

# CFODT Rules Standards (v011918-a)

## Section 1: Participation & Eligibility

### 1. Compliance

- a. By Registering for any CFODT Event, the participating angler agrees to fully comply with:
  - i. CFODT Rules Standards
  - ii. CFODT Single Event Addendum
  - iii. CFODT Event Participation Terms & Conditions
- b. It is the Participant's responsibility to maintain a current understanding of CFODT Rules Standards, CFODT Terms & Conditions, and CFODT Single Event Addendums, due to unforeseen revisions that may happen without notice.
- c. To protect the Participants and maintain clarity for all parties involved, any revisions that may occur within thirty (30) days of an event will not become effective until after that event has closed.
  - i. Any final notes will be announced at the Captain's Meeting for the event.
  - ii. Any rules revisions will be emailed to any participants that have already registered for an CFODT Event.
- d. Explanation Of CFODT Single Event Addendum
  - i. The CFODT Event Addendum is designated for the sole purpose of enriching this particular CFODT Event and its specific details pertaining to that specific Event.

### 2. Membership

- a. CFODT Memberships are not required to compete in the CFODT Live Events hosted/presented by the CFODT.
- b. CFODT Memberships are not required to participate in any CFODT Online Events hosted/presented by the CFODT.
- c. CFODT Membership is required to accrue Angler of the Year Points, if applicable.

### 3. Tournament Management System Registration

- a. CFODT Events will be conducted in association with TourneyX®.
  - i. A TourneyX® registration is required to compete in these events and must be completed prior to any Participant being added to an event.
    1. Register Here: <https://tourneyx.com/register/>

### 4. Fees & Registration

- a. Entry fee amounts, registration fee amounts, late fee amounts, and refund amounts are to be specified by the CFODT Committee and posted in the CFODT Single Event Addendum.
- b. Event Registration Entry Fee is due no later than the closing of the Captain's Meeting, unless otherwise specified in the CFODT Single Event Addendum.
- c. Registration deadlines and thresholds will be specified in the CFODT Single Event Addendum.

## Section 2: Tournament Format

1. Tournament Format will be specified in its entirety in the CFODT Single Event Addendum for each individual Kayak Tournament or Event.
2. Below are standards that will be utilized in the event the CFODT Tournament Director does not specify rules, additional notes, or exceptions in the CFODT Single Event Addendum for their specific event.
  - a. **Eligible Waters**
    - i. Participants may launch from any public-access point on eligible waters.
      1. Crossing into restricted property to reach eligible water is prohibited.
    - ii. Areas listed as "Off-Limits" and/or "No Fishing" by state, federal, or any other governing body are not eligible waters.
  - b. **Scoring**
    - i. Length Increments
      1. Limit Increments Standards
        - a. Freshwater Tournaments will follow Quarter Inch Increments, rounded down.

- b. Saltwater Tournaments will follow Quarter Inch Increments, rounded down, unless specified to move to Eighth Inch Increments in the CFODT Single Event Addendum.
- ii. Daily Bag Limit
  - 1. Daily Bag Limit Standards
    - a. Black Bass Limit: Five (5) Fish per Participant per Day.
    - b. Other Limits will be specified in the CFODT Single Event Addendum for that specific event.
- iii. Eligible Species
  - 1. Species Standards
    - a. Eligible Black Bass Species
      - i. Largemouth Bass
      - ii. Smallmouth Bass
      - iii. Spotted/Kentucky Bass
      - iv. Shoal Bass
      - v. Redeye Bass
      - vi. Suwannee Bass
      - vii. Guadalupe Bass
      - viii. Bartram's Bass
    - b. Other Competitions
      - i. The species of fish permitted for scoring will be specified in the CFODT Single Event Addendum.
    - c. If any Eligible Species exceptions are noted, they will be noted in the CFODT Single Event Addendum.
- iv. Photo Submission Criteria
  - 1. In order for a participant's submission to be accepted, all of the following criteria must be met:
    - a. The participants kayak must be in the photo.
      - i. *If the kayak is not in the photo, judges will automatically reject the submission.*
      - ii. *If the submitted fish is in a different kayak, judges will automatically reject the submission.*
    - b. The entire fish must be in the photo..
      - i. *Ideally with room to spare for cases where zoom is necessary.*
      - ii. *If judges cannot see the lip, judges will automatically reject the submission.*
      - iii. *If the tail is cut off, judges will only award the longest visible length shown.*
    - c. The fish must be left side up, belly facing the angler, mouth facing left.
      - i. *If the fish is not positioned correctly, judges will automatically reject the submission.*
    - d. The eye, mouth, and tail must be in clear view.
      - i. *If the mouth, eye, or tail is visually obstructed, judges will automatically reject the submission.*
    - e. The lip of the fish must be against the bump board.
      - i. *If the lip is not touching the bump board, judges will automatically reject the submission.*
    - f. The mouth of the fish must be closed.
    - g. The tail of the fish must lay naturally.
      - i. *If the angler is physically pinching the tail, the photo will be disqualified.*
        - 1. *Anglers may hold the tail down, by laying your hand over the fish, while not covering up the whole tail.*
    - h. The entire identifier must be present in the photo.
      - i. *If the identifier is not in the photo submission, judges will automatically reject the submission.*



- i. Big Fish Format
  - 1. This may be included in the entry fee.
    - a. Traditional Big Fish is performed on the side, and collected, in addition to the entry fee, during registration/check-in for the event.
  - 2. Big Fish Entry: \$20 Per Angler
  - 3. Big Fish Payout: 100% Paid Out to two spots ONLY.
    - a. 1st Place: 75%
    - b. 2nd Place: 25%
  - 4. Big Fish Stipulation: Longest, Approved Submission.
  - 5. Minimum Participation: 2 Anglers.
- f. **Payouts**
  - i. Cash Payouts are heavily based on participation.
    - 1. The Cash Payout Pool is based on 75% of the Entry Fees brought in.
      - a. 25% of the Entry Fee is withheld for Administrative Fees.
        - i. Administrative Fees include, but are not limited to, TourneyX Tournament Management Fees,
  - ii. Big Bass Payout
    - 1. Big Bass is opted in for \$10/Day
    - 2. Big Bass Pays only 1st & 2nd Place for this division, in a 75%/25% split.
    - 3. Based On 20 Anglers
      - a. \$20 x 20 Anglers = \$400
      - b. Payout Amounts
        - i. 1st Place - 75% - \$300
        - ii. 2nd Place - 25% - \$100
- g. **Fishing Methods**
  - i. All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.
  - ii. Only one rod may be used at any given time.
  - iii. Trolling is not allowed.
  - iv. Only artificial lures may be used.
    - 1. All lures must abide by state regulations.
    - 2. The use of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits is acceptable.
  - v. All fish caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- h. **Fish Handling Regulations**
  - i. Stringers are prohibited for long-term use.
    - 1. Long-term use is defined by any amount of time over 5 minutes.
  - ii. Fish Grips, or similar products, may be used to temporarily hold a fish in the water, while preparing for a quick photo and release.
- i. **Watercraft & Propulsion**
  - i. Eligible watercrafts include
    - 1. Kayaks
    - 2. Stand Up Paddleboards
    - 3. Canoes
  - ii. Eligible Methods Of Propulsion
    - 1. Paddle
    - 2. Pedal
    - 3. Poling
  - iii. Electric Motors are prohibited during Official Competition Hours.
    - 1. The use of an Electric Motor during Official Competition Hours may be granted by the CFODT Tournament Director, if seen as a necessity for participation for the Participant.
    - 2. During an online-exclusive event, the use of a motor is allowed.

## Section 3: Participant Guidelines

### 1. Captain's Meeting

- a. Participants are required to appear at any CFODT Event's Captain's Meeting.
  - i. In an online event, where a digital Captain's Meeting is presented, via LIVE or PRE-RECORDED video, Participants must watch the video in its entirety.

- ii. There may be information released in the Captain's Meeting that is imperative for Competition.
- b. Participants are required to register and check-in prior to the meeting.
  - i. If any Participant cannot register and/or check-in prior to the meeting, they are required to reach out to the CFODT Tournament Director to arrange their arrival and to make sure requirements are met for Participation Eligibility in the event.
  - ii. Participants who fail to notify the CFODT Tournament Director of any issues with getting checked-in, and arrive more than 30 minutes after the close of the Captain's Meeting may be assessed a \$25.00 Late Fee to remain in the tournament.
  - iii. Participants that are not present at the Captain's Meeting will forfeit their entry fee and not be entered in the tournament.

## 2. Participant Communication

- a. Participant-to-Participant Communication
  - i. The use of mobile communication devices, such as cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB's, or any other type of mobile communication device, is strictly prohibited during Official Competition Hours, unless an emergency situation arises.
- b. Participant-to-CFODT Official Communication
  - i. The use of mobile communication devices, such as cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB's, or any other type of mobile communication device, is acceptable during Official Competition Hours.

## 3. Safety

- a. Safe boating must be observed at all times.
- b. Each Participant must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD on at all times, during Official Competition Hours and Eligible Pre-Fishing Hours.
- c. Each Participant must have a whistle on board of their watercraft at all times, during Official Competition Hours and Eligible Pre-Fishing Hours.
- d. Each Participant must have a 360-Degree light on their watercraft, and in use if Participant is on the water before safe light or after sunset.
- e. Each Participant may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather, or when danger is eminent.
- f. Each Participant is expected to use proper judgement, and are ultimately accountable for their own actions when any form of dangerous situations may arise.
  - i. Dangerous situations might be high winds, heavy rain, lightning, pleasure boaters, hunters, wildlife, etc...
- g. The CFODT Tournament Director has the ability to shorten, postpone, or cancel due to any conditions that may be seen as unsafe and not in the best interest of the Participants.

## 4. Truth Verification Test

- a. Each Participant is subject to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination.
- b. Participants are to abide by its conclusion.
- c. Refusal to participate in the polygraph or voice stress analysis examination will result in disqualification from the event, and could lead to indefinite ban from that event and any other CFODT Events.
- d. Failure to pass the polygraph or voice stress analysis examination will result in disqualification from the event, and could lead to indefinite ban from that event and any other CFODT Events.
- e. Truth Verification Tests will be utilized as the CFODT's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the CFODT.
  - i. Any 1st Place Winning Participant of an event, where the awarded amount is greater than \$600, is required to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination, before any actual winnings will be officially awarded.
    - 1. Any Winning Participants of an event, where the awarded amount is greater than \$600 and where the Participant did not claim 1st Place, may be required to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination, before any actual winnings will be officially awarded.

## 5. Protests

- a. Any protests are to be submitted to an CFODT Official, along with a mandatory \$100 Cash Deposit, within thirty (30) minutes of the close of the awards ceremony. The protester agrees that if there is a question of verifying the charge of the protest that they also may be subject to take a polygraph or voice stress analysis, and they agree to testify in a court of law, granted it's necessary.
  - i. If the CFODT Official or Truth Verification Test upholds the protest, the cash deposit will be returned to the original Participant that submitted the protest, and only then.

## 6. Sportsmanship & Conduct

- a. Participants are required to show high standards of sportsmanship, and display courtesy and conservation.
- b. Participants are to conduct themselves in a manner that will spread good light on themselves, their sponsors, Catch Fish Or Die Trying, CFODT Sponsors, CFODT Affiliates, and the sport of kayak fishing.
  - i. Examples of unacceptable conduct:
    1. Violation of or failure to comply with.
    2. Excessive consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages during Official Competition Hours and any awards ceremony.
    3. Any consumption and/or possession of mind-altering substances during any time.
    4. Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
    5. Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
    6. Suspension/Disqualification, probation, or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
    7. Any other words, conduct, or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules.
- c. Public Comment
  - i. The reputation of the CFODT as a sanctioning organization in the sport of kayak tournaments, the integrity of its' officials, and the reputation of its media channels are valuable assets and tangible benefits for the CFODT. Accordingly, it is an obligation of the Participants to refrain from comments in public forums, social media, or public news media that unreasonably attacks or disparages the integrity of the Catch Fish Or Die Trying, affiliated events, CFODT officials, sponsors, fellow members/participants, or the CFODT organization. Participants are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the CFODT officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with the CFODT policies are encouraged, as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that a Participant knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of the Catch Fish Or Die Trying, CFODT officials, CFODT members/participants, or sponsors may result in disciplinary action.
  - ii. Sponsor contributions will not be devalued by disputes or disagreements in public forums or social media platforms.
  - iii. Publicly disputing any judgement decisions by CFODT Tournament Directors or judges will result in the acting participant receiving one warning followed by permanent disqualification for a 2nd offense. Any public dispute of final rulings, ongoing determination by judges or judging panel is grounds for immediate disqualification from the current event and termination of any eligibility for future events, even if previously qualified. This is not in place to prevent any disputes; however, it is done to ensure that a fair and unbiased approach is used and the approved challenge and appeals processes are followed in determining the best possible outcome.