

2019 KAYAK BASS LEAGUE

ONLINE & OPEN TOURNAMENT RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

****ALL TOURNAMENT RULES EXPRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT CAN AND WILL BE CHANGED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE KBL STAFF ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS. THE KBL STAFF HOLDS THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY AND/OR BAN ANY COMPETITOR THAT DOES NOT ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THIS SERIES. [RULES ON THIS PAGE ARE FOR ONLINE & OPEN TOURNAMENTS ONLY. FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE LIVE REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES, PLEASE REFER TO THE 2019 KAYAK BASS LEAGUE LIVE REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES AND REQUIREMENTS**](#)**

LATEST REVISION: 01/09/2019

LEGEND

- I) COMPETITION KAYAK REQUIREMENTS**
- II) ACCEPTABLE KAYAK PROPULSION**
- III) MINIMUM LICENSE, REGISTRATION OR PASS REQUIREMENTS**
- IV) MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**
- V) MINIMUM FISH PICTURE EQUIPMENT**
- VI) BUMP BOARD RULES**
- VII) ELIGIBLE FISH PICTURE REQUIREMENTS**
- VIII) EXIF PHOTO DATA REQUIREMENTS**
- IX) ELIGIBLE WATER**
- X) FISH SCORING**
- XI) PENALTIES, DISQUALIFICATIONS AND BANS**

I) COMPETITION KAYAK REQUIREMENTS

A kayak as defined by the Kayak Bass League is a plastic single hull watercraft that is powered in most cases by a double-bladed paddle and in some cases by a pedal drive system or electric motor.

The KBL has determined the following criteria which qualify a kayak to be used in a LIVE regular season event...

- A) The width of the hull cannot exceed 45 inches (based on manufacturer specifications for that model).
- B) The length of the hull can only be between 10 and 16 feet (based on manufacturer specifications for that model).
- C) Watercraft not considered an acceptable kayak would be canoes, aluminum bass boats, pond hoppers or bass buggy, SUP (stand up paddleboards), skiffs and foldable or inflatable kayaks.

II) ACCEPTABLE KAYAK PROPULSION

- A) Kayaks can **ONLY** be powered by paddle, pedals or electric motor (55 pound thrust max per the manufacturer specifications) and can use any combination of these devices.

III) MINIMUM LICENSE, REGISTRATION AND PASS REQUIREMENTS

- A) Every angler must possess a current fishing license for the state they are fishing in, whether you are a resident or non-resident.
- B) In the case that a kayak is powered by an electric motor the owner of the kayak must have their kayak titled/registered with the DNR of their state of origin if required. Proper hull numbers must be displayed on the kayak or registration paperwork must be available to show that a title was applied for.
- C) A daily parking pass or ramp fee may need to be paid at certain venues. It is up to the angler to check for this information on their own.

IV) MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- A) The following equipment will be required for all ONLINE and OPEN regular season events:
 - i) Type, I, II, III or V US Coast Guard approved life vest. Inflatable PFD are OK as long as they are suspender style that wrap over your shoulders and onto your chest. Belt style inflatable PFD's are NOT APPROVED!
- B) Extra "encouraged" but not required safety products to carry:
 - i) Orange safety flag
 - ii) Paddle
 - iii) Paddle Leash
 - iv) VHF/GRMF Radio
 - v) Anchor
 - vi) 360 Lights
 - vii) Air Horn
 - viii) Knife
 - ix) Dry Suit
 - x) Extra dry clothes

V) MINIMUM FISH PICTURE EQUIPMENT

- A) Hawg Trough or Ketch Products bump board (no other bump boards are acceptable)
- B) Tournament identifier provided in your dashboard on TourneyX under "view code/identifiers" (Must be filled out properly with Tournament code and Personal ID code...these codes are completely different from each other)

- C) High resolution camera or smart phone ****either option requires GPS capability****
(cameras cannot be shared between competitors)

VI) BUMP BOARD RULES

Hawg Trough Bump Board:

- A) Hawg Trough bump boards must be in their as purchased original condition. Boards that have been modified in length, broken, cracked, glued etc. will not be acceptable to use during the event.
- B) **Hawg Trough bump boards must have ALL of their measurement lines cleanly marked and defined at the peak or to the right of each measurement line with a black permanent marker (see example below).** If measurement lines are darkened sloppily or not marked at all the Kayak Bass League Staff has full authority to determine final fish length.

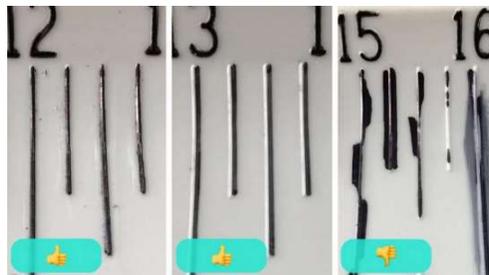
Ketch Products Bump Board:

- C) Ketch Products bump boards must be in their as purchased original condition. Any modifications such as removal of the QR code sticker, cutting of material, bent boards, etc. will not be acceptable to use during the event.
- D) Ketch Product bump boards DO NOT need their measurement lines marked.

Additional Bump Board Requirements:

- E) Stickers or marker marks may be placed on the upright and/or horizontal portion of the bump board as long as they do not transition from the vertical face into the horizontal face or vice versa.
- F) A competitor may share their bump board with another competitor while on the water.

Example:



VII) ELIGIBLE FISH PICTURE REQUIREMENTS

- A) All eligible fish must be a minimum of 12 inches in length with the mouth completely closed.

- B) All eligible pictures must have the head of the fish facing to the left and the belly of the fish facing the angler (see example below)
- C) The mouth of the fish must be completely closed with the nose of the fish touching the vertical face (fence of the bump board).
- D) The tournament identifier must be fully in view with BOTH the tournament code and your personal ID code filled out legibly. If either code is partially missing from view or illegible, the fish will be disqualified.
- E) If a fish picture is submitted 24 hours or more after it is caught the fish will be disqualified.

Example:



VIII) EXIF PHOTO DATA REQUIREMENTS

All photos taken for an online or open tournament must contain all of the original photo data. Especially the proper time when the photo was taken as well as the exact GPS location where the photo was taken. You can use the link below to read through the “Location Services” section to set up your GPS settings properly on your phone.

<https://tourneyx.com/app/help/>

If a photo is submitted with an obvious incorrect time stamp (i.e. photo shows time stamp of 11 AM and the photo was clearly taken at night) then the picture will automatically be disqualified. It is the responsibility of the angler to ensure that the camera is set to the correct time of day.

If a photo is submitted without GPS data or data that shows a location near a body of water then the picture will automatically be disqualified. Location data must be turned on at all times to ensure that the fish was taken from public water. If any GPS data remains questionable, then the angler will be contacted to supply further evidence of their location (i.e. lake pictures, lake signs, etc.) before a fish picture is accepted. If supporting evidence is not supplied by the conclusion of the event the fish in question will be disqualified. It is the responsibility of the angler to ensure that the GPS function for the camera is activated and working properly.

If an angler submits a fish picture with the correct time stamp and GPS location, but they were clearly fishing at night, the angler must provide documentation that they can fish the body of water in question at night. The fish will not be accepted until the documentation is sent to TD@kayakbassleague.com along with the picture of the fish in question and the tournament it was submitted to. If documentation is not supplied by the conclusion of the tournament, the fish will be disqualified.

IX) ELIGIBLE WATER

Midwest Bass Battles:

- A) All public water in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa and Ohio will be eligible for an online event. Any water that is shared between one of the eligible states and a non-eligible state is allowed as long as the angler launches from the eligible state.
- B) Public water will be defined as a waterway that any angler has immediate access to without restrictions. Also, public water can be described as any waterway that is accessible only by public land or public water. Pay lakes are legal as long as any angler has immediate access without restriction.

Open Events:

- C) Eligible water will be the tournament waterway specified for the event. An angler will not be allowed to drag or carry their kayak over land to reach another waterway not specified for the event.

X) FISH SCORING

- A) Each individual fish length is scored by the longest portion of the fish's tail that touches or surpasses a measurement line. Touching is defined as meeting or crossing the plane of the measurement line so that no visible gap is present between the tail and measurement mark.
- B) Each picture must contain the tournament identifier with BOTH the tournament code as well as the personal ID code. This information can be found in your TourneyX dashboard under "Identifier/Codes"
- C) Fish must have their mouth closed touching the upright of the bump board and facing to the left, belly facing the angler and the tail fin to the right in all pictures.
- D) Every competitor will be able to weigh in up to (5) of their longest largemouth, smallmouth or combination of the two species.
- E) Every competitor can cull to increase their (5) fish total length.
- F) In the case a fish is disqualified, the angler can resubmit a better picture of the fish that disqualified if it's during the time frame of the event. Once the event has concluded and a fish is disqualified, the angler will not be able to resubmit a better picture of the fish.

XI) PENALTIES, DISQUALIFICATIONS AND BANS

Bump Board	Items applied to the upright of the bump board that will drastically alter the fish's total length (layers of stickers, foam padding, et)	Fish DQ
Bump Board	Stickers or marker marks that transition from the vertical face (fence) to the horizontal measurement face of the bump board	Fish DQ
Bump Board	Using another measurement device other than a Ketch Products bump board or a Hawg Trough	Fish DQ
Fish	Fish submitted with head of fish to the right, fish submitted with belly facing away from the angler, or tail of fish touching the vertical face (fence) of the bump board	Fish DQ
Fish	If the fish appears to be mutilated, mangled or dead without further visual evidence of the fish being alive (separate picture, release video)	Fish DQ
Fish	Mouth of fish not touching the vertical face (fence) of the bump board	Fish DQ
Fish	Items still attached to the fish while on the bump board (i.e. fish grips, cull tags, clips, stringers, fishing line, lures, hooks, straps, bungees, tape, and other similar items)	Fish DQ
Fish	Items placed on the body of the fish other than the angler's hand (i.e. identifier, rag, etc). Note that wearing an identifier or glove on your hand will be OK as long as it doesn't cover the body of the bass reasonably beyond your hand	Fish DQ
Fish	Fish is restrained to the bump board by any other means except for the angler's hands (i.e. forearm, foot, etc)	Fish DQ
Fish	If an angler uses the gill plate of the fish as a means of restraint (i.e. shoving hand or fingers underneath the gill plate)	Fish DQ
Fish	If a fish picture is submitted with the fish's mouth open, meaning that the bump board is visible through the opening of the fish's mouth it will be considered mouth open. **Penalty will still apply even if the fish's mouth is deformed and prevents it from fully closing. This also applied to fish missing a majority of one of their lips**	0.50 inch deduction applied to total length of fish
Fish	If a length penalty is applied and the total length of the fish goes below the 12 inch minimum length	Fish DQ

Fish	Tail curved up and not in contact with the horizontal face of the bump board. **Angler is allowed to hold down the fish up until the end of it's body. Holding down the tail fin will result in a fish disqualification**	Fish DQ
Fish	If the head of the fish is in full view and touching the upright of the bump board, but the tail of the fish is cut off out of view	Fish length will be decided by the last visible measurement mark in view that the fish touches
Fish	Hand or other object obstructing the view of the entire nose, tail or eye of the fish	Fish DQ
Fish	Holding a fish captive outside of a standard catch, photo and release process	Fish DQ
Identifier	Identifier not in view within fish picture and the personal ID code or the tournament code is missing, unreadable or out of view in the picture	Fish DQ
Kayak	Competitor's kayak not in view in the fish picture	Fish DQ
Kayak	Kayak dimensions not within competition kayak requirements	Angler DQ
Photo	Photo appears to be second generation (photo of a photo)	Fish DQ and potential Angler DQ/Ban
Photo	Photo too blurry to accurately judge	Fish DQ
Fish	Photo submitted that was taken before or after the event date and/or event start or end time	Fish DQ
Angler	Angler on the water before the pre-tournament meeting	Angler DQ
Angler	Angler arrives after the start of the pre-tournament meeting as posted on the tournament registration page	Angler DQ
Angler	Angler is not checked in, and in the weigh-in line by the weigh-in cut off time	Angler DQ
Angler	Angler not wearing their PFD while on the water	Angler DQ
Angler	Line in the water before the start of an event or after the conclusion of an event	Angler DQ
Angler	Helping another angler land a fish or take a picture	DQ of ALL anglers involved
Angler	Fishing with more than one rod at a time	Angler DQ
Angler	Weighing in a fish not caught on your own	Angler DQ/Ban
Angler	Trolling	Angler DQ
Angler	Fishing with live bait	Angler DQ
Angler	Fishing in an off-limits area or body of water that is different from the water permitted during the tournament	Angler DQ

Angler	Portaging a kayak over dry land to reach another portion of the permitted waterway or launching from a different ramp not specified for the event	Angler DQ
Angler	Fishing from shore or landing a fish from dry land	Angler DQ
Angler	Using another vessel or angler as a means of propulsion around the waterway	DQ of ALL anglers involved
Angler	Receiving a ticket from the DNR during an event	Angler DQ
Angler	Evidence supporting cheating during an event	Angler Ban
Angler	Evidence supporting cheating during an event in another organization	Angler Ban
Angler	Fighting with another angler or KBL staff member	Angler Ban and potential legal action
Angler	Property damage of another angler or KBL staff member	Angler Ban and potential legal action
Angler	In possession of drugs or alcohol during a KBL event	Angler DQ/Ban
Angler	Verbal assault/defamation of character: Posting malicious or harmful content against another angler, KBL staff member, the KBL organization or any affiliated groups or companies	Angler Ban and potential legal action

****All rule infractions that result in an angler disqualification will result in a disqualification for the event that they are participating in. This means that zero AOY points will be rewarded and entry fees will not be refunded. Angler bans are at the discretion of the Kayak Bass League staff and will result in the ban of the angler from all future events. There will be no refunds for entry fees, membership fees, or any other fees paid to the Kayak Bass League prior to the ban****

****Competitor understands and agrees that his participation in and attendance at the KBL Event is knowing and voluntary. Competitor understands and agrees that strict observation of the Event rules and regulations is required and that use of the Event facilities and the Competitor's presence at the Event are at the sole risk of the Competitor. Competitor indemnifies and holds harmless the KAYAK BASS LEAGUE and ACS OUTDOORS and its officers, directors, employees and agents from and against any claims, demands, actions, liabilities, damages, costs or expenses, including court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees arising out of or relating to: (i) Competitor's participation in the Event; (ii) claims against KAYAK BASS LEAGUE and ACS OUTDOORS by any third parties arising from or related to KAYAK BASS LEAGUE'S and ACS OUTDOORS' actions and/or omissions, (iii) claims relating to any violation or alleged violation by KAYAK BASS LEAGUE and ACS OUTDOORS and/or any third party of the applicable laws relating to the conduct of the Event; and/or (iv) claims arising from or relating to KAYAK BASS LEAGUE'S and ACS OUTDOORS' performance of its obligations hereunder. Competitor specifically understands and agrees that he is assuming the risk of any and all injuries that he may suffer or incur as a result of his registration and/or participation in the Event. Competitor's indemnification obligations shall survive the expiration or termination of this agreement.****