

14th Annual El Lago Invitational Fishing Tourney Rules

Open to all property owners, residents, employees (and spouses) that work at a place of business located in the city of El Lago and their invited guests. The Fishing Tournament will be held on October 25th, 2026, with registration ending on October 15th, at 4:30 pm. Registration after this date is acceptable to fish the tournament, but “late” registration does not ensure a T-shirt since the order needs to be placed on the 16th. Registration forms are available at City Hall and electronically on the City Website. **This is a “rain or shine” event, excluding any severe weather such as a tropical storm or hurricane.** For this tournament, those residents of TLV who live on the east side of Taylor Lake on either Lakeshore or Cedar will be considered **Honorary Citizens** and allowed to be team captains in the spirit of this community event.

On October 25th, fishing begins at 7:30am. Tournament ends when entrants are ***in line at the weigh in station no later than 3:00 pm.*** **NO ENTRIES after 3:00 pm will be accepted, unless you are standing in line before or at 3:00. Weigh station will be open from 1pm to 3pm.**

Registration fee will include a T-Shirt commemorating this event as well as an awards dinner (to be held at **3:30pm** on Sunday Oct. 25th). Additional T-shirts, the Official El Lago Fishing cap, and Awards Banquet tickets for non-tourney participants will be available for purchase.

This is a non-profit event, and all money received will be distributed in prizes. Any money that remains will be used for next year’s tournament or placed in the city Youth Recreation Fund. Prizes that will be awarded in this tournament are provided through collecting an entrance fee for participating in the tournament and through any donations received (this tournament is for citizen enjoyment and friendly competition, **no boats or trucks or anything of significant value** will be given as a prize or award).

All fishing must be done in the Galveston Bay Complex satellites & bayous within close proximity to El Lago. The boundaries are South of Red Bluff Road, West of S. Egret Bay Road, North of 2094 and within Galveston Bay only as far north as Pine Gully Park, no further south than Bayshore Park, and to the west not to exceed a boundary line that connects these two parks. The boundaries are detailed in the **accompanying map**. This amateur only event excludes “professional” anglers from entering defined as those who have taken people fishing in exchange for money over \$50 between 10/25/25 - 10/25/26.

Prizes Awarded: First, Second and Third place prizes (merchandise – no cash prizes) will be awarded for the following:

Heaviest stringer comprised of two slot (20”- 28”) Redfish;

Heaviest stringer comprised of three slot (15” – 20”) Specked Trout

Youth entrants (**15 and under**) will compete for the heaviest fish caught overall and will be awarded First, Second, and Third prize. Acceptable species for the youth entrants are the following: Redfish* (20” to 28”), **Specked Trout (15”-20”)***, Flounder*, (***cannot submit fish entered into Youth division into any other tournament entry**) Gafftop (**no** hardhead catfish), Drum, or Sheepshead.

One optional cash pot for the heaviest Flounder is offered to entrants into the tournament. 100% of all money collected into this cash pot will be paid to the following: First, 60%, Second 30%, and third, 10%. If there are less than 3 flounders weighed in, then the prize money will be distributed as follows: 1 flounder – 100%, two flounder – heaviest receives 65%, second heaviest receives 35%. In the event that no flounder are caught, the prize money will roll into the following year’s flounder cash pot.

In the event of a tie, the first fish or fishes weighed at the weigh station shall be the winner (Ensure your fish entry is timestamped by the weigh in team). Tournament officials have the right to refuse any tournament entry. Any angler not following these rules will be disqualified from this event. One team may win in both the redfish and speckled trout categories, but in the spirit of this friendly competition, prizes will be awarded for one category only (but you will get your name on the plaque for both!)

Any entrant into the youth division must have guardian supervision while fishing. The entrant must set the hook and fight the fish with no assistance until the fish is landed on shore or netted (netting can be accomplished by a team member).

Teams are comprised of one to four entrants. Up to three youth entrants will be allowed to accompany a team but the maximum number of team participants is 6. Each team must have a Team Captain, and the Team Captain is required to live, own property or work at a place of business located in the city of El Lago or live in TLV on Cedar or Lakeshore. City Employees including members of the Lakeview Police Department, WCID #50, Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department and postal carriers for the City of El Lago and their spouses are also allowed to be a Team Captain.

Contestants fishing as a team must fish no farther than 300 yards apart, and fishing by boat, individual or tandem kayaks or bank and wade fishing are all acceptable. All fish entered at the weigh station must be caught on hook and line, and caught no earlier than 7:30 am. All state and federal laws apply including all-applicable Coast Guard and Texas Parks & Wildlife's regulations, **and these take precedent to the rules of the Tourney**. All entrants must have appropriate state licensing for fishing in the Galveston Bay.

Point of Contact: Joe Neigut, El Lago Invitational Fishing Tournament Committee Chairman, email at jsneigut@gmail.com

