chips/team number that are collected at time of weight in. A full stringer is not needed to be entered into this drawing but a stringer weight is needed to be entered into this drawing.
17. **NON-GUIDED DIVISION and GUIDED DIVISION**
  - \$15,000 guaranteed total payout PER DIVISION
    - \$8,000 1st place payout
    - \$5,000 2nd place payout
    - \$2,000 3rd place payout
  - 2 speckled trout (15-20 inches allowed). Trout used in stringer CAN be used in big trout pot. No trout over 20 inches.
  - 2 redfish (none over 28 inches-20 to 28 inches allowed). Redfish used in stringer CAN be used in big redfish pot.
  - 1 flounder (15 inches or larger)
  - This stringer may be used for both the Calcutta division and the entry division.
18. **CALCUTTA DIVISION**
  - 80% payout from money collected
    - 1st place pays out 48% of total collected
    - 2nd place pays out 24% of total collected
    - 3rd place pays out 8% of total collected
    - 20% going to 2025 Mid-Coast Kids

- Calcutta divided into Guided and Non-Guided Payouts by entries
- Big Stringer payout-can use same fish as entry division stringer
- Buyout option at \$300 for all teams!! Buyout must be completed prior to end of captains meeting.
- All teams that choose not to buyout their team will be owned by Midcoast Smackdown.

## **19. SIDE POT DIVISION**

- 100% PAYOUT
- Redfish, Trout, and Flounder Side pots available.
  - Each Side pot divided into Guided and Non-Guided Payouts by entries
- Payouts
  - 1st place pays out 60% of total amount collected per division
  - 2nd place pays out 30% of total amount collected per division
  - 3rd place pays out 10% of total amount collected per division
- \$50 per team, per species
- Side pots included in Sponsor entry
- Redfish - Heaviest Redfish - Slot size allowed 20-28 inches only
- Trout - Heaviest Trout - Slot size allowed 15-20 inches only
- Flounder - Heaviest Flounder - Slot size allowed - greater than 15 inches
- Fish entered in big stringer and/or Calcutta may be used inside pot
- Tie breaker will be decided by weigh in time. WEIGH IN RULES
- Team must select which fish to use for side pots. Weighmaster will not weigh multiple fish to determine heaviest.

20. We will offer a Calcutta buyout of \$300 per team for all teams. If teams are not purchased during the sign-up process Midcoast will own that team, all money won by that team will go back to Midcoast Smackdown.

21. Weigh-in will begin no earlier than 1:00PM. All teams must be in weigh-in line before 3:00PM or will be disqualified. At least 1 registered team member must be present at weigh-in. Drawn poker chip with team number must be presented at time of weigh in.

22. Only the fish you are weighing in will be allowed in line; NO SORTING ALLOWED IN LINE!!!

23. Once a fish is placed on the official measuring board, it is considered entered and may not be replaced under any circumstances.

24. If bait or fish are inside the mouth of the fish when caught, it may remain in the mouth, but it cannot be secured. If it falls out at any time (including weigh-in), it may not be put back in.

25. Only one entry per division per boat. A single team may only win 1 place in each division but can place in more than 1 division.

26. Fish submitted for weigh-in can be alive or dead. Dead fish must be in a fresh, edible condition. Spoiled, pale, gilled, marred, or any ALTERED fish not in its natural state, will result in disqualification of all team members and entry fee will be forfeited. Live fish will be verified by weigh master. .10 of a pound will be added to stringer weight, side pot, and/or Calcutta stringers for fish check in live, live fish weight will be applied accordingly to what matches for that fish. Maximum of .3 pounds will be added to total stringer weights including Calcutta. No penalty for dead fish.

27. In the event of a tie by weight, weigh-in time will determine the winner in each division.

28. Fish entered will be marked by the weigh master and may be subjected to dissection.

29. If a Board decision involved a board family member, the board member will abstain from the decision.

30. Polygraph will be administered as follows:

- First place Non-Guided: 1 name will be drawn from registered team fisherman.
- First place Guided: 1 name will be drawn from registered team fisherman.
- 3 names will be drawn from the following groups: 2nd and 3rd place Guided and Non-Guided; Guided, non-guided Big Redfish pots (1st-3rd places); and Guided and Non-guided Big trout Pots (1st-3rd places). Drawing will be handled Friday night after captain's meeting.
- ADDITIONAL POLYGRAPH WILL BE GIVEN AT DISCRETION OF MID-COAST SMACKDOWN BOARD MEMBERS OR POLYGRAPHER.

**ALL DECISIONS OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS ARE FINAL. NO APPEALS**