

## June 27, 2026 – 41st ANNUAL COASTAL BEND OILMAN'S FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

**SPORTSMANSHIP** - Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or violates any local, state or federal laws is subject to disqualification.

**ELIGIBILITY** – Only one team member must have at least 80% of their annual income derived from being directly employed or engaged in the exploration, drilling, production, transportation and/or servicing of crude oil and gas wells. Any team member now retired but who was engaged in the exploration, drilling, production, transportation and/or servicing of crude oil and gas wells, will be eligible to fish in this tournament. The spouse, a child, or parent of an eligible participant may also fish in the tournament. **By special invitation of a tournament director, an individual not meeting the oilfield employment requirement may be eligible to fish upon board approval.** No commercial fishing guides or fishermen holding a pro or semi pro status will be allowed to participate. All entries will be carefully screened to verify eligibility. The Rules and Registration committee reserves the right to refuse any entry application; the decision of the Committee shall be final. Applicants may be required to furnish the committee with proof of eligibility. **EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY RECEIVE AN ENTRY FORM VIA MAIL, IT IS STILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE ACCORDING TO THE RULES. FISHING IN PAST TOURNAMENTS DOES NOT QUALIFY YOU TO FISH IN FUTURE TOURNAMENTS.**

**SAFETY** - Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times. It is recommended that each contestant wear a Coast Guard approved life vest when the boat is on plane. **If the boat is equipped with a "kill switch" it must be attached to driver while the boat is on plane.** Drunkenness on the part of any contestant will not be tolerated.

**TEAMS** - Teams will consist of two (2) eligible individuals registering as such (exception: catfish division may use either a 2 man or 3 man team). No team may enter more than one division. No participant will be allowed to fish without a qualified partner in the boat at all times **(exception: saltwater wade fishing and/or kayak – must remain within one (1) nautical mile of the boat or each other.** Any contestant's action will directly reflect on his teammate. There will be no use of guides during tournament competition in any manner. Only team members may be in the boat during tournament hours. **ALL TEAMS MUST CHECK IN BY 6PM FRIDAY, OR HAVE SOMEONE CHECK THEM IN.**

**TACKLE - Bass:** Only artificial lures can be used; no prepared or live bait other than pork rind strips may be used.

**Crappie:** Prepared or live bait may be used. A cane pole is permissible in the crappie division only.

**Saltwater:** Artificial, live or dead bait may be used.

**BASS: ONLY ONE ROD AND REEL MAY BE USED AT ANY TIME.**

**CRAPPIE: ONLY ONE POLE (ROD OR CANE) MAY BE USED AT ANY TIME.**

**SALTWATER: ONLY ONE ROD AND REEL MAY BE USED AT ANY TIME.**

**NO TROLLING. WADE FISHING IS PERMISSIBLE WITHIN 1 NAUTICAL MILE OF THE BOAT.**

**SCORING - Bass:** Scoring will be based on the weight in pounds of bass (Largemouth, Kentucky or Spotted) with a minimum length of 14 inches measured on a slant board from Check-It-Stick. Fish will be bumped in the closed mouth position and any team weighing in a short fish will be disqualified for the day and no weight will be issued. Only 5 bass per team will be counted. Teams are not allowed to have more than 5 bass in their possession at any time. If more than 5 bass are kept in a team's possession, that team will be disqualified for the day and no weight will be issued. It is the responsibility of the team to keep bass alive. A determination of whether the fish are alive or dead will be made at the scales and a bonus of .10 pound will be awarded for each live fish weighed in. No pale gill or iced bass will be accepted. This does not apply to crappie.

**Crappie:** Scoring will be based on the weight in pounds of the crappie with a minimum length of 10 inches measured on a slant board from Check-It-Stick. Any team weighing in a short fish will be disqualified for the day and no weight will be issued. Only 10 crappie per team will be counted.

**Saltwater:** Each team can weigh in 2 redbfish (slot only – 20" to 28") and **3 speckled trout (slot only - 15" to 20")** measured on a slant board from Check-It-Stick with a perfect pinch. Any team attempting to weigh in a short fish and/or an over 28" redbfish or over 20" Trout will be disqualified for the day and no weight will be issued. A weigh-in certificate will be given to the member weighing in the fish and signed to verify the weight. A weigh master's decision is final. **NOTICE – 3 legal trout & 2 reds constitute a legal & a full stringer and may be presented at weigh-in except Spot Red may be additional fish if desired.**

**FISHING HOURS** - Fishing hours will begin at 6:00 am Saturday morning. **No team will be allowed to leave the harbor, boat dock or bay house pier any earlier than 5:30 am on that day.** Teams must stop fishing by 3:30 pm and be in the weigh-in line by 4:00 pm. However, the weigh-in will be open at 2 pm for those wishing to weigh in early. It is the responsibility of each team to understand and abide by the prescribed fishing hours and weigh-in times, as they will be strictly enforced and are grounds for disqualification. Official time will be kept by the Weigh-in Committee at the weigh-in site.

**LAUNCH SITE** - Contestants will be allowed to trailer boats to any landing on Lake Texana or any designated saltwater fishing area within the boundaries. However, fishing is allowed only during tournament hours, within designated boundaries and the weigh-in time must be observed. Freshwater divisions: Fish Lake Texana and its tributaries up to FM 530 bridge. Saltwater division: The boundaries are 457 Bridge in Sargent, TX to the West end of San Antonio Bay including all other bays and tributaries of East Matagorda, West Matagorda, Espiritu Santo and San Antonio Bays.

**TIES - (ALL DIVISIONS EXCEPT FOR RED SPOT POT, INCLUDING THE CALCUTTA AND FISHERMAN'S POOLS)** In the event of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place money will be added together and evenly divided between the 2 teams. All other ties will be handled accordingly.

**COMPLAINTS** - Complaints or protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Committee **no later than 30 minutes after weigh-in closes**. All decisions rendered by the committee are final.

**ENCROACHMENT** - A team is not permitted to approach nearer than 50 yards to any other boat, which is tied or anchored unless permission has been granted.

**MISCELLANEOUS** – **This tournament strictly prohibits any fish that appears altered, mutilated, not fresh and in edible condition, or not compliant with TPWD measurement regulations and will be disqualified immediately. No substitutions allowed.** No fish may be accepted from or given to another team. Each boat in the tournament will be identified by a ribbon (furnished by the Coastal Bend Oilman's Fishing Tournament) to be placed in a visible location in the boat. Contestants may not change boats during tournament hours. Tournament Committee cannot provide Alcoholic Beverages. Interpretation and enforcement of all rules shall be the joint responsibility of the Rules Committee. The Coastal Bend Oilman's Fishing Tournament Committee, Sponsors, and Brackenridge Park personnel will not be held liable for any accidents or injury nor the loss, damage or theft of any property of any contestant. Once a team member is in the weigh-in line, neither he nor the fish can leave the line prior to weigh-in. No team may enter more than one division.

**BIG FISH POTS - (Crappie, Bass & Catfish Divisions Only) DETERMINED BY WEIGHT.** Big Fish Pots and Calcutta Pools pay 1<sup>st</sup> 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 30% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 20%. Big Bass, Crappie, and Red Spot Pot may then be used as part of your weight in stringer. **Redfish Spot Pot** is determined by the redfish with the most spots. In the case of a tie, placement is determined by weight. One redfish may be presented for the **Red Spot Pot** and does not have to be included in your total stringer weight. However, this redfish can be included in the stringer in order to reach the 2 redfish limit. **Flounder Pot** is determined by weight and only 1 Flounder (**15" minimum**) per team may be weighed. The pot pays 1<sup>st</sup> 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 30% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 20%. Any ties will be added together and divided equally between the teams. Flounder will not be added to the total stringer weight. **Dave Drewett Dead Ass Last is determined by whoever weighs in a full saltwater stringer (2 reds & 3 trout) with the lightest weight.**

**State fishing laws apply to all contestants.**

All contestants are subject to a polygraph test at the discretion of the Tournament Directors and agree to abide by its conclusion. If any contestant fails to pass the polygraph test, the team will be excluded (**DISQUALIFIED**) from all awards, prizes and monies for this tournament and all future CBOFT tournaments. Both team members must be present for polygraph test. Also, if any contestant has ever been disqualified from any fishing tournament for intentionally cheating, lying or failing a polygraph, he/she is disqualified from this tournament. The results of the polygraph are final and can not be reviewed by a court of law. **USE YOUR HEAD, IF IT'S NOT LEGAL OR SPORTSMAN LIKE, DON'T PUSH IT! AGAIN, ALL DIRECTORS DECISIONS ARE FINAL. NO EXCEPTIONS! EVERYONE IS HERE TO HAVE FUN!!!**

**Both team members must be present** to win special door prizes given away on Friday. **Each individual participant must be present to win** any additional door prizes that might be given away.

**Brackenridge Recreation Complex Rules and Policies are HIGHLY enforced! If at any given time, the rules are broken and/or there is an issue with the park staff and team members, you will be immediately disqualified from the tournament.**

## Additional Rules for Catfish Division

The Catfish Division may have either a 2 man or 3 man team. Entry fee for 2 man team is \$200; 3 man team is \$250. Only **Yellow, Blue and Channel** catfish may be weighed in. All legal means and methods as per the Texas Parks and Wildlife Rules and Regulations to catch catfish are allowed, with the exception of hand fishing. **NO** hand fishing is allowed.

Only Lake Texana and its tributaries north to the Hwy. 530 bridge may be fished. **Check-in will be by phone, a board of director will contact you on Thursday, June 25, 2026, between 10 am and Noon.** ALL teams must check in or have someone designated to check in for them prior to fishing.

Trot-lines, throw-lines, jug-lines, or any legal fishing means or methods shall be deployed or placed in Lake Texana prior to the Tournament. However, none of these methods of fishing can be baited before 12:00 (Noon) on Thursday, **June 25, 2026**. Fishing hours for the Catfish Division begin at 12:00 (Noon) on Thursday, **June 25, 2026, and end at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27th.**

There will be 2 weigh-ins for the Catfish Division. The first weigh-in will be Friday, **June 26, 2026**, at the Brackenridge Park Pavilion. The weigh-in hours are from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fishermen must be in line no later than 4:00 p.m. The second weigh-in will be Saturday, **June 27, 2026**, at the Brackenridge Park Pavilion. The weigh-in hours are from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fisherman must be in line no later than 4:00 p.m.

### SCORING

**Stringer:** A total of 5 fish can be weighed in per day with a limit of no more than 2 yellow catfish per day. A total combined stringer weight for the two days will determine the winner. The top 25% of teams entered will place.

**Big Yellow Catfish Pot:** Each team may weigh in 1 fish per day. You will be allowed to bump your fish out on day 2 if you catch a bigger fish. This fish can also be counted in your stringer. The payout is 1<sup>st</sup> 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 30% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 20%. In case of a tie between places, the 2 places will be added together and divided equally between the teams.

**Big Blue Catfish Pot:** Each team may weigh in 1 fish per day. You will be allowed to bump your fish out on day 2 if you catch a bigger fish. This fish can also be counted in your stringer. The payout is 1<sup>st</sup> 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 30% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 20%. In case of a tie between places, the 2 places will be added together and divided equally between the teams.

**Black Jack Blue Catfish Pot:** The blue catfish that is closest to 21 pounds without going over with a one-time weigh in on either day. You will only be able to weigh in 1 fish for two days. This fish does **NOT** have to be included in your stringer weight. In case 2 or more blue catfish measure exactly 21 pounds, the places will be added together and divided equally between the teams.

**Catfish Calcutta** is determined by total stringer weight. The payout is 1<sup>st</sup> 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 30% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 20%. In case of a tie between places, the 2 places will be added together and divided equally between the teams.

Digital scales will be used to weigh the catfish individually up to 30 pounds. Any catfish weighing more than 30 pounds will be weighed on a dial-type scale.