

2026 INSHORE TRAIL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. There is no entry fee—your entry into the Inshore Trail covers your entry fee into the Inshore Trail Championship.
2. The Red Drum Division payouts go to the boats with the heaviest weight of up to two red drum.
3. There is no limit to the number of anglers on a boat (within safety limitations), but the captain or the co-captain that was designated on your Inshore Trail entry form must be on the boat from the start of the fishing day until the end of the fishing day during the Inshore Trail Championship.
4. The one fishing day is Sunday, September 13. If necessary, the Inshore Trail reserves the right to schedule the Inshore Trail Championship on a later weekend. There are no constraints on rescheduling.
5. There are no checkouts and no boundaries.
6. Fish must be caught during tournament hours. No lines in the water until after 6:30 a.m.
7. All boats must cross the plane of the 154A marker (the green buoy just off the entrance to Inlet Watch Marina) by 4:00 p.m.
8. Scales will open at 3:00 p.m. at Inlet Watch Marina. No weigh-ins allowed before 3:00 p.m.
9. Each boat may present up to two red drum to the weigh master, at which time their fishing day has ended.
10. All fish weighed in will become the property of the Inshore Trail Championship.
11. Any angler, if directed by the tournament committee, must submit to a polygraph test within 72 hours after the last fish has been weighed. This decision is at the sole discretion of the tournament committee. Should the test be failed or if the angler fails to participate in the polygraph test within the 72 hours, the tournament committee reserves the right to forfeit all winnings awarded to the winner in question.
12. All protests made to the tournament committee shall be accompanied by a \$350 cash deposit. All protests shall be made no later than 30 minutes after the last fish has been weighed. The \$350 cash deposit will be returned if the tournament committee upholds the protest. The \$350 cash deposit will become the property of the Inshore Trail Championship if the protest is not upheld. All decisions of the tournament committee shall be final.
13. Prizes are awarded solely on the basis of fish weight. In the event of identical weights, the first fish weighed shall be declared the winner.
14. All fish must be caught on hook and line and from the registered boat.
15. All fish must be weighed in from the boat in which they were caught. All fish must remain aboard the boat on which they were caught until a crewmember takes the fish to the scales. No overland or off-boat transport is allowed, and a crew member must accompany the fish to the scales.
16. By signing the entry form, the captain and crew, etc. consent that the Inshore Trail Championship may use without payment or restrictions any photographs in which he or she appears for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial, or promotional material.
17. Two or more boats seen congregating may be disqualified from the tournament.
18. This tournament does not have any boundaries; however, a boat may not fish within 25 yards of the CP&L intake wall or anywhere within the entrance to Inlet Watch Marina.
19. All fish will be received, inspected, measured, and weighed by the terms of the weigh master.
20. All fish must adhere to North Carolina state size regulations. Red drum will be measured nose to nose plate, belly facing the weigh master, and with a uniform pinch of the tail.
21. No cut or mutilated fish will be accepted, and fish must be in edible condition.
22. All captains and crewmembers are responsible for reading and following all rules and regulations set forth by the Inshore Trail Championship.

Questions? Contact Fisherman's Post at (910) 452-6378 or trail@fishermanspost.com.