

2021 OFFICIAL RULES

Hobie BOS exists so kayak anglers can enjoy the competitive atmosphere that tournament fishing has to offer. In addition, camaraderie and sportsmanship among anglers is what makes our community great, and playing fair, respecting fellow anglers and our series is of utmost importance. We want you to fish with us, we want you to have a good time, and we want you to be safe and get home after our events knowing you gave it your all and conducted yourself in the best way possible. That is all we ask, give 100%, abide by our simple rules, and may the best angler win, and the angler who had the toughest fishing day win the best raffle prize!

Section 1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed and will always supersede BOS 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 BOS Officials.
- Special Rules and amendments may be announced, added, or omitted for special circumstances or clarification at the judgement of BOS Officials.
- Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to BOS Officials.
- Decisions of BOS 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 BOS Officials.

Section 2. PAYBACK & PARTICIPATION

- All participants must pay the full entry, sign all liability release forms, attend/ view the mandatory rules meeting, and be using a BOS certified measuring device approved by the tournament director to be considered a contestant.
- Competitors must register and pay in the tournament host app to be guaranteed entry in any BOS 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 no less than 10% of the total number of paid entrants.
- BOS reserves the right to distribute payouts at their discretion based on the total purse and number of paid entrants
- BOS 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 BOS tournament is at the sole discretion of BOS officials.
- 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 BOS event will be the Wednesday before the event at midnight, local time of the event headquarters.

- Cancellation after the registration deadline, but before the official tournament check-in will be eligible for a full credit to another BOS event or an 80% refund, unless within 24 hours of the start of the event in which case the refund will be zero
- If the event is full prior to cancellation, the next in-line on the waiting list will get an opportunity to enter. BOS officials will go down the list until spots are filled or registration is cut-off.
- If a Hobie BOS event is cancelled, angler's will be fully refunded, or the entry fee can be put towards another Hobie BOS event.

Section 3. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

- There will be NO designated off-limits period for the Open events.
- Designated official practice period: Official Practice Period will begin at 12:01 AM the Monday prior to the event and end at 4pm local on that Friday.
- Competitors must be off the water by 4PM on Friday and may not enter tournament waters for any reason after the start of the pre-tournament meeting.
- Competitors are not allowed to scout or fish on tournament waters after Day 1 fishing ends until First Cast on day 2.
- 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 ONLY. All state rules for motorized kayaks apply. Failure to comply, could result in disqualification.
- Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is NOT permitted for any reason.

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 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 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.
- 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 BOS tournament hours. Inflatable belt PFDs are not considered satisfactory in BOS 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.
- 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, BOS, BOS sponsors, and the sport of fishing as well as BOS'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 BOS competition. Smoking must be done away from BOS staff, BOS directors and large groups of anglers. Please be respectful of others.
- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, BOS 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/ SUPs/ vessels must be human powered, (paddle or pedals only).
- Any motor must be removed from vessel during BOS tournament days.
- 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 BOS officials within emergency situations.
- By officially entering, contestants agree to submit their kayak to an inspection by BOS 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 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 BOS, 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 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 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 after two days 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.

- 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.
- Only fish submitted on a measuring device that has been checked, marked, and authorized by the BOS tournament director will be scored.

Section 11. MEASURING DEVICE

- The metal Ketch Board offerings are the mandatory and official measuring devices for the Hobie Bass Open Series.
- Contestants are expected to bring their own measuring device. Those devices must be checked and approved prior to every event and may be inspected at any time by BOS staff.
- 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.
- 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 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 BOS 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****

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 BOS Official's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by BOS officials.

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 BOS officials, along with a \$100 cash deposit, 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. If the Tournament Director, or polygraph, upholds the protest, the cash deposit shall be returned to the contestant submitting the protest.

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 BOS 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.