



# Yak-Bassin' King of the Nation Rules

# Introduction

Yak-Bassin' is a tournament entity dedicated to promoting the sport of kayak angling nationwide. Our primary objective is to educate and encourage others in the pursuit of kayaking and fishing in general. We provide a tournament series as a competitive avenue from some anglers to pursue. While this series is meant to be fun and enjoyable, we ask that anglers remember the primary objective of this organization. Remember, winning is not something you can completely control. All you can control is your attitude, so relax, have fun, and enjoy your time on the water. No amount of money is worth tarnishing your reputation.

**The “Let’s Be Real” Rule:** This tournament series is about getting kayak anglers out on the water who enjoy fishing as well as some friendly competition. With that being said, any rules that need to be changed due to safety concerns or for the betterment of all anglers will be accomplished at any point in time with updated announcements via social media platforms and [YakBassinTrail.com](http://YakBassinTrail.com).

The Yak-Bassin' team desires only to promote the sport of kayak fishing and create fun events for anglers to come together in fellowship. All entries are returned to anglers in the way of winnings, prizes, and recoup of operating costs (permit fees, licenses, etc). Tournament Directors do not profit from anglers. This is a passion project, we do it for the love of the sport.

While these rules may seem daunting to a new angler, they are standard across the kayak fishing community and easily mastered. Event organizers and your fellow anglers are all more than happy to assist you should you have any questions. All you have got to do is ask. With that said, let us get to it!

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## 1. Participation and Eligibility

- A. All anglers regardless of skill, age, ability, or gender are welcome to join.
- B. No membership is required to fish Yak-Bassin' events.
- C. Professional fishing guides are eligible to fish events providing they do not guide-for-pay on eligible water within 30 days prior to the event's start-of-competition date.
- D. Minors must have a release of liability signed by their parents. This document can be found along with the rules at [yakbassintrail.com](http://yakbassintrail.com) or requested from event organizers.
  - i. A release of liability must be presented to organizers on or before the safety meeting.
- E. Eligible waters include any public waterway nationwide.
- F. Regular season occurs each calendar year from October - December; (3) days per month. Specific weekend dates for each tournament will be scheduled and listed in advance by the TD. The King of the Nation AOY event will take place in January. Once register, each angler will have 72 hours (Friday - Sunday) to actively fish and submit their catches. Submissions will NOT be accepted before or after the 72-hour tournament window.
- G. SLOT LIMIT TOURNAMENT: (4) fish up to 19" (1) kicker up to 23"

## 2. Registration

- A. To register for an event, you will need to signup via TourneyX. You will need to have the app downloaded for photo submissions of your fish during the event.
- B. The application fee amount is subject to change based on the discretion of the Circuit Series Directors. Any change will be thoroughly announced in advance.
- C. One side pot challenge & one donation opportunity(s) are available for entry in addition to the main event.
  - i. Big Bass - Winner will have registered and paid for entry into the big bass side pot. Winning is defined as having the largest recorded fish, post-deductions should a penalty have also been handed out. In the event of a tie, the angler with the largest total amount of recorded inches wins the pot.
  - ii. Donation - \$10 donation to support Yak-Bassin' LLC as an entity to continue providing great tournament opportunities.
- D. Cancellations - Anglers have the right to cancel their registration for an event up to one week prior for a full refund. Refunds will not be given out within (7) days of the event. An appeal due to extenuating circumstances may be submitted to event organizers.

## 3. Safety

- A. All competitors must understand and acknowledge all Yak-Bassin' Open Regional Rules prior to competing in events.
- B. 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 actively engaged in competition. PFD may be removed when discarding lures. However, the PFD must be put back on and no lines may be in the water during the process.
- C. Failure to comply with PFD usage is grounds for disqualification from the event.
- D. Event organizers hold the right to disqualify any anglers should a safety concern arise.

#### **4. Sportsmanship**

- A. All anglers must adhere to a high standard of sportsmanship that portrays our sport in a positive light. Any negative or disrespectful comments whether said in-person or online will result in removal of the comment (online) and a warning given.
- B. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during events is prohibited.
- C. All anglers signing up for tournaments acknowledge these rules and are considered under a statement of honor.
- D. Participants and members suspected of, or found guilty of, falsifying submission(s) (whether intentional or non-intentional) are subject to being disqualified and subject to a lifetime ban from registering in all future Yak-Bassin' Circuit Series Events at the sole discretion of the Yak-Bassin' LLC team.
- E. Yak-Bassin' LLC team members have the sole discretion to ban members and participants that have been found to have a history of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- F. Participants and members banned for unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to having their entry fees and pending winnings forfeited.

#### **5. Competition Period**

- A. Competitive fishing is allowed only on publicly accessible waters within the geographic area designated by the event organizers as "Eligible Water". Photos of fish caught outside of eligible water boundaries will be denied.

- 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.
- 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.
- D. Competitors must land and photograph their catch within the designated time specified by event organizers.
- E. Anyone found to be in violation may be subject to a warning, penalty, or disqualification depending on the severity of the infraction.

## **6. Pre-Fishing**

- A. Participants may pre-fish a body of water up until noon the day before the event.
  - i. Example... Event is being held on June 13th. Anglers may pre-fish up until 12pm on June 12th. Anglers may continue to kayak or map locations during the blackout period prior to fishing but are not allowed to have a line in the water.

## **7. Fishing Methods**

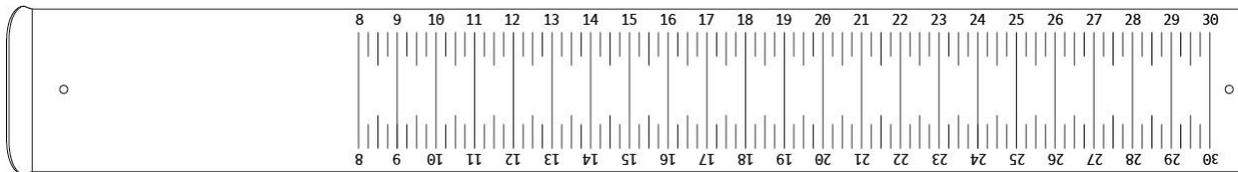
- A. All fish submitted for score must be caught live by the competitor who submits them for scoring using only equipment and legal methods that comply with all sportfishing statutes and regulations of the states and body of water in which they are taken. Competitors are responsible for research and compliance with all applicable fishing and boating regulations. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted. When visually fishing a bed for spawning bass, to be admissible all bass must be hooked inside the mouth.
- 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.
- C. Fly fishing is permissible.
- D. Trolling is allowed but only one rod may be used.

## **8. Accepted Measuring Devices**

- A. Acceptable measuring boards include the Hawg Trough or the Ketch Products Measuring Board.

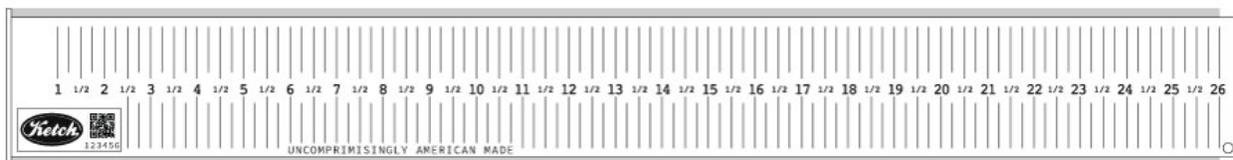
Hawg Trough

**Special Note for Hawg Trough Users** - Due to the flex in the board. Participants using the hawg trough must lay the board flat on the deck of their kayak if a hand is to be used to help secure the fish. If the board is to be angled with the tail section up, or placed on the lap, the angler



may not utilize a hand to secure the fish.

### Ketch Board



- B. Measuring boards may be shortened only by removing inches from the upper end (opposite the fence). For example, one may cut off the end of a measuring board at the 26-inch mark for it 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. Violation will result, at minimum, in denial of photo.
- C. 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.
- D. A slight flex in a measuring board resulting from a fish's weight is allowed; however, Competitors are prohibited from deliberately flexing or deforming a measuring board by exerting pressure or reshaping it.
- E. Competitors may share measuring boards.
- F. 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 shown to an event organizer prior to the start of the event.

## 9. Watercraft and Propulsion

- A. Watercraft acceptable for use in competition are those manufactured and marketed as canoes, kayaks, or SUPs for which paddling / pedaling is the primary means of propulsion. Any other watercraft must be submitted to event organizers for review.
- B. Kayaks with sails, tandems, and stabilizers are allowed.

- C. Dual or separated style hulls are not allowed unless sufficient reasoning can be provided.
- D. Yak-Bassin' team will weigh admittance of certain watercraft on a case by case basis.
- E. 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.
- F. **Electric Motor ALLOWED** - Electric motors may be utilized not to exceed 1HP.

## 10. Handling of Fish

- A. We Strongly encourage catch and release fishing to be utilized during events in the spirit of conservation and sportsmanship.
- B. While bass may seem like a particularly hardy species, we encourage anglers to use proper handling techniques to avoid death or injury of fish.
- C. Best practice for fish handling includes:
  - i. Placing the fish on fish grips and returning to the water after a fight while angler is setting up their board and camera.
  - ii. Wet the board to protect the outer coating of the fish, especially important during warm summer months.
  - iii. Place the fish back on grips while reviewing photos.
  - iv. Use two hands to support the fish to prevent damage to the jaw when photo'ing from a horizontal position.

## 11. Fish Eligibility

- A. For Yak-Bassin' competitions, 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*) 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*
- B. For competitions involving other species, the species of fish permitted for scoring will be specified by the Tournament Directors. Submission of a photo of an ineligible species will result in denial of the photo.
- C. The minimum length of bass scored in competition is 8 inches. Photos of bass shorter than the minimum will be denied.

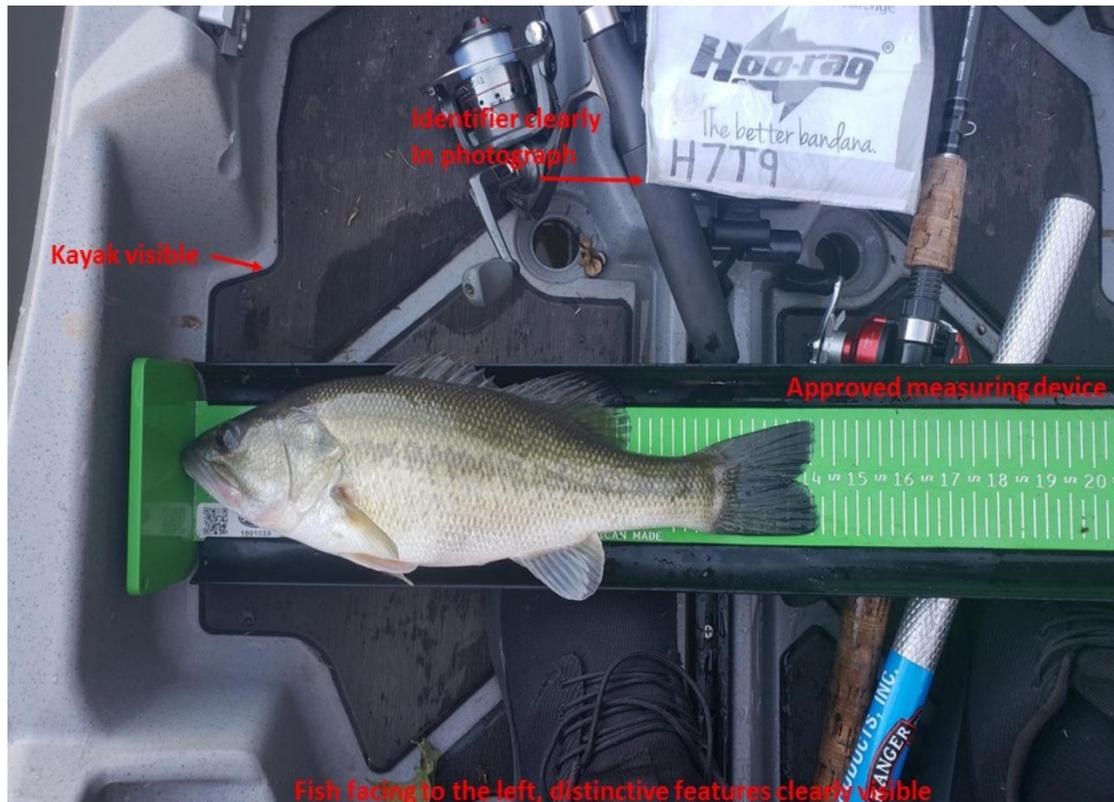
## 12. Photo Standards

- A. Fish must be displayed with the head facing to the anglers left, dorsal fin up. Mouth must rest against the fence of the measuring board in a completely closed position. Any open mouth is subject to a penalty. Tail must be in a neutral or pinched position, but fingers must not touch or cover the tail.
- B. Photo should be centered on the fish to display for optimal viewing for the judge. If it cannot be determined whether a tail crosses a hash mark, the judge will air on the side of caution. Check your photos before releasing your fish from the grips.
- C. The tournaments identifier must be present in the photo. May be written on back of hand or identifier card.
- i. More than one identifier may be used if in multiple tournaments at once.
- E. The watercraft must be visible in the photo.

## 13. Scoring

- A. There is a 8-inch minimum length on fish. Fish under 8 inches will not be accepted as a qualifying submission.
- i. A competitor's final score is accumulative from their five (5) longest fish.
  - ii. During the two (2) day Championship event, an angler's score is based on their accumulative scores from day one (1) + day two (2).
- B. Fish length is determined by its caudal fin (tail fin) touching or crossing the manufacturer's quarter-inch mark (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 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.

- C. 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.



- 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 process repeats for each of the remaining fish. If all 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.
- E. Fish appearing to be mutilated/dead may be subject to rejection by the tournament director.
- F. Submitted fish measuring the same length will be evaluated for distinct differences in appearance, timestamp, and location caught. One way to ensure these distinct differences can be accurately identified to remove any obstructions (identifier, hands, etc) that will obscure the unique pattern of your fish. Anglers suspected or identified as submitting the

same fish multiple times during the same tournament may be subject to disqualification as per the sole discretion of the tournament director.

#### 14. Penalties

Blurry photo/Unable to Judge	Deny
Appears to be screenshot/photo of a photo	Deny
Watercraft not visible in the background	Deny
Bass positioned w/ head pointing right	Deny
Bass positioned w/ dorsal fins at bottom	Deny
Official identifier missing	Deny
Bass not touching measuring board fence	Deny
Incorrect Identifier	Deny
Secured by a restraining device	Deny
Fingers touching the tail fin	1/2" penalty
Multiple of Same Bass	Ban/Disqualify
Mouth Open	1/2" penalty
Eye Covered/Partially Covered	Deny
Hawg Trough Angled w/ Hand on Fish	1/2" Penalty

#### 15. Awards

- A. 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. Disbursement of funds will usually occur within 48 hours of the contest.
- C. Prizes will be processed after all photos submitted for scoring have been judged, the results of the top placing individuals (collecting winnings) will be verified by the event organizers.
  - i. The initial judging is conducted by Yak-Bassin' Headquarters.
  - ii. Event organizers will verify judging and corrections made if necessary.
- D. Any disputes must be brought forth to the event organizers within 24 hours from the end of the event.
  - i. Understand, judging is not an exact science and we are all human. Show grace, embrace the spirit of the event, and we will do our best to create an equal and fair environment.

#### 16. Payout Structure

- A. Yak-Bassin' will take \$10 from every entry to cover TourneyX fees, insurance, and operating costs. This amount is subject to change based on price increases, but notice will be given prior to any adjustment.

B. The remaining entry fees are combined to form the total disbursement amount.

ii. Example:

Twenty angler event with \$50 entry fees.

Entry \$50 - \$10 (op fees + TourneyX) = \$40 per angler for disbursement.

20 Anglers x \$40 = \$800

$\$800 / 6 = \$133$  (Rounded for simplicity)

$\$133 \times 3 = \$399$  1st place

$\$133 \times 2 = \$266$  2nd place

$\$133 \times 1 = \$133$  3rd place

### 17. Angler of the Year (AOY) Points

A. AOY points are awarded for every place in the tournament.

C. Updated rankings will be sent out within a week of the event.

D. Points are awards at both the main events and championship event to crown the overall Angler of the Year.

E. Main Events

1st place = 100 points

2nd place = 98 points

3rd place = 96 points

4th place = 94 points

5th place = 92 points

This continues until it reaches zero.

E. Championship event

1st place = 300 points

2nd place = 290

3rd place = 280

4th place = 260

5th place = 240

This continues until it reaches zero.

## **18. Angler of the Year Event**

- A. The AOY event is a 48hr event.
- B. At the end of the event, the Angler of the Year will be crowned. There will also be payouts to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers of the event.
- C. Entry fees into the AOY event are increased for a larger payout.

## **19. Media Rights**

- A. All participants agree that any photos, videos, tournament data, recorded audio, and angler profile information shall be used by Yak-Bassin' LLC indefinitely. In addition, it may also be utilized by any of its tournament partners in future projects, promotions, articles, media releases or newsletter emails.
- B. Shared media submitted to the Yak-Bassin' LLC social media pages may be utilized in its discretion for promotional purposes.

## **20. Public Comment**

- A. Sponsor contributions will not be devalued by disputes or disagreements in public forums or social media platforms.
- B. We ask that participants refrain from publicly airing disputes, grievances, or otherwise negative comments. Our mission at Yak-Bassin' is to provide a friendly learning environment to encourage others to utilize our natural resources and get outside to enjoy the sport of kayak angling. Comments perceived to be negative or opposite of that mission might result in deletion and a warning given. Continued violations may result in that individual being asked to compete elsewhere.

## **21. Event Cancellation**

- A. Yak-Bassin' will use reasonable efforts to hold the Event; however, under no circumstances will Yak-Bassin' be held responsible for unavailability caused by events beyond our control, nor will any Event Registration be cancelled, altered or amended once the Event has commenced on the basis of circumstances yet again beyond our control.

## **22. Release of Liability Waiver**

- A. Yak-Bassin' Circuit Series will have all competing anglers complete a waiver in order to compete. Under no circumstances will Yak-Bassin' LLC be held accountable for anything that happens while on or off the waiver. Anglers agree by competing in the Yak-Bassin' Circuit Series that he/she accept all risk and that they are held liable for their own actions/decision.