



BLUEGRASS KAYAK ANGLERS RULES

Section 1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed and will always supersede BKA rules. Violation of any laws may be cause for disqualification.
- 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.
- These rules will remain subject to change by BKA Officials. • Special Rules and amendments may be announced, added, or omitted for special circumstances or clarification at the judgment of BKA Officials.
- Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to BKA Officials.
- Decisions of BKA Officials/ tournament director(s) are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- **A violation of tournament rules may result in penalties, disqualification, or banishment at the discretion of BKA Tournament Directors/Officials.**

Section 2. PAYBACK & PARTICIPATION

- All participants must pay the full entry, complete all liability release forms, attend / view the mandatory rules meeting, and be using a Bluegrass Kayak Anglers certified measuring device approved by the tournament director to be considered a contestant. The adult release forms are part of the registration process however the minor release forms, must be printed off, signed by a Parent or Guardian, and sent to BluegrassKayakAnglers@gmail.com prior to the event starting.
- Competitors must register and pay in full in the tournament host app(TourneyX) to be guaranteed entry into any Bluegrass Kayak Angler event.

Anglers registering without paying in full will not be guaranteed entry into the event.

- Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have permission and a signed release of a parent or legal guardian.
- Any person's participation in any Bluegrass Kayak Anglers tournament series is at the sole discretion of Bluegrass Kayak Anglers Directors/Officials.
- Bluegrass Kayak Anglers tournament Directors/Officials MUST be notified immediately of any cancellation.
- All cancellations MUST be submitted to Bluegrass Kayak Anglers Directors/Officials no later than 12:00 am on the Friday before the official start of the event, local time of the event
- Registration deadline for a particular Bluegrass Kayak Anglers event will be at 12:00 am on the Friday before the official start of the event, local time of the event headquarters.
- If a Bluegrass Kayak Anglers event is **canceled**, anglers will be **refunded fully**.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish before they begin fishing.
- The number of paid places and amounts will be determined at each event by the number of entries.
- The number of paid places will be no less than 10% of the total number of paid entrants.
- Bluegrass Kayak Anglers reserves the right to distribute payouts at their discretion based on the total purse and number of paid entrants.
- Bluegrass Kayak Anglers reserves the right to add money and prizes to paybacks as well as distribute prizes at their discretion
- Payments will be issued via PayPal and will arrive no later than 30 days from the end of the event.
- Refunds will be issued back through the PayPal account they were paid from within 30 days of a refund request.

Section 3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

- Competitors must be off the water by 6PM on Friday and may not enter tournament waters for any reason after the start of the pre-tournament meeting.
- During practice and competition, anglers are not allowed to make changes to the waterway, and it must be utilized how it's naturally presented. This includes but is not limited to adding, cutting, or removing trees/ brush, digging/ filling ditches, adding or removing rocks and purposely adding or removing vegetation.
- Utilizing private or non-public launches during **practice** is allowed.

- All time on water during official practice and tournament must be done in a vessel in accordance with Section 7: KAYAK REGULATION. Being in ANY boat not in accordance with Section 7: KAYAK REGULATION on tournament waters during the off limits or practice period, outside of an emergency or director approved job, will result in disqualification.
- Motors: If the watercraft is legally registered, electric motors will be permitted for all Bluegrass Kayak Tournament Events. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply, could result in disqualification.
- Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is NOT permitted unless approved and supervised by a tournament official.
- Cooperative Events:
 - If an angler is signed up for two kayak events that coincide on the same lake and the same time, and the two trails have agreed upon a tandem event. Depending on the event, Bluegrass Kayak Angler's reserve the right to adopt rules from co-op Tournament Trail for that specific event and/or vice versa.
- **IF a Bluegrass Kayak Angler EVENT is scheduled for more than 1 day. The Following rules apply:**
 - Competitors are not allowed to fish on tournament waters after Day 1 fishing ends until First Cast on day 2. Scouting new waters after fishing ends on Day 1 is not allowed. Anglers are expected to immediately and safely get back to their take-out once fishing ends on Day 1.

Section 4. SAFETY

- Safe boating practices must always be followed.
- Each contestant is **REQUIRED** to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during BKA tournament hours. The personal flotation device must always be worn on the outside of all clothing and visible. **Inflatable belt PFDs are not considered satisfactory in Bluegrass Kayak Angler events.**
- All Kayaks must be equipped with emergency equipment as required by all Federal, State and Local Laws. This often includes a safety whistle and 360-degree light. Additionally, a Hi-Visibility flag flown on the kayak is recommended.
- At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in severe weather or when danger is imminent.

- Competitors are expected to use sound judgment and are accountable for their own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation. (i.e., lightning, excessive wind, rough waters, recreational and commercial marine traffic, hunting areas, etc.)
- In the event of an emergency, competitors should contact local authorities like 911 or Fish and Game before contacting Bluegrass Kayak Angler Directors/Officials.
- For an angler to receive AOY points for an event, they must use the Check-in/Check-out feature on TourneyX. Only anglers that have checked out by the submission deadline on the final day of competition will receive points from the event no matter their placement. No other form of “checking- out,” will be considered.

Section 5. SPORTSMANSHIP

- All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, sponsors, Bluegrass Kayak Anglers, BKA sponsors, and the sport of fishing as well as BKA's efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Violation of or failure to comply with event or state rules and laws.
 - Consumption of alcoholic beverages or any kind of illegal substance during tournament hours.
 - Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
 - Verbal or physical abuse towards fellow competitors and tournament directors on or off the water during the official practice period through the tournament weekend.
 - Blocking navigable waters from fellow competitors to pass through.
 - Working with a non-competitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours.
 - Any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules.
 - Failure to comply with standards set forth in the first sentence of Section 6.
- **If an angler witnesses a potential violation occur, they are expected to communicate with the Bluegrass Kayak Angler Director/Officials**

immediately. Bluegrass Kayak Angler Director/Officials must be made aware of who the angler or anglers are and have some proof of violation.

- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, BKA shall have the right to refuse an application to compete or to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee, and to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined in section 1.

Section 6. KAYAK REGULATION

- Eligible vessels must be at least 9 feet in length and no longer than 18 feet.
- Catamaran style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible.
- No "Homemade" Kayaks will be permitted.
- The use of manual or motorized anchor systems is permitted.
- Mother-shipping, tethering/holding or any on-water transportation coordination with anyone is strictly prohibited unless approved by BKA Directors/Officials within emergency situations.

Section 7. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

- All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler.
- All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- Only artificial lures may be used, except pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits are allowed.
- Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are considered one lure and are only limited by the laws within the state they are fishing.
- Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- 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.
- Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed. Long-lining and drifting with current/wind are allowed. Trolling is defined as directly using the vessel's propulsion to present a lure.
- All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- **No fish are to be kept on stringers. Non-penetrating, fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.**
- **An angler's catch must be safely released before casting or fishing may resume.**

- **Unless posted otherwise**, the fish must be targeted and caught while the angler is inside the kayak. Only an angler's arm or arms can extend into the water to help land a fish they hooked legally.

Section 8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- Official tournament waters, and other location mandates will be issued for individual events and published within the event page. Any mandates are only required for competition days only.
- Contestants may fish anywhere on eligible tournament waters that are available to the public and accessible by kayak 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 BKA, commercial property owners and/or local, state, or federal officials.
- All fishing must be conducted from inside the kayak unless otherwise stated by tournament officials.
- At no time may a contestant leave the kayak to land a fish, photo/ submit a fish or to make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters unless posted otherwise. As needed anglers can beach their kayak to take safe photos to submit.
- During practice and competition, anglers are not allowed to make changes to the waterway and it must be utilized how it's naturally presented.
- Boats may never be tethered to on-water markers like buoys or safety signs.
- The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a kayak into or out of fishing waters is strictly prohibited.
- Portaging is prohibited unless posted otherwise.
- Unless posted otherwise, as it pertains to tributaries of the main body of water, competitors must be able to float in and out or through an area during tournament days for it to be considered legal waters to navigate. Anglers can use pedal/ paddle/ push-pole to navigate. If an anglers' kayak bottoms out and becomes completely or partially immobilized from the bottom while navigating, they are no longer considered floating.
- Anglers are responsible for paying any launch fee required to utilize the facility.
- Anglers can launch at more than 1 public location during a tournament day.
- Anglers do not have to take-out where they launched, as long as the takeout is also a public launch, unless there is an emergency communicated with the BKA Staff.
- Ride coordination and shuttling is allowed.

Section 9. SCORING

- 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.
- Competitors will be provided with a unique identifier for each tournament day.
- The five longest verified lengths of individual fish will be totaled for the anglers score each day.
- The contestant with the highest total score after One Day is the winner.
 - During 2 day events, the highest total score after both days is the winner.
- Rounding will be down and to the nearest 1/4-inch.
- Only the Black Bass Species consisting of the following: Largemouth, Spotted, Shoal and Smallmouth bass and any hybrid of the above are accepted species.
- All fish must measure/ score a minimum of 12", unless otherwise specified for individual events. Bass submitted that fail to measure/score 12" with mouth completely closed will be denied.
- A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.
- During 2 day events
 - 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 Section 8.
- Only fish submitted on a KETCH measuring device.

Section 10. MEASURING DEVICE

- The Ketch Board offerings are the mandatory and official measuring devices for the Bluegrass Kayak Anglers Series. BKA strongly recommends the Ketch X board in any color that is **NOT** black.
- Contestants are expected to bring their own measuring device. Those devices may be inspected at any time by BKA staff.
- Anyone found to be using a measuring device that is determined to be illegal will be disqualified from the tournament.
- A clean measuring device is expected to ensure we can give you a proper score.

Section 11. PHOTO CRITERIA

- Anglers must be able to submit their photos to our tournament submission application(TourneyX). There will be **no** manual submissions.
- Each fish photo must include all the following criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification:
 - 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.
 - Bass must be laying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device. Measuring device post must be visible.
 - The mouth of the Bass must be CLOSED COMPLETELY to receive full score.
 - The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board and will be measured to the longest point.
 - Pinching and Holding the tail is permitted.
 - Bass orientation must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler. o Measuring device markings must be clearly visible. Including the actual numbers.
 - Assigned unique identifier's number must be clearly visible.
 - One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at a drastic angle).
 - Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook.
 - Lip, eye, and end of tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
 - Hand or fingers must not be under or in the gill plate.
- If a fish has a visibly glossy eye or odd markings, we ask that the competitor take video of that fish to prove it is alive, showing it going from the board to the water and actively swimming away.
- Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the BKA Director's/Official's attention.
- Quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.

****All criteria above must be met, or the photo may not be scored****

Section 12. TIES

- Ties between anglers will be automatically broken by big bass.
- 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.

Section 13. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

- Each contestant agrees to submit, by registering for this tournament, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion.

- Consumption of alcohol or any mind-altering substance is strictly prohibited prior to a truth verification test.
- Refusal to participate in the polygraph or voice stress analysis examination will result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Failure to pass an examination, if administered, can result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Truth verification tests will be used at Bluegrass Kayak Angler Directors/Official's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by Bluegrass Kayak Angler Directors/Officials.

Section 14. PENALTIES (for Reference Only)

- Mouth cracked or slightly open - .5" deduction
- Mouth blatantly open- 1"-2" deduction
- Lip or tail not touching board: No score
- BKA Tournament Director or Board Members will appoint a 3rd party unaffiliated non-biased person to judge fish and apply penalties in fairness at their discretion.
- BKA Officials reserve the right to apply penalties for infractions that include but are not limited to:
 - Reduction of Practice and/or Competition time
 - Loss of fish submitted.
 - Disqualify from tournament day or days.
 - Banishment from all BKA events for the season.
 - Banishment from all BKA events.

Section 15. PROTESTS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

- All protests must be submitted in writing to BKA officials, during event hours or within 24 hours of the announcement of the official results. The protester also agrees that if there is a question of verifying the charge of a protest that he or she may be subject to take a polygraph and agree to testify in a court of law if absolutely necessary.

Section 16. RULE CONSISTENCY AND SHARING:

These rules were developed from the culmination of many national events and a collective collaboration of tournament directors over many years. They are public for your viewing in BKA events and we encourage them being shared and used to help create a uniformity in our sport and spread the knowledge of proper practices for this style of competitive fishing.