



Official Tournament Rules | 2026

Schedule

This is a One-Day Tournament. All events take place at the Mexico Beach Boat Ramp Park.

Captains Party: Friday, June 26, 2026, 5:00pm CDT. There will be food and live music.

Weigh-In: Saturday, June 27, 2026, 3:30pm till 5:30pm CDT.

Registration

Registration is \$250.00 per boat (cash or check). This enters the boat into the Red Snapper, King Mackerel and Grouper division. Any legal grouper species will be eligible to win the grouper division. To enter any optional division, angler must be registered with an entered boat.

Entry fees are non-refundable. This is a charity fundraising event. Payment of the entry fee constitutes a representation of each Captain that the Captain has read the Tournament Rules and Captain and crew will abide by all rules.

Boats can register prior to the day of the Captain's Party at Mexico Beach Welcome Center. Boats wanting to register after the Captain's Party may register at Boat Ramp Park with Tournament Director the morning of the tournament between 7:00pm - 9:00am CDT.

- Optional Youth Division- \$25.00 per angler (14yrs old or younger). Payout will be a 60/40 split between first and second in each division.
- Optional Target Weight Division- \$100.00 per division. Target weight will be announced for each of the three divisions at the Captain's Party by the tournament directors. Each division will have a 75% payout. Fish closest to target weight, over or under, wins. In the case of a tie, the first fish to scale wins. Portions of the Target Weight Division proceeds will go towards the Al Cathey Leadership Through Service Scholarship Fund, which supports future leaders graduating from Port St. Joe High School.
- Optional MBARA Aggregate Kingfish Bonus Division- \$100.00. GollyWhopper Classic and the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association have teamed up to offer an aggregate division where anglers can weigh-in one King Mackerel at each tournament (only one king at each tournament per boat entered in this category). The highest combined weight will receive 100% of the combined entry fees from this division. Anglers do not have to weigh a fish at both tournaments and can win with one fish. MBARA Kingfish Tournament is July 25, 2026.

Rules

All participants must abide by all State of Florida recreational fishing rules. These rules are subject to change at any time. Deadline for registration is 9:00am on day of tournament.

Boats must launch and depart from waterways in only Bay or Gulf County. Boats may depart anytime, but no fishing until the designated start time.

Fishing lines are allowed in the water at [12:01am CDT on June 27, 2026.](#)

Boats can only enter one King Mackerel, one Red Snapper, and one Grouper per division. It is up to the Captain of the boat to determine which fish to weigh in each division (each registered youth on an entered boat may also weigh their heaviest fish in youth division). Boats can win one prize

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in each category, but not multiple places in the same species (boats may win the optional categories, if registered, in addition to the heaviest fish division). In the case of a tie, the first fish to scale wins.

Angler must have REGISTRATION Form and FISH at Weigh-In. Angler(s) must be in line with BOTH registration form and fish, ready at weigh-in and be recognized by the Weighmaster by 5:30pm CDT. **ALL** fish must be in Angler(s) possession to enter line. Angler(s) in line without registration form and fish when the tournament horn blows, signaling the end of weigh-in, will **NOT** be allowed to weigh. No exceptions.

All fish are subject to inspection and all winners are subject to a lie detector test. No fish may be transferred from one boat to another. The tournament committee shall have the sole discretion to cancel the tournament due to inclement weather. All participants will enter at their own discretion and should exercise good judgement, and caution. The tournament directors, volunteers, sponsors and vendors will be held harmless and indemnified from any damages.

Protest

Protests must be submitted in writing and presented to the Tournament Director prior to the presentation of prizes. Only a Captain registered in the Tournament may file a protest. A deposit of \$500 cash deposit must accompany each protest. If the protest is upheld, deposit will be refunded; however, if tournament director/committee finds no violation, deposit will be forfeited and donated to the Mexico Beach Department of Public Safety - Fire Rescue. Final decision will be left solely to the tournament director/committee and the decision will be final. Disqualified boats will be ineligible for all tournament prizes.

Do not enter if you do not understand the Tournament Rules.

Payout

Registration is a 75% payout with 25% of the entry fee each going to Red Snapper, Grouper, and King Mackerel. There will be a First, Second, and Third place in each of the three species. Payout will be First Place (50%), Second Place (30%), and Third Place (20%) of the pot for each category.

EXAMPLE: If there are 90 entrees there will be a total of \$16,875.00 in prize money. \$5,625.00 payout in Red Snapper, \$5,625.00 payout in King Mackerel and \$5,625.00 payout in Grouper. Breakouts for each category would be:

First Place- \$2,812.50 (\$5,625.00 x 50%)
Second Place- \$1,687.50 (\$5,625.00 x 30%)
Third Place- \$1,125.00 (\$5,625.00 x 20%)

GollyWhopper Classic is hosted by the Mexico Beach Department of Public Safety- Fire Rescue.
Proceeds benefit the Mexico Beach Department of Public Safety - Fire Rescue.

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