

## Competition Rules Standard

The terms and conditions presented in this document apply between Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club and those persons registering for and participating in LCKFC competitive Events ("Competitor"). "Events" include both "Tournaments" (meet-up competition) and "Challenges" (distributed competition where participants do not congregate). The pronouns "he," "him," "himself," and "his" herein are used as generic, gender-neutral terms and do not restrict or confirm access on the basis of sex.

Each Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club Event or Tournament (referred to herein as "Competition") is conducted according to Competition Rules found in two documents:

1. *Competition Rules Standard (this document) cover about 90% of the terms, conditions and standards common to all LCKFC Events.*
2. *Event Rules Addendum, located on the Event Page, presents the remaining event-specific rules and details such as dates, locations, times, fishable waters, and local restrictions.*

Together, these two documents comprise the *LCKFC Competition Rules*. As a condition of participation in any LCKFC Competition, the participating angler ("Competitor") agrees to read, understand, and comply with all LCKFC Competition Rules. Failure to comply will result in penalty, which may range from points deductions to submission denial or disqualification.

For each Event, the Tournament Director ("TD") will be identified in the LCKFC Event Rules Addendum. He has responsibility for interpretation and enforcement of the LCKFC Competition Rules and may amplify or clarify them to make them more relevant or complete. LCKFC Officers will review the TD's action and revise the LCKFC Competition Rules appropriately. Such revisions will be summarized in a Revisions Log (above) and highlighted in red in the body of the rules standards. Announcement of the rule changes will also be posted fifteen (15) days prior to implementation in the Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club Facebook Community Page and/or Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club (Members Only) Facebook page.

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### 1. Participation and Eligibility

#### A. LCKFC Membership

i. Unless otherwise exempted, to participate in Member-only Tournaments, each Competitor must be an active LCKFC Member at least one day before start-of-competition. These include but are not limited to Tournaments and Championships. Non-members who fish at such Events are not eligible for prizes, Angler of the Year Points, and rewards.

ii. Unless specified as “LCKFC Member-only”, participation in any LCKFC Event is open to both LCKFC Members and non-members who meet all other eligibility requirements specified in LCKFC Competition Rules. These include but are not limited to OPENS.

**B. Professional Fishing Guides** may register and compete in Events providing they do not guide-for-pay on Eligible Water within 30 days prior to the Event’s start-of-competition date.

**C. Event Registration** — All LCKFC CPR Competitions are conducted using a Tournament Management System (TourneyX). Each angler who wishes to participate in such an Event must create a TMS user account before the first day of competition.

i. Any Competitor who desires to compete in a Challenge is required to sign up for the Event and pay the entry fee on the TMS.

ii. For CPR Tournaments (e.g., CPR OPENS), TMS registration and use is required, unless noted in Tournament addendum or flyer.

**D. Entry Fees** — Entry Fee amounts, administrative surcharges, registration deadlines, late fee exceptions, and refund or transfer restrictions are specified in the Event Rules Addendum/ Flyer for each Competition.

**No Satisfaction Guarantee** — Competitor understands and agrees that payment for the Event does not secure a guarantee or promise of satisfaction.

Competitor’s failure or inability, for any reason except as otherwise provided herein, to participate in any or all of the activities of the Event does not relieve or suspend the Competitor’s obligation to make all payments required by LCKFC Rules on a timely basis, nor entitle the Customer to a refund or credit, except as provided below.

**E. Payment** — Competitor agrees that once an Event Registration is submitted, the terms and conditions of the LCKFC Competition Rules constitute an Agreement that is a legally binding and enforceable obligation of Competitor.

**F. Competitor’s Right to Cancel** — Any competitor who wishes to cancel an Event Registration may do so by emailing LCKFC (lakecharleskayakfishing@gmail.com).

For Tournaments, if cancellation email is dated more than 15 days prior to the Event, no administrative fee will be charged. Any cancellation dated 15 days or fewer before the Event shall result in a per person administrative fee @ 25% of the Event Registration Fee.

Once an Event has started, no cancellations will be accepted and no refunds will be provided.

LCKFC is not responsible for any refunds of expenses related to travel or lodging reservations or other payments involving third parties.

**G. Pre-Tournament Check-in** — Each Tournament Competitor is responsible for reviewing the Schedule of Events in the LCKFC Event Rules Addendum/ Flyer for pre-event check-in times and location. Each Competitor must check in with official LCKFC Competition staff at the time and place designated in the Schedules of Event for verification of eligibility, signing of waivers if required, and rules acknowledgement. Late check-in and registration process (if permitted), event-specific instructions, and Event schedule are specified in the LCKFC Event Rules Addendum.

**H. Captains Meeting Attendance** — Tournament Competitors are required to attend an on-site Captains Meeting or view a recorded “Virtual” Captains Meeting Webcast via Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club Community Page. Failure to either view a Virtual Captains Meeting or attend an on-site Captains Meeting results in a Competitor’s disqualification from the Event.

## 2. Fish Eligibility

**A. Species**—For “Bass” Competitions, only “black bass” are eligible for scoring. That designation includes the two most common species (Largemouth Bass – *Micropterus salmoides* and Spotted or Kentucky Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus*) as well as other less well-known species or varieties:

- i. Shoal Bass – *Micropterus cataactae*
- ii. Redeye Bass – *Micropterus coosae*
- iii. Suwannee Bass – *Micropterus notius*
- iv. Guadalupe Bass- *Micropterus treculi*
- v. Bartram's Bass – *Micropterus bartrami*
- vi. Alabama Spotted Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus henshalli*
- vii. Mean Mouth Bass – hybrid offspring of *M. dolomieu* and *M. punctulatus*

For Competitions involving other species (e.g. Sea Trout, Flounder, Redfish, Catfish, Perch, Crappie, or any other fish will be announced on Tournament Rules Addendum/ Flyer) the species of fish permitted for scoring will be specified in the Event Rules Addendum. Submission of a photo of an ineligible species will result in denial/disqualification of the photo.

B. *Length*—The minimum length of fish scored in competition is 8 inches. Photos of fish shorter than the minimum specified for an Event will be denied. Max length may be capped off as well, so be sure to see Tournament Addendum/ Flyer.

C. *Condition*—Fish must be hooked in the mouth or jaw. It may not appear to have snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body or a fin. Fish must appear to be alive. If a fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged, or it appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, the photo will be denied. (see Weigh-In section regarding handling of fish in non-CPR tournaments)

D. *Caudal (Tail) Fin*—The tip of at least one lobe of the caudal (tail) fin must be contact with the measuring board. If the entire caudal (tail) fin is lifted away from the measuring board so that the tip is no longer in contact, the photo will be denied.

E. *Eye*—The left eye must be visible in photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

F. *Position*- The fish must be orientated with dorsal fin to the top of measuring board and picture and head facing to the left.

### 3. **Competition Period**

A. Competition start and end dates and times are stated in the LCKFC Event Rules Addendum. Any Competitor who begins fishing before the official Competition Start Time on any day of competition will be disqualified from the Event. Under no circumstance will a fish photographed outside of the official Competition Start and End times be considered for scoring.

B. **Check-in** — Tournament Competitors who have already submitted digital photos by upload to the TMS must be in the Judges' Check-in Line at Tournament HQ by the time specified in the LCKFC Event Rules Addendum. Failure to be in or through the Judges' Check-in Line by that time will result in disqualification from the Event.

C. **Weigh-in** — Tournaments going by weight, Competitors must sign-in by the specified time in the Tournament Rules Addendum/ Flyer.

i. Any angler not signed in by cutoff time will not be allowed to have their catch weighed or eligible for door prizes. There will be no proxy sign-ins, a participant must appear in person and physically sign-in.

ii. All competitors must check in with legal fish as per LDWF regulations to be eligible for awards and prizes. All fish presented at time of weigh in must meet LCKFC tournament size requirements. Any fish presented to weigh-master that does not meet minimum/maximum size requirements will not be accepted as a tournament entry. A replacement fish will be allowed but has to be in your physical possession. You are not allowed to leave your position at the weigh table. If a second fish is presented and does not meet minimum/maximum tournament size requirements it will result in an immediate disqualification of the angler from the tournament. All gross negligence of the minimum/maximum tournament size limits will result in an immediate disqualification and the LCKFC weigh-master and Tournament Director will have final decision.

iii. Any attempt to enter fraudulent catch, exchanging catches, tampering with catch, or to hamper or threaten any official of the tournament will result in immediate disqualification.

iv. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the sign-in and weigh-in stations.

v. All fish must be properly maintained for consumption. Fish that are not properly iced and/or kept "fresh" will not be accepted for the weigh-in.

vi. DO NOT intentionally alter the length of a fish by "air-drying" any portion of the fish. The entire fish must be

kept in an appropriate cooler or kept on a stringer while alive. Do not keep dead fish on a stringer. Do not cull dead fish. You are allowed to “take” (kill) ONLY five redfish per day. If you cull dead fish, you may be guilty of exceeding your daily limit. Exceeding your daily limit is a disqualifier. If you cull fish that are “weak” and will probably not survive, you would be committing an unsportsmanlike act. Please be responsible and do the right thing.

**4. Pre-fishing** — Practice in Eligible Water<sup>Ⓞ</sup> is permitted until the time specified in the LCKFC Event Rules Addendum on the day prior to Competition. If no pre-fishing deadline is stated in the *Addendum*, then practice may continue up until six hours prior to competition start time. There are no restrictions regarding areas, type of watercraft, or types of bait used in pre-fishing. Fishing on the event’s eligible water after the specified pre-fishing deadline will result in disqualification from the Event. (Refer to Rule 6 regarding pre-fishing with a professional fishing guide.)

#### **5. Competition Area**

A. Competitive fishing is allowed only on publicly-accessible waters within the geographic area designated by the *LCKFC Event Rules Addendum* as “Eligible Water<sup>Ⓞ</sup>.” Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

B. Competitors may launch from any public-access shore directly onto Eligible Water or may launch and then paddle or portage to Eligible Water. Crossing restricted property to reach Eligible Water is not permitted. Tributaries, canals, sloughs or estuaries separated from the rest of eligible water by temporary obstructions (e.g., fallen trees, log jams, beaver dams) that, if removed, could be entered by floating/paddling are considered eligible waters in which competition is permitted, and competitors are permitted to drag or portage watercraft over or around such obstructions. Those separated by obstructions of a permanent nature (e.g., levees, earthen or concrete dams, berms, roadbeds, spillways, waterfalls) are ineligible water, and competition in such areas is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

C. Fishing behind gated areas of the marsh is not allowed unless the angler has arranged for all other participants to also fish the area that day AND has made that possibility known to all by posting appropriate information on our forums at least one week in advance.

D. Competitors are not restricted to fishing where they start out each day but are permitted to relocate to other Eligible Water during tournament hours.

E. Watercraft must not be anchored in such a position as to prevent or block access for other watercraft or powerboats. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

F. Wade fishing is permitted provided the Competitor uses his watercraft to access the fishing location. Fish caught while wading or walking the shoreline ARE eligible for submission; however, each Competitor must be within 100’ of his watercraft while fishing, watercraft must be in/ on edge of water (Ex. Watercraft can not be in back of the truck or on a trailer.... must be in or touching the water you are fishing), and the watercraft must appear in every Fish photo submitted. Competitors may depart the watercraft to catch and land fish. If a Competitor must go out of sight of his watercraft for any reason (e.g., for a restroom break or to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency), he must cease fishing until he returns to his watercraft, at which time he may resume fishing. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

#### **6. Cooperation and Assistance**

A. Up until the end of the established pre-fishing period, competitors may fish with and receive direct assistance from other anglers and professional guides on the Eligible Water, except as restricted in Rule 6.B., below.

B. Within 30 days prior to the Event, a Competitor may not fish on Eligible Water with, nor receive expert advice from, a professional fishing guide who accepts payment for such services. Violation will result in Competitor’s disqualification from the Event.

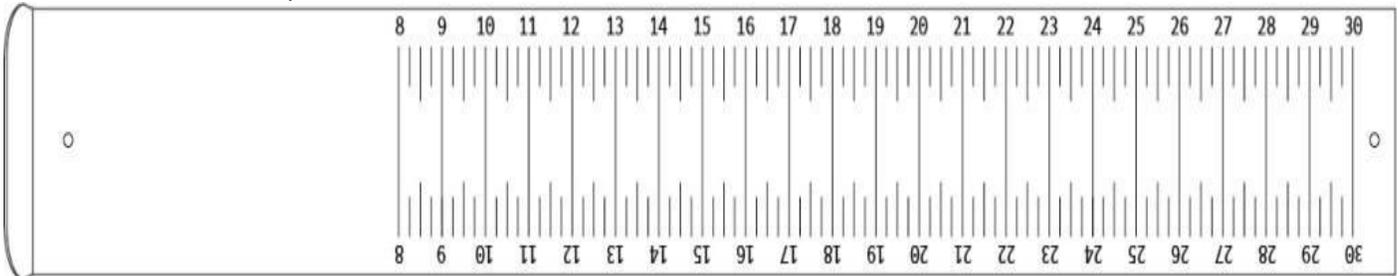
C. Before and during the event, competitors may (a.) share gear, tackle and equipment, (b.) assist in photographing a fish for submission, and (c.) communicate with and fish in proximity to other people, including other Competitors (except Professional Fishing Guides, as stipulated in Rule 6.B., above); however, then may not receive assistance in catching fish, including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation will result in Competitor’s disqualification from the Event.

## 7. Fishing Tackle, Equipment, and Methods

A. All fish must be caught live, the Competitor using only equipment and legal methods that comply with all sportfishing statutes and regulations of the states and body of water in which they are taken. Competitors are responsible for research of and compliance with all applicable fishing and boating regulations. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted. When visually fishing a bed for spawning fish,, to be admissible all fish must be hooked inside the mouth. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

B. All fish must be caught on rod, reel, line and hook with artificial lures only. No traps, snares, set lines or other methods of fishing other than rod, reel and line are permissible, even if legal under state game laws. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

C. Acceptable measuring boards include the "Hawg Trough" manufactured by Hagen's (pictured below) and the Ketch Co Measuring Board. Measuring boards may be shortened by removing inches from the upper end (opposite the fence) For example; one may cut a measuring board off at the 26 inch mark in order to fit crossways between a watercraft's gunwales. However, it may not be broken, snapped, or cut apart and then reassembled at any point between the two ends. A crack that does not separate the measuring board into pieces and does not affect the measuring board's accuracy may be repaired and reinforced for use. Violation will result in denial of photo.



D. Competitors may share measuring boards.

E. A break of the measuring board's fence may be mended for use if the repair is rigid, flat and at a right angle to the measuring surface. The mended measuring board must be submitted to the Tournament Director, personally or by two or more emailed photographs that clearly show (i.) the mended area and (ii.) a side view of the measuring surface and the fence. Violation will result in denial of photo.

F. Each competitor must use a mobile phone with camera or a digital camera or video camera capable of producing still photos with memory card and/or download cable to submit digital photographs.

When a Competitor's smart phone becomes inoperable or is lost, he may share smart phones with other Competitors, provided each Competitor logs into his own TMS account in order to submit photos of fish he caught. Competitor under the same circumstances may share digital cameras, provided each Competitor can clearly and positively identify photos of the fish he caught. Violation will result in denial of photo.

G. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No live bait, preserved bait, or prepared bait will be permitted during competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

H. Only ONE casting, spin-casting, spinning, or fly rod and reel may be in use at any one time. A rod and reel is considered to be "in use" when a lure attached to it by a line is in or on the water. A hung lure (one snagged in an overhanging tree) that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and the attached rod and reel may be set aside while another is in use.

I. Nets and grippers (e.g., Fish Grip, Boga-Grip) may be used for landing fish during tournament competition, but grippers must not remain attached to the fish in photos. Violation will result in denial or disqualification of the photo.

J. If a Competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or by hand to secure the line and land the fish to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. If a Competitor loses his rod and reel while landing a fish he MAY use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit. If after retrieval, the fish is still hooked, it may be landed, photographed, and submitted as a legal fish. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

## 8. Watercraft & Propulsion

A. Watercraft acceptable for use in LCKFC Competition are:

- i. Small, narrow, single-hull watercraft not exceeding 44 inches in hull width and 17 feet in hull length, or 18 feet in combined hull length plus attachments, and...
- ii. that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks
- iii. Stand-up paddleboards (SUP)
- iv. Canoes
- v. Other watercraft specifically approved in advance of competition by LCKFC Tournament Committee. If unsure about the acceptability of a watercraft, contact LCKFC Tournament Committee in advance for eligibility determination.
- vi. Under no circumstance will the following watercraft be approved for use in competition:
  - a. Gas- or liquid-fueled motorized or hybrid fuel/electric powerboats or personal watercraft
  - b. Sailboats
  - c. Jon boats
  - d. Pirogues, coracles, and rowboats
  - e. Dinghies and skiffs
  - f. Float tubes, inflatable rafts, and rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac)
  - g. Pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft, or similar.

Use of watercraft in competition other than those listed above will result in disqualification from the Event.

B. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, or push pole.

C. Towing, transport or relocation assistance from another watercraft, including "mothershipping," is NOT permitted except in cases of emergency, as when pulling a kayak from a danger zone or restricted area. Once the emergency has ended, the Competitor may resume fishing only if the watercraft was pulled no more than 100 yards from the danger zone. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

D. Trolling (i.e., lure(s) attached to a single rod and towed behind a watercraft while underway) is permitted in LCKFC Competition.

9. **Photo Standards**—Digital photographs of each fish submitted to judges for scoring must meet these criteria:

A. *Unique*—Each digital photo submitted by the same Competitor in each Event must be of a different fish and submitted within 24hrs of Catching, Photoing, and Releasing of the Fish. Subsequent digital photos of the same fish submitted by the Competitor in a Single Event will be denied.

B. *Visible/Legible*—Each photo must be in sharply focused and clear enough for a judge to:

- i. Verify the correct Identifier Form and Event ID Code. Inability of the judge to verify will result in denial of photo.
  - ii. Verify the fish's condition. Violation will result in denial of photo.
  - iii. Verify the fish's length. Judge will score fish at the greatest length of which he is certain.
  - iv. Verify whether its jaw or lip is in contact with the measuring board fence. Inability of the judge to verify will result in a penalty of 1 inch.
  - v. Except where covered by hand or fingers, the entire fish, from its mouth/jaw to the tip of its caudal (tail) fin, must be visible in photos. If either end is covered or cropped off, the photo will be denied.
- C. *Centered*—Camera lens positioned directly over the center of the fish's body, which contributes to accurate measurement by judges. Photos taken at a low angle in order obscure an open mouth may be denied or penalized at the Tournament Director's discretion.

D. *First-generation*—Each digital photo must be a first-generation image (not a photo or screen-shot of another photo). Violation will result in denial of photo.

E. *Identifiable*—Official LCKFC Identifier Form above, below, or beside that fish (not covering any portion of the fish, unless attached to the Competitor's hand or arm). Securing a fish to a measuring board via Tourney Tag will result in the disqualification of the fish. Neither a hand-drawn form nor an image of the LCKFC Identifier Form on a smart phone are permissible. Violation will result in denial of photo.

F. *Background*—Competitor's watercraft clearly visible in the photograph. Violation will result in denial of photo.

### G. Hand Position.

i. Hand or finger(s) may be in contact with the caudal peduncle (fleshy, scaled part of the fish's body at the base of the caudal fin) but not touching any portion of the caudal fin (tail fin). Violation will result in a 1-inch deduction in score.

II. No portion of a hand or finger may be under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap). Violation will result in denial of photo.

### H. Mouth

i. Fish's lip or jaw must be in contact with measuring board fence (bump board, upright), and the fence must be visible in the photo. Violation will result in denial of photo. (see rule 9.H.iii. regarding red drum)

ii. Mouth is preferred closed for uniformity of measurement. If judge considers the mouth to be open, even if it is structurally unable to close, a one-inch penalty will be assessed. (see rule 9.H.iii. regarding red drum)

iii. A Red Drum's (redfish) nose must be in contact with measuring board fence (bump board, upright), and it's mouth may be open, as it does not affect the ability to achieve an accurate measurement.

I. *Not "In-possession."* In Louisiana unless a fish is secured by a restraint device or is placed in a holding container, state regulatory agencies do not consider it to be "in possession" by Competitors, so Louisiana's minimum length regulations do not apply for photo submissions.

### 10. Scoring

A. Fish length is determined by its caudal fin (tail fin) touching or crossing the quarter-inch ridge/line on the measuring board. If it falls short of a 1/4-inch mark, the length is rounded down to the next lower 1/4-inch mark that the fish's caudal fin actually touches or crosses.

B. If any portion of a fish's caudal (tail) fin extends off the measuring board, the score will be determined by the highest 1/4-inch measurement reached or crossed by the portion of caudal fin on the Measuring Board. Any portion of the caudal fin extending off the Measuring Board is not considered in scoring.

C. If a Competitor's photo is denied by a judge after end-of-competition, it may be automatically replaced by a previously submitted and auto-culled photo; however, no Competitor may submit a replacement photo after end-of-competition time.

D. In the event of a tie in score, the tied competitors' longest (highest-scored) Fish are compared, and the tie breaks in favor of the competitor with the longest (highest-scoring) Fish. If the longest Fish are equal, the second-longest Fish are compared and determine which competitor wins the tie. If the second-longest are identical, the third Fish is compared, and if they, too, are identical, then the fourth Fish breaks the tie. If all four of the tied competitors' highest scoring Fish are identical, then the tie breaks in favor of the competitor whose last Leader Board photo was uploaded earliest.

F. LCKFC judges apply the following scoring criteria to adjust measurements, approve or deny photos, and to penalize photos by deducting points (length) or disqualifying a Competitor.

Item	Photo Scoring Criteria	Penalty
Photo	Blurry photo/length unclear: scored at the highest mark of which there is no doubt	n/a
Photo	Blurry photo; completely unable to judge	Deny
Photo	Appears to be second-generation (screen shot, photo of photo)	Deny
Photo	EXIF data and other evidence substantiates photo taken outside of Eligible Water boundaries	Deny
Photo	EXIF data, other evidence substantiates photo was taken outside of competition hours	Deny
Photo	Multiple digital photos submitted of the same fish; unintentional violation	Deny
Photo	Multiple digital photos submitted of the same fish; evidence indicates	Ban

	intentionally	
Photo	Competitor's watercraft not visible in photo background	Deny
Photo	Entire fish not in picture	Deny
Orientation	Fish positioned with right side of body toward camera; head pointing right and caudal fin left	Deny
Orientation	Fish positioned with dorsal fins at bottom of photo, pelvic and anal fins upward	Deny
Identifier	Official identifier Form missing, counterfeit, or incorrect for event	Deny
Identifier	Identifier Form is lying on or covering any portion of the fish	Deny
Identifier	Incorrect Event ID Code for Event	Deny
Fish	Secured by restraining device (e.g., stringer, tape, or clip attached to fish)	Deny
Fish	Photo violates state regulations regarding possession	Deny
Species	Photo of any other than the species or varieties approved for the Competition	Deny
Body	Body length less than 8 inches or 27"+	Deny
Body	Any portion of a hand or fingers under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap)	Deny
Body	Finger(s) or hand touching the caudal (tail) fin	1.00"
Body	Entire caudal (tail) fin entirely lifted away and out of contact with the measuring board	Deny
Body	Eye covered; not visible in photo	Deny
Body	Fish appears to have been snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body rather than mouth	Deny
Body	Fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged	Deny
Body	Fish appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered to increase its length	Deny
Mouth	Fish lip or jaw (or redfish nose) clearly not touching measuring board fence (upright end plate)	Deny
Mouth	Unable to ascertain with certainty that fish lip or jaw (or redfish nose) is touching measuring board fence	1.00"
Mouth	Mouth open (except redfish), even if it appears to be structurally unable to close completely. (Judge's Discretion)	1.00"

## 11. Penalties

**All anglers are encouraged to report violations. Cheating and contest fraud in a fishing tournament is a crime in the state of Louisiana. LCKFC will enforce a zero tolerance policy with regard to cheating.**

A. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such penalties as deemed appropriate, including without limitation, the following:

- i. Reduction of score (length) as described above or determined by the Tournament Director
- ii. Loss of catch for the day or up until the violation has been remedied
- iii. Disqualification from the tournament in question
- iv. Any additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Competitor of Year points.

Subject to the appeal process set forth below, the Tournament Director's decisions on violations are final.

B. Following a review of evidence, a determination by LCKFC Tournament Committee of cheating or conviction of fraud will result in permanent revocation of LCKFC Membership, suspension from all LCKFC competition and LCKFC-affiliated Events, and series, and revocation of all LCKFC Social Media privileges. The findings will be published on the LCKFC Community and Members-only Facebook pages.

C. Competitor acknowledges that (i.) the use of polygraph tests may be necessary to verify compliance with rules and to settle disputes and (ii.) entry constitutes acceptance of this requirement and agreement to abide by its conclusion. Refusal by a Competitor to submit to a polygraph test is grounds for immediate disqualification from the LCKFC Event and prohibition against future participation in any LCKFC-affiliated Event. Results of a polygraph test will not be the sole determining factor in a LCKFC Tournament Committee Review of a Competitor's eligibility for awards and qualification for future participation but may be one of several factors considered in such review.

D LCKFC Tournament Committee shall

- i. Have the discretion to determine the need for a Polygraph examination.
- ii. Be responsible for (i.) selecting an independent expert to administer the polygraph test, (ii.) establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions that may be asked during the test examination, and (iii.) interpreting the results.

E. The Competitor shall:

- i. Make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director
- ii. Cooperate in all respects with such test.

F. Competitors may be selected at random to undergo polygraph examinations during or following competitive Events.

G. All participants, by signing up, agree to take a polygraph examination if requested. Any participant can be asked to submit to a polygraph examination. No explanation shall be required from the hosts of the tournament as to why a specific individual is asked to submit to a polygraph examination. Refusal to submit to or failure of a polygraph examination will result in disqualification from the tournament, forfeiture of any and all prizes / awards, and potential banishment from all future LCKFC events. No refunds for tournament fees will be granted for person(s) refusing to submit to or failing a polygraph examination.

## **12. Awarding of Prizes**

A. Prizes and numbers of positions paid out are addressed in the Event Rules Addendum. Amounts paid per rank are subject to change based on participation (lower value for fewer entries and higher value for more entries) and sponsor provision.

B. Prizes will be processed after all photos submitted for scoring have been judged, the results reviewed by a separate panel, and disputes have been resolved.

C. Product prizes (e.g. kayaks, paddles, propulsion units) may require additional processing or delivery time. This allows competitors some flexibility in selection of model, color or style. Product selection may be limited to specific features and models.

**13. Taxes** — Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.

Failure to meet those obligations may result in disqualification from all future LCKFC events. All prize recipients whose cumulative total for the year adds up to \$600 or more must fill out and turn in an IRS Form

W-9 including name, address, social security number, signature and date. These are used to prepare IRS 1099 forms for distribution in January.

**14. Sale of Prizes** — No prizes won participating in LCKFC Events may be advertised or promoted for sale on LCKFC Facebook Community Public Page for a period of one full year. Violation of this rule will result in ineligibility for all future events and forfeiture of qualification status.

**15. Safety**

A. During competition, every Competitor must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment, (e.g., light source, whistle or other audible signal device, Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver [PFD]). See [www.uscgboating.org/](http://www.uscgboating.org/).

B. *PFD Usage* — At all times while on the water and/or fishing during competition hours, Competitors must wear either an inherent-flotation or inflatable USCG-certified PFD, either vest-style or float jacket. A belt-style PFD, even one that deploys as a vest, is not permitted during Competition. The PFD must be properly positioned and adjusted to conform with USGC and manufacturers' instructions. When an infraction, as described above, is verified by the Tournament Director, the competitor is disqualified from participation in the event. This can include: i. Any pictures shared via social media and/ or competitors without wearing a PFD properly during competition can result in a DQ of days catch or even from competition.

C. The Tournament Director has the right to postpone or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would jeopardize Competitors' safety. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

D. In the event of weather emergencies that pose an imminent threat to Competitors, the Tournament Director may terminate Competition before the scheduled end-of-competition time. An Early Termination Announcement with an adjusted end-of-competition time will be broadcast to Competitors via email and group text messaging and will also be posted on the TMS site and social media sites. The Announcement will also specify an adjusted report-in time and location. If safe to do so, upon receiving the Announcement, Competitor should make his way to the specified location at that time.

Competitor is required to stop fishing as soon as he receives the Early Termination Announcement. No photos of fish caught after the adjusted end-of-competition time may be submitted for scoring; however, to accommodate those seeking shelter immediately, Competitor has up to 15 minutes after the Adjusted End Time to submit a photo of any fish caught before the adjusted end-of-competition time/photo submission deadline.

E. In the event of an emergency situation, Competitor should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

F. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any Competitor during an Event will not be tolerated and will be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future LCKFC tournaments. No alcoholic beverages (Save them for the weigh-ins) other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in watercraft during competition days. 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 LCKFC Tournament Committee. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a LCKFC tournament, and/or disqualification from a LCKFC tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the LCKFC Tournament Committee.

**G. Night Tournaments** that take place, in which boats leave before sunrise or return after sunset, must comply with the following:

i. All participant boats must be equipped with working Coast Guard approved running lights. Running lights must remain on *in accordance with the governing state regulations*. [Note: Kayaks are categorized by USCG as "oar-driving craft" and meet USCG requirements by having an "electric torch" (a.k.a. flashlight) that can be used to signal other boaters. While anchored, all watercraft must display a 360-degree white light.]

ii. The tournament director shall have *predetermined the availability* of cell phone or radio coverage to assure reasonable communications in the event of an emergency. [Note: All competitors should make sure their cell

phone numbers are entered in the TMS and the Tournament Director should have a list of all competitors with cell phone numbers for texting or calls.]

iii. The tournament director shall *have on hand the contact information for emergency rescue and medical services* and *must maintain the ability to make contact at all times during the tournament*.

iv. The tournament director shall have in place a system of accounting for the return of all participants. [Note: This includes not only an end-of-competition check-in but also a way for competitors who leave early to notify the TD.]

**16. Competitor Conduct** — Competitors participating in any LCKFC sanctioned event must observe the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating and must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects favorably on the sport of kayak fishing, LCKFC, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, integrity, safety and conservation in support of the sport of kayak fishing, especially when in the vicinity of non-Competitors who may be on or beside Eligible Water. Any Competitor who violates these principles or behaves in ways that reflect unfavorably upon LCKFC efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may forfeit tournament winnings, face suspension from future LCKFC sanctioned events, be permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by LCKFC.

i. DRONE/UAS USAGE: Tournament participants are not allowed to use unmanned aircraft systems (drones) during the tournament day to scout for fish, spy on other anglers, or any other means that may be viewed as benefiting/advancing their fishing.

ii. COMMUNICATION: Cell or electronic communication “to and from” non-tournament anglers during tournament hours will not be allowed except if it is not fishing related (Example: your wife, work, etc.).

iii. WATER COURTESY / ENCROACHMENT: Do your best not to disturb someone else’s fishing area, by encroachment, or noise. If you come upon an angler in an egress area, as quietly as you can, ask which side he or she would like you to cross at. A good rule of thumb is that if you can both cast to a common point you’re too close. Respect others and use the golden rule.

iv. No sharing of photos while fishing LCKFC Tournaments without a PFD will be allowed. LCKFC was designed to help promote safe kayak fishing, as Kayak Fishermen, we have numerous youth looking up on us and we want to set good examples for them at all times while on the water.

## **17. Disputes and Appeals**

A. If a Competitor wishes to dispute a rules violation penalty, a judge’s scoring decision, or other action that materially affected the Competitor’s ranking or prize eligibility, he must email a dispute with the Tournament Director within 24 hours (1 full day) following completion of Event judging. The dispute must include the following:

i. Event title, location, and date

ii. Description or identification of penalty imposed, or condition being disputed

iii. Reference to pertinent rule

iv. Reason for dispute and requested action

Except for situations involving fraud or other law violation, any disputes submitted after the 24-hour dispute deadline will be reviewed without affecting the outcome of an event. No change in rank or reward will result from disputes submitted after the deadline. Only Competitors in the Event where the disputed action occurred may submit disputes. Disputes must be handled privately. All parties directly involved will be provided a copy of the dispute. The Tournament Director will review the Competitor’s claims, thoroughly investigate the disputed decision, and issue a ruling.

B. The Competitor who filed the dispute may appeal the Tournament Director’s ruling. Appeals of rulings must be presented to the LCKFC Tournament Committee via email within 24 hours from the time and date of ruling. An Appeals Processing Fee of \$50 must be paid to LCKFC via PayPal Funds Transfer. LCKFC Tournament Committee will impanel an appeals committee comprised of one LCKFC Officer not involved directly in directing or judging the Event and two LCKFC Members who were not Competitors in the Event. 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 prescribed time of hearing. The appeals committee will submit its

findings and recommendations to the LCKFC Tournament Committee, whose decisions are final. If Committee rules in the Competitor's favor and reverses or nullifies the ruling, then the entire Appeal Processing Fee will be refunded; however, if the ruling stands, then the Fee is forfeited.

#### **18. Public Comments**

A. The favorable public reputation of LCKFC as a sanctioning organization in the sport of kayak fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media channels are valuable assets and tangible benefits for LCKFC. 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 LCKFC tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow Competitors or the LCKFC organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with LCKFC policies are encouraged, as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that a Competitor knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club, LCKFC officers, LCKFC members or sponsors, may result in disciplinary action.

B. Sponsor contributions will not be devalued by disputes or disagreements in public forums or social media platforms.

C. Publicly disputing any judgment decisions by a Tournament Director, LCKFC Tournament Committee, or judges will result in participants receiving one warning followed by disciplinary action up to permanent disqualification for repeated offenses. 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 provision is not intended to discourage legitimate disputes but 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.

**19. Unavailability and Force Majeure** — LCKFC will use reasonable efforts to hold the Event; however, under no circumstances will LCKFC be held responsible for unavailability caused by circumstances beyond LCKFC's control, including flood, fire, hurricanes, earthquakes or other "acts of God," acts of government, civil unrest, acts of terror, strikes or labor problems nor will any Event Registration be cancelled, altered or amended once the Event has commenced on the basis of circumstances beyond LCKFC's reasonable control.

**20. Compliance with Laws** — This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Louisiana. All rights and obligations of the LCKFC and the Competitor under this Agreement are subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. These terms and conditions shall be deemed revised to conform to applicable statutes, rules and regulations. LCKFC may modify the terms and conditions stated herein at any time in its sole and absolute discretion. Competitor shall be bound by the modified Agreement and agree that no other modifications shall be enforceable. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements between the parties, whether written or oral. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision hereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. The waiver of any breach shall not constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach.

#### **21. Waivers and Releases**

**A. Name and Likeness Release** — By registering for this Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club Event, the Competitor grants to Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club the right to use all photographs, likenesses, stories, accounts, details of Competitor contributions, exploits, interviews, bloopers, and information pertinent to the LCKFC Event, as well as any video footage, photographs gathered at the Event, for marketing and promotional purposes. This release is granted without expectation for additional compensation upon submission of Event Registration.

**B. Waiver and Release of Liability** — As a condition of participation in a Competition, and by virtue of registering for the Competition, each Competitor agrees to accept the terms and condition of the Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement (below). This Agreement absolves Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club, its officers, staff, and volunteers from responsibility and threat of litigation in the case of injury, loss, or death sustained by a Competitor in the Event. Registrants under the age of 18 must have their waiver/release form signed by the parent or adult guardian who will accompany them throughout



**Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT**

*READ BEFORE REGISTERING FOR ANY LCKFC COMPETITIVE EVENT AND/OR SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT*

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club Event and its related competition and activities, I, the undersigned (or Registrant), being under the age of 18, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. I affirm that Registrant’s participation in any LCKFC Event is voluntary and declare that Registrant is physically fit and capable to participate in such; and
2. I acknowledge that kayak fishing participation and competition involves certain inherent dangers, and hazards; that the risk of injury from the activities involved in this event is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular skills, physical fitness, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
3. Registrant (and Adult Parent, Guardian, or Designated Adult Supervisor) KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for Registrant’s participation; and,
4. Registrant willingly agrees to comply with the stated and customary [Terms and Conditions for Participation](#). If, however, Registrant or Adult Supervisor observes any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and immediately bring such to the attention of KBF Officers or Tournament Directors; and,
5. in full recognition and appreciation of the dangers and risks inherent in such activities, I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS Lake Charles Kayak Fishing Club and its owners, officers, managers, officials, volunteer event staff, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, event service and technology providers (including but not limited to TourneyX), and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used for the activity (“Releasees”), with respect to any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property, whether arising from the negligence of the releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and I hereby waive, release, and forever discharge Releasees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action, for costs, loss, expenses, or damages to personal property, or personal injury, or death, which may result from Registrant’s participation in the LCKFC Event.

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 INDUCEMENT.

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registrant’s Name (Print) Registrant’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Signing Registrant’s Age

[ ] I will serve as Adult Supervisor and will accompany Registrant while he is on the water during competition hours.[ ] In place of or in addition to me, the Adult LCKFC Member designated below will act as the Adult Supervisor and will accompany Registrant while he is on the water during competition hours.

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent’s or Guardian’s Name (Print) Parent’s or Guardian’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designated Adult Supervisor’s Name (Print) Designee’s Signature

# Angler of the Year:

Series will consist of both single day tournaments and month long tournaments

- 5 Single Day Tournaments, 4 of your top finishes will go towards AOY Points.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive 300 pts, and then will decrease in increments of 5pts per place. Only current, good standing LCKFC will receive points. If non-members place, those points will be lost and will not skip to next member
  - 3- Saltwater (Weight) –May, July, September \*Dates may vary
  - 2- Freshwater (CPR)- March, November \*Dates may vary
  - AOY Points are not rewarded for Battle on the Sabine with Upper Coast Club
- 4 Member Only Month Long CPR Tournaments, 3 of your top finishes will go towards AOY Points
  - Tournament lengths may vary depends on other tournament dates.
    - 4-7 weeks per tournament... dates will be posted on TourneyX Tournament Page
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place getting 150 pts and dropping in increments of 3pts per place

## Entry Fees - \$35

<b>Weigh- In</b>	<b>CPR (TourneyX)</b>
\$2- PayPal Fees	\$2- PayPal Fees
\$5- Series/ AOY Pot	\$5- Series/ AOY Pot
\$5- Side Pot Ex. Heaviest Single Fish, Most Spots for Red (See Tournament Addendum)	\$5- TourneyX Fees
<b>\$23- Tournament Pot</b>	<b>\$23- Tournament Pot</b>