



Bass Angler, INC.
Bass Angler Magazine Kayak Tournament Trail

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2024 BAM TOURNAMENT TRAIL OFFICIAL RULES OF KAYAK COMPETITION

The following rules shall apply to all BAM Tournament Trail (BAMTT) events. BAMTT expects strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. These rules will remain unchanged during the current BAMTT tournament season. Federal, state, local, lake laws and rules must be obeyed at all times and shall supersede BAMTT rules when in conflict. All Anglers must Acknowledge and understand these rules for the BAMTT Tournament(s) they participate in.

1. INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT: Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to BAMTT and its tournament directors. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director within 30 minutes after the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

- a) Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, reduction of competition hours, loss of catch for the day of the violation, disqualification from the current tournament, forfeiture of prizes and entry fee, monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of Year points, disqualification from future BAMTT events, which may be a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or lifetime disqualification.
- b) BAMTT reserves the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered after a tournament has ended and may assess penalties for future events up to and including denying entry to compete in future BAMTT events. BAMTT may form an Advisory Board that BAMTT will seek input on various items regarding tournaments, rules, and other related issues. This Advisory Board may be asked to help resolve appeals/protests with regards to rules violations.
- c) BAMTT contestants are required to police themselves each competition day. If contestants have a concern regarding their catch, they should consult with the tournament director immediately for clarification.
- d) Bass Angler Magazine Tournament Trail (BAMTT)- Kayak Series has opted for each angler to perform a vessel inspection and a self-audit prior to the start of a sanctioned event. This will be done before every tournament unless communicated to the Tournament Director in which case they will perform one for you. In addition, the BAMTT Tournament Director will be obligated to perform a secondary inspection for any angler receiving a check prior to its distribution. Inspections will ensure that each participant has an up-to-date kayak registration, fishing license, safety equipment, and any relevant information necessary for fair competition in an event. A random evaluation may be conducted at any time during a BAMTT Event by any staff member that deems the situation fit.

4. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE: An Appeals Committee may be established by BAMTT which may be comprised of the tournament director and a minimum of 2 other members for any event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the tournament director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at the prescribed time of hearing.

- a) If contestants admit to a rule's violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules, or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final. Contestants may be allowed to compete under appeal, however, penalties assessed will remain until the final ruling by Appeals Committee has been determined. Contestants may be allowed to compete under appeal for penalties assessed until a final ruling by the Appeals Committee. Appeals of non-competition rulings must be presented in writing to the Tournament director within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling for review. The Tournament director may seek the advisement of the BAMTT Advisory Board and/or Rules Committee for any final decision made.

5. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY: A BAMTT membership is required to participate in any BAMTT Kayak Event. Failure to have an active/paid membership is grounds for disqualification and/or restriction from participating in any BAMTT event. Memberships are valid for a calendar year. Note: Members signing up in October will automatically extend to the next calendar year at no extra charge. The membership fee is \$69.00 per contestant per year.

- b) Contestants competing in the Kayak Division must be a minimum of 16 years of age or older. Any contestant who is under the age of 18, must have signed/written approval from their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. The parent or legal guardian must be present at each pre-tournament check-in meeting to sign any the waiver and consent forms. Proof of age to the tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential contestant.
- c) All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. If your vessel is deemed under the requirements of California Fish and Wildlife to require a California Boater Card, it is your responsibility to have it present on your person. Random checks will be conducted at each tournament. Failure to provide proof of a valid fishing license or California Boater Card within a reasonable amount of time when requested by the tournament director will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the license and card was required for the tournament.

6. REGISTRATION/PAYMENT: An entry for a Regular Season Kayak Series event will be set at \$155 dollars and it will be Submitted through the TourneyX Platform. There will also be a \$5 TourneyX fee administered during payment.

Registration Late Fee/Deadline: The deadline for registration ends 11:59 PM (Pacific Standard Time) on the Wednesday before the event. For all entries after this deadline, there will a \$25.00 late fee. Final Registration ends 11:59 PM Thursday before the start of the Pre-Tournament Meeting.

7.WAIVER AND LIABILITY FORMS: As a condition of participation in each BAMTT event, each contestant must execute/sign a waiver, release of liability and an invasive mussel form (If it applies to your Vessel). By signing the waiver/release of liability form, the contestant understands and agrees that as consideration to participate in any BAMTT event, whether prior to commencement, during the actual event and/or during any post-event festivities, they are doing so at their own risk. BAMTT and its owners, managers, employees, agents and sponsors (Collectively "BAMTT"), shall not be liable for any damages, claims or causes of action arising from personal injuries or property damage sustained in, on or about the premises or waterways used for any BAMTT event, specifically including, but not limited to, all boat launches, bodies of water, parking lots or other public or private areas used for any BAMTT event. It is the contestant's responsibility to sign the waiver form prior to competing in the event. Failure to have a signed waiver form on record for the event they are participating in will result in the contestant being disqualified from participating in the tournament event and will forfeit their entry fees. Invasive mussel forms must be kept with each boat during each of the competition days.

8.PAYBACK/PRIZES: Unless otherwise announced, payback is 85% and is based on the number of paid entries for each tournament. BAMTT Kayak payouts will take place within 5 business days preceding the event. BAMTT will make an effort to pay utilizing electronic methods, otherwise payments will be mailed within seven business days after the event. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of each BAMTT event. Contestants must be present at the official stage at the end of the event to be eligible for contingency prizes. All contestants who receive winnings must complete a W-9 form with tax identification information before winnings can be distributed. Winning contestants who are not present after the tournament will be required to submit a completed W9 form before they can receive their winnings through the USPS mail system. Participants are responsible for all applicable taxes related to their winnings as well as the execution of all tax forms.

9.FISHING HOURS: Fishing hours will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting and posted on the Tournament Information page.

10.PRACTICE: There will be no official practice days for the BAMTT Kayak Series.

11.OFF LIMITS: The official off-limits period for these events will be 5 Days Prior to the start of the event (1201AM Monday-Friday).

12.NO INFO RULE: Regardless of when a contestant enters/registers for an event, they must have adhered to the off-limits period and the no information rule. By signing the waiver and entry form, each contestant is attesting to adhering to the no information and off-limits rules.

- a) Other than using publicly available information (e.g., newspaper and Internet reports) contestants cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. All information must be accessed prior to official off-limits periods. THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
- b) During the competition, contestants cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information from anyone other than another confirmed contestant in the tournament.

13.PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING: The Pre-Tournament Meeting will take place at a time and location designated by the Tournament Director. It will be held either in person the day before the meeting or livestream via Facebook or Zoom. You must be present either in person or livestream, and attendance will be recorded. Approval must be given prior to the meeting if the competitor is not able attending. Disqualifications and or penalties may occur in the event of an individual missing check-in.

14.TOURNAMENT FORMAT: The Tournament Format will be explained by the Tournament Director Prior to the Event. This will include a Blast Off and Lines In following the National Anthem and Prayer, Lines Out, Off the Water Time, and Final Submission Deadline. All times will be set based off daylight factors, conditions, and the Tournament Directors Discretion.

- a) Checking into TourneyX prior to blast off is required. If you are to start the date after tournament hours began, you must contact the tournament director.
 - * Do not check out until you have gotten off the water or are in a safe location with your kayak ready to be loaded. If you are not able to do so within a timely manner, please reach out to the tournament director to ensure that you are accounted for.

15.SCORING: All fish must be submitted and received within the official tournament hours presented prior to the start of the event. If there is anything that hinders an angler's ability to do so, it is their responsibility to contact a tournament official.

16.MINIMUM LEGAL FISH LENGTH: Any smallmouth, spotted, mean mouth or largemouth species submitted must have a minimum length of 12”.

- b) A fish submitted shorter than the 12-inch minimum will be denied.
- c) Lip or Tail Not Touching: Lip must be touching the board face, and tail must be touching the submitted length as well. Your fish will not be scored otherwise.
- d) Mouth Cracked or Open: 1” Deduction.
- e) Missing Identifier/Code: Denied
- f) Wrong Length Inserted: Fish will be adjusted to fit the closest specifications of ¼" unless it becomes a short fish violation.
- g) **MEASURING DEVICE:** The only suitable for BAMTT Kayak Series events will be Ketch Board products. Permitted Ketch Board Products Include: Ketch X Board, Metal Board and Cradle, and Ketch Karbonate. (*In the Case that the Yak Attack Leaderboard is industry approved, a rule consideration may be applied.)
- h)

17.JUDGING EVALUATIONS: If a judging error or an angler error occurs the angler in question must be prepared to meet with the judge in a timely manner after the completion of the event and before judging is finalized. In these instances, BAMTT will do it is best to provide the angler in question with ample time to accommodate such a request. In the case that an error is determined, the judge will attempt to contact the angler and get it resolved before the end of the tournament day. If an angler error is missed, it is the responsibility of that angler to alert the judging staff and tournament officials to proactively resolve any errors.

18.DUAL MOTORS: Dual Motors may be used in BAMTT Kayak Events. This includes and is limited to one bow mount motor and one stern mounted motor unless approved by the Tournament Director and Organization (Correct Example: Motor Guide XI3 on Bow with a Newport Vessels NK300 on Stern). All modifications to your original kayak must be within state and local regulations and not surpass the Maximum Capacity of your watercraft. Anglers may have both motors stowed in a ready position. It will be the sole responsibility of each angler to follow safe operating procedures. All liability, injuries, and/or unaccounted for situations fall to the angler using the vessel and BAMTT will not be held liable.

19.COMPETITOR DISTANCE: All anglers must keep a 25-yard distance from another competitor during competition hours unless otherwise approved by the other angler and/or a tournament official. This does not include blast-off and check-in points. If there is confrontation on the water, it is up to the anglers to contact their Tournament Director to find mediation.

20.MEDIA: All participants of a BAMTT event are required to cooperate with the media personnel that cover the event. Contestants do not have the option of not being filmed or interviewed during the official event days. BAMTT personnel must be granted access to film and be able to board any contestants boat at will. Any act deemed by BAMTT officials to have the intention of preventing media coverage will result in disqualification from the event. Any questions regarding media coverage/access can be brought to the tournament director for clarification.

21.ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO: Use of alcohol, marijuana, or any illegal drugs by any contestant during the open practice or tournament hours will not be permitted and shall be cause for automatic disqualification. Any contestant(s) deemed under the influence by the tournament director may be disqualified from competition. If deemed by the tournament director, any contestant(s) convicted of a felony or crime 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 disqualification and/or participation in BAMTT events. Contestants may not use tobacco and/or vaping products during morning blastoff, weigh-ins and while cameras are present. Violators are subject to possible fines and/or other sanctions as deemed by the tournament director.

21.SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: Personal Floatation Devices: A Personal Flotation Device must always be worn once a competitor has entered a watercraft. In the case of clothing removal, or a circumstance that requires short-term removal, the angler is responsible for doing so in a timely manner and protected location.

360 Light: If an angler is launching before sunrise or in conditions that the tournament director requires it, a 360 light is mandatory for an angler to launch and be present in competition on the water. If they do not have one present, they must wait for the Tournament Directors approval to participate in events.

Other Safety Items: A whistle, airhorn, or flare can be critical in life threatening situations. It is the angler's responsibility to have safety items present in their watercraft and ensure that they are following all state and federal regulations.

22. DISQUALIFICATION SUSPENSION: As deemed by the tournament director, any angler who has been disqualified, suspended, or has received any other disciplinary action from any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for disqualification and/or being denied participation in BAMTT events.

23. AOY POINT SYSTEM: A one point per place system will be used for each BAMTT event. Points for each event will be based on a 200-point scale. 200 points are awarded to the winner of each event; 199 points to 2nd place; 198 points to 3rd place, etc. until the end of the field or points run out. All registered contestants shall also receive an additional 50 "participation" points.

- a) For example: Winner receives 200 points + 50 participation points = 250 points.
- b) 2nd place receives 199 points + 50 participation = 249 points.
- c) 3rd place receives 198 points + 50 participation = 248 points, etc.
- d) Balance of field will receive increments of one point each until the end of the field or points run out. All participants who receive/earn zero points for their overall finish will receive 50 participation points each. Contestants must submit a legal fish to receive any AOY points for that event. AOY will be determined by the highest 3 regular season finishes (1 throw out event). In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be determined as follows: (1) largest limit submitted in an event, (2) if the tie is not broken, the largest single fish submitted in the duration of the season will be the deciding factor. If the tie is still not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie and monetary prizes for each contestant will be awarded in equal amounts. Angler of the Year points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each contestant will be awarded equal points.

24. KAYAK CHAMPIONSHIP: To qualify for the Kayak Invitational Championship at the end of each season, the Top 20 based on the Angler of the Year (AOY) points will receive an invitation to the Invitational Championship at the end of the season. The winner of each of the 4 Regular Season events will receive an invitation to the season's championship as long as those winners participated in at least 3 events in that season. The total field may have 24 Participants. 20 from the AOY list plus 4 event winners totaling 24.

- a) In the event an angler who qualified for the Championship, but cannot participate, BAMTT reserves the right to work down the AOY list to ensure a full field at the Championship provided those contestants participated in 4 regular season BAMTT events.
- b) If a regular season event must be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled in that season, BAMTT will use the current AOY standings to determine qualifiers for the championship. Under this criterion, BAMTT may amend any previously written qualification rules to adapt to any scheduling, permitting, federal, state, city, or county restrictions/requests.

*** BAMTT reserves the right to invite sponsor exemptions for the Invitational Championship, provided those contestants participated in 4 regular season BAMTT events.