



# Minnesota Kayak Bass Fishing League

## Official Rules Standard

### 1. Definitions

- a. A Premier Member is defined as:
  - i. A member that satisfies all active membership requirements as defined in the bylaws.
  - ii. An active member that meets all requirements of a premier membership to include but not limited to payment of membership fees.
- b. A Basic Member is defined as:
  - i. A member that satisfies all active membership requirements as defined in the bylaws.
  - ii. An active member that meets all requirements of a basic membership to include but not limited to payment of membership fees.
- c. A Tournament Director is defined as:
  - i. An individual nominated by the General Committee and appointed by the board. This individual shall oversee judging and will coordinate and manage all judges appointed by the General Committee. Their primary responsibility is to ensure all tournament functions operate with minimal complications.
- d. The General Committee is hereby defined as:
  - i. Committee appointed by the board
  - ii. Sets all rules and regulations surrounding tournament operation.
  - iii. Enforces all rules and regulations surrounding tournament operation.

### 2. Eligibility

- a. Members
  - i. To be eligible for competitions, members must have an active membership which permits admittance.
  - ii. Participants must be at least 18+.
  - iii. Participants must have a valid fishing license for the state they are fishing in and target species.
  - iv. Participant must follow all local regulations and laws, all Tournament Standard Rules, and all rules and limitations listed in the tournament document.
  - v. Anglers that guide for pay are eligible to participate provided they did not guide for pay in the 30 days leading up to the event.
  - vi. Participants cannot hire a guide or solicit information from non-participants for 30 days leading up to the event.
- b. Entry Fee
  - i. Entry fee must be paid in full and received prior to the deadline listed on the tournament document.
  - ii. Entry fees are the total cost to enter into and compete in a MinnYak event. These may be grouped into a single amount or listed individually as entrance fee and or administrative surcharge.
  - iii. These fees, registration deadlines, late fee exceptions, and refund or transfer restrictions shall be designated for each event and shall be listed on the tournament document that can be found on the event page on the MinnYak website as well as on the tournament management website.



- iv. No Satisfaction Guarantee — Competitor understands and agrees that payment for the event does not secure a guarantee or promise of satisfaction.
  - v. A Competitor's failure or inability, for any reason except as otherwise provided herein, to participate in any or all of the activities of the event does not relieve or suspend the Competitor's obligation to make all payments required by MinnYak Rules on a timely basis, nor entitle the customer to a refund or credit, except as provided below.
- c. Payment
- i. Any competitor wishing to cancel an event registration may do so by contacting the Tournament Director by phone, Facebook Messenger, the TourneyX app or email.
  - ii. Unless otherwise specified on the event page or on the official tournament document, registration cancellations dated prior to the official practice period of the event incur no administrative fee, and any registration cancellation dated after the official practice period of the event shall result in an administrative fee of \$20.
  - iii. Competitor agrees that once an event registration is submitted, the terms and conditions of the MinnYak Tournament Rules constitute an agreement that is a legally binding and an enforceable obligation of the competitor.

### 3. Watercraft

- a. Participants may only use a vessel designated as a kayak, hybrid kayak or stand up paddleboard (SUP) by the manufacturer. Participant must contact the tournament director if the designation of a specific vessel is in question.
- b. Unless specifically prohibited on the tournament page, use of a single electric propulsion unit per watercraft in MinnYak-sanctioned competition is approved with the following restrictions:
  - i. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use, and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
  - ii. Electric motor used to propel a watercraft:
    - 1. Must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation, and
    - 2. May not exceed the lesser of
      - a. Manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity,
      - b. 3 HP, or
      - c. 155 foot-pounds thrust.
    - 3. Violation of any of these conditions will result in disqualification from the event.
  - iii. Only one motor may be mounted on a vessel at any given time.
  - iv. Towing, transport, or relocation assistance from another watercraft, including "mother shipping" is NOT permitted except in cases of emergency, as when pulling a kayak from a danger zone or restricted area. Once the emergency has ended, the competitor may resume fishing only if the watercraft was pulled no more than 100 yards from the danger zone. Violation will result in disqualification from the event. Additional information is available in the emergency section.
- c. All vessels operating during times of low light or low visibility must adhere to all state and local safety regulations.
  - i. This includes launching before sunrise or returning after sunset.
  - ii. Lighting requirements differ for human powered and electric motor driven kayaks. Refer to the **5.a. Lighting** of safety for additional information.



#### 4. Tournament Specific

- a. Tournament Hours & Pre-Fishing
  - i. Tournament hours shall be designated in the official tournament document.
  - ii. Official Practice Period typically starts **7 days** prior to the competition and ends at the start of the captain's meeting. Each tournament shall have a specific designated practice period and shall be defined in the tournament documents.
  - iii. Competitors are **not permitted** to be on the water, in the water, fishing or using any product on or in the water after the commencement of the Captain's Meeting.
  - iv. Participant may only use tournament approved vessels during the practice period. Practice and tournament limitations to vessels shall be specified in the tournament document.
- b. Captain's Meeting
  - i. Refer to tournament documents for captain's meeting details.
  - ii. The captains meeting shall be an in-person or virtual meeting to discussion tournament rules and competition standards.
  - iii. Attendance or viewing of the Captain's meeting is recommended, see part 4(b)(v).
  - iv. Each event participant is responsible for the content presented in the Captain's meeting.
  - v. Participants will be held to the same standard for violations incurred because of changes presented in the Captain's Meeting.
- c. Boundaries & Eligible Waters
  - i. All tournament eligible waters and boundaries will be specified in the tournament document.
  - ii. Questions regarding boundaries and waters should be directed to the Tournament Director.
  - iii. Any fish caught outside of eligible waters will be denied.
  - iv. Competitors found to be outside of eligible waters during tournament hours may be subject to penalty or disqualification.
- d. Fish Species
  - i. Unless otherwise specified in the tournament document, all competitions shall be for Black Bass and Black Bass Hybrids species. This would include Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted and any hybrid of those.
    - 1. Photos submitted for ineligible fish will be rejected.

#### 5. Safety

- a. Lighting
  - i. Motorized Kayaks
    - 1. A motorized kayak must exhibit an all-round white light and red/green sidelights in accordance with USCG rule 23.
  - ii. Non-Motorized Kayak
    - 1. A non-motorized kayak shall exhibit an all-around white light or have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision in accordance with USCG rule 25.
  - iii. Participants are required to follow all state and local laws.
- b. Whistle
  - i. All participants are required to have USCG approved whistle or sound producing devices.
- c. Approved PFD



- i. At all times while actively engaged in competition, except as described below, competitor must wear a fastened USCG-certified vest-style PFD (inherent flotation or inflatable) or float jacket. A belt-style PFD, even one that deploys as a vest, is not permitted during competition. When an infraction, as described above, is verified by the Tournament Director, the competitor is disqualified from participation in the event.
  - ii. PDF Wear Exceptions: If all the following conditions exist, competitor may briefly remove his PFD while afloat (anchored or adrift) in order to change, add or remove articles of clothing:
    1. No fishing lines are in the water; and
    2. The watercraft is not underway; and
    3. Weather and water conditions permit one to do so safely
- d. What to do in an emergency
- i. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.
  - ii. Competitors may be towed or mothershipped in an emergency situation but are restricted as described in the approved vessels section. In such cases, you are required to notify the tournament director of the situation once it is safe to do so. After the emergency has ended and the Tournament Director has been notified, the competitor may resume fishing only if the watercraft was pulled no more than 100 yards from the danger zone.

## 6. Approved Methods

- 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. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time.
- e. Each cast must be completed before another cast is allowed and there can never be more than one lure or one rod actively fishing in the water at any time.
- f. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- g. No fish are to be kept on stringers. Fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.
- h. Exiting your kayak during tournament hours for the purpose of fishing, wading, or portaging is not allowed unless defined in the tournament document.

## 7. Measuring & Scoring

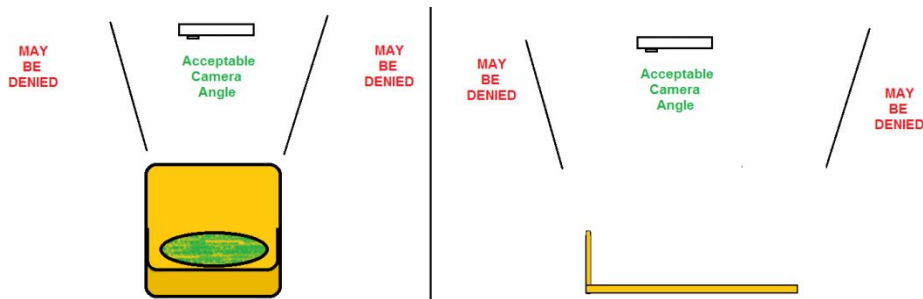
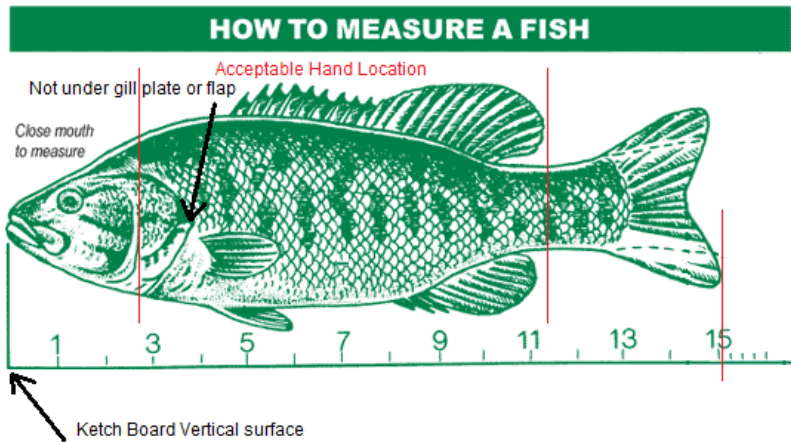
- a. All fish must be measured using approved device which are limited to:
  - i. Unaltered Ketch Products. **Unless approved by the tournament director.**
  - ii. Other measuring devices may be permitted on an event by event basis as defined in the event Tournament Document.
- b. Fish will be measured in ¼ inch increments.
- c. 12-inch minimum unless specified in tournament document.
- d. Folding/Sliding measuring devices are not allowed.

## 8. Photo Requirements

- a. Photo must be a first-generation unaltered photo. *Do not rotate or crop photos after capturing the image.*
- b. The measuring device cannot be altered, bent, or cut.



- c. The entire fish must be centered in the photo. If not, the judge may be unable to verify all requirements and the photo could be denied.
- d. The fish must be facing left with the dorsal fin up, mouth closed, and its tail flat on the board.
- e. Measuring device's fence must be oriented to the left.
- f. An approved identifier must be used for every fish submission per the tournament document. The identifier card must be fully visible with all numbers or letters shown in the photo.
- g. If a fish has a bad/blind eye or otherwise appears to be dead, video evidence of the fish being transferred from the measuring device to the water should be taken if the submission comes into question.



**9. Penalties**

- a. MinnYak judges apply the following scoring criteria to adjust measurements, approve or deny photos, and to penalize photos by deducting points (length) or disqualifying a competitor. Any issue not covered below will be voted on by tournament director and board members.
- b. Penalties (See table below)

Penalty	Penalty Description	Penalty Assessed
1. Photo	Blurry photo/length unclear: scored at the highest mark of which there is no doubt	n/a



2. Photo	Blurry photo; completely unable to judge	Deny
3. Photo	Appears to be second generation (e.g., screen shot, photo of photo)	Deny
4. Photo	EXIF data and other evidence substantiates photo taken outside of Eligible Water boundaries	Deny
5. Photo	EXIF data, other evidence substantiates photo was taken outside of competition hours	Deny
6. Photo	Multiple digital photos submitted of the same fish; unintentional violation	Deny
7. Photo	Multiple digital photos submitted of the same fish; evidence indicates intentionally	Ban
8. Photo	Competitor's watercraft not visible in photo background	Deny
9. Photo	Entire fish not in picture	Deny
10. Orientation	Fish positioned with right side of body toward camera; head pointing right, and caudal fin left	Deny
11. Orientation	Fish positioned with dorsal fins at bottom of photo, pelvic and anal fins upward	Deny
12. Identifier	Official identifier Card missing, counterfeit, or incorrect for event	Deny
13. Identifier	Identifier Card is lying on or covering any portion of the fish	Deny
14. Identifier	Incorrect Event ID Code for Event or illegible Event ID Code	Deny
15. Fish	Secured by restraining device (e.g., stringer, tape, or clip attached to fish).	Deny
16. Fish	Photo violates state regulations regarding possession	Deny
17. Species	Photo of any species or variety of fish other than that approved for the competition	Deny
18. Body	Photo Bass caudal (tail) fin tip fails to reach 12.00" line on measuring board	Deny
19. Body	Any portion of a hand or fingers under the fish's operculum (gill flap or cover)	Deny
20. Body	Finger(s) or hand touching or covering a bass' caudal (tail) fin	1.00" Deduction
21. Body	Entire caudal (tail) fin entirely lifted away and out of contact with the measuring board	Deny
22. Body	Left eye covered; not visible in photo	Deny
23. Body	Fish appears to have been snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body rather than mouth	Deny
24. Body	Fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged	Deny
25. Body	Fish appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered to increase its length	Deny
26. Mouth	Bass lip or jaw clearly not touching measuring board fence (upright end plate)	Deny
27. Mouth	Unable to ascertain with certainty that bass lip or jaw is touching measuring board fence	1.00" Deduction
28. Mouth	Mouth open 1/4 inch or more, even if it appears to be structurally unable to close completely.	1.00" Deduction

#### 10. Disputes, Appeals, and Cheating

- a. Formal disputes and appeal must be filed in writing via email to the official MinnYak email address.
- b. It must be filed within 24 hours from the time the tournament results go public.





- c. Participant filing the dispute is responsible for any cost incurred as a result of the dispute and appeal process or may be required to provide a bond to ensure financial responsibility.
- d. All disputes or appeals will be reviewed by the General Committee, and the General Committee may refer the dispute or appeal to the tournament director and/or the board of directors for resolution.
- e. In the event of a rule violation, the General Committee may impose such penalties as deemed appropriate, including without limitation, the following:
  - i. Reduction of score (length) as described above or determined by the General Committee.
  - ii. Loss of catch for the day or up until the violation has been remedied
  - iii. Disqualification from the tournament in question
  - iv. Any additional penalties determined by the General Committee including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of competitor of year points.
- f. Subject to the dispute and appeal processes set forth, the General Committee's decisions on violations are final.
- g. Following a review of evidence, a determination by the General Committee or board of directors of cheating or conviction of fraud will result in permanent revocation of MinnYak Membership, suspension from all MinnYak-affiliated events and series, and revocation of all MinnYak social media privileges. The findings will be published on a password-protected MinnYak members-only web page. The finding may also be provided to sponsors, partners, or law enforcement authorities when appropriate.
- h. Competitor acknowledges that the use of polygraph tests may be necessary to verify compliance with rules and to settle disputes and entry constitutes acceptance of this requirement and agreement to abide by its conclusion. Refusal by a competitor to submit to a polygraph test is grounds for immediate disqualification from the MinnYak event and prohibition against future participation in any MinnYak event. Results of a polygraph test will not be the sole determining factor in a MinnYak review of a competitor's eligibility for awards and qualification for future participation but may be one of several factors considered in such review.
- i. MinnYak General Committee or board of directors shall:
  - i. Have the discretion to determine the need for a Polygraph examination. When recommended by the General Committee, the board must approve the use of a polygraph test.
  - ii. Be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer the polygraph test, establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions that may be asked during the test examination, and interpreting the results.
  - iii. Have sole responsibility for selecting the location, date, and time of the test. The board may factor location proximity to MinnYak headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost.
- j. The competitor shall:
  - i. Make himself/herself available at the location selected by the board.
  - ii. Cooperate in all respects with such test.
  - iii. Competitors may be selected at random to undergo polygraph examinations during or following MinnYak competitive Events.

## 11. Code of Conduct

- a. Safety
  - i. All event participants must have all the required safety equipment as defined in **5. Safety**.



- ii. The Tournament Director has the right to postpone or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of adverse weather conditions or other factors that would jeopardize competitors' safety. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.
  - iii. In the event of weather emergencies that pose an imminent threat to Competitors, the Tournament Director may terminate competition before the scheduled end-of-competition time. An early termination announcement with an adjusted end-of-competition time will be broadcast to Competitors via email and group text messaging and will also be posted on the TMS site and social media sites. The Announcement will also specify an adjusted report-in time and location. If safe to do so, upon receiving the Announcement, Competitor should make his way to the specified location at that time.
  - iv. Competitor is required to stop fishing as soon as he receives the early termination announcement. No photos of fish caught after the adjusted end-of-competition time may be submitted for scoring; however, to accommodate those seeking shelter immediately, Competitor has up to 1 hour after the adjusted end time (if no adjusted photo submission deadline is provided) to submit a photo of any bass caught before the adjusted end-of-competition.
  - v. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during an event will not be tolerated and will be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future MinnYak tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in watercraft during competition days. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by MinnYak Board of Directors. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a MinnYak tournament, and/or disqualification from a MinnYak tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the MinnYak Board of Directors.
- b. Public View
- i. Competitors in MinnYak tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
  - ii. Anglers participating in any MinnYak-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers and family members of anglers, shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on MinnYak, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments, or sponsors.
  - iii. Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in MinnYak events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
    - 1. Heated public disagreements with MinnYak officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
    - 2. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of MinnYak rules or officials.





3. Public comments that an angler or family member knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of MinnYak, MinnYak officials or its sponsors.
4. Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition or the event, where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators, and the media, are present.
5. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
6. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors, or others connected with a MinnYak event, including comments on social media.
7. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural, or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
8. Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete, for example, working with a noncompetitor to block other anglers or hold spots before or during tournament hours.
9. Any disqualification, including ban, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a MinnYak tournament.

## **12. Release & Waivers**

- a. As a condition of participation in each tournament, every competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability.