



PRESENTED BY  **NATIVE**
WATERCRAFT

Official Rules

Bassmaster Kayak Series

Effective January 1, 2026

Participation Agreement

P1. COMPLIANCE

This Angler Participation Agreement and the 2026 Bassmaster Kayak Series Rules, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, (the Participation Agreement and Official Rules collectively referred to herein as the "Agreement") sets forth the terms and conditions upon which I will be permitted to participate in any or all Bassmaster Kayak Series Events (the "Tournament Series") during the 2026 calendar year. By signing this Agreement, the undersigned (referred to as "I", "Competitor" or "Angler"), hereby agree to be bound by and comply with the provisions thereof. I also agree to abide by and comply with the B.A.S.S. Angler Code of Conduct, and all other guidelines, regulations, payment schedules and instructions communicated to me in writing by B.A.S.S. I affirm that I am a member in good standing with B.A.S.S. and 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, its agents, employees, owners, its affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively "B.A.S.S."), the hosts, sponsors and Tournament Series officials (collectively "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, DEFEND, 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 whether brought by me or my agents/legal representatives or by third parties, relating to 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, 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 Series events; (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 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. For good and valuable consideration, including but not limited to B.A.S.S. allowing the angler participation in the Tournament, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby irrevocably grant permission to B.A.S.S., the successors and assigns of each of the foregoing, and each of their respective agents, licensees, designees, and assigns and those other parties acting under such parties' permission or upon their authority (collectively, with B.A.S.S., the "Licensees"), in perpetuity, a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, fully paid-up license and non-revocable right 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, performances, actions, biographical material, and any and all attributes of my personality and appearance (collectively, my "Identity") in materials created in connection with my participation in the Tournament Series and related events and activities of B.A.S.S. (collectively, the "Materials"), alone or in combination with any other materials, in connection with any B.A.S.S.-authorized production, collectibles, merchandise or publication, including, but not limited to, in connection with the promotion of B.A.S.S., the Tournament Series and any other events or programs staged by B.A.S.S., in any and all manner and media now known or hereafter devised, including without limitation, in print, within television programs, motion pictures, websites, social media channels, including without limitation, physical or digital trading cards or other collectible merchandise, public relations materials and for any other lawful purpose in B.A.S.S.'s sole discretion. For clarity, the foregoing shall also include the right to use my Identity in connection with the publicity, advertising, promotion, exhibition or other exploitation of the Materials, including, but not limited to, my appearance at and / or performance during the Tournament Series and related events and activities and my inclusion within any of the Materials. I agree to promptly and fully comply with all filming, camera location and other rules, guidelines and instructions of B.A.S.S. during each Tournament Series.

3.2. I hereby represent and warrant that I have the right to grant these rights and that my granting these rights will not infringe upon the rights of any third party. I represent and warrant that I have or shall obtain all necessary rights and permissions from all applicable third parties (i.e., those sponsoring or affiliated with me or my team and boat) to effectuate the grant of rights set forth in this paragraph 3 (collectively, the “Third Party Rights”). I will ensure that these Third Party Rights grant (or otherwise authorize or permit) B.A.S.S. and the other Licensees the right to utilize such third-party logos, insignia, 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 paragraph 3.1 (for example, on apparel worn by me or on items used by me), and neither B.A.S.S. nor any other Licensee shall be required to seek approvals from such Third Parties for such uses of the Third-Party IP. I agree to defend, hold harmless and indemnify B.A.S.S. and each of the Licensees from and against, any and all third-party claims, damages, costs (including reasonable attorneys’ fees) arising out of claims alleging that I do not have the right to grant the foregoing license and permission with respect to Third Party IP.

3.3. I acknowledge that the Licensees have no obligation to use any or all of 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 any of the Licensees’ use of the Materials or my Identity as authorized herein.

3.4. I acknowledge that all right, title, and interest in and 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 in perpetuity and throughout the universe to edit, modify, distribute 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 personal representatives, agents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns had, now have, or hereafter may have, including, but not limited to, claims in the nature of copyright or other intellectual property 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 with respect to the rights granted hereunder.

3.5. During the Tournament Series, 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, solely 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. In such event, Angler shall promptly cease from live streaming and/or remove any related content from all applicable accounts and platforms (and in any event, no later than within two (2) hours of notification).

P4. MISCELLANEOUS

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

4.2 Other Events. 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 jersey guidelines.

4.3 Additional Requirements. 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.

P5. LEGAL

5.1 Credibility assessment administered via Polygraph. By registering and signing the Participation Agreement, Angler agrees to submit to a credibility assessment at any time during the Tournament series and abide by its conclusion and hereby waives any expectation of privacy relation to his participation in the Tournament series.

5.2 Communication. Angler must provide B.A.S.S. with a current e-mail 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 United States provider personal cell number capable of receiving text messages from B.A.S.S.

5.3. 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.

5.4. 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 along with the Code of Ethics, Official Rules, etc. 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.

5.5. 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.

5.6. Arbitration. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or the breach, invalidity, enforceability, arbitrability, or interpretation thereof, shall be settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment on the award, which shall be rendered by a single arbitrator, may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. B.A.S.S. and the Angler agree that no arbitrator shall have authority to conduct a class or collective proceeding, or to join or consolidate any claim with the claim of another person. To the extent permitted by applicable law, all claims must be brought solely in B.A.S.S.'s or the Angler's individual capacity, and not as a plaintiff or class member in any purported class or collective proceeding. All mediations arising under this provision shall take place in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Angler consents to that forum and waives all objections to the propriety or convenience of that arbitration forum.

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 PARENT 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 #: _____

Official Rules of Competition

The following rules apply to all Bassmaster Kayak Series (BMKS) tournaments, with the following exceptions: rules for special tournaments may differ, and B.A.S.S. may change these rules at any time upon notice, which may be published on Bassmaster.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules are at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director or their designee. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose penalties, including but not limited to disqualification, forfeiture of prizes or entry fees, and prohibition from participation in future tournaments. Subject to the appeal process outlined in Section 17 ("credibility assessment"), decisions of the Tournament Director, their designee, or the rules committee are final in all matters.

1. RULES AND PENALTIES:

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.

- a. Penalties for rules violations may include the following:
 - i. Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
 - ii. Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations.
 - iii. Disqualification from the tournament in question.
 - iv. Disqualification from future B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period or may be a lifetime disqualification.
 - v. Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director include, but not limited to, monetary fines and/or reduction of points toward championship qualification.
 - vi. All federal, state, and local laws, rules, markings, orders and warnings must be followed. Violation of any laws may be cause for disqualification.
 - vii. 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:

- a. Participation in this tournament is open to current B.A.S.S. members who are 16 years of age or older. Employees, officers, and directors of B.A.S.S., its parent, subsidiary, or affiliated companies, and their immediate families (spouse, parents, children, and siblings, regardless of residence) are ineligible. Proof of age, to the satisfaction of tournament officials, is the responsibility of the competitor.
- b. All competitions are conducted using TourneyX®. Each angler must create a free TourneyX user account before the first day of competition. A properly completed official entry form must be received by TourneyX on or before the registration deadline, which is 11 p.m. local time on Wednesday before the event's official start.
- c. Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable once an angler is confirmed in a tournament. Anglers on a waiting list will be refunded if they are not confirmed for the tournament in which they registered.

- d. Prior to competing in any Bassmaster Kayak Series event each calendar year, competitors must complete a W-9 form and, when required, a Form 590 or W-8 BEN provided by B.A.S.S. If there are changes to tax status or address, updated forms must be submitted before participating in the next B.A.S.S. event. Tournament entry fees must be received prior to the entry deadline. The Tournament Director reserves the right to close or extend the acceptance of applications at their discretion.
- e. Any person under the age of majority in their state of residence must provide permission and a signed release from a parent or legal guardian to participate.

3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE, AND COMPETITION:

- a. There will be an Off-Limits Period starting 12 days prior to Official Practice, followed by a 4–7-day Official Practice Period. There will be an Off-Limits Period starting Bassmaster Kayak Series Championships starting 24–30 days prior to Official Practice followed by a 4–7-day Official Practice Period. Anglers are not allowed on tournament waters during the Off-Limits Period. The Off-Limits Period, Official Practice, and Official Tournament Waters will be posted on the Official Information Sheets at www.bassmaster.com. Special off-limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster Kayak Series Championship will be announced by B.A.S.S.
- b. The Official Practice Period will begin at safe light on Saturday prior to each event and conclude the following Friday at 3 p.m. All anglers must be off the water by 3 p.m. the Friday prior to each event. Official practice and competition schedules for the Bassmaster Kayak Series Championship may differ.
- c. During Official Practice, BMKS anglers are allowed to be on tournament waters with immediate family members (spouse/significant other, father, mother, or children), provided no waypoints or fishing locations are solicited or received from family members. Pre-fishing with non-competitors is not allowed and may result in penalties or disqualification. Camera crews must coordinate with the Tournament Director in advance and are prohibited from using fishing gear, scanning electronics, or assisting anglers in gaining knowledge or access for competition.
- d. Competitors are not allowed on tournament waters following the completion of Day 1 until First Cast on Day 2. Scouting new waters after fishing ends on Day 1 is prohibited. Anglers must proceed immediately and safely back to their take-out location once fishing ends on Day 1.
- e. All practice during Official Practice and competition must be conducted in a vessel that adheres to Section 8 (“Kayak Regulations”). Electric motors are permitted if kayaks are legally licensed, and all state rules regarding motorized kayaks must be followed. Noncompliance may result in disqualification, suspension of motor use, or other penalties.
- f. Drone usage is not allowed. Camera crews are allowed usage provided they communicate with the tournament director for permission. They are not allowed to show a registered competitor their live or recorded content until the conclusion of the competition.
- g. Testing equipment on tournament waters after the pre-tournament meeting begins is NOT permitted unless authorized by the Tournament Director.
- h. All competitors must possess a valid fishing license for the state where the tournament is being held.
- i. Each competitor is required to report any rule violations or infractions to the Tournament Director immediately. Failure to report violations, encouraging others to break rules without notifying the Tournament Director, or providing false verification of information may result in

disqualification of current and/or future events. Official protests must be filed in accordance with Rule 1, and all parties of interest will receive a copy.

- j. Anglers must return to the ramp within 1 hour after lines out.

4. SOLICITATION OF INFORMATION:

- a. The purchasing, bartering for, or solicitation of information from anyone for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through publicly available sources), is not permitted during the Official Practice Period through the conclusion of the tournament. Solicit is defined as "to ask for" or intentionally receive.
- b. The use of or communication with a guide or guide service, directly or indirectly, regarding tournament waters is prohibited within 21 days of the event, except through publicly available sources.
- c. Quasi-public websites, blogs, and/or social media pages created specifically to share information with individuals, or a small group of individuals are not considered publicly available sources.
- d. For multi-day events, once tournament officials determine daily cuts, competitors who do not make the cut are no longer considered part of the tournament and may not be solicited for information.
- e. On-the-water verbal communication between competitors is allowed. Verbal communication after lines out is also permitted but is subject to the restrictions outlined in rule 4(d).
- f. During tournament hours (from First Launch to Lines Out), mobile devices may not be used to communicate with competitors or non-competitors about tournament waters, fishing strategies, techniques, or similar topics. Mobile devices may be used for B.A.S.S. staff communication, social media updates, safety checks, ride coordination, or urgent work and family situations/emergencies. Angler photos can be uploaded to the blog on Bassmaster.com using the email address update@bassmaster.com.
- g. Any questions or concerns regarding tournament rules or violations must be communicated to Tournament Director or B.A.S.S. staff immediately for consideration.

5. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING:

- a. 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:

- a. Safe boating must be observed at all times. During Official Practice and competition, each competitor must wear a fastened, chest-type U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during tournament hours. The PFD must be visible and worn over outermost clothing. Inflatable belt-type PFDs are not allowed.
- b. All kayaks must be equipped with an emergency whistle and 360-degree light or installed LEDs that are visible from all angles. Visibility flags are recommended. A 2-way radio for safety communication is allowed.
- c. Competitors are encouraged to perform a safety check prior to each day's competition.

- d. The Tournament Director may shorten, postpone, or cancel tournament days due to unsafe weather or water conditions as guided by the national weather service. Any competitor is encouraged to use their best judgment at all times as weather conditions may vary in different locations on the same body of water. It is ultimately the responsibility of the individual competitor to determine what are safe operating conditions. While this may result in a competitor choosing to proceed to an area with safer conditions, in no circumstance will this allow a competitor to begin or continue to fish when the Tournament Director has shortened, postponed, or cancelled tournament days.
- e. Competitors are allowed to leave their kayak and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent
- f. Competitors are expected to use sound judgment and are accountable for their own actions when faced with potentially dangerous situations, including but not limited to lightning, excessive wind, other boaters, or hunters.
- g. In the event of an emergency, competitors must call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP:

- a. Competitors in B.A.S.S. tournaments are expected to uphold high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental principles may result in disqualification.
- b. The use of alcohol or drugs (other than over-the-counter medications or those prescribed by a licensed physician which do not impair one's ability to operate a vehicle or vessel) during official practice or tournament competition is strictly prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification from this and all future B.A.S.S. tournaments. Alcoholic beverages and prohibited drugs are not allowed in boats during official practice or competition days.
- c. Competitors must practice maximum courtesy at all times, especially when boating or angling near non-competitors on tournament waters. Any behavior that reflects negatively on efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, or courtesy may lead to disqualification. All competitors must abide by the laws and regulations of the states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for researching local fishing and boating regulations, as violations could result in fines, citations, or penalties imposed by law enforcement and possibly the tournament.
- d. Anglers at any B.A.S.S.-sanctioned event, along with their family members and friends, must conduct themselves professionally, demonstrating integrity, honor, and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff, and the public. Behavior that reflects poorly on B.A.S.S., its officers, members, representatives, tournaments, or sponsors may result in penalties imposed on the Competitor.
- e. Anglers are role models and are often in the public eye. It is essential that they demonstrate good sportsmanship, defined as fair play, respect for opponents, and polite behavior while competing.
- f. Examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or their family members that may result in penalties include:
 - i. Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, competitors, fans, or volunteers during an event.
 - ii. Public attacks through media, including social media, on the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
 - iii. Public comments that could harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., its officials, or sponsors.

- iv. Displays of anger or displeasure in public during events, where spectators, other anglers, or media are present.
- v. Publicly questioning or criticizing an official ruling, decision, or penalty outside of proper channels.
- vi. Abuse—physical, verbal, threatening, or slanderous—toward officials, volunteers, competitors, or others associated with a B.A.S.S. event, including social media comments.
- vii. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural, or sexual overtones directed at event officials, personnel, or fellow anglers.
- viii. Intentionally interfering with another angler's ability to compete, such as coordinating with a non-competitor to block anglers or hold spots during tournament hours.
- g. Any disciplinary action, disqualification, or suspension imposed by other tournaments or fishing organizations may result in disqualification from B.A.S.S. events and rejection of tournament applications.
- h. Substance addiction or abuse, a felony conviction, or crimes involving moral turpitude may lead to disqualification and rejection of participation applications. Violations of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may result in fines, point reductions, forfeiture of winnings, suspensions, permanent bans, or any combination of penalties deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.
- i. During both official practice and competition, competitors must possess all required licenses and permits for the tournament waters in which they fish.

8. KAYAK REGULATION:

- a. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor (see electric motor restrictions below in Subsection 8(ii)).
- b. Unless specifically prohibited, the use of electric motors in competition is approved with the following restrictions:
 - i. The electric motor must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation.
 - ii. An electric motor used to propel a watercraft must meet the following criteria or receive approval from a B.A.S.S. official:
 - 1. Manufacturer's labeled maximum HP/thrust capacity.
 - a. 3 HP.
 - b. 155 foot-pounds of thrust.
 - iii. Only one electric motor may be attached to a kayak during official practice and competition subject to the restrictions in rule 8b,ii,1.. Anglers are not permitted to carry spare motors.
- c. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations regarding motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use, and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
- d. 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.
- e. Each competitor's kayak is limited to one (1) live transducer.
- f. The vessel must be a minimum of 9 feet and no longer than 18 feet.
- g. Eligible vessels include kayaks (including inflatable and modular kayaks), stand-up paddle boards (SUP), and canoes as identified and sold by the manufacturer.
- h. Other watercraft must receive specific approval as exceptions in advance of competition by B.A.S.S..

- i. Catamaran-style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations are eligible.
- j. The following watercraft are not permitted: homemade kayaks, sailboats, johnboats, pirogues, coracles, rowboats, dinghies, float tubes, inflatable rafts, rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac), pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft, or similar vessels.
- k. The use of manual or motorized anchor systems is permitted.
- l. Mother shipping, tethering/holding, or any transportation coordination with a non-competitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by B.A.S.S. officials or due to an emergency.
- m. By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their kayak and equipment to inspection by B.A.S.S. personnel at any time.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- a. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler out of their vessel.
- b. All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- c. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits.
- d. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are allowed and are only limited by the laws within the state where the competitors are fishing. The "Donkey Rig – Double Fluke" is allowed as well.
- e. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- f. 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.
- g. Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed. Long lining and drifting with current/wind are allowed.
- h. All bass caught while sight fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- i. No fish are to be kept on stringers. Fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- a. Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for individual events.
- b. Contestants will be provided with official water launches, boundaries, and restrictions specific to each event. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- c. Unless otherwise stated, upon launching from an eligible launch, anglers may not get out of their kayak to advance further into new eligible competition water. Anglers may use paddle, pedal, motor, or push pole to navigate into that said fishing area, so long as they do not exit their vessel. If a kayak bottoms out and becomes fully immobilized, travel has stopped, then the angler is no longer considered floating and cannot proceed. Kayaks may be reoriented to eligible water; an angler may leave their vessel to return to legal waters. Anglers may not advance the kayak on/through dry land to access water that is not connected and therefore ineligible. Anglers are responsible for verifying their launch is on the designated list and paying any required launch fees.
- d. Portaging is prohibited unless explicitly posted otherwise.
- e. If portaging is allowed, anglers are not permitted to exit the streambed to access surrounding property. A streambed is defined as the channel bottom of a stream or river, the physical confines of normal water flow. The lateral confines or margins are the stream banks or riverbanks during all but flood stage. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- f. Anglers may launch from more than one legal location during a tournament day.

- g. Anglers are not required to take out where they launched, if the take-out location is also a legal launch site, unless an emergency occurs and is communicated to B.A.S.S. staff.
- h. Ride coordination and shuttling are allowed.
- i. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters open to the public, except in areas designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing," or "no fishing" (or similar markings) by B.A.S.S., property owners, or local, state, or federal officials. Failure to comply will result in disqualification or loss of the fishing day.
- j. All fishing must be conducted from inside the kayak unless otherwise stated by tournament officials. Anglers may extend their arm(s) into the water to assist in landing a fish legally hooked.
- k. At no time may contestants leave their kayak to land a fish, photograph/submit a fish, or make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters unless explicitly allowed and communicated by the Tournament Director. Anglers may beach their kayaks to safely take photographs for submission.
- l. The cutting of trees, bushes, or logs, digging access trenches/ditches, or removing local, state, or federal barricades during official practice and competition to make an area more accessible is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- m. Boats may never be tethered to buoys or safety signs.
- n. The use of cables, ropes, chains, or any block-and-tackle system to maneuver a kayak into fishing waters is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- o. Using any items, including the kayak or fishing line, to block an area to other competitors or anglers is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

11. SCORING:

- a. Scoring is determined by the length of each contestant's catch, measured in 1/4-inch increments, using the Catch, Photograph, and Release (CPR) method.
- b. Each competitor will be provided with a unique identifier for the tournament.
- c. The five longest verified fish lengths will be totaled to determine the angler's score.
- d. Measurements will be rounded down to the nearest 1/4 inch.
- e. Only Black Bass species are eligible, including Largemouth, Spotted, Guadalupe, Shoal, Smallmouth, and any hybrid of these species.
- f. The daily limit consists of the best five fish.
- g. All fish must measure a minimum of 12 inches with the mouth completely closed. Fish that fail to meet this requirement will not be scored.
- h. A submitted fish will count only once toward an angler's aggregate score for the entire tournament.

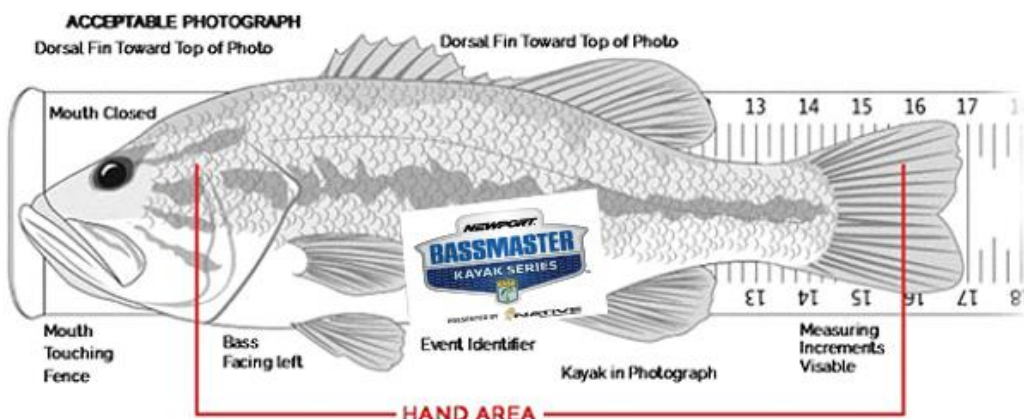
12. MEASURING DEVICE:

- a. All KETCH Products measuring boards and the YAKATTACK Leaderboard are the official mandatory measuring devices for the Bassmaster Kayak Series and its subsidiaries.
- b. Contestants must provide their own measurement device.
- c. Measuring devices may be inspected by B.A.S.S. staff at any time before, during, or after the tournament.
- d. Any competitor found using an unauthorized or illegal measuring device will be disqualified from the tournament.

13. PHOTO CRITERIA:

- a. These rules are established to ensure fish submissions are scored accurately. Failure to comply with these criteria may result in disqualification, disqualification of the catch, or a reduction of length.
- b. Anglers must be prepared to manually upload photos using the necessary cables, cords, and software to transfer photos via a USB port to the official judge's computer.
- c. Each fish photo must meet the following criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification:
 - i. The entire fish, from the tip of the lip to the end of the tail, must be clearly visible on an approved measuring device.
 - ii. The assigned unique identifier code must be visible.
 - iii. The photo must be an overhead shot (not taken at an angle).
 - iv. The fish must be clear of any holding devices, including fishing lures or hooks.
 - v. The lip, eye, and tail end must not be obstructed, even by your hand or identifier. Pinching and holding the tail is permitted, provided no portion of the fish is covered. Tournament officials must clearly see the tip of the tail and the measuring board markings with no obstructions. A covered eye can result in disqualification of the catch, requiring submission of a better legal photo.
- d. If the fish has a glossy or damaged eye or appears to be dead or has other odd markings, the angler must record a video showing the fish on the KETCH Board, identifying the area(s) of concern, and then placing the fish back into the water, showing it swimming away alive.
 - i. Anglers are encouraged to take a release video of every fish, beginning with the fish on the measuring board, showing the identifier, and then the fish actively swimming away.
- e. Hands and fingers must not be in the gill plate. (Inadvertent situations where minimal amount of the finger or hand touch are subject to the judge's interpretation)
- f. Only the original/raw photo is acceptable. Screenshots, crops, duplicates, and edited photos will be disqualified.
- g. A submitted fish will count only once toward an angler's aggregate score for the tournament.
- h. If a fish submitted on Day 1 is culled and does not appear in an angler's Top 5 fish, that fish can be caught again and counted toward the Day 2 total, provided the catch is in complete accordance with Section 11.
- i. Any questionable issues with a fish should be immediately brought to the attention of a B.A.S.S. official.
- j. The quality of the photo and video submitted is the angler's responsibility.

**** Criteria above to be met to avoid possible penalty or disqualification ****



14. FISH SUBMISSION SCORING DEDUCTIONS:

- a. **Mouth slightly open:** 0.25" deduction (approximately 1/4 inch or less - aka where you can barely see some of the board between its lips).
- b. **Mouth cracked or no attempt to close:** 0.50" – 1.00" deduction.
- c. **Lip or tail not touching the board:** No score
- d. Measurements are rounded down to the next 1/4-inch mark. (No score if below the minimum length.)
- e. Inadvertent situations where minimal amount of the finger or hand touches or cross are subject to the judge's interpretation.

15. TIES:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

16. CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT:

By registering and/or placing his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a credibility assessment 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 credibility assessment. Failure of a credibility assessment is appealable subject to B.A.S.S. officials review of additional evidence and at their sole discretion. 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 credibility assessment may be responsible for all costs incurred. Random credibility assessments may be administered on-site during the course of any Bassmaster Kayak Series event.

17. 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 a competitor admits 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.

18. BASSMASTER KAYAK SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

- a. The **Top 5 anglers** from each Bassmaster Kayak Series national event as well as the winner of the College Kayak Series event (3 events) will advance to the BMKS Championship.
- b. The **Top 50 in AOY standings** will qualify. Bassmaster will work down the AOY list in the case of double qualifications. A minimum of **2 events** is required to qualify.
- c. The **Top 3 events** plus the BMKS Championship will be used to calculate Angler of the Year (AOY) standings. During the championship, only those anglers who qualified through the 2026 Bassmaster Kayak Series and from the AOY standings will have points to be counted towards the Bassmaster AOY race.
- d. The October 2026 BMKS format will consist of a 3-day event. On Day 3 the field will be reduced to half of the registered field size.
- e. A **B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Series** State Championship can send the **top 10%** of their field to the BMKS Championship, provided at least **10 anglers participate**. Once an angler accepts their BASS Nation invitation, roll downs will **not** be allowed. In the event an angler has already qualified through the BMKS Open Series or BMKS AOY standings the BASS Nation qualifier list can be rolled down.

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
31 Inverness Center Parkway
Suite 600
Birmingham AL 35242
877-BASS-USA (227-7872)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____