2026 STAFFORD TWP. PBA 297 STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, November 20,2026- Captains meeting will take place at the Beach Haven Moose Lodge, 120 NJ-72, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 at 7:00pm. Fishing will begin at 9:00pm on Friday November 20, 2026 and end at 3:00pm on Saturday, November 21, 2026. Video training will be provided at the meeting. At least one person from each boat is **required** to attend the training.

Saturday, November 21, 2026- Weigh-ins begin at 1:00pm and end at 5:00pm AT&T. Fishing ends (lines out) at 3:00pm. The official weigh station is located at St. Mary of the Pines Community Center, 100 Bishop Lane, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. Anglers must be in line with the fish by 5:00pm. No exceptions.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee is $200 per boat. The registration fee includes up to four anglers. An additional two anglers (totaling a maximum of six per boat) can be added for $75.00 per additional angler. All persons aboard a boat must be registered.

SCORING

There will be **4** categories for teams to accrue points. Each category will allow for a maximum of **6** striped bass. All fish **must** be video verified in order to receive points. A tie breaker in points will be the team with the longest recorded fish.

28" to less than 31" inches (2 points per fish with a maximum of 12 points)

31" to less than 38" inches (3 points per fish with a maximum of 18 points)

38" to less than 45" inches (4 points per fish with a maximum of 24 points)

45" and above (5 points per fish with a maximum of 30 points)

BONUS POINTS

The team with the heaviest legal striped bass weighed in.

1st heaviest fish 8 bonus points
2nd heaviest fish 6 bonus points
3rd heaviest 4 bonus points

TOURNAMENT PRIZES

Combined points (Tournament Champion)
1st place $1,000
2nd place $850
3rd place $650
4th place $500

Heaviest Striped Bass
28-31 inches
1st place $500

Top Lady Angler (Most points)

Top Junior Angler (17 or below) (Most points)

*Prizes are based on a minimum of 50 boats and will be adjusted if the minimum is not met.

CALCUTTA

Calcutta #1

$100 entry for heaviest striped bass

1st place – 70%
2nd place-30%

Calcutta #2

$100 entry for heaviest bluefish
1st place- 100%

Calcutta #3

$250 entry for the top striped bass stringer (two fish, combined weight)
1st Place 70%
2nd Place 30%

***Those participating in Calcutta #3 must weigh their first fish for the heaviest striped bass prize. The second fish will qualify for the Calcutta entry in.**

Calcutta #4

$200 entry for the team with the most points
1st Place 70%
2nd Place 30%

RULES

1. All anglers must possess a valid New Jersey saltwater fishing registry as required by applicable New Jersey rules.
2. Fishing begins 9:00pm Friday, November 20, 2026 and ends (lines out) at 3:00pm Saturday, November 21, 2026. Weigh-ins will be Saturday from 1:00pm and conclude at 5:00pm. All time is based on AT&T time.
3. All fish must be caught on the registered captain's boat and by rod and reel.
4. Only one fish per boat will be eligible for the heaviest striped bass prize.

5. Each captain may register and fish from one boat only. Registered anglers may fish on one registered boat only.
6. Fish will be measured with a closed mouth, squeezing the tail to determine overall length. The measurement used will be the greatest straight-line length from the tip of the jaw to the farthest point on the tail. The ruler will be placed on a flat surface and the fish will be placed on top of the tape. The ruler will be provided at the captains meeting.
7. Official weigh in station will be St. Mary of the Pines Community Center, 100 Bishop Lane, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
8. All fishing must comply with applicable federal and New Jersey fishing laws and regulations, including striped bass size, possession, gear, and harvest requirements.
9. Any angler or boat found violating tournament rules may be disqualified. Tournament officials' decisions on eligibility, scoring, video verification, and rule interpretation are final, and will be made by the tournament committee.
10. Fishing is limited to inshore waters within three miles of the beach. North boundary Manasquan inlet, South boundary Lucy the Elephant (Margate), west boundary Garden State Parkway.
11. Fish must be presented to the official scale and judged under the event's measurement and eligibility rules. Any weight dispute must be raised with the judge while the fish is still on the scale.
12. Captains agree to donate weighed fish for the event's fish fry.
13. In the event of a tie for weight, the first fish weighed in will be the winner.
14. All fish must be hooked and fished by one angler, no passing off of the rod.

Video Verification

• Video evidence is required for every striped bass submitted. This includes catch and release fish as well as fish that will be weighed.
• Record on an iPhone or Android device with date, time, and location services enabled.
• Ensure phones are working and charged prior to fishing.
• Recording must be done from the beginning of measurement through the release of the fish. While recording, the fish and ruler must be clearly shown throughout the entire measurement. Continue recording through the release of the fish or placement of the fish in the boat if it is being kept.
• Upload videos to the app by the deadline (5:00 pm AT&T Saturday, November 21, 2026). Videos will be times stamped with time and location fish was caught.
• Incomplete or unclear video may disqualify the fish. The committee will decide any question that may arise regarding the video quality of a fish.
***Video training will be provided at the captains meeting, at least one member from each team must attend the training.**

Polygraph

• Cash-prize recipients may be required to submit to a polygraph at the tournament committee's discretion.
• Failure to take a required polygraph, or a failed polygraph where the event rules specify that consequence, may result in forfeiture of cash prizes associated with the boat's placement and other stated penalties.
• For a discrepancy, the complainant should first contact the tournament committee during weigh-in.
• A complaint concerning fish weight must be raised while the fish remains on the scale.

Striped Bass Tournament Committee

If a discrepancy arises, the complainant should first contact the Tournament Committee of the Striped Bass Tournament. They will be available during all weigh-in times at St. Mary of the Pines, 100 Bishop Lane, Manahawkin, NJ.

If there continues to be a disagreement, the committee will meet with the interested parties and hear the complaint. The complainant will then leave the meeting and the committee will render a binding decision. The complainant will be made aware of their decision within one hour.

Any discrepancy with regard to the weight of the fish must be registered with the judge while the fish is on the scale. Once the fish has been removed from the scale, that weight will become official.

The Striped Bass Tournament will be a rain or shine event. The decision to fish or when to rest will be the decision of the boats and their captains. In the event of severe weather, the Striped Bass Tournament committee will decide on the possibility of postponing the event. This decision would be made before 9 pm on Friday, November 20, 2026.