RULES

Fish Eligibility
Species— Only "black bass" are eligible for scoring. That designation includes the three most common species (Largemouth Bass – Micropterus salmoides, Smallmouth Bass – Micropterus dolomineu, and Spotted or Kentucky Bass – Micropterus punctulatus). Submission of a photo of an ineligible species will result in denial of the photo.

Length—The minimum length of bass scored in competition is 8 inches. Photos of bass shorter than the minimum will be denied.
Condition—Fish must be hooked in the mouth or jaw. It may not appear to have snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body or a fin. Fish must appear to be alive. If fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damage, or it appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, the photo will be denied.
Caudal (Tail) Fin—The tip of at least one lobe of the caudal (tail) fin must be contact with the measuring board. If the entire caudal (tail) fin is lifted away from the measuring board so that the tip is no longer in contact, the photo will be denied.
Eye—The fish's left eye must be visible in photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

Competition Period
Competitors may launch at the approved time that is set forth in the Captain's Meeting for each tournament. 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.

Pre-fishing — Practice in Eligible Water is permitted until 4:00pm, the day before the event.. There are no restrictions regarding areas, type of watercraft, or types of bait used in pre-fishing. Fishing on the event's eligible water after the specified prefishing deadline will result in disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of registration fees.

All fish must be uploaded to Tourneyx within 30 minutes following the end of competition time. (i.e. the tournament ends at 3:30pm so you would have until 4pm to submit your fish) No submissions will be accepted after that time.

Competition Area
Competitors may launch from any public-access shore directly onto Eligible Water. Crossing restricted property to reach Eligible Water is not permitted. Tributaries, canals, sloughs or estuaries separated from the rest of eligible water by temporary obstructions (e.g., fallen trees, log jams, beaver dams) that, if removed, could be entered by floating/paddling are considered eligible waters in which competition is permitted, and competitors are permitted to drag or

portage watercraft over or around such obstructions. Those separated by obstructions of a permanent nature (e.g., levees, earthen or concrete dams, berms, roadbeds, spillways, waterfalls) are ineligible water, and competition in such areas is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
BOUNDARIES: Competitors are not restricted to fishing where they start out each day but are permitted to relocate to other Eligible Water during tournament hours. Anglers may fish in ANY water that they can paddle to, as long as the launch took place in bounds.

Watercraft must not be anchored in such a position as to prevent or block access for other watercraft or powerboats. Be respectful of other anglers on the water. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

Anglers must stay in their kayaks during the entire competition. No casting or landing of fish outside of the kayak is allowed. You may exit your kayak as needed throughout the tournament, but it must not be in an effort to compete. (nature calls sometimes) You may also exit to retrieve your stuck lure. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

Cooperation and Assistance
A. Up until the end of the established pre-fishing period, competitors may fish with and receive direct assistance from other anglers.
B. Within 30 days prior to the Event, a Competitor may not fish on Eligible Water with, nor receive expert advice from a professional fishing guide who receives payment for those services. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the Event.
C. Before and during the event, competitors may (i.) share gear, tackle and equipment, (ii.) assist in photographing a fish for submission, and (iii.) communicate with and fish in proximity to other people, including other Competitors; however, Competitors may not receive assistance in catching fish that are photographed and submitted for scoring, including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of fees.

Fishing Tackle, Equipment, and Methods
A. All fish submitted for score must be caught live by the Competitor who submits them for scoring using only equipment and legal methods that comply with all sportfishing statutes and regulations of the states and body of water in which they are taken. Competitors are responsible for research of and compliance with all applicable fishing and boating regulations. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted. Violation will result in disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of all fees.
B. All fish must be caught by the Competitor on rod, reel, line and hook with artificial lures only. No traps, snares, set lines or other methods of fishing other than rod, reel and line are permissible, even if legal under state game laws. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
C. **Acceptable measuring boards are Ketch Co boards only (All 3 types are allowed, the Karbonate, KetchX, and the aluminum board.).** Measuring boards may not be shortened. Violation will result in disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of all fees.
D. Competitors may share measuring boards.

E. A break of the measuring board's fence may be mended for use if the repair is rigid, flat and at a right angle to the measuring surface. The mended measuring board must be submitted to the Tournament Director, personally or by two or more emailed photographs that clearly show (i.) the mended area and (ii.) a side view of the measuring surface and the fence. Violation will result in denial of the photo.
F. Each competitor must use a mobile phone with camera or a digital camera or video camera capable of producing still photos with memory card and/or download cable to submit digital photographs. When a Competitor's smart phone becomes inoperable or is lost, he may share smartphones with other Competitors, provided each Competitor logs into his own TOURNEYX account in order to submit photos of fish he caught. Competitor under the same circumstances may share digital cameras, provided each Competitor can clearly and positively identify photos of the fish he caught. Violation will result in denial of photo.

G. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No live bait, preserved bait, or prepared bait will be permitted during competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
H. Only ONE casting, spin-casting, spinning, or fly rod and reel may be in use at any one time. A rod and reel is considered to be "in use" when a lure attached to it by a line is in or on the water. A hung lure (one snagged in an overhanging tree) that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and the attached rod and reel may be set aside while another is in use.
I. Nets and grippers (e.g., Fish Grip,Donkey leash, Boga-Grip) may be used for landing fish during tournament competition, but grippers must not remain attached to the fish in photos. No restraints of any kind on the fish while it's being photographed. Violation will result in denial or disqualification of the photo.
J. 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. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

Watercraft & Propulsion
A. Watercraft acceptable for use in the are: Small, narrow, single-hull watercraft not exceeding 44 inches in hull width and 17 feet in hull length, or 18 feet in combined hull length plus attachments, and that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks. If unsure about the acceptability of a watercraft, contact the Tournament Director in advance for eligibility determination. Use of watercraft in competition other than those listed above as acceptable or exceptions will result in disqualification from the Event.

B. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, or one electric motor, not exceeding the kayak manufactures limitations.

C. Towing, transport or relocation assistance from another watercraft, including "mothershipping," 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.

D. Trolling (i.e., lure(s) attached to a single rod and towed behind a watercraft while underway) is NOT permitted. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

Photo Standards
Digital photographs of each fish submitted to judges for scoring must meet these criteria:

A. Unique—Each digital photo submitted in each Event must be of a different fish. Subsequent digital photos of the same fish submitted by the same Competitor in an Event will be denied.

B. Visible/Legible—Each photo must be sharply focused and clear enough for a judge to: i. Verify the correct Identifier Form and Event ID Code. Inability of the judge to verify will result in denial of the photo. ii. Verify the fish's condition. Violation will result in denial of photo. iii. Verify the fish's length. Judge will score fish at the greatest length of which he is certain. iv. Verify whether the bass' jaw or lip is in contact with the measuring board fence. Inability of the judge to verify will result in a penalty of 1 inch. v. Except where covered by hand or fingers, the entire fish, from its mouth/jaw to the tip of its caudal (tail) fin, must be visible in photos. If either end is covered or cropped off, the photo will be denied.

C. Centered—Camera lens positioned directly over the center of the fish's body, which contributes to accurate measurement by judges. Photos taken at a low angle in order obscure an open mouth may be denied or penalized at the Tournament Director's discretion.

D. First-generation—Each digital photo must be a first-generation image (not a photo or screen-shot of another photo). Violation will result in denial of photo. Photos submitted for scoring that, in judges' opinions, contain evidence of a possible disqualifying infraction—including photos that appear to have been cropped or modified (e.g, image enhanced or filtered) in such a way as to obscure infractions—will be accepted with a score of 0.01 and a note indicating the nature of the infraction is emailed to the Competitor. The Tournament Director will review all such photos and will make any disqualification ruling. The Tournament Director may also contact Competitors to request submission of original un-cropped, un-filtered photos for further review and verification. Failure by Competitors to respond or refusal to submit the original photo will result in denial of the photo.

E. Identifiable—Official Identifier code above, below, or beside that fish (not covering any portion of the fish, unless attached to the Competitor's hand or arm). Writing the code on your hand is permissible. Violation will result in denial of photo.

F. Background—Competitor's watercraft clearly visible in the photograph. Violation will result in denial of photo.

G. Hand Position. i. In competition, hand or finger(s) may be in contact with the caudal

peduncle (fleshy, scaled part of the bass' body at the base of the caudal fin) but NOT touching any portion of the caudal fin (tail fin). Violation will result in a 1-inch deduction in score. ii. 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 one-inch penalty will be assessed.

Scoring

A. Fish length is determined by its caudal fin (tail fin) touching or crossing the factory-marked quarter-inch increment (e.g., ridges, grooves) on the measuring board. If it falls short of a 1/4-inch factory mark, the length is rounded down to the next lower 1/4-inch mark that the bass' caudal fin actually touches or crosses. In reviewing photographs, judges will visualize as accurately as possible where a 1/4-inch factory mark would be if it extended the full width of a board and use that imaginary line to determine a fish's length.

B. In bass fishing competition, if any portion of a bass' caudal (tail) fin extends off the edge of a Measuring Board surface, the score will be determined by the highest 1/4-inch measurement reached or crossed by the portion of caudal fin on the Measuring Board. Any portion of the caudal fin extending off the edge of a Measuring Board is not considered in scoring.
The scores of the five longest fish on the LeaderBoard, when judging is complete, will be combined to determine the aggregate score.

C. If a Competitor's photo is denied by a judge after end-of-competition, it may be automatically replaced by a previously submitted and auto-culled photo; however, no Competitor may submit a replacement photo after end-of-competition time.

D. In the event of a tie in score, the tied competitors' longest (highest-scored) fish are compared, and the tie breaks in favor of the competitor with the longest (highest-scoring) fish. If the longest fish are equal, the second-longest fish are compared and determine which competitor wins the tie. If the second-longest are identical, the process repeats for each of the remaining fish. If all of the tied competitors' highest scoring fish are identical, then the tie breaks in favor of the competitor whose last Leader Board photo was uploaded earliest.

Penalties

A 1" deduction will occur if the mouth of the fish is open, or if the angler is touching the caudal fin. i. Failure to meet the guidelines for taking proper photos, will result in the photo being disqualified. ii. If a photo is disqualified for not meeting criteria, the angler may resubmit a better photo of the same fish if they have it.

A. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such penalties as deemed appropriate, including without limitation, the following: i. Reduction of score (length) as described above or determined by the Tournament Director 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 Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Competitor of Year points. Subject to the dispute and appeal processes set forth below, the Tournament Director's decisions on violations are final.

B. Following a review of evidence, a determination of cheating or conviction of fraud will result in permanent banishment from all future events.

C. Competitor acknowledges that (i.) the use of polygraph tests may be necessary to verify compliance with rules and to settle disputes and (ii.) 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 All American and prohibition against future participation in any affiliated Event. Results of a polygraph test will not be the sole determining factor in a Review of a Competitor's eligibility for awards and qualification for future participation but may be one of several factors considered in such review.

D. Tournament Director shall i. Have the discretion to determine the need for a Polygraph examination. ii. Be responsible for (i.) selecting an independent expert to administer the polygraph test, (ii.) establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions that may be asked during the test examination, and (iii.) interpreting the results. iii. Have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test.
E. The Competitor shall: i. Make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director. ii. Cooperate in all respects with such tests.

F. Competitors may be selected at random to undergo polygraph examinations during or following the competitions.

Taxes
Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on cash awards. Failure to meet those obligations may result in disqualification from all future events. All competitors that earn $600 or more must fill out and turn in an IRS Form W-9 including name, address, social security number, signature and date. These are used to prepare IRS 1099 forms for distribution in January.

Safety
A. During competition, every Competitor must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment, (e.g., light source, whistle or other audible signal device, Coast Guard-approved, chest-type life preserver [PFD]). See www.uscgboating.org/.

B. PFD Usage — At all times, except as described below (Rule 15.C. PFD Wear Exception) while on the water during competition hours, Competitors must wear either an inherent-flotation or inflatable USCG-certified PFD, either vest-style or float jacket. A belt-style PFD, even one that deploys as a vest, is not permitted during Competition. The PFD must be properly positioned and adjusted (e.g., fully buckled and zipped) to conform with USGC and manufacturers' instructions. When an infraction, as described above, is verified by the Tournament Director, the Competitor is disqualified from participation in the Event.

C. PFD Wear Exception — If all of the following conditions exist, Competitor may briefly

remove his PFD while afloat in order to change, add or remove articles of clothing: i. No fishing lines are in the water; and ii. The watercraft is not underway; and iii. Weather and water conditions permit one to do so safely; and iv. Competitor is over the age of 12. When finished changing his attire, Competitor must immediately put the PFD back on before resuming navigation, fishing, or any other competition-related activity.

D. 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.
E. 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 TourneyX 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, the Competitor should make his way to the specified location at that time. 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 15 minutes after the Adjusted End Time to submit a photo of any bass caught before the adjusted end-of-competition time/photo submission deadline.

F. In the event of an emergency situation, Competitor should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

G. 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 events. 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 the Tournament Director.

Disputes and Appeals
If a competitor wishes to dispute a rules violation penalty or a judge's decision, they will have 24 hours from the end of the event to contact the Tournament Director.

Waivers and Releases

Forms will be available at the Captains Meeting.

Angler of the Year

Points will be awarded per each event based on a “100” number system. (100 for 1st, 99 for 2nd…) AOY will be determined by the anglers best 4 scores totalled out of 400 possible points. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will be the total inches for the best 4 scores.

Top 10 anglers in AOY points earn a spot in the 2021 All American Kayak Classic and KBFNC.