

# 2026 Ron Hoover Fishing Tournament Rules and Regulations

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.HOOVERFISHING.COM](http://WWW.HOOVERFISHING.COM)

- *All anglers must follow all Federal, State and local laws at all times. Violation of any Federal, State or local laws will result in the disqualification of the individual and the entire team.*
- *Un-sportsmanlike and unethical conduct will result in disqualification. Any negative feedback posted on any social media will result in angler being banned from future tournaments.*
- *Safe boating will be observed at all times. All boats must have all required equipment for the U.S Coast Guard safety laws. The decision to cancel or shorten the day due to unsafe weather will be left totally to the discretion of the tournament director/committee.*
- *Weigh in will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at Jim's Pier fishing dock. Teams may launch out of any location. Absolutely NO fishing lines in the water before 6AM. Teams are required to weigh in fish by boat only. All anglers must be on the boat when you weigh in. Weigh in time will be between 11:00am and 1:00pm (Central time). Once the horn is blown at 1pm, anglers who are not in line will not be allowed to weigh in their fish. Fish will only be weighed in one time so make sure the lengths/weights are correct before you sign the weigh in card. Weigh in card must be signed prior to leaving the tent. Pull in and drop off your angler with your fish and quickly pull out so another boat can pull in. You can wait for your angler on the sandbar while he finishes weighing in. You must pick up your angler at designated pick up areas only.*
- *HOOVER FAST PASS exclusively available to Platinum and Gold Sponsor levels must show Hoover Fast Pass lanyard at weigh in to by pass line.*
- *A professional weigh master will weigh in the fish, if in his/her opinion the fish was caught outside the tournament time frame or was tampered with to alter length or weight, the angler agrees to take a polygraph test. If the angler refuses to take the polygraph test he/she will be disqualified from tournament.*
- *The entry fee to fish the tournament is \$800.00 per boat (max of 4 people). Early registration ends March 31, 2026 (Early Registration \$600). **April 1<sup>st</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup> Registration \$700. June 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> \$800.** This includes dinner Friday night and Saturday night, 1 grand prize raffle ticket per person for the Majek boat with Suzuki motor or a Coachmen Catalina RV, 1 door prize raffle ticket per team (value equal to 4 door prizes). Friday night entertainment by comedian Steve Trevino and Saturday night concert featuring Tracy Lawrence. No Social bands will be sold! ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS!!!*
- *Swag bag and raffle prize tickets to be picked up Friday, July 10, 2026 at the Captains meeting.*
- *Only paid registered anglers fishing the tournament will be eligible to win the new Majek boat or Coachman Catalina RV. You will not be able to buy a ticket to win the boat or UTV if you are not registered in the fishing tournament. Additional grand prize raffle tickets can be purchased only Friday and Saturday night during the event.*
- *All boats must be paid in full and registered before June 30, 2026. Late fee: \$100.00 per boat entry received after June 30, 2026.*
- *Register before March 31, 2026, to receive double the tickets per angler for the Majek boat with Suzuki motor or a Coachmen Catalina RV.*
- *All grand prize raffle tickets for the boat and UTV must have a first name and last name written on it. ID maybe required. You may only be drawn once for the 10 finalists in the raffle. If your name is drawn again that ticket will be discarded and another one will be drawn in its place. There is no transferring of tickets once a name has been drawn for the final raffle.*
- *There will be two grand prize giveaways: A Majek boat with Suzuki motor and a Coachmen Catalina RV, Winners will be responsible for tax, title, and license.*
- ***Must be present to win !!!!!***

- *There will be 2 color wristbands. Remember to please wear the appropriate color wrist band for each night. You cannot enter the venue wearing the wrong color/day wristband. No exceptions!!!*
- *Fishing: all live baits, dead bait and artificial lures may be used. Wade fishing is allowed within eyesight of the boat. Only one rod per angler is allowed in the water at one time. Fish must be caught on rod and reel only. Absolutely NO night fishing will be allowed the night before the tournament.*
- *We encourage everyone to bring in live fish. If you bring in any live fish you will automatically be bumped to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the line, to quickly weigh in and release your live fish. The team will automatically get 1 ticket thrown into a raffle to win an ice chest.*
- *If you bring in a fish that is declared over the size required, you will not be disqualified however you will not be allowed to weigh in a replacement fish.*
- *Weigh master will use FLAT check it stick; closed mouth and pinch the tail method will be used for the measuring of the fish.*
- *Divisions: NON-GUIDED AND GUIDED. Absolutely no licensed fishing guides allowed to fish in the non guided division. **Only one licensed fishing guide allowed per boat, even if you are fishing the guided division.** No exceptions!*
- *Team stringer will consist of 3 fish: 2 slot reds and 1 slot trout. Blind draw method will be conducted at the captain's meeting Friday night to determine the length of the fish to be weighed in. One inch margin not to exceed length drawn. Stringer Winner will be decided by total inches. In the event of a tie winner will be decided by earliest weigh in time.*
- *Payouts: Non-Guided, 1<sup>st</sup> place \$4,500.00 and trophies, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$3,000.00 and trophies, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$ 2,000.00 and trophies, 4<sup>th</sup> place \$1,500 and trophies.*
- *Payouts: Guided, 1<sup>st</sup> place \$4,000.00 and trophies, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$2,500.00 and trophies, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$1,500.00 and trophies, 4<sup>th</sup> place \$1,000.00 and trophies.*
- *Must be 18 years and older to be eligible for the Boat and RV give-a-way. If winner is under 18 years of age, the boat must be titled under parent or legal guardian.*
- ***MANDATORY POLYGRAPH!!!** By registering on the official tournament entry form, each angler agrees to submit to a polygraph test and abide by its conclusion. Polygraph tests will be issued to all 1<sup>st</sup> place Hoover Challenge winners (Calcutta). The results of the polygraph are final and cannot be reviewed by a court of law.*
- *Only one competitor will be polygraphed from the team. He or she cannot consume alcohol and/or drugs during tournament hours and prior to taking polygraph test. Participants being polygraphed will be notified immediately following the weigh in and should report to the convention center where polygraph will be conducted. Should participant fail the polygraph, the team will be disqualified and will surrender all winnings. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will be subject to polygraph testing.*
- *Ron Hoover Tournament acts as a broker when hiring the truth detection administrator and has no influence on procedures, type of test, the amount of time or the results of the testing and as such all rulings of cause are determined by the testing agent and not by anyone affiliated with Ron Hoover RV & Marine Fishing Tournament.*
- *All decisions made by the tournament director and/or tournament officials will be final in all matters. The tournament director and/or the tournament officials can make a change when the safety of a contestant is in question or by a unanimous decision by the tournament committee. Any changes to the rules will be discussed in the captains meeting before the tournament.*
- *All anglers in the tournament must be aware of the tournament rules and regulations including any changes or additions before the tournament.*