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I. Participation and Eligibility

- a. Tournaments are open to the public
- b. All anglers must have a valid fishing license and follow all state governed rules.
- c. All anglers must wear their PFD at ALL times.

II. Entry Fees

- a. Entry fee must be paid PRIOR to the event.
- b. Entry fees will be collected at launch location (or electronically).
- c. Late entry fees will be accepted at the discretion of each tournament director.

III. Watercraft

- a. Competitors may use only watercraft capable of human-powered propulsion and that are identified by their manufacturer or marketed as canoes, kayaks or stand-up paddleboards.
- b. No gas-powered motors are permitted in competition.
- c. Use of a single electric propulsion unit per watercraft in KAST – Sanctioned competition is approved with the following restrictions:
 - 1. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
 - 2. Electric motor used to propel a watercraft:
 - i. Must be attached to the watercraft in a safe manner for operation, and
 - ii. May not exceed the lessor of
 - a. Manufacturer's labeled Maximum H/P thrust Capacity,
 - b. 3 HP, OR
 - c. 155 foot-pound thrust. (this does not pertain to wattage or capacity.)
- d. All watercraft set up with a primary propulsion of a pedal drive or electric motor must have a backup form of propulsion. (IE. pedal drive + paddle, electric drive + pedal drive, electric drive + paddle)

- d. All fish must be taken from your vessel or by wading with the vessel tethered to the angler, tether length must not exceed 20 feet.
- e. Only one paid entrant per vessel.

Violation of these conditions will result in disqualification from the Event.

IV. General Rules

- a. No fish will be kept in ice chests, baskets, stringers, etc.
- b. All fish must be caught live
- c. Fish may be held with Fish Grips prior to photo, but must be free while photo is taken
- d. All fish will be immediately released unharmed after photo has been taken
- e. Each fish can only be submitted once
- f. Fish must be caught using conventional rod/reel only
- g. All bass must be hooked inside the mouth
- h. Artificial lures only
- i. Only 1 rod may be used at one time, trolling as a method of fishing is permitted
- j. PFD must be vest-style and be visible on each angler at "All Times"
- k. A light, visible 360 degrees, must be used before sunrise and after sunset
- l. A flag must be displayed for visibility (see Visi carbon, vinyl orange construction flag, bicycle flag)
- m. Anglers must have all Coast Guard required safety equipment (light source, whistle or other audible signal device, Coast Guard approved chest-style life preserver [PFD]).
- n. Portaging: angler may portage over or around an obstruction if it is in the same waterway and the angler does not leave the waterway or trespass. No dragging across land to another body of water.
- o. Competitors may launch and take out from any public access shore the day of the event. Public access is being defined as completely open to the public and eligible for everyone to access.
- p. Anglers may not tow another angler with their vessel. However, in an emergency/safety situation an angler may tow an angler back to the ramp and report the incident to the tournament director. The towed angler may be subject to penalty.
- q. Shuttling, including river or lake floats where anglers stage vehicles at designated launch and take-out points, is permitted.

.V. Qualifying Fish

- a. Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted) must be 12" in length.
- b. Fish will be caught, measured, photographed, and released.
- c. Fish will be photographed using a smartphone or digital camera.

VI. Weigh-In

- a. Anglers must return to the launch point (or designated check in location) at the designated time.
- b. Anglers must turn in their identifier, or verbally check in or sign-in with tournament director at designated time.
- c. Failure to check in at designated time will result in tournament disqualification
- d. If an angler must leave tournament early, angler must notify tournament director when leaving and arrange for fish to be judged

VII. Scoring

- a. Each angler will be given a unique identifier.
- b. Identifier must be visible in each photo.
- c. Fish will be measured to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ ", rounding down.
- d. Tail must clearly touch or cross the original designed $\frac{1}{4}$ markings of the approved measuring device to be measured at that length.

VIII. Photo Criteria

- a. Kayak must be visible in all photos
- b. Photo must include the entire fish, and Photo must be in its original unedited state (no cropping, enhancing, or rotating).
- c. Fish must be facing left.
- d. Lip of fish must be touching end of measuring device.
- e. Mouth must be CLOSED (1/4" deduction for cracked mouth, 1" deduction for no attempt). If the measuring board can be seen between the lips, the mouth is cracked and will incur a 1/4" deduction. If a fish measured at 12" receives a deduction that fish is disqualified.
- f. Dorsal fin must be facing upward.
- g. Fish visibly unharmed.
- h. Markings on the measuring device must be clear and legible to the 1/4".
- i. Photos must be taken directly from above, not at an angle.
- j. Assigned identifier must be visible.
- k. Photo must be taken by same angler who caught fish.
- l. No restraining devices (stringers, fish grips, etc) allowed in any photos
- m. Hook must be removed from fish before taking photo
- n. Photo submissions must be time stamped during the events stated lines in and out times. Any submissions time stamped 1 second before the lines in time or 1 second after the lines out time will be disqualified
- o. No part of the hand can be under the fish gill plate
- p. Fish eye must be uncovered and visible
- q. The hands-off areas in the below photo example must complied with



IX. Measuring Device

- a. All Ketch models and the YakAttack LeaderBoard are the only approved measuring devices.
- b. Measuring devices may be checked at any time.
- c. Measuring devices must be marked to the $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- d. A sticker or other contrast must be applied to the lip of the Measuring devices.
- e. Lines must be colored in or visible.
- f. If measuring devices cannot be read, measurement will be rounded down to nearest legible mark.
- g. Altering, to include but not limited to cutting and/or bending of any measuring board with the intent to increase a fish's perceived measurement is strictly prohibited. Measuring board length may be shortened in length to aid with board positioning. Any violation will result in immediate disqualification of the fish and may result in further disciplinary action as deemed necessary

X. Points allocation

- a. Points will be awarded based on angler finish (100 points for 1st place, 99 for 2nd place, 98 for 3rd place, etc.)
- b. Angler must attend event to be awarded points
- c. Anglers not checking in fish will be awarded 50 points

XI. Ties

- a. **Ties in an event.**
 1. In the event of a tie, the angler with the longest fish breaks the tie
 2. If the longest fish is equal, the next longest fish is compared to break the tie
 3. In the event of a tie after comparing all fish, a drawing will determine the tie breaker
- b. **Ties in qualification of the state team or Angler Of the Year.**
 1. In the event of a tie, the angler with the highest event finished breaks the tie
 2. If the highest event is equal, the next highest event is used to break the tie.

3. In the event of a tie after comparing all events, a drawing will determine the tie breaker.

XII. Rules, Interpretations, and Protests

- a. All rules are decided on by KAST and club tournament directors.
- b. Prior to the awarding of prizes, all potential cash winners will be allowed to view submitted fish. Then before issuing awards time must be allotted for anglers to lodge a protest. Thus, awards should be made only after determining there are no protests.
- c. Any challenges to the tournament results or rules must be presented prior to awards
- d. Once prizes have been awarded, tournament results are declared final.

XIII. Polygraph

- a. By participating, all anglers agree to all rules set forth
- b. If an angler believes cheating has occurred during the tournament, angler must challenge results prior to awards
- c. Concerns must be brought immediately to tournament director
- d. Challenging angler will be responsible for payment of polygraph
- e. Polygraph must occur no later than 1 week from date of challenge
- f. Refusal of polygraph is an admittance of guilt which will result in statewide ban.

XIV. Competitor Conduct

- a. Competitors participating in any KAST sanctioned event must observe the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating and must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects favorably on the sport of kayak bass fishing, KAST, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, integrity, safety, and conservation in support of the sport of kayak bass fishing, especially when in the vicinity of non-Competitors who may be on or beside eligible waters. Any Competitor who violates these principles or behaves in ways that reflect unfavorably upon KAST efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may forfeit tournament winnings, face suspension from future KAST sanctioned events, be permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by KAST.
- b. It is an obligation of Competitors to refrain from comments in public forums and social media or to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of KAST tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow Competitors or the KAST organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Public comments that a Competitor knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of KAST or member clubs may result in disciplinary action. Publicly disputing any judgment decisions by KAST Tournament Directors or judges will result in participants receiving one warning followed by permanent disqualification for repeated offenses. Any public dispute of final rulings, ongoing determination by judges or judging panel is grounds for immediate disqualification from the current event and termination of any eligibility for future events, even if previously qualified. This is not in place to prevent any disputes; it is done to ensure that a fair and unbiased approach is used and the approved challenge and appeals processes are followed in determining the best possible outcome.
- c. Other conduct of not complying with sportsmanship standards includes, but is not limited to the following:
 1. Blocking navigable waters from fellow competitors to pass thru

2. Working with a non-competitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours

XV. 2025 TN State Championship

2025 State Championship will be hosted by (Tennessee Kayak Anglers Tournament Trail)

The KAST state championship will be held 10/17-10/19/2025

Lake Information and Boundaries are TBD

- a. No pre-fishing past 7AM CST September 9th 2025. Eligible waters are off limits after this date. The only exception for pre-fishing after this date is the official practice period Thursday September 11th between the hours of 7am to 7pm.
- b. Pre-fishing is being defined as being on eligible tournament waters no matter the vessel.
- c. Angler Entry Fee: \$100 (includes big bass pot)
- d. Club Participation Fee: \$100
- e. Standings on day one will be cut off 2 hours before lines out. Will be turned on at lines in time on day two. Standings will be cut off 2 hours before lines out on day two and turned on after awards.
- f. Anglers will have 60-minute submission period after official lines out on both days.
- g. Hosting Club has the option to make check in for both days virtual for Covid 19 concerns.
- h. Anglers with a director's permission may opt to only fish 1 day of competition as long as all other check in procedures are met (board check).

XVI. Club requirements and rules

- a. Each club must issue a season trail schedule each year.
- b. Clubs must host a minimum of five (5) tournaments (events) designated as STATE qualifying tournaments (qualifiers).
- c. Only live, in-person events may count as KAST qualifying events for State; online events shall not be counted as KAST qualifying events for State.
- d. Each club must maintain a ten (10) angler average for a season**. Any club not meeting the attendance requirement will be placed on probation. Probation is as follows.
 - Legacy clubs not averaging ten (10) anglers for the season will be placed on probation the following season. If that club fails to reach the ten (10) angler average at the end of the probation season that club will be removed from KAST.
 - New Clubs on their first year joining probation that fail to meet the ten (10)-angler average will not be allowed to send anglers to compete at the state championship and that club will not be voted in to KAST.
 - ** Average calculated by adding the total number of anglers in each separate KAST club's trail event divided by the number of total KAST events a club has in its season.
Example: Club A
 1. Event 7 anglers compete
 2. Event 10 anglers compete
 3. Event 11 anglers compete
 4. Event 12 anglers compete
 5. Event 10 anglers competeTotal of 50 anglers competed over 5 events. 50 divided by 5 = a 10 angler average.
- e. After each KAST qualifier event, Clubs must post a spreadsheet-listing season to date point totals per angler on the KAST public Facebook page, and sent to kast.sec@gmail.com, this must be posted before the clubs next KAST event.

f. Team Composition and Qualification Criteria:

1. **Qualifying Events:** All team members must have fished four (4) KAST qualifying events with their club.
2. **Anglers:** The team will include the top eight (8) anglers based on the points totals of their best five (5) events.
3. **Directors:** Two (2) qualifying Directors from each club will be part of the team.

4. Alternates:

- a. Two (2) alternates who meet the same qualification requirements as the anglers.
- b. Alternates must be announced prior to the event.
- c. During the tournament, alternates are allowed to fish; however, their team points will **not** count towards the event total.
- g. In the event that an angler qualifies for the state championship in more than one club, the angler must choose which club he or she will represent in the state championship.
- h. KAST Directors position must be two anglers from said club and must fish at least three of their club events.
 - In an instance where one (1) KAST director that does not meet the 3 events fished requirement will be placed on probation for 1 year and forfeit the right to vote during that time. One new KAST representative (who has satisfied the 3 events fished rule) can be added in place of one existing representative and have voting rights.
 - In an instance where both directors fail to meet the 3 events fished requirement the following scenarios will come into play at said club's decision.
 - 1. Both directors remain as the club's KAST representative with a 1 year probation and forfeit the right to vote during that time.
 - 2. Both of the club's KAST representatives will be replaced and the club will be on a 1 year probation and forfeit their voting rights during that time as a new club on trial probation would.
 - 3. One of the club's KAST representatives will remain but have a 1 year probation and forfeit their voting rights. One new KAST representative (who has satisfied the 3 events fished rule) can be added in place of one existing representative and have voting rights.

- i. Reinforcement / enforcement of rules and event planning must be done through the KAST director board. All State Championship planning, Host Club picks location and organization of the State venue but all must be approved in advance by the KAST board.
- j. From time to time issues will be raised which require votes by the KAST directors on the private KAST Director's Facebook page. It is important that KAST directors register their votes within 24 hours of the post before it is closed. Rule changes will be decided on a majority vote. There are 20 plus directors and each should vote!
- k. Anglers under the age of 16 must have an adult chaperone while on the water. The chaperone may be a participant in the event.
- l. Once a club a host's a state championship, they are ineligible to participate in the drawing to host another state championship for 3 years from the tournament they hosted.
 - For Example, KBFTN hosted the 2024 state championship. They will not be eligible for the drawing until the directors meeting of 2027.