

## 2024 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 an enjoyable 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.

### 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 grounds 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, complete 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. The adult release forms are part of the registration process however the minor release forms, must be printed off, signed by a Parent or Guardian and sent to [bos@hobie.com](mailto:bos@hobie.com) prior to the event starting.
- 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.
- If reaching the event's max capacity of 225 participants, registration will be cut off and the waiting list will start on TourneyX. Anglers will be placed in order from the time in which they submit their waitlist request.
- If a Hobie BOS event is cancelled, anglers will be refunded fully.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish before they begin fishing. Unless there are promotional/ free fishing days during the event days
- The number of paid places will be no less than 15% 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.

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

- There will be an Off-Limits period before the Practice period begins.
- The Official Practice Period window will begin at 6:00 AM the Saturday prior to the event and end at 4pm local on that Friday.
- BOS Officials reserve the right to adjust off-limits and practice period days. Official off-limits and practice period days will be published for each event prior to registration opening.
- Competitors must be off the water by 4PM on Friday and may not enter tournament waters for any reason after 4pm.
- During practice and competition, anglers are not allowed to make changes to the waterway, and it must be utilized how it's naturally presented. This includes but is not limited to adding, cutting, or removing trees/ brush, digging/ filling ditches, adding or removing rocks and purposely adding or removing vegetation.
- Utilizing private or non-confirmed event launches during practice is allowed.
- 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 off limits or practice period, outside of an emergency or director approved job, will result in disqualification.
- Motors: If the watercraft is legally registered, electric motors will be permitted for practice at all events.
- Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is NOT permitted unless approved and supervised by a tournament official.
- Competitors are not allowed to fish on tournament waters after Day 1 fishing ends until First Cast on day 2. Scouting new waters after fishing ends on Day 1 is not allowed. Anglers are expected to immediately and safely get back to their take-out once fishing ends on Day 1.

### Section 4. INFORMATION GATHERING & COMMUNICATION

- The purchasing of or bartering for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters (other than through commercially available sources) is not permitted 21 Days prior to the event and 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.
- Anglers may not solicit fishing or waterway information from **anyone** in an attempt to gain a competitive advantage from the end of the practice period (4pm on Friday) to the conclusion of the event. Soliciting info before 4pm Friday is allowed.
- **During the tournament hours of each day (First Launch- Fishing Concludes) Anglers may not utilize any electronic devices for private communication with competitors or non- competitors to share or receive info on tournament waters, fishing strategies, techniques or anything that could provide an advantage. Anglers may communicate for ride logistics and safety check-ins.**
- Any collaboration on or off the water with other competitors or non- competitors for the purpose of sharing or pooling winnings is strictly prohibited and will result in the disqualification of all involved.
- Any questions or concerns about tournament rules or violations need to be communicated with BOS Staff immediately and initially to be considered.

### Section 5. SAFETY

- 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. The personal flotation device must always be worn on the outside of all clothing and visible. 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.)
- In the event of an emergency, competitors should contact local authorities like 911 or Fish and Game before contacting BOS officials.
- We ask that all anglers use the check-in and check-out feature on TourneyX each day they participate in competition.

## 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 through.
  - 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.
- If an angler witnesses a potential violation occur, they are expected to communicate with the BOS Staff immediately. BOS staff must be made aware of who the angler or anglers are and have some proof of violation.

## Section 7. KAYAK REGULATION

- Eligible vessels must be at least 9 foot in length and no longer than 18 foot and manufactured as a personal kayak fishing vessel.
- Pedal, paddle, electric motor, and push-pole are the only acceptable forms of propulsion, as event specific rules permit.
- In a specified 'Human- Powered' event, any motor must be removed from vessel during tournament days.

- Any motorized kayak must be legally registered in the state/ country where it resides and have all proper equipment and lighting to be legal to use on the waters of the event.
- Only 1 motor can be mounted/ utilized during competition days. Multi- motor units are acceptable during practice only.
- Only electric motors will be acceptable during practice and competition.
- Kick-boat style crafts are not considered legal.
- 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; 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 presentation 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.
- Unless posted otherwise, the fish must be targeted and caught while the angler is inside the kayak. Only an angler's arm or arms can extend into the water to help land a fish they hooked legally.

## Section 9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates will be issued for individual events and published within the event page. These launches/ restrictions are required for competition days only.
- 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, photo/ submit a fish or to make the kayak more accessible to fishing waters unless posted otherwise. As needed anglers can beach their kayak to take safe photos to submit, as long as they are not trespassing on private land.
- During practice and competition, anglers are not allowed to make changes to the waterway and it must be utilized how it's naturally presented.
- Boats may never be tethered to on-water markers like buoys, safety signs or private structures.

- The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a kayak into or out of fishing waters is strictly prohibited.
- Portaging is prohibited unless posted otherwise.
- As it pertains to tributaries of the main body of water, competitors must be able to float in and out or through an area during tournament days for it to be considered legal waters to navigate. Anglers can use pedal/ paddle/ motor/ push-pole to navigate. If an anglers' kayak bottoms out and becomes completely or partially immobilized from the bottom while navigating, they are no longer considered floating.
- Anglers are responsible for verifying their launch is on the designated list as well as paying any launch fee required to utilize the facility. Facilities are only considered public and available once they are open to everyone.
- Locking through Dams will be legal unless posted otherwise in event boundaries/ access.
- Anglers can launch at more than 1 legal location during a tournament day.
- Anglers do not have to take-out where they launched, if the takeout is also a legal launch, unless there is an emergency communicated with the BOS Staff.
- Ride coordination and shuttling is 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 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/ score a minimum of 12", unless otherwise specified for individual events. Bass submitted that fail to measure/ score 12.25" with mouth completely closed will be denied.
- 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 KETCH measuring device that has been checked, marked, and authorized by the BOS tournament director will be scored.

### Section 11. MEASURING DEVICE

- Ketch Board offerings are the mandatory and official measuring devices for the Hobie Bass Open Series. Tournament officials strongly recommend the Ketch X board in any color that isn't black.
- 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.
- 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 original photos to our tournament submission application. There will be no manual submissions.
- No edited, manipulated, screenshot, or video clip of fish picture will be accepted or utilized to make a scoring judgement.

- 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 to receive full score.
  - The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board and will be measured to the longest point.
  - Pinching and holding 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.
  - The 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.
  - The lip, eye, and end of tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
  - Hand or fingers must not be 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 full tail not touching board: No score

- BOS Tournament Directors will judge fish and apply penalties in fairness at their discretion.
- BOS Officials reserve the right to apply penalties for infractions that include but are not limited to:
  - Reduction of Practice and/or Competition time
  - Loss of fish submitted.
  - Disqualify from tournament day or days.
  - Banishment from all BOS events for the season.
  - Banishment from all BOS events.

#### **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.

#### **Section 18,**

##### **Minor Release & Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement Form**

The minors form NEEDS to be DOWNLOADED, filled in and signed, then you just UPLOADED the completed MINORS document within the Tourney X Hobie registration process, per event.

MINOR [Link](#) or visit [Hobie Bass Open Series \(hobiebos.com\)](http://Hobie Bass Open Series (hobiebos.com))

Section 18, (continued)

- I agree to the TourneyX® Terms of Use \*
- I'd like to receive communication and special offers from TourneyX.
- I agree to the Hobie BOS Fox & Wolf Rivers 2022 Rules and Regulations \*

Register For: \*

- ADULT
- YOUTH

For Youth:



- If under the age of 17, your legal PARENT OR GUARDIAN agrees to print, sign and return the Hobie BOS Photo, Liability, COVID Release form for Minors (17 yrs. or younger) to be accepted in the event.



**Upload Signed Release Form For Youth**

- I have read, agreed to and CONSENT TO these electronically executed documents \*
- I'd like to receive communication and special offers from Hobie and Hobie BOS sponsors.

Coupon Code:

**Register For Tournament**

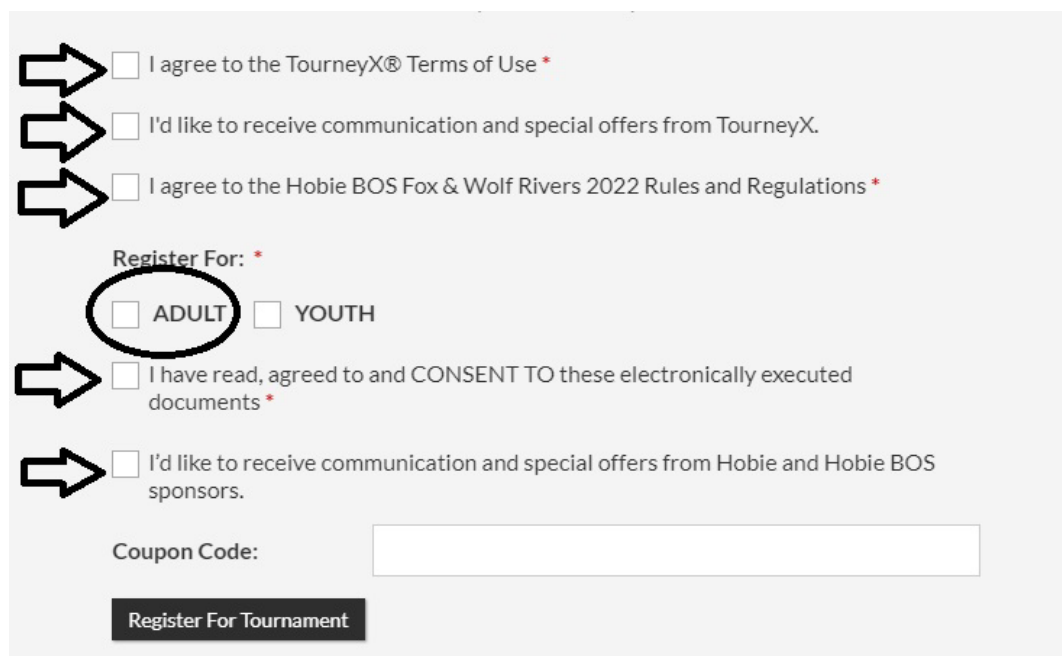


Section 18, (continued)

**Adult Release & Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement Form –**

To read, just download then read and review. We allow you to AGREE TO and CONSENT TO these electronically executed documents.

ADULT Link [HERE](#) visit [Hobie Bass Open Series \(hobiebos.com\)](http://Hobie Bass Open Series (hobiebos.com))



The image shows a registration form with several checkboxes and a button. Three arrows on the left point to the first three checkboxes. The 'ADULT' checkbox is circled. Another arrow points to the 'I have read, agreed to and CONSENT TO...' checkbox. A final arrow points to the 'I'd like to receive communication...' checkbox. Below these is a 'Coupon Code' field and a 'Register For Tournament' button.

I agree to the TourneyX® Terms of Use \*

I'd like to receive communication and special offers from TourneyX.

I agree to the Hobie BOS Fox & Wolf Rivers 2022 Rules and Regulations \*

Register For: \*

ADULT  YOUTH

I have read, agreed to and CONSENT TO these electronically executed documents \*

I'd like to receive communication and special offers from Hobie and Hobie BOS sponsors.

Coupon Code:

- Any contestant who wishes to withdraw from the event is eligible for a 70% refund of their entry fee, provided notification of cancellation is made no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of the event, in which case the refund will be zero.
- All cancellation requests MUST be submitted via email to [bos@hobie.com](mailto:bos@hobie.com) and tournament officials must be notified immediately.
- Registration deadline for a particular BOS event will be at 10pm on the Friday, 1 week before the official start of the event, local time of the event headquarters.
- Official start of the event will be 5pm local time on the Friday night before the first day of tournament fishing begins.
- If the event is full prior to a cancellation, the next in-line on the waiting list will get an opportunity to enter. BOS officials will work down the list until spots are filled or registration is cut-off. An angler can enter the waitlist through TourneyX waitlist feature, and TourneyX only.