

MOYAK Bass Fishing Tournament General Rules

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Golden Rule

Always respect fellow anglers, obey all applicable laws, and protect the waters and environment we fish.

1. Tournament Format

All events are Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) using the TourneyX platform for submissions and scoring.

Final score is the combined length (in inches) of your longest 5 fish.

Each fish can be submitted only once per tournament.

Every fish must be released alive and in good condition before the angler resumes fishing.

There is no minimum length requirement for submitted fish.

2. Eligible Species

Only black bass species qualify for scoring: Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)

Spotted/Kentucky Bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*)

Alabama Spotted Bass (*Micropterus punctulatus henshalli*)

Mean Mouth Bass (hybrid of smallmouth and spotted bass)

3. Approved Measuring Boards

Only these boards are permitted:

Ketch Co brand measuring boards (**black colored boards are NOT allowed**) and **YakAttack** leaderboards

Use of any other board will result in photo denial.

4. Photo Standards and Submission

All photos must be taken from inside the kayak.

Fish must face left (dorsal fin up, belly of fish facing the angler).

Mouth must be closed and clearly touching the board's fence or bump stop. If mouth is open more than ¼ inch, a 1-inch penalty will be applied.

Tail length is measured to the nearest ¼-inch mark it touches or crosses; lengths are always rounded down.

Identifier code (provided for each event) must be clearly visible in every photo.

Identifier code can be written or printed on anything

Hands may hold the fish steady but **cannot:**

Touch the caudal (tail) fin

Extend under the gill plate

Cover the eye

No fish grips, clips, ties, or other restraints permitted while the fish is on the board.

Photos must be clear, in focus, and unaltered (no cropping, flipping, screenshots, or video stills). Any photograph submitted that is altered in any way will be flagged by TourneyX for the Judge to see.

GPS location services must be enabled in the TourneyX app during submission.

Photos must be uploaded by the strict deadline announced on TourneyX and at the captains' meeting (e.g., no uploads accepted after 3:00:00 PM).

Anglers will receive email notification of judging results, including any penalties or denials.

If a photo is denied or penalized, the angler may delete it and submit an alternative photo (if available) before the deadline.

5. Legal Catch Requirements

Fish must be hooked in the mouth or jaw. Foul-hooked or snagged fish are not eligible.

Incidental secondary hooks (e.g., treble hook in gill or fin) are allowed only if the primary hook was clearly in the mouth.

Fish must appear alive, healthy, and undamaged. Dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or altered fish will be denied (Tournament Director's discretion).

If there is any doubt about a fish that is missing an eye or something else that may make it appear dead, an angler can take a short video of the fish and the release of it swimming away for evidence.

All fish must be caught personally by the submitting angler during competition hours using rod, reel, line, hook, and artificial lures only, in full compliance with state regulations—example: A-Rigs are allowed with no more than 3 hooks per state law.

No snatching, snagging, traps, set lines, or other illegal methods.

Any violation results in **disqualification** from the event or more.

6. Cooperation, Assistance, and Communication

General Solicitation of Fishing Information

Competitors may not purchase, barter for, solicit (ask for), or intentionally receive information from any person **outside of the tournament** for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. This includes—but is not limited to—GPS waypoints, specific locations, patterns, or bite information. This restriction applies during the official tournament times.

Exception: Information obtained from publicly available sources (see definition in section c) is permitted at any time.

b. Guides and Guide Services

Competitors may not use or communicate—directly or indirectly—with any guide or guide service regarding tournament waters, fishing conditions, locations, techniques, or strategies. This restriction applies during the 21 days immediately preceding the event.

Exception: Communication limited to publicly available sources (see section c) is allowed.

c. Definition of Publicly Available Sources

Publicly available sources include information openly accessible to the general public without restriction, such as: Official government or public agency websites/maps

Widely distributed public forums, articles, videos, or maps not restricted by login/paywall/group membership

General social media posts visible to anyone (***not private accounts, closed groups, or direct messages***)

Quasi-public or restricted sources are NOT considered publicly available, including: Websites, blogs, social media pages, private groups, Discord servers, text threads, or similar platforms created specifically (or primarily) to share information with individuals or a small/select group of people.

d. On-the-Water Verbal Communication

Verbal (**in-person**) communication of any kind between **competitors** is permitted at any time on the water.

e. Mobile Device / Electronic Communication During Tournament Hours

During official tournament hours (from First Launch to Lines Out each day): Mobile devices (phones, tablets, radios, apps, etc.) may not be used to communicate—via call, text, messaging, email, social DMs, or any other means—with competitors or non-competitors about tournament waters, fishing locations, strategies, techniques, bites, patterns, or similar topics.

Permitted uses during these hours include only:

Communication with tournament staff/officials

Public social media updates (non-private posts)

Safety checks or emergency notifications

Ride coordination/logistics

Urgent non-tournament work or family matters/emergencies

Any violation of this section may result in disqualification.

Reporting and Enforcement

Any questions, concerns, suspected violations, or requests for rule clarification must be communicated immediately to the Tournament Director for review and decision. Tournament officials reserve the right to interpret and enforce these rules in the interest of fairness. Failure to report a violation can also be grounds for disqualification.

Strictly Prohibited:

Any assistance in catching fish, including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation results in disqualification.

Scoring and Tiebreakers

Judges determine length by the ¼-inch marks; they may visualize extended lines across the board for accuracy.

Big Bass tie: Broken by earliest photo submission timestamp. Time the picture was taken.

Overall placement tie: Broken by longest single fish; if still tied, earliest submission of that fish.

Angler of the Year tie: Broken by highest total inches across the season.

Participation and Eligibility

Membership not required to compete, but is required to earn Angler of the Year points.

A Valid state fishing license is required (plus White River Border Waters license for Bull Shoals events in Arkansas).

Professional guides may compete only if they have not guided for pay on event waters within 30 days prior.

Minimum age: 18+; ages 14–17 allowed with parental consent and/or adult supervision (contact TD for approval).

All competitors must:

Register for a free TourneyX angler account.

Maintain a PayPal account for prize payouts.

Submit a signed annual liability waiver (available on website).

Provide a W9 tax form if winnings exceed \$600

Cancellation policy: Full refund minus PayPal fees and \$10 admin fee if canceled before event start; no refunds once competition begins.

A. Pre-Fishing

Pre-fishing is prohibited after 6:00 PM on the evening before the event. Anglers must be **off** the water by this time.

B. Approved Watercraft

Permitted

: Kayaks and canoes.

Inflatable SUPs, rafts, or other small craft ≤4 feet wide may be used only with prior Tournament Director approval for safety.

Electric motors permitted (maximum 3 HP thrust equivalent); must not exceed manufacturer's weight capacity ratings.

Anglers may use a bow mounted motor as well as a stern mounted motor as long as it does not exceed the kayaks safety limitations.

C. Competition Area and Boundaries

Anglers may only launch from public access points within Tournament Director-designated boundaries (maps available on website).

Any public access point is allowed. It does not have to be a boat ramp.

No launching (*leaving the launch area*) before the official first launch time is announced for each event.

No portaging over land or leaving the kayak to bypass obstacles.

Trailing and relaunching at different public accesses is allowed during competition hours.

Anglers must remain in their kayak while fishing; no wade fishing or fishing from shore.

Mothershipping (transport by another vessel) is prohibited.

If an angler has an emergency and needs a tow back contact TD for a possible allowance based on the details.

12. Safety Requirements

U.S. Coast Guard-approved Chest type PFD must be worn and fastened at all times while underway (may be removed only when safely beached or anchored with no risk). Type III Level 70

Required equipment: Whistle or audible signal device, light source.

For launches before sunrise: 360° visible stern light mounted at least 2 feet above the deck; motorized craft also require red/green bow navigation lights.

If anglers do not have the correct lights, they may wait until safe light (30 minutes after sunrise((shooting light)) to launch).

No use of illegal drugs during competition (results in disqualification).

In emergencies, call 911 immediately.

Tournament Director may delay, restrict waters, or cancel due to severe weather (lightning, high winds, tornado threats). Minor weather does **not** cancel events.

All watercraft and operation must comply with applicable state and federal laws.

D. Competitor Conduct

Competitors must maintain high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, conservation, and integrity.

1. *Conduct that reflects poorly on the sport, series, or sponsors in person or on social media may result in disqualification, suspension, or permanent ban based on TD discretion.*

Disputes and Appeals

Disputes regarding penalties, judging, or rulings must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after judging completion.

A panel of 5 anglers will vote on resolution.

\$25 appeal fee required (refunded minus PayPal fees if appeal is upheld).

Review board makes final decision; no changes to results after the 24-hour window.

15. Media Rights and Liability

By registering, competitors grant permission for use of their photos, likeness, and event-related content for promotional purposes without additional compensation.

Annual signed waiver/release of liability required (parent/guardian signature for minors).

Competitors assume all risks associated with participation.

16. Taxes and Payouts

Winners are responsible for all applicable taxes on prizes.

Prize recipients must submit a completed IRS W-9 form for payouts.

These rules promote fair, safe, and enjoyable competition. All interpretations and enforcement decisions are at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Check TourneyX for event-specific information and updates.

Special Series Rules

● **River Series**

Each angler is limited to fishing a specific river only once during the season. Although anglers have the choice of their river, they must select four different rivers to fish throughout the season. Choosing the optimal river at the most opportune time will be a crucial strategy, as anglers are not permitted to fish the same waters more than once.

Every angler will notify the TD the river they are fishing in the tournament briefing email. This will be monitored and verified through TourneyX gps services.

If a tributary stream can only be accessed by the main river it is considered the same water as the main river. If a tributary has its own separate name and public

access points, then it is considered a different public stream.

If a tributary has its own singular access but an angler must take out on the main river access, then only the tributary will count as the river you compete on, as long as you do not fish on the main river. If fishing both rivers then both rivers will be scratched off for the rest of the season.

- Anglers must launch from and take out from a public access (unless being shuttled by an outfitter or licensed resort) on a Missouri public river.
- MOYAK Membership is required to compete for Angler of the Year points.
- Anglers may launch from campsites.
- Paid shuttle services are allowed even if the Outfitter/campground uses a private drop off or pick up.
- Competitors may shuttle each other.

- Approved PFDs must be worn at all times while actively competing.
- Wading is allowed as long as all photos are taken in the kayak or canoe.
- No minimum length requirement.

- **Tournament Time:**

- - Fishing starts at 6:00am.
- - Tournament ends at 6:00pm.
- - Submit photos by 8:00pm.
- Winners are announced on social media.
- **ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY) COMPETITION:**
- - AOY points are based on your top 4 of 6 tournaments, including the Championship.
- - Championship awards standard points.
- Top 10 final standings qualify for the Missouri State Championship (Oct 10–11).

***Elite Team Series**

Team scores are based on the total length of the longest 6 fish per team.

3 fish per angler will count towards the Team score.

MoYak membership is required.

The AOY points race will be based on the best 5 out of 7 tournament scores. – Two lowest scores are dropped.

****Grass Roots Series***

No motors are allowed.

No electronic fish finders are allowed.

No prefishing. Tournament waters are off limits the week before competition.

