



B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series

Effective January 1, 2020

2020 B.A.S.S. NATION KAYAK SERIES RULES

1. Rules and Penalties

- The following rules shall apply to all B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series events except that rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and 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 www.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 rule 17 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 B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series tournaments or other B.A.S.S. circuits, rules violations must be reported 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 towards championship qualification.**
- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed. 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.

2. Participants and Eligibility

- 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 sibling, regardless of where they live) are ineligible. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor.
- 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 competition.
A PROPERLY COMPLETED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE B.A.S.S. NATION DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE. ENTRY DEADLINE DATE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT SHALL BE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST COMPETITION DAY OF EACH TOURNAMENT. Each calendar year prior to competing in a B.A.S.S. Nation 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 B.A.S.S. Nation Department on or before the entry deadline date. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.

- Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have permission and a signed release of a parent or legal guardian.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish.

3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

- There will be NO designated off-limits period.
- Official Practice will begin at 12:00am the Monday before the competition.
- Contestants may not enter tournament waters for any reason after the start of the pre-tournament rules briefing and in between weigh-in and launch of multi-day events except during official tournament hours.
- All practice during official practice and competition must be done in a vessel in accordance to Section 8: KAYAK REGULATION. If boat is legally licensed, electric motors will be permitted. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply, may result in disqualification.
- 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 OFFICIAL PRACTICE period through the conclusion of the tournament.
- Hiring or using a guide for tournament waters within 21 days of the event is prohibited.
- During official competition, contestants may not solicit information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except other anglers confirmed in the tournament and 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.
- For multi day 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.
- During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergencies, submission of your catch and to send photo's to the blog on Bassmaster.com using email address update@bassmaster.com

5. PRE-TOURNAMENT (RULES) MEETING

It is mandatory that all contestants attend the pre-tournament check in and (RULES) briefing. Each contestant must check-in prior to the pre-tournament (RULES) briefing, in person, at the designated site. Check-in hours and locations will be announced for each individual tournament.

6. SAFETY

- Safe boating must be observed at all times.
- Each contestant is REQUIRED to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during tournament hours. Inflatable BELT type PFDs are not allowed.
- All Kayaks must be equipped with an emergency whistle and a 360 degree light or installed LEDs that are visible from all angles.
- 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 his/her own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation. (i.e. Lightning, excessive wind, pleasure boaters, hunters, etc.)
- **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- 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 cause for disqualification.
- 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.
- Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors 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 be reason for disqualification.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
 - Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
 - Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
 - 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 or its sponsors
 - 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.
 - Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
 - 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.
 - Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
 - Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete, for example, working with a non-competitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours.
- 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.
- Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from 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.

8. KAYAK REGULATION

- Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor. (See electric motor restrictions, below.)
- Unless specifically prohibited, use of electric motors in competition is approved with the following restrictions:
 - Electric motor must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation.
 - An electric motor used to propel a watercraft may not exceed the lesser of (a.) manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity, (b.) 3 HP, or (c.) 155 foot-pound thrust.

- Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use, and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
- No more than one electric motor may be attached to a kayak regardless of combined horsepower/thrust/power rating.
- 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.
- Vessel must be 9' minimum and shorter than 18'.
- Vessel that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks, Stand-up paddleboards (SUP) and Canoes.
- Other watercraft specifically approved as exceptions in advance of competition by B.A.S.S. Management
- Catamaran style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible.
- No "Homemade" Kayaks, Sailboats, Jon boats, 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.
- The use of manual or motorized anchor system is permitted.
- Mothershipping, tethering/holding or any transportation coordination with a non-competitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by B.A.S.S. officials due to an emergency situation.
- By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their kayak to an inspection by B.A.S.S. personnel.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler out of their vessel.
- All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits.
- Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are allowed 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.
- All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- No fish are to be kept on stringers. Fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

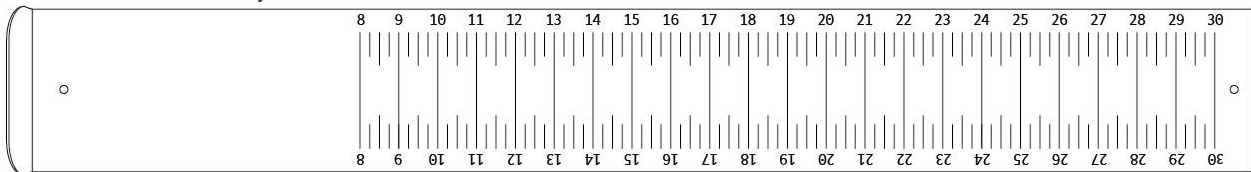
- Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for individual events.
- Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by kayak except areas posted or otherwise designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by B.A.S.S., commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials.
- 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 start of the pre-tournament meeting 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 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.
- Using any items including the kayak or fishing line to block an area off to other competitors or anglers is strictly prohibited.

11. 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.
- Each competitor will be provided with a unique identifier for the tournament.
- The five longest verified lengths will be totaled for the anglers score.
- Officials will round down and to the nearest 1/4 inch.
- Only the Black Bass Species consisting of the following: Largemouth, Spotted, Guadalupe, Shoal and Smallmouth bass and any hybrid of the above are accepted species.
- The best five (5) fish make up a daily limit.
- All fish must measure a minimum of 12". 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.

12. MEASURING DEVICE

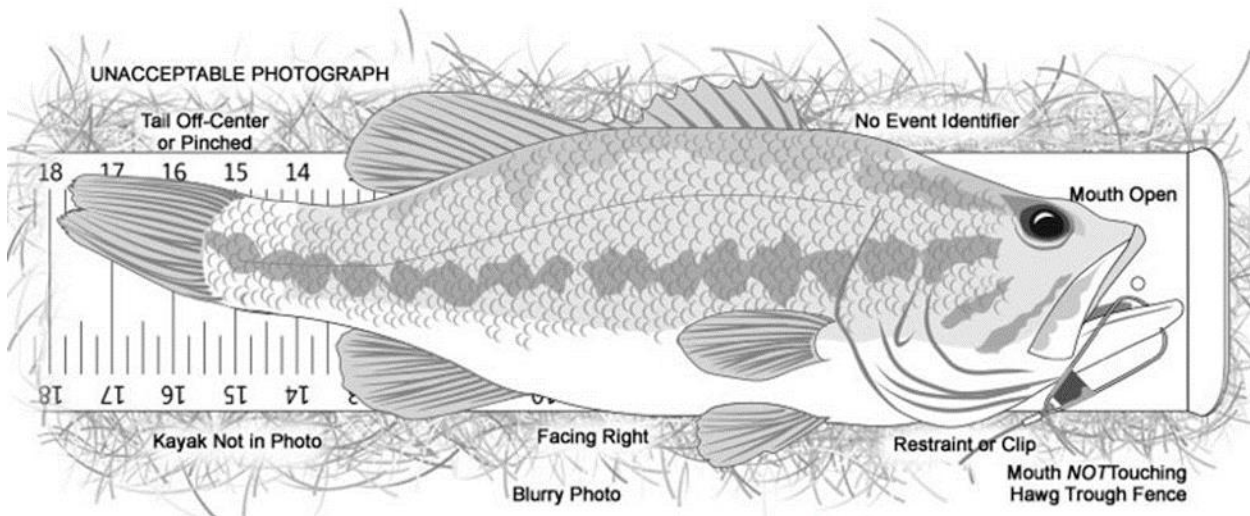
- The Hawg Trough and ALL Ketch Boards are approved as the official, mandatory, measuring devices for the B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series events and its subsidiaries.



- Contestants must bring their own measuring device.
- Your measuring device may be inspected by B.A.S.S. staff at any time before, during, or after the tournament.
- Anyone found to be using a measuring device that is determined to be not legal will be disqualified from the tournament.
- Ensure the markings on your measuring device are clearly marked and can be seen by the scoring official. Consider marking the lines on your Hawg Trough with a black marker. However, excessive marking may result in a penalty.

13. PHOTO CRITERIA

- Anglers must be prepared to manually upload pictures with cables, cords, software, required to download photos via a USB port to the official judge's computer.
- Each fish photo must include all of the following criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification:
 - 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.
 - Lying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device.
 - The mouth of the Bass must be CLOSED COMPLETELY.
 - The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board, and will be measured to the longest point.
 - Pinching the tail is NOT permitted.
 - Bass must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler.
 - Measuring device markings must be clearly visible. Including the actual numbers.
 - Assigned unique identifier must be visible.
 - One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at an angle).
 - Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook.
 - Lip, eye, and tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
 - Hand or fingers must not be under the gill plate.
- 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.
- Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the B.A.S.S. official's attention.
- Quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.



All criteria above must be met or the photo may not be scored

14. SCORING PENALTIES

- Mouth open - 1" deduction
- Lip or tail not touching board: No score
- Excessive Marking of Hawg Trough: Rounded down to next ¼ inch mark (No Score if below minimum.)

15. ADVANCING TO THE B.A.S.S. NATION KAYAK SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (BNKSC)

- The top 20% or twenty (20) anglers (whichever is greater) from each B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series national event will advance to the BNKSC.
- State B.A.S.S. Nation's holding a B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak series state championship may send the top 10% or five (5) anglers (whichever is greater) from their state championship to the BNKSC.
- Any angler that fishes four (4) of the five (5) national regionals will advance to the B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series Championship.

16. TIES

- In one-day events, ties will be broken by longest fish, followed by next longest fish until all fish have been accounted for. If a tie still exists, the tournament director(s) will divide cash, prizes, and points among the anglers involved in the tie. In multi-day events, the largest single day catch will be the first tie breaker. If the tie remains, the tie breaker above goes into effect. At the B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series Championship, In case of a tie for overall champion at the end of the tournament, that is not resolved by the tie breakers listed above, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials.
- 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. In the event that 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 B.A.S.S. 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 B.A.S.S. 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 B.A.S.S. Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest B.A.S.S. headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such 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 B.A.S.S. Nation 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 RULE 1. ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED 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 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 BASS 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.

B.A.S.S. Content Usage Guidelines—IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ

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 in 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 camera person or crew following him 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 for exposure on Bassmaster.com and our social media pages.

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. in 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.

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