



Official Rules for Arizona Kayak Bass Anglers LLC an AZ B.A.S.S. Nation, Kayak Club

Updated: May 3, 2025. Effective: May 3, 2025.

Participation Agreement and Release of Liability

THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE VALID AND APPLICABLE TO ANY ANGLER SIGNING UP IN AN EVENT THROUGH TOURNEYX OR BY SIGNING THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO JOIN THE CLUB, ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO UPON COMPLETION OF TOURNEYX SIGN UP OR SUBMISSION OF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. A.K.B.A. AND ITS TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY APPLICATION FOR ANY REASON AND, UPON SUCH REJECTION, TO REFUND THE DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE.

P1. COMPLIANCE WITH RULES: By signing the Arizona Kayak Bass Anglers LLC, hereby referred to as "A.K.B.A.", membership application or by signing up into an A.K.B.A. event through TourneyX App you also certify that you are a member in good standing with B.A.S.S., AZ B.A.S.S. Nation, Kayak, and that you are physically fit, and that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude your participation in the tournament or tournament series, you agree to be bound by and comply with all Tournament Rules, the Code of Conduct, payment schedules and all other guidelines and regulations outlined in this document or otherwise communicated to you through official correspondence by A.K.B.A., B.A.S.S., or AZ B.A.S.S. Nation, Kayak, **YOU AGREE AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES IS THE SOLE RIGHT OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND THEIR APPOINTEES, YOU AGREE TO RESPECT AND ABIDE BY THEIR DECISIONS REGARDLESS OF YOUR OPINION.**

P2. RELEASE OF LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION

2.1. By signing the A.K.B.A. membership application or by signing up into a A.K.B.A. event through TourneyX you acknowledge receipt, understanding, and agree with the following: All information I provided on this application is accurate and true, any attempt to falsify information on this application can and will result in my immediate expulsion from the club; I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all official tournament rules, bylaws, codes of conduct, and other guidelines established by BASSMASTER, B.A.S.S. LLC, B.A.S.S. Nation, AZ B.A.S.S. Nation, Kayak, and Arizona Kayak Bass Anglers LLC; it is my responsibility as a member to maintain a current understanding of the rules, codes of conduct, bylaws and state regulations applicable to club events and activities; I understand my participation in club activities comes with **significant and potential risks, such as but not limited to, DROWNING, LIGHTNING STRIKES, COLLISION WITH OTHER WATERCRAFT, serious bodily injury, permanent paralysis, DEATH, and property damage and loss; I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others; I assume full responsibility for my participation; as consideration for the opportunity to participate in club events and activities, I, for myself, and on behalf of my heirs, assignees, personal representatives, and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARM-LESS BASSMASTER, B.A.S.S., its LLCs, B.A.S.S. events, B.A.S.S. Nation, its Member Clubs, AZ B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak, Arizona Kayak Bass Anglers LLC, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used for the activity collectively, "RELEASEES", OF ANY AND ALL LIABILITY AND DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, as a result of participation in club activities to any degree, to the fullest extent permitted by law.**

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY DURESS.

P3. GRANT OF RIGHTS

3.1. I hereby irrevocably grant permission to A.K.B.A., AZ B.A.S.S. Nation, Kayak, and B.A.S.S., and its affiliates and subsidiaries, the successors of each of the foregoing, and each of their respective agents, licensees and assigns and those acting under their permission or upon their authority (collectively, the "Licensees"), in perpetuity, a worldwide, nonexclusive, royalty-free, fully paid-up license to reproduce, display, exhibit, publish, broadcast, distribute and otherwise use, and permit others to use, my name, image, nickname, initials, symbols, likeness, signature, photograph, voice, statements, biographical material and all attributes of my personality and appearance (collectively, my "Identity") in materials created in connection with my participation in Tournament Series (collectively, the "Materials"), alone or with other materials, in connection with the promotion of B.A.S.S., LLC, and any tournaments or other events staged by B.A.S.S., in any and all manner and media now known or hereafter devised including, without limitation, in print, on television programs, on websites owned by or affiliated with the Licensees, on third-party websites, in social media channels, in public relations materials and for any lawful purpose in its sole discretion. During tournaments, I agree to comply with all filming promptly and fully, camera location and other rules, guidelines, and instructions of B.A.S.S.

3.2. I hereby warrant that I have the right to make this release and that my granting of this release and the rights conveyed thereby will not infringe the rights of any third party. I represent and warrant that I have or shall obtain any rights and permissions from all third parties sponsoring or affiliated with me needed by B.A.S.S. (the "Third Party Rights") to effectuate the grant of rights set forth in paragraph 3.1. These Third-Party Rights from sponsors and affiliates shall grant B.A.S.S. the right to utilize such third-party logos, insignias, trade dress or other intellectual property (collectively "Third Party IP") shown in any Materials featuring me, or otherwise in connection with B.A.S.S.'s use of my Identity as set forth in the paragraph. Provided that such Third-Party IP is only shown in conjunction with my Identity, (for example, on apparel worn by me or on items used by me), B.A.S.S. shall not be required to seek approvals from such Third Parties.

3.3. I acknowledge that the Licensees have no obligation to use the Materials or my Identity. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve any finished product or the use to which it is applied and I agree no further approval is required for the Licensees to use any Materials or my Identity and that the Licensees will not be liable to me for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the exhibition, publication or broadcast of the Materials or my Identity. I acknowledge and agree that no further payment or consideration will be due to me for B.A.S.S.'s use of the Materials or my Identity as authorized herein.

3.4. I acknowledge that all rights, titles, and interests to the Materials, including without limitation all copyrights and trademark rights, shall be the sole and exclusive property of B.A.S.S. and that B.A.S.S. has the unlimited right throughout the universe to edit, modify and otherwise use such Materials. With regard to the Licensees' exploitation of the rights granted hereunder, I, on behalf of myself and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby irrevocably: (a) release, discharge and waive all claims, demands, losses and liabilities of any nature against the Licensees that I, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns had, now have or hereafter may have, including, but not limited to, claims copyright infringement, defamation, disparagement, slander, false light, violation of the right of privacy or publicity, or the like, and (b) covenant not to make any claims against any of the Licensees.

3.5. During tournaments, and subject to compliance with B.A.S.S. guidelines, B.A.S.S. hereby grants to the undersigned Angler, the right to create, use and publish Angler-created materials ("Angler Materials"), such as still photos and video shot by Angler, on Angler's website and social media channels. Angler may also live stream during a tournament, except when Bassmaster LIVE has a camera in Angler's boat. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to revoke this permission at any time if B.A.S.S. at its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates other B.A.S.S. rules. Angler must remove such content within two (2) hours of notification.

P4. LEGAL

4.1 Truth Verification Test. By registering and signing up in any A.K.B.A. tournament, Angler agrees to submit to a truth verification test at any time and abide by its conclusion.

4.2 Communication. The Angler must provide A.K.B.A. or B.A.S.S. with a current email address. Angler agrees that delivery of any notice, communication, guideline, or instruction to Angler via email shall constitute notice to Angler and shall comply with any notice requirements set forth herein. Angler must also provide a personal cell number capable of receiving text messages from A.K.B.A or B.A.S.S.

4.3. Governing Law, Venue and Jurisdiction. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in all respects in accordance with the substantive laws of the state of Arizona, without regard to its choice of law and/or conflicts of law principles. I irrevocably agree that any disputes directly or indirectly arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved exclusively in the state or federal courts located in Maricopa County, Arizona. I hereby irrevocably consent to such venue and to the exclusive jurisdiction of any such court over any such dispute.

4.4. Miscellaneous. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision herein. This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous oral and/or written representations, discussions, negotiations, understandings and/or agreements relating to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may not be modified except by an instrument in writing signed by both parties. In signing this document, I am not relying on any promises, representations or other statements that are not contained in this Agreement.

4.5. Electronic Signature. The execution of this document by electronic mail or by any other electronic or digital means shall be deemed to constitute effective execution of this document. Any signature transmitted by facsimile, email or other electronic or digital means including TourneyX app shall be deemed an original signature for all purposes.

4.6 Requirement for Consent of Parent or Guardian. If I am under the age of majority in the state in which I reside, I understand that I must have the consent of my parent or guardian to participate in the tournament series. I agree to provide accurate and complete information to A.K.B.A. or B.A.S.S. to facilitate A.K.B.A. or B.A.S.S.'s efforts to secure such consent. I acknowledge that my failure to provide accurate information or secure consent from my parent or guardian may result in my disqualification from the Tournament or Tournament Series.

I UNDERSTAND I MUST READ THIS AGREEMENT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT, AND THAT IF I AM UNDER THE AGE OF MAJORITY IN THE STATE IN WHICH I RESIDE, I MUST OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT. MY REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL A.K.B.A. or B.A.S.S. ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT, RECEIVES THE CONSENT OF MY PARENT OR GUARDIAN (IF APPLICABLE), AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY MY PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT SERIES OR ANY COMPONENT THEREOF FOR ANY REASON AND, UPON SUCH DENIAL, TO REFUND THE DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE. I ATTEST THAT I HAVE READ AND HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES. I UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH CONTAINS LIABILITY AND OTHER RELEASE LANGUAGE, I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS. I HAVE VOLUNTARILY SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT.

OFFICIAL RULES OF COMPETITION

These rules are for interpretation and enforcement by the Tournament Directors, and their appointees only. These rules will be used to govern fair play, clean competition, and sportsmanship. It is every competitor's individual responsibility to maintain a current awareness, understanding, and adherence to the rules.

1. RULES AND PENALTIES:

- (1) The following rules shall apply to all A.K.B.A. Kayak tournaments, with the following exceptions:
 - (a) Rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein.
 - (b) These rules may be changed by A.K.B.A. immediately upon notice by A.K.B.A. to its members. Notice may be published on the A.K.B.A. internet site at <https://azkayakbassanglers.wixsite.com/akba/> or the AZ B.A.S.S. Nation, Kayak Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/588507936328434/> or the description of any event on the TourneyX sign up page, or virtual or in person Captains Meeting for any event.
- (2) Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or their appointee at any given tournament.
- (3) In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director, or their appointees, or A.K.B.A. Officials, may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fees and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in Section 17 ("Truth Verification Test") below, the decision of the Tournament Director, their appointee, or the rules committee shall be final in all matters.
- (4) Rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 24 hours of the end of competition on the day of the alleged violation.**
 - (a) Reporting must be done via email directly to the Tournament Director.**
- (5) Penalties for rules violations may include the following:
 - (a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
 - (b) Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations.
 - (c) Disqualification from the tournament in question.
 - (d) Disqualification from future A.K.B.A. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period or may be a lifetime disqualification.
 - (e) 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, disqualification of fish, and deduction of fish length.
- (6) All federal, state, and local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed. Violation of any laws may be cause for disqualification.
- (7) All violations of laws will be turned over to the proper authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, harassment, wildlife violations, illegal drug use and any other illegal activity.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- (1) Participation in A.K.B.A. tournament is open only to current members of A.K.B.A. who are 16 years of age or older and in good standing.
- (2) All competitions are conducted using TourneyX® App. Each angler who wishes to participate in such an event must create a free TourneyX user account before the registration deadline of the event they wish to participate in.
- (3) ALL ANGLERS MUST PROPERLY COMPLETE OFFICIAL ENTRY THROUGH THE TOURNEYX APP ON OR BEFORE THE ENTRY DEADLINE DATE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPETITION. The registration deadline for a particular event will be stated in the description of each event on the TourneyX App.
- (4) ENTRY FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE AND NONTRANSFERABLE REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF THE CANCELLATION ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN A TOURNAMENT.
- (5) Tournament entry fees must be paid upon signup through the TourneyX App. and received by the tournament management on or before the entry deadline date. Anglers who are on the waiting list will be refunded the entry fee if they have not been confirmed by the entry deadline in the tournament for which they registered.
- (6) A.K.B.A. may request the completion of a W-9 and, when required, a FORM 590 or W-8 BEN provided by A.K.B.A. If tax status or address changes occur, new forms must be submitted prior to participation in the next A.K.B.A. event.
- (7) The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and the right to extend the acceptance date.
- (8) Any person considered a minor in the state in which they reside, must also have permission and a signed release from a parent or legal guardian before signing up in a tournament.

3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE, AND COMPETITION:

- (1) There will be no Off-Limits period unless otherwise designated by Tournament Director, their designee, or A.K.B.A. staff.
- (2) The official practice period will begin at safe light the Monday prior to each event and conclude at sunset the day before the start of competition. All anglers must be off the water by sunset the day prior to each event. In the case of un-safe circumstances, the Tournament Director or his/her designee may alter or change the practice period at any time as deemed necessary by them.
- (3) Special practice times may be implemented for special events such as Championships or Team events.
- (3) During the Official Practice A.K.B.A. Anglers are allowed to be on tournament waters with immediate family members (spouse/significant other, father, mother, or children) so long as the competitor does not solicit (solicit meaning "ask for") any waypoints or fishing locations from the family member. Pre-fishing with non-competitors is not allowed & could result in a penalty or disqualification. Camera crew(s) are suggested to be coordinated with the Tournament Director and cannot use fishing gear or scanning electronics during shoots or help anglers gain access to knowledge.
- (4) In Multiple day tournaments Competitors are not allowed on tournament waters following the completion of Day 1 until Earliest Launch on the next day of competition. Scouting in new waters after fishing ends on Day 1 is not allowed. Anglers are expected to immediately proceed back in a safe and timely manner to their perspective take-out once fishing ends on Day 1.
- (5) All practice during official practice and competition must be done in a vessel in accordance with Section 8 ("Kayak Regulation"). If kayaks are legally registered with the state of its owner's residence, electric motors will be permitted. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from tournament or suspension of motor use.
- (6) 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.
- (7) All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters or state in which the tournament is taking place.
- (8) If witnessed, each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. **Failure to report violations or suggesting to another competitor that they have violated these rules without notifying the Tournament Director first, or false verification of information may result in a disqualification.**
- (9) **All official protests must be filed in writing in accordance with Rule 1. All parties of interest will be provided with a copy.**

4. SOLICITATION OF INFORMATION:

- (1) 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 is not permitted during the OFFICIAL PRACTICE period through the conclusion of the tournament. Solicit "to ask for".
- (2) Any use of or communication with a guide or guide services, directly or indirectly, pertaining to tournament waters during official practice period is prohibited, unless communication is publicly available and free.
- (3) 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 considered publicly available sources.
- (4) For multi-day events, once tournament officials determine daily cuts, competitors not making the cut are no longer considered in the tournament and may not be solicited for information.
- (5) On the water verbal communication between competitors is allowed. Verbal communication after lines out is allowed, but subject to the restrictions of rule 4(3).
- (6) During Official Practice, anglers cannot buy, solicit "ask for", gather or intentionally receive any information for purpose of catching or locating fish from anyone other than another competitor in the tournament.
- (7) During tournament hours (First Launch through Lines Out) a mobile device may not be used to speak to competitors or non-competitors about tournament waters, fishing strategies, techniques, etc. The device can be used for A.K.B.A. staff communication, social media updates, safety checks, ride coordination and/or work and family urgent situations/emergencies.
 - (a) Except for with a teammate in a team event.
- (8) **Any questions or concerns about tournament rules or violations need to be communicated with A.K.B.A. staff directly, asap, preferably in writing.**

5. PRE-TOURNAMENT (RULES) MEETING:

- (1) A pre-tournament meeting, virtual or otherwise, may deemed mandatory to attend or watch by the Tournament Director for any given tournament.
- (2) If a pre-tournament meeting, virtual or otherwise, is not being deemed mandatory, it is highly encouraged that all contestants watch or attend the pre-tournament meeting prior to the tournament.
- (3) Important information may convey in such meetings and competitors may be liable for any rule infractions because of information conveyed in meeting as per rule 1(1)(b).

6. SAFETY:

- (1) All safety rules must be observed; any violation may be subject to the Tournament Directors digression in disqualification from the tournament. Multiple safety violations may result in the banning from future A.K.B.A. tournaments.
- (2) Safe boating practices must be always observed. It is suggested that all competitors perform a safety check prior to launch of each day's competition.
- (3) During the official practice and competition, each competitor is required to wear a fastened chest-type U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD), while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak.
 - (a) Inflatable and non-inflatable belt-type PFDs are not allowed.
- (4) PFD MUST BE SECURED, FASTENED, and VISIBLE.
 - (a) PFD must be worn on top of your clothing.
 - (b) Any infraction may be deemed grounds for disqualification.
- (6) All competition vessels must be equipped with an emergency whistle.
- (7) In all dark or low light situations all competition vessels must be equipped with a white stern light visible from 360-degrees. Visibility flags are recommended.
- (8) All competition vessels registered with a motor must have red and green bow lights equipped when on the water in any dark or low light situations and adhere to all the state and local regulations that apply.
- (9) All competition vessels must have a paddle as part of its basic equipment, even if another form of propulsion is being used.
- (10) At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- (11) 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.)
- (12) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- (13) 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:

- (1) Competitors in A.K.B.A. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, professionalism, courtesy, safety, social grace, and conservation. All A.K.B.A. members and staff are considered ambassadors of the club and sport and should be mindful of our public image and the impact it may have on our community and those in observance of us as we conduct our tournaments. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed as cause for disqualification.
- (2) All competitors must treat their fellow competitors, and the public with respect and dignity. Any disputes with fellow anglers, regarding competition, rules violations, or otherwise, must be brought directly to the Tournament Director or appointed staff to be resolved peacefully, and professionally.**
- (3) Use of alcohol or the use of illegal drugs (other than drugs deemed as medication, purchased over the counter, or prescribed by a licensed physician), by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, is prohibited. Any violation of rule 7(3) shall be cause for disqualification.
- (4) No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the competition vessel during the official practice or competition days. Any violation of rule 7(4) shall be cause for disqualification.
- (5) Maximum courtesy must be always practiced, especially regarding boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors 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.
- (5) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. 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.
- (6) Anglers participating in any A.K.B.A.-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 always conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff, and the public and do not reflect unfavorably on A.K.B.A., its members, officers, representatives, tournaments, or sponsors.
- (7) Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.
- (8) The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in A.K.B.A. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document:**
 - (a) Heated public disagreements with A.K.B.A. officials, other competitors, fans, and volunteers during an event.**
 - (b) Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of A.K.B.A. or B.A.S.S. rules or officials.**
 - (c) Public comments that an angler or family member knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of A.K.B.A. or B.A.S.S., their members, their officials, or sponsors.**

- (d) Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition or the event, when members of the public, including other anglers, spectators, and the media, are present.
 - (e) Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
 - (f) Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a A.K.B.A. event, including comments on social media.
 - (g) Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural, or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
 - (h) Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete (for example, working with a non-competitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours).
- (9) Any disqualification, suspension, or other disciplinary action imposed by another tournament or fishing organization other than A.K.B.A., may result in disqualification from competition and/or rejection of an application for participation in an A.K.B.A. tournament.
- (10) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, the conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude may be grounds for disqualification from the competition and for rejecting any application for participation.
- (11) 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 A.K.B.A.-sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by A.K.B.A.
- (12) Anglers are allowed to communicate with one another while in proximity so long as there is no intentional sharing to gain a competitive advantage.
- (13) In both official practice and competition, competitors are required to have all licenses and permits required on the tournament waters in which they fish.

8. KAYAK REGULATION:

- (1) Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor.
- (2) Unless specifically prohibited, the use of electric motors in competition is approved with by following Criteria:
- (a) Electric motor must be attached securely to the kayak and wired in a safe manner for operation.
 - (b) Manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity: 3 HP; 155 foot-pounds of thrust.
 - (c) No more than one electric motor may be attached to a kayak, regardless of combined horsepower/thrust/power rating.
 - (d) Motors with dual props operated by a single power source are permissible so long as the unit is manufactured and sold as a single unit.
 - (e) Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
- (3) Vessels that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a Kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks, stand-up paddle boards (SUP), or canoe, are deemed eligible for competition.
- (4) All competition vessels must be a minimum of 9 feet and not exceed 18 feet.
- (6) Catamaran-style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible for competition.
- (5) A vessels primary means of propulsion must be, by design, human powered to be considered eligible for competition.
- (7) Other watercraft must be specifically approved as exceptions in advance of competition by A.K.B.A. management.
- (8) The following watercraft are not permitted: homemade kayaks, sailboats, johnboats, pirogues, coracles, rowboats, dinghies, skiffs, float tubes, inflatable rafts, rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac), pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft, or similar vessels.
- (9) No "homemade" watercraft of any kind.
- (10) The use of a manual or motorized anchor system is permitted.
- (11) Mother shipping, tethering/holding, or any on the water transportation coordination with a non-competitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by A.K.B.A. officials due to an emergency.
- (12) By officially entering a tournament contestants agree to submit their vessel to an inspection by A.K.B.A. personnel.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- (1) All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler from their vessel.
- (2) All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- (3) Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits.
- (4) Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are allowed and are only limited by the laws within the state where the competitors are fishing. The "Donkey Rig – Double Fluke" is allowed as well.
- (5) Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed.
- (8) Long lining and drifting with current/wind are allowed.
- (9) All bass caught while sight fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.

(10) No fish are to be kept on stringers. Fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

(1) **Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for individual events.**

(2) Contestants may be provided with official water launches and/or boundaries and restrictions specific to each event. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.

(3) In the event that portaging is allowed, anglers will not be allowed to exit the streambed to access the surrounding property to do so. (A streambed is the channel bottom of a stream or river, the physical confine of the normal water flow. The lateral confines or channel margins are known as the stream banks or riverbanks during all but flood stage.) Failure to do so will lead to disqualification.

(4) Portaging is prohibited unless posted otherwise.

(5) Unless posted otherwise, competitors must be able to float in and out or through an area during tournament days for it to be considered legal waters.

(a) Anglers can use pedal, paddle, or push pole to navigate.

(b) If an angler's kayak bottoms out and becomes completely or partially immobilized while navigating, they are no longer considered floating and cannot pass over.

(c) Kayak can be reoriented to eligible water.

(6) **Anglers are responsible for verifying their launch location is considered legal and with-in the rules, as well as paying any launch fee, or obtain any pass that may be required to use said launch.**

(7) Anglers can launch at more than one legal location during a tournament day.

(8) 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 A.K.B.A. staff.

(9) Ride coordination and shuttling are allowed.

(10) 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 A.K.B.A., commercial and/or private property owners and/or local, state, or federal officials. Failure to do so may lead to a disqualification or loss of the fishing day.

(11) All fishing must be conducted from inside the official competition vessel unless otherwise stated by tournament officials. Only an angler's arm, arms, or landing net can extend into the water to help land a fish they hooked legally.

(12) At no time may a contestant leave the kayak to land a fish, photograph/submit a fish, or make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters unless allowed in the event and communicated by the Tournament Director.

(a) Anglers can beach their kayaks to take safe pictures to be submitted.

(13) The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs, or digging access trenches/ditches after the start of the official practice period 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. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.

(14) Competition vessel may never be tethered to buoys or safety signs.

(15) The use of cables, ropes, chains, or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a kayak into fishing waters are strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.

(16) Using any items, including the competition vessel, 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:

(1) Scoring is determined by length using 1/4-inch increments of each contestant's catch during each tournament day via the "Catch, Photograph, and Release" (CPR) method.

(a) Measured by the last lined touched as perceived by the tournament judge or tournament director.

(2) Each competitor will be provided with an identifier code for the tournament.

(3) The five longest verified lengths will be totaled for the angler's score.

(a) Team events and special events may total anglers score differently.

(4) Officials will round down and to the nearest 1/4 inch.

(5) Only the Black Bass will be accepted, consisting of the following species:

(a) Largemouth bass

(b) Spotted bass

(c) Guadalupe bass

(e) Shoal bass

(f) Smallmouth bass

(g) Any hybrid of the above species.

(7) All fish must measure a minimum of 12 inches to be considered legal tournament catch.

(a) Bass submitted that fail to measure 12 inches with mouth completely closed will not be scored.

(8) A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.

12. MEASURING DEVICE:

(1) All "Ketch" brand measuring boards and the "YakAttack Leaderboard" are the approved measuring devices and considered legal for all A.K.B.A. tournaments.

(a) All anglers competing in an A.K.B.A. tournament must use an approved measuring device.

(2) Contestants must supply their own measuring device.

(3) No physical altering of the measuring device in any way. Measuring device must remain at manufactured dimensions. Any physical altering of the measuring device will deem it illegal for competition.

(4) No overlapping stickers on measuring device fence. Any measuring board found to have 2 or more stickers will be deemed illegal for competition.

(5) Your measuring device may be inspected by A.K.B.A or B.A.S.S. staff at any time, before, during, or after a tournament.

(6) Anyone found to be using a measuring device that is determined to be illegal will be disqualified from the tournament.

13. PHOTO CRITERIA:

(1) These items are included in the rules for the Tournament Director/Judge to establish the criteria for fish submissions/catch's to be scored accurately.

(a) Failure to comply with these criteria may or may not result in disqualification, disqualification of catch, or reduction of length.

(b) The quality of photo submission, and its adherence to the photo criteria, is the responsibility of the competitor.

(2) Anglers must be prepared to manually upload pictures with cables, cords, and software required to download photos via a USB port to the official judge's computer.

(3) Each fish photo needs to include the following criteria to avoid possible penalties or disqualification:

(a) The entire Bass, from the tip of the lip to the end of the tail, on an approved measuring device.

(b) Mouth completely closed, with lip touching the "bump board" of measuring device.

(c) Tail lying completely flat on measuring board.

(d) Hand and fingers must not be in or under the gill plate.

(e) Entire assigned identifier code must be visible and legible in photo, and NOT lying on fish.

(f) Photo must be shot from directly over the catch (NOT shot at an angle).

(g) Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook.

(h) Eye must NOT be covered. Covered eye can lead to a disqualification of the catch.

(i) If the lip, mouth, eye, or tail end are obstructed in the photo, even by your hand, identifier, or a part of your body, it will impact your score.

(4) If you have a fish with a damaged eye or the appearance of a dead fish then you'll need to record a video of the catch on your "KETCH" Board, pick the fish up and identify the area(s) of concern, then of the fish placed back into the water and swimming off alive.

(6) Original/Raw photo only, screenshots, crops, duplicates, and edited photos will not be accepted.

(7) A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.

(a) If a submitted fish on Day 1 is culled and not present in an anglers Top 5 fish, that fish could be caught again and count for a Day 2 total if that catch is in complete accordance with Rule 11.

(8) Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the A.K.B.A. official's attention.

(9) The quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.

**** Criteria above must be met to avoid possible penalty or disqualification ****



****Above image is for hand placement reference only****

14. SCORING PENALTIES:

- (1) The following penalties are to be applied at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, judge, or his/her appointee.
 - (a) Mouth cracked or slightly open: 0.25" - 0.50" (inch) deduction.
 - (b) Mouth open or no attempt to close: 1" (inch) deduction
 - (c) Lip or tail not touching board: No score.
 - (d) Finger or hand under the gill plate: No score.
 - (e) Photo taken at an angle: No score.
 - (f) Overlapping stickers on measuring board fence: No score.
 - (g) Identifier lying on fish: No score.

15. TIES:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Team event ties will be determined by the largest three fish contributed to the team score.
 - (a) If a tie persists then the tie break will be determined by the largest fish of the three fish submitted to the team score in accordance with Rule 16(1).
- (2) At the Bassmaster Kayak Series Championship, 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.
- (3) 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 the earliest photo submitted of their largest fish.

16. ADVANCING TO A CHAMPIONSHIP:

- (1) A B.A.S.S. NATION Kayak Club holding a State Championship can send the top 10% from their state championship field to the BASSMASTER KAYAK SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (Must have at least 10 anglers participate to hold event).
- (2) The Top 25% from each West Coast Championship Qualifier, or anyone who fished all 3, will be qualified to compete in the West Coast Championship.

17. AOY RACES AND POINT SERIES:

- (1) Points will ONLY be awarded to A.K.B.A. members in good standing.
 - (a) At least one member of a team must be a A.K.B.A. member in good standing.

18. REPORTING PROCEDURES AND PROTESTS:

- (1) Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director or their appointee ONLY, any violation or infraction of any tournament rules, by themselves or a fellow competitor.
- (2) Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification.
- (3) OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 1 ("Rules and Penalties").
 - (a) ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A COPY.

- (b) An appeals committee will be established by A.K.B.A., which shall be comprised of one A.K.B.A. administrator not affiliated with the Tournament Department and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question.
- (c) Appeals must be presented in writing via email within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director.
- (d) Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal, and all parties must make themselves available at the prescribed time of hearing.
- (e) If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation.
- (f) Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

19. TAXES:

Where and when state laws require income taxes be paid on cash awards to nonresidents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards. Various states require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates, and anglers awarded merchandise certificates in these states are responsible for remitting their tax to A.K.B.A. Failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of points, fines and/or disqualification from all future A.K.B.A. events.