

Southeast Texas Kayak Bass League

Rules and Standards

The terms and conditions presented in this document apply between Southeast Texas Kayak Bass League (also referred to as "SETXKBL") and those persons registering for and participating in the event/tournament.

We base almost all rules off of the Hobie BOS Official Rules. Exclusions may apply based on a particular event and public notice will be given.

Section 1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed and will always supersede SETXKBL rules. Violation of any laws may be cause for disqualification.
- 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.
- These rules will remain subject to change by SETXKBL Directors.
- Special Rules and amendments may be announced, added, or omitted for special circumstances or clarification at the judgement of SETXKBL Directors.
- Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to SETXKBL Directors.
- Decisions of SETXKBL Directors are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- A violation of tournament rules may result in penalties, disqualification, or banishment at the discretion of SETXKBL Directors.

Section 2. PAYBACK & PARTICIPATION

- All participants must pay the full entry, agree to all liability release forms when registering via TourneyX, attend/ view the mandatory rules meeting, and be using a SETXKBL certified measuring device approved by the tournament director to be considered a contestant.
- Competitors must register via TourneyX and pay the entry fee via PayPal as FRIENDS/FAMILY - www.paypal.me/setxkbl - to be guaranteed entry in any SETXKBL event. Anglers registering without paying will be placed on the waiting list.
- The number of paid places and amounts will be determined at each event by the number of entries.
- The number of paid places will be 8-10% of the total number of paid entries.
- SETXKBL reserves the right to distribute payouts at their discretion based on the total purse and number of paid entrants.
- SETXKBL reserves the right to add money and prizes to paybacks as well as distribute prizes at their discretion.
- Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have permission and a signed release of a parent or legal guardian.
- Any person's participation in any SETXKBL event is at the sole discretion of SETXKBL Directors.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish.
- Any contestant who wishes to withdraw from the event is eligible for a 100% refund of their entry fee, provided notification of cancellation is made no later than 24 hours PRIOR to the official registration deadline. All cancellation requests MUST be made in writing, and tournament officials must be notified immediately.

- Registration deadline for a particular SETXKBL event will be the Friday before the event at 4:00PM, local time of the event headquarters.
- If a SETXKBL event is cancelled, angler's will be fully refunded, or the entry fee can be put towards another SETXKBL event.

Section 3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

- There will be an official OFF LIMITS beginning at 12:01AM the Monday prior to the event until 6:00AM on the Thursday prior to the event.
- Official Practice Period will begin at 6:00AM on the Thursday prior to the event and end at 5:00PM on the day before the event – typically Friday.
- Competitors must be off the water by 5:30PM on Friday's official practice day and may not enter tournament waters for any reason until the official tournament launch time.
- All time on water during official practice and tournament must be done in a vessel in accordance with Section 7: KAYAK REGULATION. Being in ANY boat not in accordance with Section 7: KAYAK REGULATION on tournament waters during the practice period, outside of an emergency or director approved job, will result in disqualification.
- Motors: If the watercraft is legally licensed, electric motors will be permitted for PRACTICE AND TOURNAMENT USE. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply, could result in disqualification.
- Testing equipment on tournament waters after the Official Practice Period ends is not allowed and result in disqualification from the event.

Section 4. INFORMATION GATHERING

- The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters (other than through commercially available sources) is not permitted for 30 days prior through the conclusion of the event.
- Any use of or communication with a guide or guide services pertaining to tournament waters within 30 days of the event is prohibited, other than through publicly available sources.
- During official tournament days, contestants may not solicit information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except through publicly available sources. 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.
- Any collaboration on or off the water with other competitors or non-competitors during the Official Practice Period or Tournament for any purpose is strictly prohibited.

Section 5. SAFETY

- Safe boating practices must always be followed.
- Each contestant is REQUIRED to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during SETXKBL tournament hours.
- All Kayaks must be equipped with emergency equipment as required by all Federal, State and Local Laws. This often includes a safety whistle and 360-degree light. Additionally, a Hi-Visibility flag flown on the kayak is recommended.

- At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent.
- Competitors are expected to use sound judgement and are accountable for their own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation. (i.e., lightning, excessive wind, rough waters, recreational and commercial marine traffic, hunting areas, etc.)

Section 6. SPORTSMANSHIP

- All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, sponsors, SETXKBL, SETXKBL sponsors, and the sport of fishing as well as SETXKBL efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - o Violation of or failure to comply with event or state rules and laws.
 - o Consumption of alcoholic beverages or any kind of illegal substance during tournament hours.
 - o Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
 - o Verbal or physical abuse towards fellow competitors and tournament directors on or off the water during the official practice period through the tournament weekend.
 - o Blocking navigable waters from fellow competitors to pass thru.
 - o Working with a non-competitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours.
 - o Any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules.
 - o Failure to comply with standards set forth in the first sentence of Section 6.
- Smoking must be done away from SETXKBL Directors and large groups of anglers. Please be respectful of others.
- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, SETXKBL shall have the right to refuse an registration to compete or to deny a confirmed registration to compete by returning the entry fee, and to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined in section 1.

Section 7. KAYAK REGULATION

- During the Official Practice Period and Tournament, all Kayaks/ SUPs/vessels must be human or electric motor powered. No gas powered vessels are allowed.
- Eligible vessel must be at least 9 foot in length and no longer than 18 foot.
- Catamaran style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible.
- No "Homemade" Kayaks will be permitted.
- The use of manual or motorized anchor system is permitted.
- Mother-shiping, tethering/holding or any on-water transportation coordination with a non-competitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by SETXKBL Directors within emergency situations.
- By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their vessel to an inspection by SETXKBL personnel.

Section 8. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

- All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler.

- All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- Only artificial lures may be used, except pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits are allowed.
- Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are considered one lure and are only limited by the laws within the state they are fishing.
- Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- 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.
- Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed. Long-lining and drifting with current/wind are allowed. Trolling is defined as directly using the vessel's propulsion to present a lure.
- All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- No fish are to be kept on stringers. Non-penetrating, fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water. • An angler's catch must be safely released before casting or fishing may resume.

Section 9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for events.
- Contestants may fish anywhere on eligible tournament waters that are available to the public and accessible by kayak 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 SETXKBL, commercial property owners and/or local, state, or federal officials.
- Any NAVIGABLE waters from a main lake is considered tournament waters.
- All fishing must be conducted from inside the kayak unless otherwise stated by tournament officials.
- At no time may a contestant leave the kayak to land a fish, photograph/submit a fish or to make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters.
- The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the end of the 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.
- Boats may never be tethered to on-water markers like buoys or safety signs.
- The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a kayak into fishing waters is strictly prohibited.
- Portaging is prohibited unless posted otherwise. Competitors must be able to motor, pedal and/or paddle in AND out of an area for it to be considered tournament waters.

Section 10. SCORING

- 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.
- Competitors will be provided with a unique identifier for each tournament day.
- The five longest verified lengths of individual fish will be totaled for the anglers score each day.
- The contestant with the highest total score at the conclusion of the event is the winner.
- Rounding will be down and to the nearest 1/4-inch.
- Only the Black Bass Species consisting of the following: Largemouth, Spotted, Shoal and Smallmouth bass and any hybrid of the above are accepted species.

- All fish must measure a minimum of 12", unless otherwise specified for individual events. Bass submitted that fail to measure 12" with mouth completely closed will not be scored.
- A submitted fish will only count once to an angler's aggregate score for all days of the tournament.
- Only fish submitted on an approved measuring device will be scored.

Section 11. MEASURING DEVICE

- Ketch Board Models - X, Carbonite, 26"/32" Original - are the mandatory and official measuring devices for the Southeast Texas Kayak Bass League.
- Contestants are expected to bring their own measuring device. Those devices may be inspected at any time by SETXKBL personnel.
- Anyone found to be using a measuring device that is determined to be illegal will be disqualified from the tournament.
- A clean measuring device is expected to ensure we can give you a proper score.

Section 12. PHOTO CRITERIA

- Anglers must be able to submit their photos to our tournament submission application. There will be no manual submissions unless an issue arises within the scoring application.
- Each fish photo must include all the following criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification:
 - o 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.
 - o Bass must be laying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device. Measuring device post must be visible.
 - o The mouth of the Bass must be CLOSED COMPLETELY.
 - o The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board and will be measured to the longest point.
 - o Pinching the tail is permitted.
 - o Bass orientation must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler.
 - o Measuring device markings must be clearly visible. Including the actual numbers.
 - o Assigned unique identifier's number must be clearly visible.
 - o One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at a drastic angle).
 - o Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook.
 - o Lip, eye, and tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
 - o Hand or fingers must not be under or in the gill plate.
- If a fish has a visibly glossy eye or odd markings, we ask that the competitor take video of that fish to prove it is alive, showing it going from the board to the water and actively swimming away.
- Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the attention of SETXKBL personnel.
- Quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler. **All criteria above must be met, or the photo may not be scored**

Section 13. TIES

- Ties between anglers will be automatically broken by big bass.

- Big Bass ties will be broken by 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.

Section 14. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

- Each contestant agrees to submit, by registering for this tournament, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion.
- Consumption of alcohol or any mind-altering substance is strictly prohibited prior to a truth verification test.
- Refusal to participate in the polygraph or voice stress analysis examination will result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Failure to pass an examination, if administered, can result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Truth verification tests will be used at SETXKBL's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by SETXKBL personnel.

Section 15. PENALTIES (for Reference Only)

- Mouth cracked or slightly open - .5" deduction
- Mouth blatantly open- 1"-2" deduction
- Lip or tail not touching board: No score
- BOS Tournament Director will judge fish and apply penalties in fairness at their discretion

Section 16. PROTESTS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

- All protests must be submitted in writing to SETXKBL personnel, during event hours or within 24 hours of the announcement of the official results and submission photos are made available. The protester also agrees that if there is a question of verifying the charge of a protest that he or she may be subject to take a polygraph and agree to testify in a court of law if necessary.

Section 17. RULE CONSISTENCY AND SHARING

- These rules were developed from the culmination of many national events and a collective collaboration of tournament directors over many years. They are public for your viewing in SETXKBL events and we encourage them being shared and used to help create a uniformity in our sport and spread the knowledge of proper practices for this style of competitive fishing. We thank Hobie BOS for providing simplified rules/standards that we are able to piggyback off of.

Entry Fees & Payout Scale

Regular Season Tournament - \$75

Optional \$10 Big Bass Side Pot

\$75 Tournament Entry Fee Breakdown

\$60 - Tournament Pot

\$5 - TourneyX Fee

\$3 - AOY Pot

\$3 - Classic Pot

\$4 - Admin Fees

Top 10% paid out up to 8 spots

Exceptions to this will be made if field is 110+.

Classic Championship Info

Entry Fee - \$250

\$250 Tournament Entry Fee Breakdown

\$215 - Tournament Pot

\$20 - Big Bass

\$5 - TourneyX Fee

\$10 - Admin Fees

Top 3 paid out for Classic

AOY Series

- Optional \$25 AOY Series entry fee (\$15 to AOY Pot, \$10 to prize items) must be paid before you receive points for any event, you will not receive points for previous events if you weren't already signed up.

- Top 2 AOY anglers will receive cash and prizes

Scoring will be based on a points system. AOY points will be awarded to each participant based on placement at each event.

- If a participant does not fish an event, they will receive no points. If a participant fishes an event but does not record a catch, they will be awarded 40 points less than the lowest placing AOY Series angler with a recorded catch.

- You will be awarded points based on where you finish at each event - 1st receives 200, 2nd receives 199, and so on.

- You will be allowed 1 drop – your best 5 finishes will be added up going into the Classic Championship.

- Points will be awarded for the Classic Championship.

- The top 40 anglers in the AOY Series will qualify for the championship event. The Top 5 from each event will also automatically qualify for the Championship. Roll-downs will be implemented as needed.

1. **Waivers and Releases** – As a condition of participation in a Competition, and by virtue of registering for the Competition, each Competitor agrees to accept the terms and condition of the Southeast Texas Kayak Bass League Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement (below). This Agreement absolves all parties from responsibility and threat of litigation in the case of injury, loss, or death sustained by a Competitor in the Event. Registrants under the age of 18 must have their waiver/release form signed by the parent or adult guardian who will accompany them throughout competition. A printed copy of the Kayak Bass Fishing Waiver and Release Form (below) is available at the Event HQ Check-in Table and must be signed and on file before a registrant is eligible to compete.

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS KAYAK BASS FISHING LEAGUE
WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the Event and its related competition and activities, I, the undersigned (or registrant), being at least 18 years of age, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

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

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

By registering for this event via TourneyX you are acknowledging that you read the Waiver And Release Of Liability Agreement and agree to its terms and condition.