



## **Official Rules**

### **Bassmaster Kayak Series**

**Updated and effective January 1, 2023**

## **Participation Agreement**

### **Angler Participation Agreement and Release of Liability**

**HAVING ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS IN THIS DOCUMENT, I UNDERSTAND I MUST SIGN AND DATE A COMPLETED PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AT REGISTRATION PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT AND ALSO COMPLETE THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM BY THE DEADLINE DATES PROVIDED BY B.A.S.S. MY REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL B.A.S.S. ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT MY APPLICATION FOR ANY REASON AND, UPON SUCH REJECTION, TO REFUND THE DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE.**

## **P1. COMPLIANCE WITH RULES**

By signing this agreement, I (also referred to as “Angler”) hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all Tournament Rules, the Code of Conduct, payment schedules and all other guidelines and regulations in the 2023 Bassmaster Kayak Series rules or otherwise communicated to me in writing by B.A.S.S. I also certify that I am a member in good standing with B.A.S.S., that I am physically fit and that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my participation in the tournament series.

## **P2. RELEASE OF LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION**

**2.1.** I expressly assume all risks associated with my participation in the Tournament Series and for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns, I hereby waive, release and discharge B.A.S.S., LLC, B.A.S.S. Events, LLC, and their respective affiliates and subsidiaries (herein collectively “B.A.S.S.”), the hosts, sponsors, and tournament series officials (“Released Parties”) from any and all losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses (including without limitation, attorney’s fees and related costs), of any kind (hereinafter “Claims”) arising out of or in connection with my participation in the tournament series, including but not limited to Claims involving, death, disability, personal injury and/or property damage. I hereby INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the Released Parties for any and all Claims arising as a result of my participation in this Tournament. I acknowledge that this Tournament may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, illness and/or possible exposure to COVID-19 or other communicable diseases and personal loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by water conditions, temperature, weather, equipment and the actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers and spectators. This release of liability shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

**2.2.** I shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Released Parties against all Claims, whether or not a lawsuit or other proceeding is filed, to the extent that they arise out of: (1) my breach of the terms of this Agreement; (2) gross negligence or willful misconduct by me, my agents or those acting on my behalf; (3) my violation of any applicable law, ordinance, rule or regulation, including but not limited to all rules and guidelines applicable to tournament events; and (4) breach of any warranty provided by me to Released Parties hereunder. I shall provide B.A.S.S. with prompt notice of any claim and give complete control of its defense and settlement to B.A.S.S. I shall also cooperate in all reasonable respects with B.A.S.S., its insurance company, the Released Parties (as applicable) and their legal counsel in the defense of such a claim. If I fail to promptly indemnify and defend a covered claim, the Released Parties shall have the right to defend themselves, and in such case, I shall promptly reimburse the Released Parties for all of their associated costs and expenses.

## **P3. GRANT OF RIGHTS**

**3.1.** I hereby irrevocably grant permission to B.A.S.S., and its affiliates and subsidiaries, the successors of each of the foregoing, and each of their respective agents, licensees and assigns and those acting under their permission or upon their authority (collectively, the “Licensees”), in perpetuity, a worldwide, nonexclusive, royalty-free, fully paid-up license to reproduce, display, exhibit, publish, broadcast, distribute and otherwise use, and permit others to use, my name,

image, nickname, initials, symbols, likeness, signature, photograph, voice, statements, biographical material and any and all attributes of my personality and appearance (collectively, my "Identity") in materials created in connection with my participation in Tournament Series (collectively, the "Materials"), alone or with other materials, in connection with the promotion of B.A.S.S., LLC, and any tournaments or other events staged by B.A.S.S., in any and all manner and media now known or hereafter devised including, without limitation, in print, on television programs, on websites owned by or affiliated with the Licensees, on third-party websites, in social media channels, in public relations materials and for any lawful purpose in its sole discretion. During tournaments, I agree to promptly and fully comply with all filming, camera location and other rules, guidelines and instructions of B.A.S.S.

**3.2.** I hereby warrant that I have the right to make this release and that my granting of this release and the rights conveyed thereby will not infringe the rights of any third party. I represent and warrant that I have or shall obtain any rights and permissions from all third parties sponsoring or affiliated with me needed by B.A.S.S. (the "Third Party Rights") to effectuate the grant of rights set forth in paragraph 3.1. These Third-Party Rights from sponsors and affiliates shall grant B.A.S.S. the right to utilize such third-party logos, insignias, trade dress or other intellectual property (collectively "Third Party IP") shown in any Materials featuring me, or otherwise in connection with B.A.S.S.'s use of my Identity as set forth in the paragraph. Provided that such Third Party IP is only shown in conjunction with my Identity, (for example, on apparel worn by me or on items used by me), B.A.S.S. shall not be required to seek approvals from such Third Parties.

**3.3.** I acknowledge that the Licensees have no obligation to use the Materials or my Identity. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve any finished product or the use to which it is applied and I agree no further approval is required for the Licensees to use any Materials or my Identity and that the Licensees will not be liable to me for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the exhibition, publication or broadcast of the Materials or my Identity. I acknowledge and agree that no further payment or consideration will be due to me for B.A.S.S.'s use of the Materials or my Identity as authorized herein.

**3.4.** I acknowledge that all rights, titles, and interests to the Materials, including without limitation all copyrights and trademark rights, shall be the sole and exclusive property of B.A.S.S. and that B.A.S.S. has the unlimited right throughout the universe to edit, modify and otherwise use such Materials. With regard to the Licensees' exploitation of the rights granted hereunder, I, on behalf of myself and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby irrevocably: (a) release, discharge and waive all claims, demands, losses and liabilities of any nature against the Licensees that I, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns had, now have or hereafter may have, including, but not limited to, claims in the nature of copyright infringement, defamation, disparagement, slander, false light, violation of the right of privacy or publicity, or the like, and (b) covenant not to make any claims against any of the Licensees.

**3.5.** During tournaments, and subject to compliance with B.A.S.S. guidelines, B.A.S.S. hereby grants to the undersigned Angler, the right to create, use and publish Angler-created materials ("Angler Materials"), such as still photos and video shot by Angler, on Angler's website and social media channels. Angler may also live stream during a tournament, except when Bassmaster LIVE has a camera in Angler's boat. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to revoke this permission at any time if B.A.S.S. at its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates other B.A.S.S. rules. Angler must remove such content within two (2) hours of notification.

## **P4. MISCELLANEOUS**

**4.1** Contingency Programs. Contingency programs are sponsor-funded programs developed to reward competitors based on a predefined set of criteria. Participation in contingency programs is at the Angler's discretion.

## **P5. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

If Angler elects to participate in other B.A.S.S.-sanctioned tournaments, Angler will be required to execute a Participation Agreement containing the applicable rules and regulations, code of conduct and tournament series-specific content such as wrapped boat and uniform guidelines. Angler agrees to participate in programs recommended or developed by B.A.S.S. that promote the growth of the sport and to fully support programs intended to raise awareness of my individual angler brand and identity.

## **P6. LEGAL**

**6.1** Truth Verification Test. By registering and signing the Participation Agreement, Angler agrees to submit to a truth verification test at any time and abide by its conclusion.

**6.2** Communication. Angler must provide B.A.S.S. with a current email address. Angler agrees that delivery of any notice, communication, guideline or instruction to Angler via email shall constitute notice to Angler and shall comply with any notice requirements set forth herein. Angler must also provide a personal cell number capable of receiving text messages from B.A.S.S.

**6.3.** Governing Law, Venue and Jurisdiction. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in all respects in accordance with the substantive laws of the state of Alabama, without regard to its choice of law and/or conflicts of law principles. I irrevocably agree that any disputes directly or indirectly arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved exclusively in the state or federal courts located in Jefferson County, Alabama. I hereby irrevocably consent to such venue and to the exclusive jurisdiction of any such court over any such dispute.

**6.4.** Miscellaneous. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision herein. This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous oral and/or written representations, discussions, negotiations, understandings and/or agreements relating to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may not be modified except by an instrument in writing signed by both parties. In signing this document, I am not relying on any promises, representations or other statements that are not contained in this Agreement.

**6.5.** Electronic Signature. The execution of this document by electronic mail or by any other electronic or digital means shall be deemed to constitute effective execution of this document. Any signature transmitted by facsimile, email or other electronic or digital means shall be deemed an original signature for all purposes.

**6.6**     Requirement for Consent of Parent or Guardian. If I am under the age of majority in the state in which I reside, I understand that I must have the consent of my parent or guardian to participate in the tournament series. I agree to provide accurate and complete information to B.A.S.S. to facilitate B.A.S.S.'s efforts to secure such consent. I acknowledge that my failure to provide accurate information or secure consent from my parent or guardian may result in my disqualification from the Tournament Series.

**I UNDERSTAND I MUST SIGN AND DATE THIS AGREEMENT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT, AND THAT IF I AM UNDER THE AGE OF MAJORITY IN THE STATE IN WHICH I RESIDE, I MUST OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT. MY REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL B.A.S.S. ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT, RECEIVES THE CONSENT OF MY PARENT OR GUARDIAN (IF APPLICABLE), AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY MY PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT SERIES OR ANY COMPONENT THEREOF FOR ANY REASON AND, UPON SUCH DENIAL, TO REFUND THE DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE.**

**I ATTEST THAT I HAVE READ AND HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH CONTAINS LIABILITY AND OTHER RELEASE LANGUAGE, I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS. I HAVE VOLUNTARILY SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT.**

Angler Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF THE PERSON EXECUTING THE FOREGOING RELEASE IS A MINOR, THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY MINOR'S PARNET OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:**

**I represent that I am a parent or legal guardian of the minor who has signed the above Agreement, and I hereby consent to the terms of set forth herein and agree**

**that we both shall be bound thereby. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS LIABILITY AND OTHER RELEASE LANGUAGE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS.**

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Content Usage Guidelines**

B.A.S.S. holds the content rights to the tournaments it owns and operates. However, B.A.S.S. grants certain exceptions, including the following content rights, to tournament participants:

- Anglers may use video or still images, shot by the angler during a tournament, for promotional or marketing purposes on the Angler's website and on social media. You may also live stream during a tournament, except when Bassmaster LIVE has a camera in your boat.
- During tournaments B.A.S.S. may ask to mount a POV streaming camera in a competitor's boat (the footage may be used in B.A.S.S.'s web or TV coverage). B.A.S.S. may also request the marshal operate these, or other (POV, smartphone or other) cameras. A competitor is required to comply, even if he already has a personal camera mounted in his boat. Refusing to comply may result in a penalty.
- If a competitor has a personal cameraperson or crew following him/her on the water, that person or team must not get in the way of Bassmaster photographers or videographers who are covering the tournament. Off the water, they must follow the general guidelines of any media covering the tournament as set forth by B.A.S.S. Communications.
- B.A.S.S. also encourages anglers to send photos, videos and updates to [update@bassmaster.com](mailto:update@bassmaster.com) for exposure on Bassmaster.com and our social media pages.
- In social media, you may use our hashtag [#bassmaster](https://www.facebook.com/bassmaster) to amplify and spread your post to our 1.6 million social fans.

B.A.S.S. reserves the right to revoke these exceptions, and the Angler must remove the tournament-related content, if B.A.S.S. at its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates other B.A.S.S. rules.

B.A.S.S. wants to help promote both your brand and the sport of professional bass fishing through its multimedia assets. If there are stories written about you or by you appearing on Bassmaster.com, B.A.S.S. grants permission to link to these stories, and any others on our website, from your website or social media pages. You may also grab photos from Bassmaster.com to promote yourself. Please credit Bassmaster.com.

## **Official Rules of Competition**

### **1. RULES AND PENALTIES:**

The following rules shall apply to all Bassmaster Kayak Series tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by B.A.S.S. immediately upon notice by B.A.S.S. to its members, which notice may be published on the B.A.S.S. internet site at [Bassmaster.com](http://Bassmaster.com). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in Section 17 ("Truth Verification Test") below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee or the rules committee shall be final in all matters.

**Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by B.A.S.S., and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in the Bassmaster Kayak Series tournaments or other B.A.S.S. circuits, rules violations must be reported immediately to tournament officials within 24 hours of the final check-in on the day of the alleged violation.**

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- (a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
- (b) Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations.
- (c) Disqualification from the tournament in question.
- (d) Disqualification from future B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- (e) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including, but not limited to, monetary fines and/or reduction of points toward championship qualification.
- (f) All federal, state, and local laws, rules, markings, orders and warnings must be followed. Violation of any laws may be cause for disqualification.
- (g) All violations of laws will be turned over to the proper authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, harassment, wildlife violations, illegal drug use and any other illegal activity.

### **2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

- (i) Participation in this tournament is open only to current members of B.A.S.S. who are 16 years of age or older. However, employees, officers and directors of B.A.S.S. or its parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies and members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, children and siblings, regardless of where they live) are ineligible. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor.
- (ii) All competitions are conducted using TourneyX®. Each angler who wishes to participate in such an event must create a free, TourneyX user account before the first day of the competition.
- (iii) A PROPERLY COMPLETED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE TOURNEYX ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE.
- (iv) The registration deadline for a particular event will be at 5 p.m. on Friday one (1) week before the official start of the event, local time of the event headquarters.
- (v) Entry fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable regardless of the date of the cancellation once you have been confirmed in a tournament. Anglers who are on the waiting list will be refunded the entry fee if they have not been confirmed in the tournament for which they registered.
- (vi) Each calendar year prior to competing in a Bassmaster Kayak Series event, all competitors must complete a W-9 and, when required, a FORM 590 or W-8 BEN provided by B.A.S.S. If tax status or address changes occur, new forms must be submitted prior to participation in the next B.A.S.S. event. Tournament entry fees



must be received by the tournament management app on or before the entry deadline date. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and the right to extend the acceptance date.

- (vii) Any person under the age of majority in the state in they reside entering a tournament must also have permission and a signed release from a parent or legal guardian.

### **3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:**

- (i) Tournament waters will be off-limits 20 days prior to official practice for each event unless otherwise designated by B.A.S.S. A date for the official cutoff and practice will be provided specifically for each event.
- (ii) All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the state in which the tournament is taking place.
- (iii) The official practice period will begin at safe light the Saturday prior to each event and conclude the following Friday at 4 p.m. All anglers must be off the water by 4 p.m. the Friday prior to each event.
- (iv) Competitors are not allowed on tournament waters following the completion of Day 1 until First Cast on day 2. Scouting in new waters after fishing ends on Day 1 is not allowed. Anglers are expected to immediately proceed back safely to their take-out once fishing ends on Day 1.
- (v) All practice during official practice and competition must be done in a vessel in accordance with Section 8 (“Kayak Regulation”). If kayaks are legally licensed, electric motors will be permitted. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply may result in disqualification or suspension of motor use.
- (vi) Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is NOT permitted for any reason, except with permission from the Tournament Director.

### **4. SOLICITATION OF INFORMATION:**

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information from anyone for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including, but not limited to, GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted during the OFFICIAL PRACTICE period through the conclusion of the tournament.

- (i) Hiring or using a guide for tournament waters within 21 days of the event is prohibited.
- (ii) Quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are NOT publicly available sources.
- (iii) For multiday events, once tournament officials determine daily cuts, competitors not making the cut are no longer considered in the tournament and may not be solicited for information.
- (iv) During official tournament hours (First Launch through Lines Out) contestants may not share information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. This includes electronically or by mouth. Anglers can communicate to fellow anglers verbally on how to respectfully share an area that all parties are utilizing.
- (v) During tournament hours (First Launch through Lines Out) a mobile device may not be used to speak to someone in or outside of the tournament about tournament waters, fishing strategies, techniques, etc. The device can only be used for B.A.S.S. staff communication, social media updates, safety checks, ride coordination and/or work and family urgent situations/emergencies. Angler photos can be uploaded to the blog on Bassmaster.com using the email address [update@bassmaster.com](mailto:update@bassmaster.com)
- (vi) Any questions or concerns about tournament rules or violations need to be communicated with B.A.S.S. staff immediately and initially to be considered.

### **5. PRE-TOURNAMENT (RULES) MEETING:**

It is mandatory that all contestants attend the pre-tournament check-in and briefing. Each contestant must check in prior to the pre-tournament briefing in person and at the designated location. Check-in hours and locations will be announced for each individual tournament per the tournament information document.

### **6. SAFETY:**

- (i) Safe boating must be observed at all times. During the official practice and competition, each competitor is required to wear a fastened chest-type U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during tournament hours. PFD MUST BE VISIBLE and worn on top of your clothing. Inflatable belt-type PFDs are not allowed.
- (ii) All kayaks must be equipped with an emergency whistle and a 360-degree light or installed LEDs that are visible from all angles.
- (iii) It is suggested that all competitors perform a safety check prior to each day's competition.
- (iv) At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- (v) Competitors are expected to use sound judgment and are accountable for his/her own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation (i.e., lightning, excessive wind, pleasure boaters, hunters, etc.).
- (vi) **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- (vii) **Angler must use the check-in/check-out feature on TourneyX. Anglers that have not check-in/out by the fish assigned deadline risk disqualification from the event and associated loss of AOY points for that event.**
- (viii) **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE KAYAK AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

## **7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- (i) Competitors in B.A.S.S. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed a cause for disqualification.
- (ii) Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those drugs purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future B.A.S.S. tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days.
- (iii) Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of noncompetitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may lead to disqualification.
- (iv) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.
- (v) Anglers participating in any B.A.S.S.-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers and family members of anglers shall at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.
- (vi) Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.
- (vii) The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document:
  - a. Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors, fans and volunteers during an event.
  - b. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.

- c. Public comments that an angler or family member knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials and its sponsors.
  - d. Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition or the event, where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
  - e. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
  - f. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event, including comments on social media.
  - g. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
  - h. Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete (for example, working with a noncompetitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours).
- (viii) Any disqualification, suspension, or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament.
  - (ix) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, the conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude may be grounds for disqualification from the competition and for rejecting any application for participation. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings and suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S.-sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.
  - (x) Anglers are allowed to communicate with one another while in proximity as long as there is no intentional sharing to gain a competitive advantage.
  - (xi) In both official practice and competition, competitors are required to have all licenses and permits required on the tournament waters in which they fish.

## **8. KAYAK REGULATION:**

- (i) Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole or electric motor. (See electric motor restrictions, below in Subsection 8(ii).)
- (ii) Unless specifically prohibited, the use of electric motors in competition is approved with the following restrictions:
  - a. Electric motor must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation.
  - b. An electric motor used to propel a watercraft needs to meet some of these criteria or be approved by a B.A.S.S. official:
    - i. Manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity
    - ii. 3 HP
    - iii. 155 foot-pounds of thrust
  - c. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
  - d. No more than one electric motor may be attached to a kayak regardless of combined horsepower/thrust/power rating.
  - e. Motors with dual props operated by a single power source are permissible as long as the unit is manufactured and sold as a single unit.
- (iii) Vessel must be 9 feet minimum and shorter than 18 feet.
- (iv) Vessel that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks, stand-up paddle boards (SUP) and canoes.
- (v) Other watercraft must be specifically approved as exceptions in advance of competition by B.A.S.S. Management.
- (vi) Catamaran-style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible.

- (vii) No “homemade” kayaks, sailboats, johnboats, pirogues, coracles, rowboats, dinghies, skiffs, float tubes, inflatable rafts or rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac), pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft or similar.
- (viii) The use of a manual or motorized anchor system is permitted.
- (ix) Mother shipping, tethering/holding or any transportation coordination with a noncompetitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by B.A.S.S. officials due to an emergency.
- (x) By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their kayak to an inspection by B.A.S.S. personnel.

## **9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

- (i) All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler out of their vessel.
- (ii) All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- (iii) Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits.
- (iv) Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are allowed and are only limited by the laws within the state where the competitors are fishing.
- (v) Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- (vi) Each cast must be completed before another cast is allowed, and there can never be more than one lure from one rod actively fishing in the water at any time.
- (vii) Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed. Long lining and drifting with current/wind are allowed.
- (viii) All bass caught while sight fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- (ix) No fish are to be kept on stringers. Fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.

## **10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

- (i) Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for individual events.
- (ii) Contestants will be provided with official water launches and/or boundaries and restrictions specific to each event. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
- (iii) In the event that portaging is allowed, anglers will not be allowed to exit the streambed to access the surrounding property to do so. (A streambed is the channel bottom of a stream or river, the physical confine of the normal water flow. The lateral confines or channel margins are known as the stream banks or riverbanks during all but flood stage.) Failure to do so will lead to disqualification.
- (iv) Portaging is prohibited unless posted otherwise.
- (v) Unless posted otherwise, competitors must be able to float in and out or through an area during tournament days for it to be considered legal waters. Anglers can use pedal/ paddle/push pole to navigate. If an angler’s kayak bottoms out and becomes completely or partially immobilized while navigating, they are no longer considered floating and cannot pass over. Kayak can be reoriented to eligible water. Anglers are responsible for verifying their launch is on the designated list as well as paying any launch fee required to utilize the facility.
- (vi) Anglers can launch at more than one (1) legal location during a tournament day.
- (vii) Anglers do not have to take out where they launched as long as the take-out is also a legal launch unless there is an emergency communicated with the B.A.S.S. staff.
- (viii) Ride coordination and shuttling are allowed.
- (ix) Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public except areas posted or otherwise designated as “off-limits,” “no boats,” “keep out,” “restricted,” “no trespassing” or “no fishing” (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by B.A.S.S., commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials. Failure to do so will lead to a disqualification or loss of the fishing day.
- (x) All fishing must be conducted from inside the kayak unless otherwise stated by tournament officials. Only an angler’s arm or arms can extend into the water to help land a fish they hooked legally.
- (xi) At no time may a contestant leave the kayak to land a fish, photograph/submit a fish or make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters unless allowed in the event and communicated by the Tournament Director. Anglers can beach their kayaks to take safe pictures to be submitted.

- (xii) The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs, or digging access trenches/ditches after the start of the official practice period and/or the removal of official local, state or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by kayak is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
- (xiii) Boats may never be tethered to buoys or safety signs.
- (xiv) The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a kayak into fishing waters is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
- (xv) Using any items, including the kayak or fishing line, to block an area off to other competitors or anglers is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.

## **11. SCORING:**

- (i) Scoring is determined by length using 1/4-inch increments of each contestant's catch during each tournament day via the "Catch, Photograph, and Release" (CPR) method.
- (ii) Each competitor will be provided with a unique identifier for the tournament.
- (iii) The five longest verified lengths will be totaled for the angler's score.
- (iv) Officials will round down and to the nearest 1/4 inch.
- (v) Only the Black Bass Species consisting of the following: Largemouth, Spotted, Guadalupe, Shoal and Smallmouth, and any hybrid of the above, are accepted species.
- (vi) The best five (5) fish make up a daily limit.
- (vii) All fish must measure a minimum of 12 inches. Bass submitted that fail to measure 12 inches with mouth completely closed will not be scored.
- (viii) A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.

## **12. MEASURING DEVICE:**

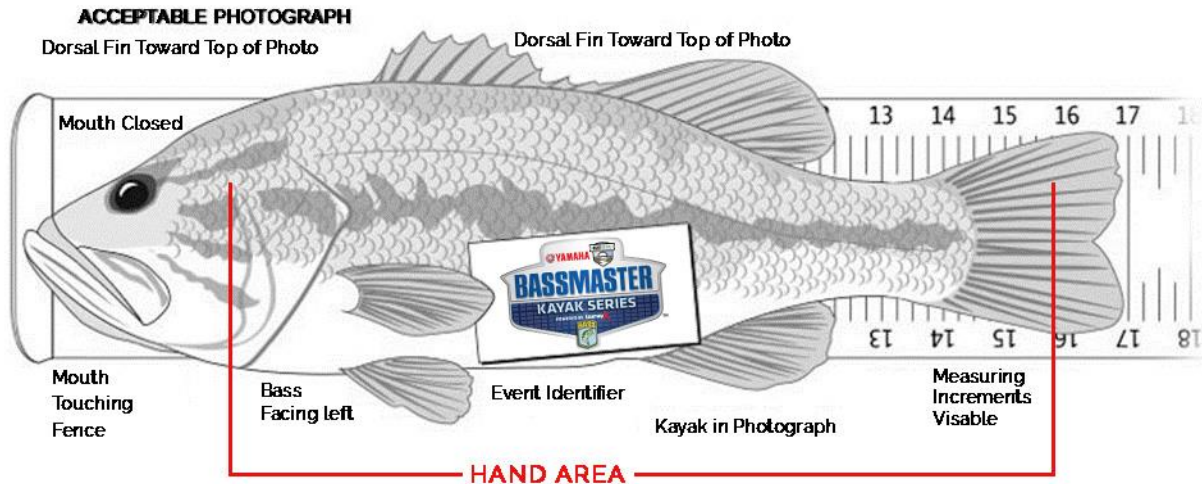
- (i) All Ketch Products measuring boards are the official mandatory measuring devices for the Bassmaster Kayak Series events and its subsidiaries.
- (ii) Contestants must bring their own measuring device.
- (iii) Your measuring device may be inspected by B.A.S.S. staff at any time before, during or after the tournament.
- (iv) Anyone found to be using a measuring device that is determined to be not legal will be disqualified from the tournament.

## **13. PHOTO CRITERIA:**

- (i) Anglers must be prepared to manually upload pictures with the cables, cords and software required to download photos via a USB port to the official judge's computer.
- (ii) Each fish photo must include all of the following criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification:
  - a. The entire Bass, from the tip of the lip to the end of the tail, on an approved measuring device, while in a tournament legal vessel.
  - b. Pinching and holding of the tail is permitted.
  - c. Lying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device.
  - d. The mouth of the Bass must be CLOSED COMPLETELY.
  - e. The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board and will be measured to the longest point.
  - f. The Bass must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler.
  - g. Measuring device markings must be clearly visible, including the actual numbers.
  - h. Assigned unique identifier must be visible.
  - i. One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at an angle).
- (iii) Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook. Failure to comply will lead to fish being disqualified.
  - a. Lip, eye and tail end cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
  - b. Hand and fingers must not be under the gill plate.

- c. Original/Raw photo only. Screenshots, crops, duplicates and edited photos will be disqualified.
- (iv) If fish has a visible glossy eye or odd markings it is suggested the angler take video of that fish going from the board and actively swimming away.
  - (v) A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.
  - (vi) If a submitted fish on Day 1 is culled and not present in an anglers Top 5 fish, that fish could be caught again and count for a Day 2 total if that catch is in complete accordance with Section 11.
  - (vii) Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the B.A.S.S. official's attention.
  - (viii) The quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.

**\*\*All criteria above must be met to avoid immediate penalty or disqualification \*\***



#### 14. SCORING PENALTIES:

- (i) Mouth cracked or slightly open: 0.5 -inch deduction
- (ii) Mouth open or no attempt to close: 1-2 inch deduction
- (iii) Lip or tail not touching board: No score
- (iv) Rounded down to the next 1/4- inch mark. (No score if below minimum.)

#### 15. ADVANCING TO THE BASSMASTER KAYAK SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (BKSC):

- (i) The Top 5 anglers from each Bassmaster Kayak Series national event will advance to the BKSC.
- (ii) State Bassmaster's holding a Bassmaster Kayak series state championship may send the top 10% from their state championship to the BKSC. (Must have at least 10 anglers participate; 10% is based on unique anglers that participate in the season.)
- (iii) Top 50 in AOY standings. Bassmaster will work down the AOY list in the case of double qualifications.

#### 16. TIES:

- (i) Ties will be broken by the longest fish, followed by the next-longest fish until all fish that are part of their limit have been accounted for. If a tie still exists, the tiebreaker will be based on the time stamp of when their longest fish was submitted, and so on, until resolved. If the tie still exists, the Tournament Director(s) will divide the cash prizes. AOY points will be awarded for the place of the tied position, and each competitor will be awarded equal points.
- (ii) At the Bassmaster Kayak Series Championship, in case of a tie for overall champion at the end of the tournament, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. All other ties will be resolved by the tiebreakers listed above.

- (iii) Big bass ties will be broken by the next legal largest fish over all days of the tournament, and so on, until the tie has been resolved. If a tie still exists, the winner will be determined by earliest photo submitted of their largest fish.

## **17. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST:**

By registering and/or placing his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The Tournament Director, rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. Failure of a truth verification examination is not appealable. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have the sole responsibility of selecting the location, date and time of the test nearest B.A.S.S. headquarters with respect to all concerned parties' schedules and travel costs. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such a test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for all costs incurred. Random truth verifications tests may be administered on-site during the course of a Bassmaster Kayak Series event.

## **18. PROTESTS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES:**

Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. **OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1 ("Rules and Penalties"). ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A COPY.** An appeals committee will be established by B.A.S.S., which shall be comprised of one B.A.S.S. employee not affiliated with the Tournament Department and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. 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 the prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

## **19. TAXES:**

Where and when state laws require income taxes be paid on cash awards to nonresidents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards. Various states require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates, and anglers awarded merchandise certificates in these states are responsible for remitting their tax to B.A.S.S. Failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of points, fines and/or disqualification from all future B.A.S.S. events.

## **20. WAIVER AND RELEASE:**

As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, and a name and likeness release.

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**B.A.S.S. ®**

B.A.S.S. Tournament Department

3500 Blue Lake Drive, Suite 330

Birmingham, AL 35243

877-BASS-USA (227-7872)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_