



PAN-AMERICAN RULESET FOR KAYAK FISHING



DISCLAIMER: It will be mandatory for all anglers to carry their individual permit/license of Recreational-Sports Fishing granted by the authority of the host nation.

1.-REQUIREMENTS FOR KAYAK COMPETITION:

Kayak boats will be Human Powered Solo Watercraft. (Kayak). While the Kayak makes up the majority of the boats in use for human powered fishing, the goal is to encourage innovation and not limit fisherman to one type of human powered boat. No electric or gas motors are allowed. Any human powered boat that is paddled, rowed, pedaled, poled, or otherwise uses human power and it not assisted by motors, sails, or other external power, such as: Kayaks, Canoes, Row Boats, John Boats, Inflatable Boats, Paddle Boards, any new type of human powered craft may be accepted by the Technical Committee.

2.- ACCEPTABLE KAYAK PROPULSION:

The kayaks shall only be propelled by oars, paddles, pedals, or poles. The competitors are allowed to use any combination of these devices to be propelled in their boat. Any competitor that uses any other boat as their method of propulsion and cannot make their boat work under its own power will be disqualified. If any other competitor is the source of propulsion for another boat, they will also be automatically be disqualified. In an emergency situation, the help from another competitor by tying to another competitor to get to shore in a fast and safe manner will be allowed. Once the competitor is taken back to the shore for an emergency reason (safety, health, etc....), the competitor is automatically withdrawn from the competition and will not be allowed back in the water. This is strictly for the safety of the fisherman. No electric motors are allowed.

3.-MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Before every event, there will be a safety check that must be carried out after registration to the event and before entering the water. If all the all the elements required are not satisfied, the competitor will not be allowed to participate. Every fisherman is required to wear a life vest of type I, II, III, or IV at every moment the competitor is in the water. Inflatable PFDs are acceptable as long as they are suspension style and are wrapped around shoulders and chest. Every fisherman has to possess a paddle/oar and have it tied to the kayak in some manner. In some cases, the paddle/oar will be stored inside the kayak for the kayaks with pedal propulsion. If the paddle/oar is taken out of storage while on the water, the binding will have to be applied to the oar. Every fisherman should have a tag in high visibility and NUMBERED fixed to the rear end of the kayak (will be provided by the event personnel or the Pan-American Federation). Every fisherman shall carry a safety whistle on them while in the water. Every fisherman has to sign a waiver release form, prior to the event, about the responsibility and agreement that they will not file a lawsuit. It is required that every fisherman/participant assumes responsibility for their own actions during the event/takeoff and agree to release the liability/responsibility of any party involved or group that is not their own. **Extra event "encouraged" safety equipment:** Safety flag – if not provided by organizers. Appropriate clothing for the current weather (non-cotton materials). Extra change of dry clothes. Headlamp, flashlight, or Kayak lights for early/late navigation. Anchor(s)

4. –BASIC ANGLING RULES:

Anglers must use artificial baits, no live baits allowed. Anglers may have several fishing rods rigged but can only use one rod at a time for fishing. Anglers cannot "troll" their lures using human power propulsion – fishing while drifting from wind or water current is allowed. Anglers may not take a fishing rod out of the kayak for any reason. If an angler decides to leave his or her kayak he/she must not fish or have a fishing rod in possession. If a Competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or by hand to secure the line and land the fish to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. If a Competitor loses his rod and reel while landing a fish he MAY use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit. If after retrieval, the fish is still hooked, it may be landed, photographed, and submitted as a legal fish. Every fisherman has to depart from the announced selected official

takeoff point at the determined starting time. They also must return to the official takeoff point by the determined ending time. Every fisherman must wear a life vest while they are on the water. Every fisherman that has a line in the water prior to the event or after official time will be disqualified. Anglers must not help another competitor capture, hold or photograph any fish. Fisherman must not measure a fish not captured by themselves. Every fisherman that is caught off official bounds or in a body of water not acceptable for the tournament taking place will be disqualified. The fisherman are not allowed to share nor lend cameras during the event. Please, come with a backup capturing device. Everyone using someone else's camera will be disqualified. Minimum distance from each kayak fishing, with line in water, is 50m, unless emergency care is being provided.

5.-PROCEDURES FOR CATCH, PHOTO, AND RELEASE (CPR):

Every tournament is based on a Catch, Photo, and Release (CPR) format. This means that every captured fish will be measured and photographed in a measuring ruler for fishes after being captured. After taking an acceptable photo, the fish has to be released immediately. NOT A SINGLE FISH will be taken live to weigh or kept captive for a long time period; there does not exist a valid reason to keep fish in your possession. **See "Pan-American Bass Kayak Measurement Rules" at end of document.** The event will be using the "Score Fishing" app. Download instructions will be made available prior to the event

6. -REQUIREMENTS FOR FISH MEASURING EQUIPMENT:

Anglers MUST have an smart phone or digital camera capable of photographing each catch. Anglers MUST use the certified measuring device that is supplied by the organizers. It will be checked by the judges during the event safety check each day. Anglers must use a smart phone with camera, tournament app, and identifying event markers (apron, wrist band, token, etc.)

7. -FISH MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE:

There is no minimum length for a bass to be registered.

See "Pan-American Bass Kayak Measurement Rules" at end of document.

Photos of two fishes or more of the same length will not be accepted by the same competitor – unless approved by the event judges. (the fish must be clearly identified by its separate markings or features) Close the fish's mouth and press the mouth against the **bump board** /"vertical"part / the zero inch marker of your **certified measurement device**. Make sure that your **certified measurement device** is orientated so that your photo shows the fishes head from left to right – not vertical. Take a photo of the entire fish and make sure your certified measuring board and competition markers (wristband/token, etc.) are clearly visible in the image. Take several photos to assure that at least one of the photos you've taken is acceptable.

8. -Tournament ranking:

The criteria to assign the ranking for each fisherman in the tournament will be the aggregate sum of their 5 longest bass registered during each competition day and total length of bass caught when both days are added together. Every fisherman can register as many bass as they catch. Only the five longest will be scored each day. (for example: if you already have 5 fish and your shortest fish is 14 inches and you capture a fish with a length of 14.5 inches, this will replace your 14 inch fish.) The final length will be determined by the longer part of the fish's tail that touches a measurement tick. "Touching" is defined as the meeting or crossing of the plane of the measurement ruler. If there is a visible gap between the tail and the measurement tick, it won't be considered "touching". The length will then be rounded down to the closest centimeter that actually touches or crosses.

Individual Results:

Total length of both days of competition for each angler will be added together. In the case of a tie, the tiebreaker criteria awards the fisherman that has the longest fish during the tournament the winner. If there is another tie, the fisherman that has the longest one day total will be the winner. There will be medals for top individuals (Men & Ladies combined) and for Ladies only.

Team Results (Teams of three):

The total length of the three boats of the team will be added together. In the case of a tie, the tiebreaker will award the team that has the longest fish during the tournament the winner. If there is another tie, the team that

has the longest one day total will be the winner. There will be medals for the top teams Men category & Women category.

Nations Results:

The total length of fish caught by the “teams” of each nation will be divided by the number of “teams” for each nation. The average length of each nation will be determined for the “Nations” winner. In the case of a tie, the longest fish during the tournament for each nation will be used to determine the winner. If there is another tie, the nation with the longest one day total will be the winner. Nations will need to bring at least 9 anglers or three “teams” to qualify for the Nations medals.

9. -Procedure for scoring fish:

The fisherman must be present in the registration position before cutoff time as announced previously at the meeting before the tournament. The fisherman will present every fish picture that qualifies to the organizer of the event and three Pan-American Federation judges selected for the event. The tournament measuring judges will inspect the images to ensure that the whole fish is visible in the picture and includes the competitor marker or wristband of the competitors and the safety seal (live event) or tournament identifier (online event). The judge will also inspect any possible rule infractions that could cause a length penalty or disqualification. The penalties and disqualifications can be seen in the next section or **“Pan-American Bass Kayak Measurement Rules” at end of document.**The decision of the three judges will confirm the final length of each fish. The capture images will be reviewed in presence of the angler involved and will be signed by the angler when decided.

Score Fishing mobile app must used for recording and documenting catches. App available in Apple App store and Android Google Play store. Must be purchased and register prior to event commencement.

10. Penalties for measuring fish:

See Pan-American Bass Kayak Measuring Rules at end of document

11. -GENERAL CONDUCT RULES:

It is important that a distress flag is outfitted or tied to the point of an paddle, oar, rod, or any other long object, or making signals with a mirror, or a distress whistle. Any distress signal shall be responded to by any and all available competitors. Please look out for your fellow competitors.

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 tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in watercraft during competition days. The organizing committee of the Pan-American championship will keep guard to maintain order and discipline, and expect respect between competing fishermen. Any conduct that alters the previous precept will be considered a grave fault and will merit expulsion from the championship.

If an angler wishes to lodge a protest or rules infraction against another competitor, the protest shall be presented in handwriting with corresponding proof and possible witnesses, within a maximum of one hour after the time of the tournament scoring. Such an infraction will have to be accompanied with a deposit of \$300.00 USD and will be refunded if it is the rule or penalty is confirmed.

If something is not clearly mentioned by the ruleset, the issue will be resolved by the organizing committee or Pan-American judges.

12. -Pre-fishing Regulations:

The competition venue shall be open to fishing prior to the event. Competitors must participate in the official practice day that will be provided by organizers as part of the event.

13. -Competition Period:

A. Competition start and end dates and times are stated in event agenda. Any Competitor who **launches (i.e., propels an occupied boat away from the shore) before the stated "Earliest Launch" time** or begins fishing before the official Competition Start Time on any day of competition will be disqualified from the Event. Under no circumstance will a fish photographed outside of the official Competition Start and End times be considered for scoring. All anglers will be signed out at beginning of session and must sign back in with ramp official upon return to verify return time. Failure to return in time will be a disqualification of angler.

U.S. Angling & USA Bass are honored to have you. Feel free to contact the following individuals regarding this event:

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Pan-American Bass Kayak Measuring Rules

The Basics:

Kayak bass fishing is scored by total length of your 5 fish limit catch. The catch, photo, and release method is employed in all Pan-American tournaments for kayaking.

Catch, Photo, and Release: The equipment used consists of a **certified measuring board (CMB)**, a camera (typically a smart phone connected to the internet) and some kind of “marker” distributed by Pan-American organizers to prove the photo was taken that day. Length of submitted bass is determined by the photo of the bass on the approved measuring device. (see Measuring Rules for photo requirements). Fish’s length is rounded down to nearest .25 inch. With a 15.5 inch fish - If the tail is just short of the 15.75 inch mark, for example, then the fish will be counted as 15.5 inches assuming the photo meets the requirements to be legal.

The process of scoring a catch is:

- A fish is caught and placed on the certified measuring board (CMB).



Using a smart phone or connected camera, a photo is taken of the fish in the way described in the rules below.

- The photo is uploaded to the tournament website under your registered name where it becomes part of your catch and counts towards your score, assuming it is a legal catch and the photo was taken within Pan-American rules.
- The tournament judges (3) will then record the agreed to length of each of the top 5 fish recorded. The fisherman also enters the length of the fish as they see it on the measuring board, and that measurement is reviewed by the tournament judges.
- The tournament judges approve the measurement and photo and that fish is added to the fisherman’s total length score. If the fisherman and judges length results are different then the judges length decision is final.
- At the end of the official tournament day the fishermen are ranked on total length of their five longest fish. Both days of the tournament are then added together for the final length of each angler.

Fisherman’s Tip:

Please double check all photos before releasing fish so you are in compliance with each rule, and your fish will count in full toward your total. Also, store the photo on your phone/camera before navigating to the approved website for scoring. We recommend NOT using the webpage to take your photo in case you lose internet connection when you try to upload.

Official Measuring Rules:

Rule 1:

A tournament identifier or badge must be in angler’s photo, and clearly visible in the sunlight with angler’s kayak in the photo; anglers do not need to be tethered to their vessels.

- **Reasoning:** In order to ensure fish was caught during the tournament, the identifier must be present and unobstructed in all photos so a unique marking for that event is visible.
- **Reasoning:** Anglers may not paddle or fish until the official event start time.

- **Reasoning:** Anglers must be either fishing in a kayak or canoe. This helps ensure anglers are not fishing from any illegal vessels during the competition, and that they have their vessel in tow and in view on all fish photos.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:

Disqualification: If an identifier is not present in the photo at all or the judge cannot determine the identifier is from a particular event, the fish will be disqualified.



*Although this is a perfect picture measured on a measuring device, there is **no identifier** in the photo.

Disqualification: If a picture does not show clearly that the fish was caught during safe light, the catch will be disqualified. Tournament software will time stamp your catch.

Note: You may need to turn the flash of your camera off in the morning so the flash does not wash out the light. This makes pictures appear to be taken in the dark.



*It is unclear when this fish was caught as it appears to be dark, and so it would have to be assumed it was caught at a time other than the tournament.

Disqualification: If vessel is not in photograph, catch will be disqualified.



*Again, this is a perfect picture, however, the judges will have no idea where or how it was caught as no vessel is in the photograph. This fish would be disqualified.

Rule 2:

The certified measuring board (CMB) supplied by the organizers must be used. No other measurement devices will be permitted. **The fish's lower jaw and/or upper lip must be touching the left side of the measuring board (bump board).** **The fish's lip and tail must both be showing in the photo, and the fish facing left on the CMB.**

- Reasoning: This is the most basic rule, but it is an easily broken rule. If the fish is not touching the **CMB bump board** it is an improper measurement and subject to penalty.
- Reasoning: If any part of the fish is not showing, an accurate measurement cannot be taken. We will only measure up to the .25 inch we see as long as the lip is touching the **bump board**.
- Reasoning: So all fish are submitted uniformly anglers must turn the **CMB** so it is on the left in their photos. Having the fish face to the left ensures that an angler cannot attempt to score the same fish twice.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:

Penalty: Up to 2 inch deduction from each fish not touching the left side of the board.



*This fish does not have the nose of the fish up against the bump board. Thus, the measurement must be recorded as less than where the tail is positioned. Penalty assessed by judges.

Disqualification: Entire fish is not pictured and so an accurate measurement cannot be taken.



*This picture does not show either the nose or tail of the fish. It would be disqualified.
Disqualification: Disqualification of each fish not pictured using the approved measuring device.



*This picture does not show an approved measuring device. There is no way to ensure the markings on the device used are accurate. This fish would be disqualified. Also, This fish is being lip-gripped. The lip grips are prohibited when measuring fish, and are also clearly prohibiting the measurement.

Rule 3:

Fish must be facing the left on the **CMD** with its stomach facing you **and** fish positioned with its head to the left of the photo:

- Reasoning: This shows consistency and uniformity for the person judging each fish in the tournament.
- Reasoning: It is difficult for those judging the tournament to determine that each fish is unique if they are not all photographed facing the same way.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:

Penalty: Disqualification



*Picturing a fish upside-down is difficult to judge, as seen. Disqualification of fish.



* Picture of a fish facing right. Disqualification of fish.

Rule 4:

Anglers must not picture any part of their hand or fish gripping tools in the fish's mouth.

- Reasoning: While we recommend using a fish gripping tool to keep your catch in the water while getting ready to take your photo, putting their hand, fish gripping tools, or fingers in the fish's mouth, anglers can manipulate the length of the fish by extending the jaw which is harmful to the health of the fish.
- Reasoning: Fish gripping tools also tend to obstruct the full view of the **CMD/bump board**, and make it difficult to determine the fish's lip is touching the **bump board**.
- Additional Note: We recommend using fish gripping tools to tether your catch to the vessel while preparing your equipment for a picture.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:

Penalty: 2 inches deduction for hands, fish gripping tools, or fingers in the fish's mouth.



*This fish is being lip-gripped. The lip grips are prohibited when measuring, and are also clearly prohibiting the judges from seeing the fish's lip touching the left side of the bump board. A 2 inch penalty would be assessed. Lip gripped fish in photos are subject to a measurement penalty.



*This fish is being held by the angler by its mouth. The angler's hands are obstructing the view of the left side of the bump board. Although the angler is not attempting to manipulate the mouth, it still affects the length of the fish. The angler's hand needs to stay behind the plane of the eye. A 2 inch deduction would be assessed in this photo **because the fish is held by the mouth.**

Additional Note: Anglers may use stainless steel fish stringer through the mouth of the fish (not the gill plate) as a means to prevent their catch from getting away before measurement. Should an angler choose this method, the lower jaw and/or upper lip of the fish must still be touching the end of the board, not the stringer in between the fish and board.



*This fish is completely legal. The stringer is not hindering the fish's lip from touching the board and the identifier is in the picture.

Additional Note: Anglers may also keep the lure in the fish's mouth so long as it does not rest between the fish's lip and the end of the board.



*This fish is a legal catch. With the bait still in its mouth, it does not obstruct the view of the **CMD** or prevent the fish's lip from touching the **bump board**.

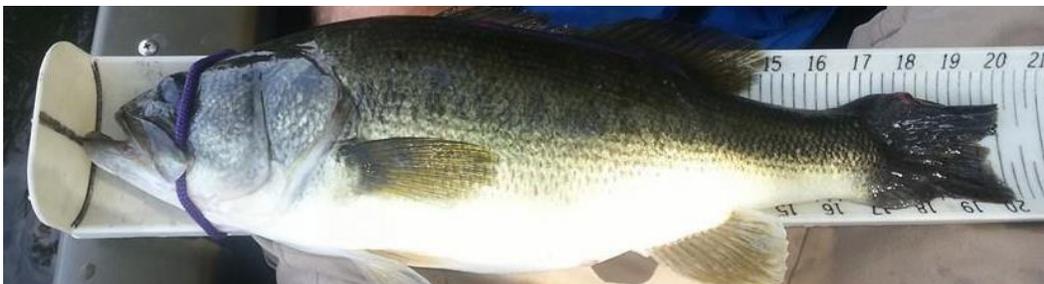
Note: Anglers may use fish gripping tools to secure their fish in the water while they get the camera, ready, but the fish gripping tool may not be present in the fish's mouth in the picture.

Rule 5:

No rope, or fishing line may be wrapped around a fish to secure it to the board. The only type of securing device which may be used to secure your catch is a stringer or by keeping the hook in the fish's mouth.

- Reasoning: Securing fish to the board is harmful and stressful to the fish.

Penalty: 2 inch deduction per fish.



*This fish has a rope tied around its head. If the fish is fastened to the board there is a 2 inch penalty.

Rule 6:

Either hand may be placed on the body or over the gill plate to hold the fish, but that hand must remain behind the eye of the fish.

- Reasoning: Holding the hand over the fish's body or gill plate will prevent it from flopping off of the board.
- Anglers should always respect the fish, and also give their "best effort" to avoid putting hands or fingers inside the gill plate, thus damaging the gills of their catch.
- Reasoning: Since the fish is being held behind the eye, you will be unable to manipulate the mouth, as the hinge of the jaw of a bass begins right at the vertical plane of the eye.
- Reasoning: This method gives a fair assessment of the natural lay and true length of the fish.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:



* Here the angler's hand is past the eye which can encourage fish to flop off board and does not allow to properly identify fish distinguishing markings. This is a 2 inch deduction.

Penalty: 2 inch deduction from each fish improperly held onto board.



*This angler placed their hand inside, not over the gills. This would be a 2 inch deduction.

Rule 7:

Anglers may stabilize the bump board with the off-hand not holding the fish. However, that offhand may not touch or manipulate the fish's mouth in any way.

- Reasoning: Larger catches can sometimes tilt the board, and so the board may need stabilized. However, if an angler holds the board from the left side, their hand sometimes obstructs the view of the fish's mouth, thus the fish cannot be properly judged. Be aware of this if you choose to hold the board.
- Reasoning: Anglers can manipulate the mouth of the fish, adding length to their catch, even with their hand on the left side of the bump board.

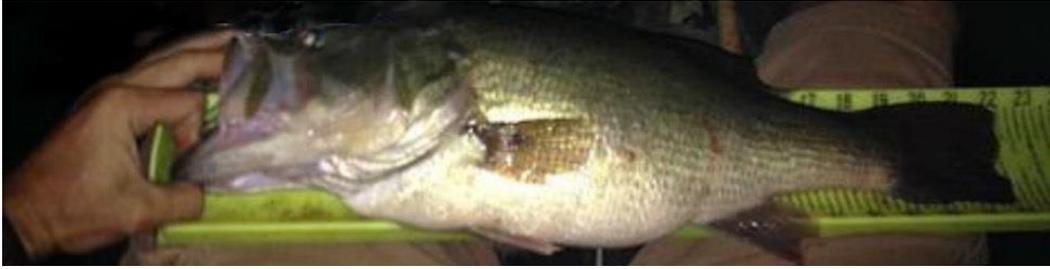
See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:

No Penalty: If the angler's hand does not touch the fish, or manipulate it in any way, the offhand may stabilize the bump board.

Penalty: 2 inch or more from each fish improperly held or manipulated from left side of bump board.



*This is a legal catch, as the angler's off-hand does not manipulate or touch the fish's mouth.



*This angler used the bump board to manipulate the mouth of the fish. They would be assessed a 2 inch or more deduction.

Rule 8:

An angler must photograph their catch on the bump board at an overhead angle.

- Reasoning: If the photograph is at an overhead angle, above the catch, all parts of the fish may not be properly and accurately seen and therefore misjudged.
- Reasoning: It is often difficult to determine if a lip is touching the bump on photos taken at an angle.



*This angler pictured the fish not directly over their catch. As you can see, it is very difficult to identify the fish in this scenario. A deduction or disqualification may or may not be assessed to this catch, depending on the angler's other catches and distinguishing marks, but are subject to the tournament judges decision.

Rule 9:

Fish must be lying flat on the board. Flopping fish will not be judged.

- Reasoning: If the fish is not flat on the board, your catch length will be inaccurate because it could be longer or shorter.
- Reasoning: If a fish is flopping it is not possible to accurately judge the catch, and would be unfair to estimate the length.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:



This fish is in the process of moving during the picture. It is not flat on the board and therefore difficult to judge. It would receive at least a 2 inch penalty but this amount will be determined by the judges. Disqualification: If the fish is photographed while moving and we cannot determine an accurate length, the fish will be disqualified.



This fish is in the process of flopping off of the board, and can therefore not be accurately measured. It would be disqualified.

Rule 10:

The tail of fish can be pinched or natural.

- Reasoning: Pinching of the tail is allowed and legal in many states, and may or may not provide an advantage to the angler.

See the following photos for penalties and/or disqualifications regarding this rule:

Penalty: None



*This fish has its tail pinched and is a perfectly legal catch and picture.

Recommended and legal photo examples:

Legal Photo 1:

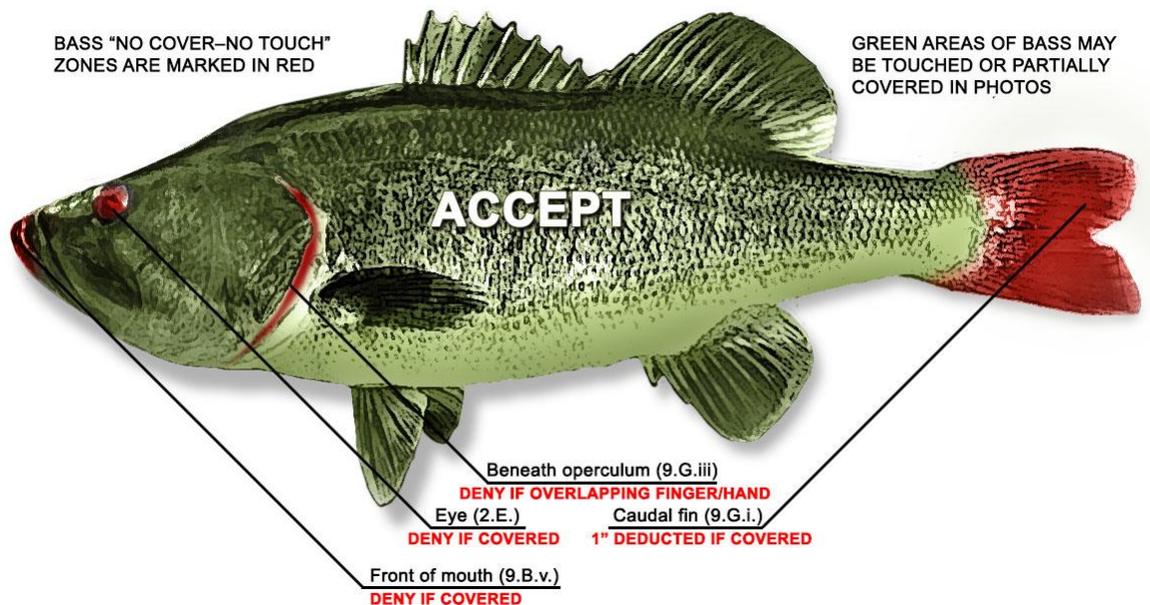
This angler has an approved measuring device in the photo, they have the kayak in the picture, they have the identifier, and the photograph is pictured during the day. They are not manipulating the mouth in any way with their hands or fish grips. The photo is taken from straight above. The fish is flat and facing left. This is the legal way to photograph your fish.



Legal Photo 2:

This angler has an approved measuring device, they have the kayak in the picture, they have the identifier, and the photograph is pictured during the day. They are not manipulating the mouth in any way with their hands or fish grips. The photo is taken from straight above. The fish is flat and facing left. This angler differs from the first angler, as they chose to use a stringer to ensure their fish does not flop out of the kayak. Depending on your state, this may be a legal practice. In this state, this is a perfectly legal and thus a legal tournament submission.





iii. No portion of a hand or finger may be under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap). Violation will result in denial of photo.

H. Mouth

i. Bass' lip or jaw must be in contact with measuring board fence (bump board, upright), and the fence must be visible in the photo. Violation will result in denial of photo.

ii. In bass fishing competition, a closed mouth is preferred for uniformity of measurement. If judge considers the mouth to be open **1/4 inch or more**, even if it is structurally unable to close, a penalty will be assessed.