12th Annual FREEZE OUT Invitational

PORT O'CONNOR, TEXAS | JANUARY 14–16, 2027

TOURNAMENT RULES • Official Tournament Rules

Tournament Schedule

- Thursday, January 14 | Check-in: 3:00–4:30 PM at 5D Steakhouse
- Thursday, January 14 | Mandatory Captain's Meeting: 5:00 PM; boat positions drawn
- Friday & Saturday, January 15–16 | Tournament fishing
- Friday & Saturday | Weigh-in at 5D Steakhouse; 3:00 – 4:30 – must be in line by 4:30 PM sharp
- Saturday after weigh-in | Awards, raffle, dinner and concert at 5D Steakhouse

Tournament Rules

1. TEAM ENTRY FEE OF $1,500.00 + $1000 Calcutta Fee. In lieu of a Live Calcutta, each team will pay a mandatory $1000 Calcutta fee with a 100% pay-out. Side pots are discretionary, and costs are below. The $1,500 team entry fee MUST accompany the entry form and be received by December 31, 2026, at 3:00 PM. Calcutta and Side Pots may be paid in CASH at Captain's Meeting January 14. TOURNAMENT FEES: ENTRY FEE PER TEAM - $1500 CALCUTTA - $1000 MANDATORY PER TEAM - 100% payout CASH SIDE POT IS $200.00 PER TEAM FOR BIGGEST TROUT per day ($400 TOTAL FOR BOTH DAYS) - 100% payout CASH SIDE POT IS $200.00 PER TEAM FOR BIGGEST REDFISH per day ($400 TOTAL FOR BOTH DAYS) - 100 % payout CASH SIDE POT IS $200.00 PER TEAM FOR BIGGEST TROUT STRINGER 100 % payout CASH SIDE POT IS $200.00 PER TEAM FOR BIGGEST REDFISH STRINGER 100 % payout

2. TOURNAMENT TEAMS CONSIST OF 1 TO 4 MEMBERS, ONLY ONE TEAM PER BOAT AND EVERYONE IN BOAT IS A TEAM MEMBER.

3. BOUNDARIES: ALLOWED FISHING IS FROM THE MITCHELL'S CUT (ON THE FAR EAST END OF EAST MATAGORDA BAY TO THE JFK BRIDGE AND THE EXTENSION OF THE PADRE ISLAND BRIDGE.

4. NO SHARING OR POOLING OF FISH WITH OTHER TEAMS AND BOATS IS ALLOWED.

5. ALL ANGLERS MUST CARRY A VALID TEXAS FISHING LICENSE WITH A SALTWATER STAMP.

6. THIS WILL BE A VIDEO RELEASE TOURNAMENT FOR TROUT AND A LIVE WEIGH FOR REDFISH. There will be a ½ pound deduction for each dead redfish weighed. A trout that is dead and not released alive is not eligible. Teams can weigh-in 1 Slot Red between 20"-28" EACH DAY AND 3 TROUT (NO MAXIMUM WEIGHT) IN VIDEO RELEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES AND CRITERIA STATED BELOW. NO TAGGED REDFISH OVER 28" INCHES WILL BE LEGAL IN THIS TOURNAMENT. 1 angler can catch all 4 fish. All scales that will be used in the tournament will be issued at The Captain's Meeting on Thursday night. A team may use up to 4 scales during the tournament, so long as each scale has been tested and tagged at Registration. Any tampering with the scales before, after and during the tournament in an effort to change or alter the calibration will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Criteria for an eligible fish: Video showing scale is LOCKED IN at 0.00, team name and # with item of the day. Video showing the fish completely out of the water and a close-up video showing the LOCKED IN weight on the scale. Live video release of fish swimming away. All eligible videos must meet the criteria listed above in one continuous video. Video fragments will not be accepted.

7. The weigh master will have the final say on eligibility of any fish brought in to weigh and videos submitted. NO PALE, GILLED OR MUTILATED FISH WILL BE WEIGHED. A TRIMMED TAIL IS A MUTILATED FISH. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE IN WEIGHT, THE LENGTH WILL DETERMINE THE WINNER. IF NECESSARY, WEIGH-IN TIME WILL BE THE FINAL TIE-BREAKER.

8. All teams must check-in and attend the Captain's Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2027 at 5D STEAKHOUSE, Port O'Connor, Texas. If you do not check in, you will be disqualified. IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE RESCHEDULED. DECISION ON WEATHER TO BE MADE BY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AND NOTIFICATION WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL. NO REFUNDS.

9. All State and Federal Parks and Wildlife regulations will always apply.

10. Boat positions will be drawn Thursday at the mandatory Captain's Meeting. Teams will be released in their drawn position on Day 1, and in the reverse order on Day 2. Any team failing to check-in will be disqualified. Teams will be released in 15 second intervals starting at safe light. All teams must leave the check-in site (Lance's dock) by boat and return to 5D STEAKHOUSE for weigh-in. Trailering your boat during tournament fishing hours is not allowed. You may not carry extra gas in the boat other than in an OEM gas tank. NO TEAM MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO BEGIN FISHING OR MAKE FIRST CASTS UNTIL THE LAST BOAT HAS LAUNCHED. THE OFFICIAL CLOCK WILL BE "CELLULAR PHONE" TIME AND WILL BE MONITORED BY THE WEIGH TEAM.

11. This is an INSHORE fishing tournament. Fishing AND TRAVELING outside the jetties or the pass is prohibited.

12. Teams must fish in public waters accessible to public fishermen. All Texas Parks and Wildlife and County Ordinances prohibiting fishing will apply.

13. This is an ARTIFICIAL LURE only tournament. Scented Baits are allowed.

14. Weigh-in deadline is Friday & Saturday @ 4:30PM. At least one member MUST BE STANDING IN LINE BY 4:30 PM SHARP. NO EXCEPTIONS. ANY TEAM FAILING TO CHECK-IN BEFORE WEIGH-IN DEADLINE ON EACH DAY WILL NOT HAVE THEIR TROUT OR REDFISH COUNTED FOR THAT DAY OF FISHING. There will be no sorting or culling of fish once your team is in line with fish for weigh-in. IT IS THE TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CULL THEIR OWN FISH FOR WEIGH-IN. ONLY 1 REDFISH WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE WEIGH TABLE EACH DAY.

15. Any protests must be filed in writing with a $100 non-refundable deposit with the tournament director on the day of the protest, within 10 minutes of completion of the weigh-in for that day.

16. There will be a 100-yard rule between tournament boats and fishermen, unless waved in. Passing, on plane, within 100 yards of a wading fishermen is strictly prohibited.

17. Team members must remain within plain eyesight of their partner and boat at all times.

18. Teams must use a prop boat only, with no horsepower restrictions. Air boats are prohibited. A team may use a different boat for each day of fishing; however, they must start and end each day in the same boat.

19. Teams may not allow another boat to hold their fishing area for any reason.

20. In the event of a breakdown, the Team Captain must contact the tournament director. Once approved, anglers may transfer their redfish to another boat. Only one team member is to travel with the fish, all other team members must stay behind with the original tournament boat until rescued.

21. Mutilated or old fish will not be weighed in. Team will be disqualified.

22. Every angler receiving a tournament prize is subject to a polygraph test. The results of polygraph are final. Any person caught cheating will be disqualified and charges will be pressed. POLYGRAPHS: BY SIGNATURE ON THE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM, EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST AND ABIDE BY ITS CONCLUSION. A MANDATORY POLYGRAPH TEST WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO ONE MEMBER OF THE WINNING TEAM SELECTED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS. NO MONEY WILL BE PAID OUT UNTIL THE POLYGRAPH TEST IS COMPLETED AND PASSED. THE RESULTS OF THE POLYGRAPH ARE FINAL AND CANNOT BE REVIEWED BY A COURT OF LAW.

23. If you hook a fish, that fish is yours and yours only to fight, land and weigh-in. You may not pass the rod to your partner to fight and land. You may not net another angler's fish, whether you are in a boat or in the water.

24. PRIZES AND AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT 5D STEAKHOUSE. FOLLOWING THE SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER. ANGLER MUST BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT PRIZE.

Tournament Prizes

- Largest Trout — Day 1 (1st, 2nd)
- Largest Trout — Day 2 (1st, 2nd)
- Largest Redfish — Day 1 (1st, 2nd)
- Largest Redfish — Day 2 (1st, 2nd)
- Largest Combined Trout Stringer (1st, 2nd)
- Largest Combined Redfish Stringer (1st, 2nd)
- Combined Heaviest Stringer (1st–5th)
- Calcutta (1st–5th)

Waivers, Registration & Contact

All team members must sign the "Freeze Out Fishing Tournament Unconditional Waiver, Release, Indemnification and Agreement Not to Sue" before the Captain's Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2027. Email signed waivers or bring printed and signed copies to registration.

Waiver submissions: cabel@southerlyfishing.com

Tournament questions, sponsorships and general contact: Lance Abel | label@millcreekhomestexas.com | (281) 831-2684

Entry form and payment: www.thefreezeout.com or mail to Lance Abel, The Freeze Out, PO Box 736, Port O'Connor, TX 77982.

PayPal: www.paypal.me/thefreezeout | Venmo: @Christie-Abel-2

Additional meal tickets are available in advance only at www.thefreezeout.com; deadline: Sunday, January 10, 2027. One meal ticket for Thursday and Saturday is provided for each team member with the entry fee. Additional concert tickets for guests may be purchased in advance directly from 5D Steakhouse.

Tournament officials reserve the right to refuse any tournament entry. This is an invitation-only tournament. Rules are subject to change prior to tournament day.