

ETXKF Rules and Regulations - 2019

Trail/Open Series, Classic Championship

SCORING:

Tournament standings, contingency awards, and final winners shall be determined by Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass and Guadalupe Bass will be measured. The limit shall be five fish unless otherwise noted. Each fish will be measured on the longest straight line using an approved measuring bump board (Hagens Hawg Trough & Ketch Board). Fish must be scored with the left side of the fish facing up. Mouth must be closed (if mouth is open more than 1/4", penalty is 1" deduction), the lip MUST be touching the bump board on the measuring board. If the judge deems the mouth to be open, there will be a one-inch deduction. The use of bungie's, stringers, or other means of securing the fish other than the angler's hand or measuring device is prohibited. Anglers may not hold the tail pinched. The minimum length for all bass at all events will be 10.00" in length. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. No hands or fingers beneath the gill plate. A 1" deduction will be issued if hands or fingers are under the gill plate in photos. The longest length of the day from the participant's best five (5) bass will be the winner. In the event of a tie, the largest fish will break the tie, then the second largest, and so on. If the stringers are deemed to be identical, then the angler who submitted the largest fish first wins the tie. Each angler will be issued an identifier prior to the start of each tournament. Anglers must use the ETXKF identifier card for ETXKF trail events or KBF identifier card. The identifier code must be clearly and completely visible and legible in all CPR photos.

APPROVED MEASURING DEVICES:

Hagens Hawg Trough and Ketch boards are considered approved measuring boards. No color restriction. It is STRONGLY recommended that measuring lines be neatly colored in with a permanent marker on Hawg Troughs to assist tournament officials in accurate judging of fish. If an official is unable to see measuring lines, it is up to official of the fish disqualified or receives a deduction.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Anglers will be disqualified for the following reasons, including disqualified from the door prizes (this list is NOT all-inclusive):

- Not wearing your approved PFD
- Fishing before the official First Cast time
- Fishing outside of the official tournament boundaries
- Fishing with disallowed lures/methods (See below. Examples: live bait, snagging, etc.)
- “Mothershiping”
- Using trolling motors without prior authorization

Substantial evidence or testimony from more than one angler is necessary for disqualification. All disqualifications are up to the discretion of the tournament directors.

ETXKF MEMBERSHIP:

You must be an ETXKF Member to accumulate AOY points. Membership dues are required by 31 Jan 2019. Membership dues for 2019 are \$25.

ETXKF OPENS & THE ETXKF CLASSIC:

Anglers are not required to be ETXKF Members to fish ETXKF Open/Trail or Classic events. A captain’s meeting will be held the morning before each tournament. This meeting is mandatory for all registered anglers to attend. This meeting is to bring awareness of the ETXKF Tournament rules and regulations per location, kayak safety, and to check every angler in. The Captain’s Meeting is mandatory. Approved measuring device and PFD will be checked during the Captains Meeting.

If for some reason, you are unable to attend a captain’s meeting on the morning of any tournament, you must contact the ETXKF tournament director and let them know of your situation. Arrangements will be made to ensure you are legally checked before your first cast.

ETXKF CLASSIC QUALIFICATION:

- a. Finish top 3 in any ETXKF trail event.
- b. Finish first in any monthly grind starting Sept 2018.
- c. Compete in at least 3 ETXKF trail events.

The ETXKF Classic will be a two (2) day event. The first day will be on a Saturday, the second day on a Sunday. The winner of the classic will be the angler with the longest 5-fish stringer over both days.

2019 TOURNAMENT FEES:

All fees (TourneyX, admin) and Big Bass are included. TRAIL/OPENS - \$50.00, CLASSIC - \$75.00, with a 90% payout after (admin, TourneyX fees)

ANGLER OF THE YEAR:

Angler of the year will be determined from the points accumulated from ETXKF tournaments of the ETXKF Opens AND Classic. AOY points will be determined by the total length scored during the open/classic events. To compete in AOY, an angler must be a paid ETXKF member by 31 January 2019.

TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. Fly rods are allowed. A hung lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs may be in kayak ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted to be in use at any given time. Trolling lures, even if the rod is not being held by the angler, will be considered "in use." All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified.

When visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth. Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle at all times. Anglers may not receive assistance from non-competitors during tournament hours.

KAYAK POWER REGULATIONS:

All kayaks can be powered by paddle and pedal drive systems. Trolling motors/Electric motors/Gas motors are not allowed during tournament days but can be used during pre-fishing. If a person has a disability that prevents them from the use of a paddle or pedal drive system, please contact Tournament Director prior to the tournament day to obtain permission to use a trolling motor/Electric motor during the tournament. Any trolling motor/Electric motor that is approved for use must be electric powered and 3 Hp or less.

APPROVED WATERCRAFT:

ONLY human powered vessels will be allowed. (Paddle or pedal)

Kayaks, pirogues, canoes, inflatable kayaks and SUPs, SUPs (stand up paddleboards) are acceptable.

A "Blue Sky Boatworks" is an approved vessel that can be used to participate in ETXKF.

NO gasoline or electric motor propelled boats, sail boats, airboats, float tubes, jon boats, aluminum boats, bass boats, or boats not deemed kayaks may be used.

Only ONE paid entrant per vessel. NO pier/shoreline/wade/jug/trotline/hand line/cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed.

FISHING AREAS & HOURS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the ETXKF Tournament Director or any official of ETXKF, any restrictions will be discussed during the Captain's Meeting prior to the tournament. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF LIMITS, regardless of official tournament boundaries. Only water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters.

Competitors may only launch at launch points which are accessible to all other competitors. It does not have to be a paved boat ramp, but it must be land with equal opportunity for all anglers to launch from. No trespassing onto private property, and if you receive a parking ticket or if your vehicle gets towed, you will be disqualified. Example: Launching from your grandma's backyard is NOT permitted because not all competitors have access to your grandma's backyard. Unless your grandma is just super popular and knows every competitor, which we doubt. Competitors may launch from paid private access if all anglers had the same opportunity to purchase said access. For example, you may launch from a campsite, because all anglers had the same opportunity to rent or reserve the campsite.

Tournament times will be determined by tournament directors. Each tournament will be at least 5 hours allowing for roadrunner starts at every tournament unless otherwise noted. Members may launch from any public access point on the tournament lake with legal access. Trailering to/from the registration and check-in site is permitted.

REGISTRATION:

ETXKF will use TourneyX for event registration and submission of fish. Each competitor must register through TourneyX prior to the captain's meeting. All anglers must check in with official ETXKF staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events prior to each event.

COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN KAYAK UNLESS:

During the competition days, competitors must not depart the kayak to fish from land or while wading or to make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters unless the angler is tethered to the kayak. Tethers must be firmly attached to the kayak, and may not be longer than 20 feet. Kayaks must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must remain in the kayak at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. In the event of a needed restroom break, contestants are allowed to leave the kayak untethered, at which time all fishing must cease until back in the kayak or tethered to the kayak. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing kayaks by another competitor during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

Competitors are allowed to leave the kayak to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the kayak before making another cast.

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

There will be an official First Cast time that anglers may not fish prior to. There will be only one official check-in point in the afternoon, and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon will result in disqualification. Fishing prior to the official First Cast time will also result in disqualification.

PRACTICE & COMPETITION:

There will be no off limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director. There will be three (3) official practice days immediately prior to the first day of competition. However, all anglers can practice any day prior to any ETXKF Event. During the official practice period, competitors MAY NOT hire a fishing guide on tournament waters. During competition on tournament day, competitors MAY NOT fish with non-competitors. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director. During practice and during the tournament, a competitor MAY NOT “skin dive” or “scuba dive” in the tournament waters. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day. A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor’s kayak at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification. Anglers can use a trolling motor on a kayak during the pre-fishing period. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms and or CPR, may be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING AND ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.

PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY:

This tournament trail is open to anglers who are 18 years of age or older, 16 years of age and have a driver's license and social security card with a signed waiver from a parent. However, employees, officers and director of ETXKF or its parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies and members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, children, and sibling, regardless of where they live) are also eligible. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. With the exception of the 16-year minimum, no one will be disqualified because of age, race, gender or disability.

SAFETY:

Safe kayak conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved life preserver, worn properly according to manufacturer, anytime on the water. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or

zippered securely, and maintained in that condition while the entrant is in the water on the kayak. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.

When kayaking in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their kayaks in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials. This means that bright light must be visible in all directions. This can include a single 360 degree white light, permanently mounted LED strips, multiple flashlights, etc, as long as the light is visible in all directions. ALL TPWD and Coast Guard regulations must be observed including the possession of a noise making device (whistle or horn).

All electronic equipment used for fishing such as depth finders, temperature gauges, and sound attractants are allowed in any event. Trolling motors are subject to approval by ETXKF upon proof the angler is disabled and unable to manpower his or her kayak under normal conditions. It is strongly encouraged that all competitors have a safety check each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.

Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost will be up for majority vote to go with what's been scored at that point to complete in that said tournament or majority vote to re-start the following day or majority vote to re-schedule.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND, ONCE SAFE, THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE KAYAK AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

Anglers participating in any ETXKF sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on ETXKF, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. To this end, anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional/tournament fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in ETXKF

sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by ETXKF.

The favorable public reputation of ETXKF as an organization, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media channels are valuable assets and tangible benefits for ETXKF. Accordingly, it is an obligation of Competitors to refrain from comments in public forums and social media or to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of ETXKF. Failure to do so will result in angler dismissal and a permanent ban from competition, events, and ETXKF social media avenues.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors in ETXKF tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor while on the water, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and potentially all future ETXKF tournaments.

Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to kayaking 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 be a reason for disqualification.

Please stay a minimum of 50 yards away from fellow competitors during competition unless otherwise discussed and agreed to with said competitor. If you must get closer to pass a competitor, please ask permission before getting too close. Be courteous.

All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research on fishing and kayaking regulations. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification,

suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in an ETXKF tournament, and/or disqualification from an ETXKF tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.