

# Oklahoma Kayak Anglers

## 2023 OFFICIAL RULES

### Section 1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed and will always supersede club 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 OKA Officials.
- Special Rules and amendments may be announced, added, or omitted for special circumstances or clarification at the judgment of OKA Officials.
- Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to OKA Officials.
- Decisions of OKA Officials/tournament director(s) 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 OKA Officials.
- Under special circumstances the OKA officials may seek a non-biased outside opinion with advice for settling disputes.

### Section 2. PAYBACK & PARTICIPATION

- All participants must pay the full entry, complete all liability release forms, attend/view the mandatory rules meeting, and be using a OKA certified measuring device approved by the tournament director to be considered a contestant. The release forms are part of the registration process, must be printed off, signed by Angler, a Parent or Guardian and sent to [Oklahomakayakangers@gmail.com](mailto:Oklahomakayakangers@gmail.com) prior to the event starting.
- Competitors must register and pay in the tournament host app to be guaranteed entry in any OKA event.
- 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 no less than 10% of the total number of paid entrants.
- OKA reserves the right to distribute payouts at their discretion based on the total purse and number of paid entrants
- OKA 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 OKA tournament is at the sole discretion of OKA officials.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish.
- All anglers are responsible for all fees for associated with 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.
- In the event that an OKA event needs to be canceled, anglers will be fully refunded, or the entry fee can be put towards another OKA event.

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

- There will be NO designated off-limits period for the events.
- Designated official practice period: Official Practice Period will begin at 12:01 AM the Monday prior to the event and end at 6pm local on that Friday.
- Competitors must be off the water by 6PM on Friday and may not enter tournament waters for any reason or by any means after the start of the pre-tournament meeting.
- Motors: If the watercraft is legally licensed, electric motors will be permitted. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. State law 63 O.S. § 4005 (OSCN 2023).
- Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is NOT permitted unless approved and supervised by tournament officials.

### **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 during the OFFICIAL PRACTICE period through the conclusion of the tournament.
- Any use of or communication with a guide or guide services, directly or indirectly, pertaining to tournament waters within 21 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. 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 for the purpose of sharing or pooling winnings 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 OKA tournament hours. The personal flotation device must always be worn on the outside of all clothing. Inflatable belt PFDs are not considered satisfactory in OKA events.
- 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. Any fish caught during postponement will be disqualified, all messaging of postponements will be communicated electronically
- Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is imminent.
- Competitors are expected to use sound judgment 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, OKA, OKA sponsors, and the sport of fishing as well as OKA's efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Violation of or failure to comply with event or state rules and laws.
  - Consumption of alcoholic beverages or any kind of illegal substance during tournament hours.
  - Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
  - Verbal or physical abuse towards fellow competitors and tournament directors on or off the water during the official practice period through the tournament weekend.
  - Blocking navigable waters from fellow competitors to pass thru.
  - Working with a non-competitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours.
  - Any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules.
  - Failure to comply with standards set forth in the first sentence of Section 6.
  - Smoking is not allowed in the registration and weigh-in line during any OKA competition. Smoking must be done away from OKA staff, OKA directors and large groups of anglers. Please be respectful of others.
- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, OKA shall have the right to refuse an application to compete or to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee (less 20%), and to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined in section 1.

## **Section 7. KAYAK REGULATION**

During Competition:

- All Kayaks/Stand Up Paddle Boards/canoes are legal vessels
- Eligible vessels may be paddle, pedal or electric motor driven
- Vessels may only be occupied by one participant
- Eligible vessels 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 systems is permitted.
- Mother-shipping, tethering/holding or any on-water transportation coordination with a noncompetitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by OKA officials within emergency situations.
- By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their kayak to an inspection by OKA 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 is 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 individual 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 OKA, 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.
- 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.
- Vessels may never be tethered to on-water markers such as 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 pedal, paddle or motors in AND out of an area on tournament days for it to be considered legal tournament waters.
- Anglers are responsible for verifying their launch/access is public and legal to all competitors.
- Gaining 'special permission' public access to a traditionally private area will not be allowed.

## **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 after tournament conclusion is the winner.
- Rounding down will be to the nearest 1/4-inch.
- Only the Black Bass Species are accepted
- All fish must measure a minimum of 10", unless otherwise specified for individual events. Bass submitted that fail to measure 10" 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.
- 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 8.

## **Section 11. MEASURING DEVICE**

- Ketch offerings are the only allowed measuring devices we allow at this time.
- Contestants are expected to bring their own measuring device.
- 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**

- Each fish photo must include all 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.
- Bass must be laying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device. Measuring device post must be visible.
- 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 permitted.
- Bass orientation 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's number must be clearly visible.
- One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at a drastic angle).
- Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook.
- Lip, eye, and end of tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
- 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 official's attention.
- Quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.
- All photos submitted must be the original photos as taken and may not be altered to include rotating or cropping

*\*\*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 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 the earliest photo submitted of their largest fish.

## **Section 14. PENALTIES (for Reference Only)**

- Mouth cracked or slightly open up to 1/4" is a .5" deduction
- Mouth blatantly open- 1"-2" deduction

- Lip or tail not touching board: No score
- Tournament Directors will judge fish and apply penalties in fairness at their discretion

### **Section 15. PROTESTS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES**

All protests must be submitted in writing to officials, during event hours or within 24 hours of the announcement of the official results. 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.