

MOYAK RULES FOR COMPETITION



Fish Eligibility A. Species— Only “black bass” are eligible for scoring. That designation includes the three most common species (Largemouth Bass – *Micropterus salmoides*, Smallmouth Bass – *Micropterus dolomieu*, and Spotted or Kentucky Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus*). Submission of a photo of an ineligible species will result in denial of the photo.

B. Length—The minimum length of bass scored in competition is 8 inches. Photos of bass shorter than the minimum will be denied.

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 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.

D. Caudal (Tail) Fin—The tip of at least one lobe of the caudal (tail) fin must be in 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 fish’s left eye must be visible in photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

Competition Period A. Competitors may launch at 6:00am (or safe light), but can NOT begin fishing until 6:30am (30 minutes after first light). Any Competitor who launches (i.e., propels an occupied boat away from the shore) before the stated “Earliest Launch” time or 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. Tournament end times will be 3:00pm unless otherwise specified at the Captains meeting.

B. Check-in—Tournament Competitors who have already submitted digital photos by upload to TourneyX must be in the Judges’ Check-in Line at Tournament HQ by 4:00pm. Failure to be in or through the Judges’ Check-in Line by that time will result in disqualification from the Event.

C. Early Check-in—Tournament Competitors who could not, or did not upload their photo submissions to TourneyX must report to the Judges’ Check-in Line at 3:30pm and turn in their digital media (i.e., memory card), camera, or camera phone with USB cable

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in order for judges or tournament staff to download them to a computer and then manually upload them to the TMS for subsequent evaluation and scoring.

4. Pre-fishing — Practice in Eligible Water is permitted until 4:00pm, the day before the event.. 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 prefishing deadline will result in disqualification from the Event.

Competition Area

Competitors may launch from any public-access shore directly onto 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. Competitors are not restricted to fishing where they start out each day but are permitted to relocate to other Eligible Water during tournament hours. Competitors must launch from any public access, located within the Army Corps of Engineers boundaries. Anglers may fish in ANY water that they can paddle too, including outside of the established Army Corp of Engineers borders, as long as the launch took place in bounds. Boundary map will be provided for each event.

D. Watercraft must not be anchored in such a position as to prevent or block access for other watercraft or powerboats. Be respectful of other anglers on the water. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

E. 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 sight of his watercraft while 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.

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.

B. Within 30 days prior to the Event, a Competitor may not fish on Eligible Water with,

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nor

receive expert advice from, a professional fishing guide who receives payment for those services. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the Event.

C. Before and during the event, competitors may (i.) share gear, tackle and equipment, (ii.) assist in photographing a fish for submission, and (iii.) communicate with and fish in proximity to other people, including other Competitors; however, Competitors may not receive assistance in catching fish that are photographed and submitted for scoring, including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the Event.

Fishing Tackle, Equipment, and Methods A. All fish submitted for score must be caught live by the Competitor who submits them for scoring 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. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

B. All fish must be caught by the Competitor 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 TOURNEYX account in order to submit photos of fish he caught.

Competitor under the same circumstances may share digital cameras, provided each

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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, Donkey leash, Boga-Grip) may be used for landing fish during tournament competition, but grippers must not remain attached to the fish in photos. No restraints of any kind on the fish while its being photographed. 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.

Watercraft & Propulsion A. Watercraft acceptable for use in the 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 as exceptions in advance of competition are: • Blue Sky Boatworks 360 Angler • Biyak If unsure about the acceptability of a watercraft, contact the Tournament Director in advance for eligibility determination. vi. The following watercraft may NOT be used 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 as acceptable or exceptions will result in disqualification from the Event. B. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor.

C. Unless specifically prohibited in the captains meeting, use of a single electric propulsion unit per watercraft in competition is approved with the following restrictions:

i. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use, and operating restrictions for the

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designated fishing area. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event. ii. Electric motor used to propel a watercraft: a. must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation, and b. may not exceed the lesser of (a.) manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity, (b.) 3 HP, or (c.) 155 foot-pound thrust. Violation of either condition will result in disqualification from the Event.

D. 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.

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

Photo Standards—Digital photographs of each fish submitted to judges for scoring must meet these criteria: A. Unique—Each digital photo submitted in each Event must be of a different fish. Subsequent digital photos of the same fish submitted by the same Competitor in an 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 the bass' 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. Photos submitted for scoring that, in judges' opinions, contain evidence of a possible disqualifying infraction—including photos that appear to have been cropped or modified (e.g, image enhanced or filtered) in such a way as to obscure infractions—will be accepted with a score of 0.01¢ and a note indicating the nature of the infraction is emailed to the Competitor. The Tournament Director will review all such photos and will make any disqualification ruling. The Tournament Director may also contact Competitors to request submission of original un-cropped, un-filtered photos for further review and verification. Failure by Competitors

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to respond or refusal to submit the original photo will result in denial of the photo.

E Identifiable—Official Identifier code above, below, or beside that fish (not covering any portion of the fish, unless attached to the Competitor's hand or arm). Writing the code on your hand is 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. In competition, hand or finger(s) may be in contact with the caudal peduncle (fleshy, scaled part of the bass' 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. Bass' 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. ii. In bass fishing competition, a closed mouth is preferred for uniformity of measurement. If judge considers the mouth to be open 1/4 inch or more, even if it is structurally unable to close, a one-inch penalty will be assessed.

Scoring A. Fish length is determined by its caudal fin (tail fin) touching or crossing the factory-marked quarter-inch increment (e.g., ridges, grooves) on the measuring board. If it falls short of a 1/4-inch factory mark, the length is rounded down to the next lower 1/4-inch mark that the bass' caudal fin actually touches or crosses. In reviewing photographs, judges will visualize as accurately as possible where a 1/4-inch factory mark would be if it extended the full width of a board and use that imaginary line to determine a fish's length.

B. In bass fishing competition, if any portion of a bass' caudal (tail) fin extends off the edge of a Measuring Board surface, 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 edge of a Measuring Board is not considered in scoring.

The scores of the five longest fish on the Leader Board, when judging is complete, will be combined to determine the aggregate score.

D. 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.

E. 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 process repeats for each of the remaining fish. If all of the tied competitors' highest scoring fish are identical,

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then the tie breaks in favor of the competitor whose last Leader Board photo was uploaded earliest.

Penalties A 1"deduction will occur if the mouth of the fish is open, or if the angler is touching the caudal fin. i. Failure to meet the guidelines for taking proper photos, will result in the photo being disqualified. ii. If a photo is disqualified for not meeting criteria, the angler may resubmit a better photo of the same fish if they have it.

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 dispute and appeal processes set forth below, the Tournament Director's decisions on violations are final.

B. Following a review of evidence, a determination of cheating or conviction of fraud will result in permanent banishment from all future events.

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 All American and prohibition against future participation in any affiliated Event. Results of a polygraph test will not be the sole determining factor in a 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 Tournament Director 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. iii. Have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test.

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 the competitions.

Taxes — Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on cash awards. Failure to meet those obligations may result in disqualification from all future events. All competitors that earn \$600 or more must fill out and turn in an IRS Form W-9 including

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

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/.

B. PFD Usage — At all times, except as described below (Rule 15.C. PFD Wear Exception) while on the water 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 (e.g., fully buckled and zipped) 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.

C. PFD Wear Exception — If all of the following conditions exist, Competitor may briefly remove his PFD while afloat in order to change, add or remove articles of clothing: i. No fishing lines are in the water; and ii. The watercraft is not underway; and iii. Weather and water conditions permit one to do so safely; and iv. Competitor is over the age of 12. When finished changing his attire, Competitor must immediately put the PFD back on before resuming navigation, fishing, or any other competition-related activity.

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

E, 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 TourneyX 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 bass caught before the adjusted end-of-competition time/photo submission deadline.

F. In the event of an emergency situation, Competitor should call 911 first and then notify

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tournament officials as soon as possible.

G. 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 events. No alcoholic beverages or 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 Tournament Director.

Disputes and Appeals A. If a Competitor wishes to dispute a rules violation penalty, a judge's decision they will have 24 hours from end of event, to contact the Tournament Director.

Waivers and Releases A. Forms will be available at the Captains Meeting