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INTRODUCTION: Kast qualifying tournaments are open to all anglers provided they meet the requirements and honor all rules and regulations stated.

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. Only human-powered vessels will be allowed (canoes, kayaks, SUP)
- b. No electric or gas motors permitted.
- c. Accommodations will be made for special needs anglers on a case to case basis.
- d. All fish must be taken from your vessel.
- e. Only one paid entrant per vessel.

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. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted
- i. Artificial lures only
- j. Only 1 rod may be used at one time
- k. PFD must be vest-style and be visible on each angler at "All Times"
- l. A light, visible 360 degrees, must be used before sunrise and after sunset

- 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]).

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, 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 pass through $\frac{1}{4}$ " line to be measured at that length

VIII. Photo Criteria

- a. Kayak must be visible in all photos
- b. Photo must include the entire fish.
- c. Fish must be facing left.
- d. Lip of fish must be touching end of measuring device.
- e. Mouth must be CLOSED ($\frac{1}{4}$ " deduction for cracked mouth, 1" deduction for no attempt). If the Hawg Trough can be seen between the lips, the mouth is cracked and will incur a $\frac{1}{4}$ " deduction.
- f. Dorsal fin must be facing upward.
- g. Tail must be centered and in a relaxed state

- h. Fish visibly unharmed.
- i. Markings on the measuring device must be clear and legible to the ¼”.
- j. Photos must be taken directly from above, not at an angle.
- k. Assigned identifier must be visible.
- l. Photo must be taken by same angler who caught fish.
- m. No restraining devices (stringers, fish grips, etc) allowed in any photos
- n. Hook must be removed from fish before taking photo
- o. Fish eye must be uncovered and visible
- p. No hands under fish gill plate

IX. Measuring Device

- a. The Hawg Trough and the Ketch Measuring Boards are the only approved measuring devices. One condition is that there are NO BLACK or DARK GREEN BOARDS ALLOWED.
- b. Measuring devices may be checked at any time.
- c. Measuring devices must be marked to the ¼”.
- 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.

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. In the event of a tie, the angler with the longest fish breaks the tie
- b. If the longest fish is equal, the next longest fish is compared to break the tie
- c. In the event of a tie after comparing all fish, 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. Concern 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.
- c. 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.

XV. 2018 TN State Championship

The 2018 State Championship will be hosted by the West Tennessee Bass Yakers [WTBY], Friday September 14th through Sunday September 16th

- a. Friday Fishing Session: 4pm to 9pm
- b. Saturday Fishing Session: Pre-sunrise to 4pm
- c. Sunday Awards: 11am
- d. 5 bass limit, 12" minimum for entire weekend
- e. Location "8 lakes of Henderson County in Natchez Trace State Park and the Beech River Watershed: Beech Lake, Browns Creek Lake, Cedar Lake, Dogwood Lake, Pine Lake, Pin Oak Lake, Redbud Lake, and Sycamore Lake."
- f. No pre-fishing 2 weeks prior to Championship
- g. Angler Entry Fee: \$100 (includes big bass pot)
- h. Club Participation Fee: \$100

XVI. Club requirements and rules

- a. Each club must issue a season trail schedule by Jan.1st of each year.
- b. Clubs must host a minimum of five (5) tournaments (events) designated as STATE qualifying tournaments (qualifiers).
- c. Clubs may start events as early as 11/1/2017 and must finish their last season event by 8-31-2018. KAST recommends Clubs finish the season earlier than 8-31-2018 to give anglers who have qualified to fish in the State time to pre-fish. Clubs that fish a Fall Season which start after 8/31 and before 11/1 will be eligible for the following year State Championship.
- d. 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.
- e. Clubs must have a twelve (12) angler average to send anglers to compete at State. The twelve-angler average is the total number of anglers who fished in club designated KAST qualifiers for the season divided by the number of club designated KAST qualifiers for season).
- f. After each KAST qualifier event, Clubs must post a spreadsheet listing season to date point totals per angler on the KAST public Facebook page.
- g. Eight (8) qualifying anglers from each participating Club will form each Club's respective KAST State Championship team.
- h. Each Club's eight angler State team shall consist of the top seven (7) anglers based on the points totals of the anglers' best five (5) events and the angler who caught the big bass for the season.
- i. The winning big bass of the season must come from one of the Club's KAST qualifiers, not from an event held jointly with another other club.
- j. The Big Bass slot will count towards a Club Team points for the State Championship.
- k. KAST Directors position must be two anglers from said club and must fish at least three of their club events. The only exception will be the two non-club director positions. If a non-club director position becomes open, then the KAST Board will nominate and vote on a replacement.

- l. At the State Championship the official identifier card must be present in catch-photo submissions if one is provided. Identifiers written on the angler's hand shall not be accepted. Should an angler lose his or her identifier, the angler must take it upon themselves to obtain a replacement identifier card.
- m. All State Championship judges must be pre-approved by the KAST board of directors before the event.
- n. State Championship Club Award will be decided by total points of each of the eight anglers from each club.
- o. 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.
- p. 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 director register their votes as soon as issues are submitted for a vote. There are 20 plus directors and each should vote!