



## Official Rules of Competition

Updated 02/01/2023

### 1. RULES AND PENALTIES:

- a. The following rules shall apply to all Bass Cast Kayak Bass Series (BCKBS) tournaments, with the following exceptions:
  - i. Rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and
  - ii. These rules may be changed by the BCKBS board immediately upon notice by BCKBS to its members, which notice may be published on the BCKBS internet site at [TheBassCast.com](http://TheBassCast.com).
- b. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee or the BCKBS board shall be final in all matters.
- c. **Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by BCKBS, and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in the BCKBS tournaments, rules violations must be reported immediately to tournament officials within 24 hours of the final check-in on the day of the alleged violation.**
- d. Penalties for rules violations may include the following:
  - i. Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
  - ii. Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations. Disqualification from the tournament in question.
  - iii. Disqualification from future BCKBS events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time or may be a lifetime disqualification.
  - iv. Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including, but not limited to, monetary fines and/or reduction of points toward championship qualification.
- e. All federal, state, and local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed. Violation of any laws may be cause for disqualification.
- f. All violations of laws will be turned over to the proper authorities for investigation and possible prosecution.
  - i. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, harassment, wildlife violations, illegal drug use and any other illegal activity.

## **2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

- a. Participation in this tournament is open to anglers of all ages. Anglers under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tournament directors and photo judges are ineligible to compete.
- b. All competitions are conducted using TourneyX®. Each angler who wishes to participate in such an event must create a free TourneyX user account before the first day of the competition.
- c. **REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED IN TOURNEYX ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE.**
- d. The registration deadline for a particular event will be at 5 p.m. one (1) day before the official start of the event, local time of the event headquarters. Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and the right to extend acceptance date.
- e. Any person under the age of majority in the state in they reside entering a tournament must also have permission and a signed release from a parent or legal guardian.

## **3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:**

- a. Practice in eligible water is permitted up to 12 hours prior to the start of each event unless otherwise designated by BCKBS.
- b. All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the state in which the tournament is taking place.
- c. All competition must be done in a vessel in accordance with Section 8 ("Kayak Regulation"). If kayaks are legally licensed, electric motors will be permitted. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply may result in disqualification or suspension of motor use.
- d. Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is NOT permitted for any reason, except with permission from the Tournament Director.

## **4. SOLICITATION OF INFORMATION:**

- a. The purchasing of, or bartering for, information from anyone for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including, but not limited to, GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services within 30 days of the event is prohibited.
- b. Quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are NOT publicly available sources.
- c. During official tournament hours (First Launch through Lines Out) contestants may not share information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. This includes electronically or by mouth. Anglers can communicate to fellow anglers verbally on how to respectfully share an area that all parties are utilizing.
- d. During tournament hours (First Launch through Lines Out) a mobile device may not be used to speak to someone in or outside of the tournament about tournament waters, fishing strategies, techniques, etc.
- e. Any questions or concerns about tournament rules, exception requests, or violations need to be communicated with BCKBS staff immediately to be considered.

## **5. PRE-TOURNAMENT (RULES) MEETING:**

- a. It is mandatory that all contestants attend the pre-tournament Captain's Meeting or view the recording of the meeting in its entirety prior to the start of the tournament.

## **6. SAFETY**

- a. Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each competitor is required to wear a fastened chest-type U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during tournament hours. PFD MUST BE VISIBLE and worn on top of your clothing.
- b. It is recommended that all kayaks be equipped with an emergency whistle and a 360-degree light or installed LEDs that are visible from all angles.
- c. It is suggested that all competitors perform a safety check prior to each day's competition.
- d. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- e. Competitors are expected to use sound judgment and are accountable for his/her own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation (i.e., lightning, excessive wind, pleasure boaters, hunters, etc.).
- f. **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- g. **Anglers must use the check-in/check-out feature on TourneyX. Anglers that have not check-in/out by the assigned deadline risk disqualification from the event and associated loss of AOY points for that event.**
- h. **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE KAYAK AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

## **7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- a. Competitors in BCKBS tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed a cause for disqualification.
- b. Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future BCKBS tournaments.
- c. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of noncompetitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, may lead to disqualification.
- d. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish.
  - i. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations, or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.
- e. Anglers participating in any BCKBS-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers and family members of anglers shall at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on BCKBS, its officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

- f. The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in BCKBS events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document:
  - i. Heated public disagreements with BCKBS officials, other competitors, and volunteers during an event.
  - ii. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of BCKBS rules or officials.
  - iii. Public comments that an angler or family members knows or should reasonably know will harm the reputation of BCKBS, BCKBS officials and its sponsors.
  - iv. Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition or the event, where members of the public, including other anglers, their family members, or spectators are present.
  - v. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
  - vi. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors, or others connected with a BCKBS event, including comments on social media.
  - vii. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural, or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
  - viii. Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete (for example, working with a noncompetitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours).
- g. Any disqualification, suspension, or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a BCKBS tournament.
- h. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings and suspension from competing in individual BCKBS-sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by BCKBS.
- i. Competitors are required to have all licenses and permits required on the tournament waters in which they fish.

## **8. KAYAK REGULATION:**

- a. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor. (See electric motor restrictions, below in Subsection 8(ii).)
- b. Unless specifically prohibited, the use of electric motors in competition is approved with the following restrictions:
  - i. Electric motor must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation.
  - ii. An electric motor used to propel a watercraft needs to meet some of these criteria or be approved by a BCKBS official:
    - 1. Manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity
    - 2. 3 HP
    - 3. 155 foot-pounds of thrust
- c. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric- propulsion watercraft registration, use and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
- d. No more than one electric motor may be attached to a kayak regardless of combined horsepower/thrust/power rating.
- e. Motors with dual props operated by a single power source are permissible as long as the unit is manufactured and sold as a single unit.

- f. Vessel must be 9 feet minimum and shorter than 18 feet.
- g. Vessel that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks, stand-up paddle boards (SUP) and canoes.
- h. Other watercraft must be specifically approved as exceptions in advance of competition by BCKBS Management.
- i. Catamaran-style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible
- j. No "homemade" kayaks, sailboats, johnboats, pirogues, coracles, rowboats, dinghies, skiffs, float tubes, inflatable rafts, or rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac), pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft or similar.
- k. The use of a manual or motorized anchor system is permitted.
- l. Mother shipping, tethering/holding or any transportation coordination with a noncompetitor is strictly prohibited unless transporting youth under 12 years of age or approved by BCKBS officials due to an emergency.
- m. By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their kayak to an inspection by BCKBS personnel.

## **9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

- a. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler out of their vessel.
- b. All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- c. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits.
- d. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are allowed and are only limited by the laws within the state where the competitors are fishing.
- e. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- f. Each cast must be completed before another cast is allowed, and there can never be more than one lure from one rod actively fishing in the water at any time.
- g. Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed. Long lining and drifting with current/wind are allowed.
- h. All bass caught while sight fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- i. No fish are to be kept on stringers. Fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.

## **10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

- a. Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for individual events.
- b. Contestants will be provided with official boundaries and restrictions specific to each event. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
- c. Competitors may launch from any public-access shore directly onto Eligible Water or may launch and then paddle or portage to Eligible Water. Crossing restricted property to reach Eligible Water is not permitted. Tributaries, canals, sloughs or estuaries separated from the rest of eligible water by temporary obstructions (e.g., fallen trees, log jams, beaver dams) that, if removed, could be entered by floating/paddling are considered eligible waters in which competition is permitted, and competitors are permitted to drag or portage watercraft over or around such obstructions. Those separated by obstructions of a permanent nature (e.g., levees, earthen or concrete dams, berms, roadbeds, spillways, waterfalls) are ineligible water, and competition in such areas is prohibited unless otherwise noted in the tournament description. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

- i. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs, or digging access trenches/ditches, and/or the removal of official local, state, or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by kayak is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament.
- d. Anglers can launch at more than one (1) legal location during a tournament day.
- e. Anglers do not have to take out where they launched as long as the take-out is also a legal launch unless there is an emergency communicated with the BCKBS staff.
- f. Ride coordination and shuttling are allowed.
- g. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public except areas posted or otherwise designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by BCKBS, commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials. Failure to do so will lead to a disqualification or loss of the fishing day.
- h. All fishing must be conducted from inside the kayak unless otherwise stated by tournament officials. Only an angler's arm or arms can extend into the water to help land a fish they hooked legally.
- i. Boats may never be tethered to buoys or safety signs.
- j. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a kayak into fishing waters is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
- k. Using any items, including the kayak or fishing line, to block an area off to other competitors or anglers is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.

## **11. SCORING:**

- a. Scoring is determined by length using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch increments of each contestant's catch during each tournament day via the "Catch, Photograph, and Release" (CPR) method.
- b. Each competitor will be provided with a unique identifier code for the tournament.
- c. The five longest verified lengths will be totaled for the angler's score.
- d. Officials will round down and to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.
- e. Only the Black Bass Species consisting of the following: Largemouth, Spotted, Guadalupe, Shoal and Smallmouth, and any hybrid of the above, are accepted species.
- f. All fish must measure a minimum of 8 inches. Bass submitted that fail to measure 8 inches with mouth completely closed will not be scored.
- g. A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.

## **12. MEASURING DEVICE:**

- a. All Ketch Products measuring boards are the official mandatory measuring devices for the BCKBS events and its subsidiaries.
- b. Contestants must bring their own measuring device.
- c. Your measuring device may be inspected by BCKBS staff at any time before, during or after the tournament.
- d. Anyone found to be using a measuring device that is determined to be not legal will be disqualified from the tournament.

**13. PHOTO CRITERIA:**

- a. While photos are to be submitted through TourneyX, anglers must be prepared to show original photos with metadata directly from their device at the request of tournament officials.
- b. Each fish photo must include all of the following criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification:
  - i. The entire Bass, from the tip of the lip to the end of the tail, on an approved measuring device, while in a tournament legal vessel.
  - ii. Pinching and holding of the tail is permitted.
  - iii. Lying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device.
  - iv. The mouth of the Bass must be CLOSED COMPLETELY.
  - v. The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board and will be measured to the longest point.
  - vi. The Bass must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler.
  - vii. Measuring device markings must be clearly visible, including the actual numbers.
  - viii. Assigned unique identifier must be visible.
  - ix. One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at an angle).
  - x. Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook. Failure to comply will lead to fish being disqualified.
  - xi. Lip, eye, and tail end cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
  - xii. Hand and fingers must not be under the gill plate.
  - xiii. Original/Raw photo only. Screenshots, crops, duplicates, and edited photos will be disqualified.
  - xiv. If fish has a visible glossy eye or odd markings it is suggested the angler take video of that fish going from the board and actively swimming away.
  - xv. A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.
  - xvi. Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the BCKBS official's attention.
  - xvii. The quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.

**\*\*All criteria above must be met to avoid immediate penalty or disqualification \*\***

**14. SCORING PENALTIES:**

- a. Mouth cracked or slightly open:  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deduction
- b. Mouth open or no attempt to close: 1 inch deduction
- c. Lip or tail not touching board: No score

**15. ADVANCING TO THE BASS CAST KAYAK BASS SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (BCKBSC) and ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY) POINTS:**

- a. Anglers who register and pay for a minimum of four (4) BCKBS events will qualify for the BCKBSC regardless of whether they attend the event or attend but do not submit fish.
- b. Angler of the Year (AOY) is based on the total number of points accumulated during each event, with the two lowest scores dropped. The system awards 100 points to the winner of each tournament with a two (2) point decrease per position thereafter.

**16. TIES:**

- a. Ties will be broken by the longest fish, followed by the next-longest fish until all fish that are part of their limit have been accounted for. If a tie still exists, the tiebreaker will be based on the time stamp of when their longest fish was submitted, and so on, until resolved. If the tie still exists, the Tournament Director(s) will divide the cash prizes. AOY points will be awarded for the place of the tied position, and each competitor will be awarded equal points.
- b. At the BCKBSC, in case of a tie for overall champion at the end of the tournament, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. All other ties will be resolved by the tiebreakers listed above.
- c. Big bass ties will be broken by the next legal largest fish over all days of the tournament, and so on, until the tie has been resolved. If a tie still exists, the winner will be determined by earliest photo submitted of their largest fish.

**17. PROTESTS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES:**

- a. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification.
- b. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1 ("Rules and Penalties").
- c. Appeals must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director and will be reviewed by the BCKBS board.
  - i. If competitors admit to a rule violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules, or the penalty imposed for the violation.
  - ii. Decisions of the BCKBS board shall be final.

**18. WAIVER AND RELEASE:**

- a. As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, and a name and likeness release.