

# Kayak Tournament Rules

Rule #1- The most important rule of all- Respect your fellow anglers, Respect the law, and protect the waters and environment that we fish.

- Catch Photo Release. All tournaments will be CPR using the TourneyX tournament management system.
- Longest 5 fish will determine your final score. Each fish can only be submitted once during an event.
  - Ketch Co brand measuring boards are the only measuring devices allowed.
  - Fish must be hooked in the mouth or jaw. It may not appear to have snagged, snatched, or hooked only in the body or a fin. If hooked in the mouth, a second treble hook that snags a gill plate, fin, or body is considered incidental and does not eliminate that fish
  - Fish must be alive. If fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged, or it appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, the photo will be denied. This will be up to the Tournament Director's discretion.
  - All fish submitted for score must be caught live by the Competitor who submits them for scoring using only equipment and legal methods that comply with all sportfishing statutes and regulations of the states and body of water in which they are taken. Competitors are responsible for research of and compliance with all applicable fishing and boating regulations. Snatching or

snagging fish is not permitted. When visually fishing a bed for spawning bass, to be admissible all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

- All fish must be caught by the Competitor on rod, reel, line and hook with artificial lures only. No traps, snares, set lines or other methods of fishing other than rod, reel and line are permissible, even if legal under state game laws. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
- Before and during the event, competitors may
  - share gear, tackle and equipment
  - assist in photographing a fish for submission
  - communicate with and fish in proximity to other people, including other Competitors.
  - Competitors may not receive assistance in catching fish that are photographed and submitted for scoring, including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the Event
- Identifier code may be printed, or written on anything as long as it is visible in the live photo of the fish.
- Fish may not be tied to, or attached to the Ketch board in any way. Hands are allowed to hold the fish down. No fish grips or other restraints allowed while photographing fish.
- Photographs of fish must be unaltered in any way. No screenshots or video stills are allowed.
- Hands may not touch the Caudal (tail) fin in the photo.

- Hands may not go under the gill plate in photos.
- Hands may not cover the eye of the fish.
- Fish's mouth must be clearly visible touching the fence of the measuring board.
- Fish's mouth must be closed. If open more than ¼" there will be a penalty deduction of 1" from the length.
- Photographs of fish must be taken from inside of the kayak.
- Fish must be facing to the left, with the belly of the fish towards your belly.
- Photos must be clear and in focus so the judge can clearly see the correct measurement.
- GPS location settings must be turned on for TourneyX.
- Minimum Length Requirement -

*\*Length limits for eligible Bass species are determined by the governing body of each fishery unless Tournament Director communicates otherwise*

- If an angler's photo is denied or penalized, they are allowed to delete that submission and submit a better photo if they have it. This must be done before the photo submission time deadline.
- The Photo submission deadline will be listed on TourneyX as well as discussed in each captains meeting prior to the tournament. All photos must be submitted by this deadline.
- No photos will be accepted that are time stamped after the competition end time. Once competition ends, anglers will have time to get to cell service and upload the pics from the day, up until the photo

submission deadline. \*Time deadlines will be at the top of the hour. For example if the deadline is 3:00pm no photo shall be accepted after 3:00.00pm.

1. Scoring of fish. Fish length is determined by its caudal fin (tail fin) touching or crossing the manufacturer's quarter-inch mark (e.g., ridges, grooves) on the measuring board. If it falls short of a 1/4-inch factory mark, the length is rounded down to the next lower 1/4-inch mark that the bass' caudal fin actually touches or crosses. In reviewing photographs, judges will visualize as accurately as possible where a 1/4-inch factory mark would be if it extended the full width of a board and use that imaginary line to determine a fish's length.
2. Tie breakers
  - In the event of a tie for big bass, ties will be broken by who has the next largest fish.
  - In a tie for overall winner, ties will be broken by whoever has the biggest bass. If that is a tie it will go to the next largest fish, if all fish are a tie it will go to the earliest time submitted fish.
  - If a tie for Angler of the Year occurs the tie breaker will be total inches for the season.
- Species of bass to be targeted for competition
  - Species—For Competitions, only “black bass” are eligible for scoring. That designation includes the three most common species
  - Largemouth Bass – *Micropterus salmoides*,

- Smallmouth Bass – *Micropterus dolomieu*
  - Spotted or Kentucky Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus*)  
as well as other less well-known species or varieties:
  - Shoal Bass – *Micropterus cataactae*
  - Redeye Bass – *Micropterus coosae*
  - Suwannee Bass – *Micropterus notius*
  - Guadalupe Bass- *Micropterus treculi*
  - Bartram’s Bass – *Micropterus bartrami*
  - Alabama Spotted Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus*  
*henshalli*
  - Mean Mouth Bass – hybrid offspring of *M. dolomieu*  
and *M. punctulatus*
- Participation and eligibility for competition.
    - Membership is required to compete.
    - Professional Fishing Guides may register and compete in Events providing they do not guide-for-pay on Eligible Water within 30 days prior to the Event’s start-of-competition date.
    - Anglers may not solicit information, or use a guide on Eligible Water within 30 days prior to the Event’s start-of-competition date.
    - Anglers must have a valid fishing license.
    - Age requirements- 18+ years old. Minors 14-17 may compete with parental consent and/or adult supervision(Contact the TD for approval).
    - Event Registration — All competitions are conducted using a Tournament Management System ([TourneyX](#))

Each angler who wishes to participate in such an event must create a free TourneyX user account before the first day of competition, and must sign up for the Event and pay the entry fee on TourneyX.

- Each angler must set up a PayPal account. All winnings will be paid via PayPal.
- Once a year, each angler must fill out a waiver of liability form, located on the website.
- Cancellation policy- Anglers needing to cancel can get a refund, minus the PayPal fees and the Admin fees of \$10. Once the event has begun, no refunds will be issued.
- Captains Meeting Participation —Tournament Competitors are required to attend an on-site Captains Meeting or view a recorded “Virtual” Captains Meeting Webcast, as stipulated on TourneyX. Failure to either view a Virtual Captains Meeting or attend an on-site Captains Meeting results in a Competitor’s disqualification from the Event.
- Anglers must abide by each state’s laws.
- Prefishing/Off Limits period
  1. Off limits period- Competition waters are off limits for a period of 10 days before Official Practice period begins. Anglers may not fish on competition waters by any means during this time.
  2. The Official 6-day Practice period begins at 6:00am the Saturday prior to the tournament date. Practice period will end at 6:00pm the day before competition begins. Anglers must abide by

tournament rules while pre-fishing and scouting during the practice period.

- Approved water craft
  1. Kayaks
  2. Canoes
  3. Inflatable SUPs, rafts, and other small water craft 4' wide or less can be allowed pending TD approval for safety.
    - Electric motors are allowed. 3HP max thrust allowed.
- Boundaries and competition area
  1. Anglers must launch from a public access on the designated body of water.
  2. Anglers must launch within the boundaries set forth by the TD prior to the event. Maps with these boundaries can be viewed on the website.
  3. Anglers must launch no earlier than the time designated by the TD prior to each event.
  4. Once launched an angler may paddle/pedal/power/pole as far as they can float the kayak to, without portaging over dry land or leaving the kayak to traverse a natural or man-made obstacle. Anglers may travel as far up a creek as they can legally go, but must return in bounds to take out.
  5. Anglers may load up and drive to a new spot, and relaunch at a public access during competition hours.

6. Anglers must remain inside the kayak during competition. Anglers may take breaks and leave the kayak but fishing must cease.
  7. Wade fishing and shoreline fishing is NOT allowed.
  8. Mothershipping is not allowed.
- Safety
    1. During competition, every Competitor must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment, (e.g., light source, whistle or other audible signal device, Coast Guard-approved, chest-type life preserver [PFD]). See [www.uscgboating.org/](http://www.uscgboating.org/).
    2. Coast Guard approved PFD must be worn at all times during competition. Competitor assumes responsibility for all consequences of removing his PFD. Competitor may cease competition and remove the PFD while his watercraft is beached, anchored or adrift only if doing so creates no unsafe condition. Competitor must put on and securely fasten the PFD before going underway or resuming competition.
    3. Angler's kayaks must be in compliance with all state and federal law.
    4. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any Competitor during an Event will not be tolerated and will be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in watercraft during competition days. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or



other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a tournament, and/or disqualification from a tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the board of reviews.

5. In the event of an emergency call 911

6. Weather

a) Tournaments will not cancel due to foul weather, unless there is a major safety issue. These major issues are lightening, high winds, and tornadoes. The TD will send out word to all competitors via text and email in the event of a cancelation or severe weather threat while on the water.

b) Anglers should be aware of the weather forecast and pack the appropriate gear.

c) The Tournament Director has the right to postpone or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of adverse weather conditions or other factors that would jeopardize Competitors' safety. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

7. Proper safety lights

- a) All anglers launching before sunrise must have a light that is visible from all directions. A 360 degree pole light is recommended.
  - b) Electric powered water craft must have red/green navigation lights on the bow per Coast Guard regulations.
- **Competitor Conduct** — Competitors participating in any event must observe the applicable rules for the Competition and must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects favorably on the sport of kayak bass fishing, tournaments or sponsors. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, integrity, safety and conservation in support of the sport of kayak bass fishing, especially when in the vicinity of non-Competitors who may be on or beside Eligible Water. Any Competitor who violates these principles, intentionally violates Competition Rules or regulations (attempts to commit fraud) or behaves in ways that reflect unfavorably upon the efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may forfeit tournament winnings, face suspension from future events, be permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate.
- **Disputes and Appeals-** If a Competitor wishes to dispute a rules violation penalty, a judge's scoring decision, a Tournament Director's decision or other action that materially affected the Competitor's ranking or prize eligibility, he must submit a dispute within 24 hour (one full day) following completion of Event judging. Except for situations involving fraud or other law violation, any disputes submitted after the 24-hour dispute deadline will be reviewed without affecting the outcome of an event. No change in rank or reward will result from disputes

**submitted after the deadline. Only Competitors in the Event where the disputed action occurred may submit disputes. Disputes must be handled privately. All parties directly involved will be provided a copy of the dispute. A \$25 application fee must be paid by the person filing the dispute. If the angler wins the dispute and the panel over turns the ruling, the money will be refunded minus the PayPal fees. The Tournament Director (for judge's rulings) or Review Board (for Tournament Director rulings) will review the Competitor's claims, thoroughly investigate the disputed decision, and issue a ruling.**

- Waiver forms must be completed before competition
  - a) By registering for each tournament, the Competitor grants the right to use all photographs, likenesses, stories, accounts, details of Competitor contributions, exploits, interviews, bloopers, and information pertinent to the tournament, as well as any video footage, photographs gathered at the Event, for marketing and promotional purposes. This release is granted without expectation for additional compensation upon submission of Event Registration.
  - b) **Waiver and Release of Liability** — As a condition of participation in a Competition, and by virtue of registering for the Competition, each Competitor agrees to accept the terms and condition of the Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement located on the website. This Agreement absolves officers, staff, and volunteers from responsibility and threat of litigation in the case of injury, loss, or death sustained by a Competitor in the Event. Registrants under the age of 18 must have their waiver/release form signed by the parent or adult guardian. Anglers under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Waiver forms must be completed

before the event, any infraction could lead to a Disqualification from the event.

- **Taxes** — Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards. Failure to meet those obligations may result in disqualification from all future events and delays in payments. All prize recipients must fill out and submit a substitute IRS Form W-9 including name, address, social security number, signature and date. These are used to prepare IRS 1099 forms for distribution in January.
- **Tournament director is Joshua Boothe.** Cell # is 417-499-1043. Email address is moyakfishingseries@gmail.com.