

## 2020 Bayou Kayak Classic Fishing Tournament Rules

**1. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY.** A completed entry form, waiver, and entry fee must be received no later than 11:59PM on July 31, 2020 if purchasing online. Entry forms will continue to be accepted from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM on August 1, 2020 at the event location only. Minors under the age of 18 are eligible to participate subject to additional restrictions. Individuals that are 14 - 18 years of age are eligible to participate in their own vessel with the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the release form. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 13 years old may compete in their own vessel (or in tandem) if and only if their parent or legal guardian also competes and stays in close proximity and eye sight of the minor at all times and the parent or legal guardian also signs the release form. Individuals between the ages of 5 and 9 years old may only compete in tandem with an adult and must have their parent or legal guardian's signature on the release form. All anglers age 4-15 have the option to fish from the dock under same supervision and signatures as required in vessels.

**2. REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN AND CAPTAINS MEETING.** On-line Registration closes at 11:59 PM on July 31, 2020. On-site registration closes at 10:00 AM August 1, 2020. All forms and waivers must be signed before registration is closed. No online entries will be accepted on August 1, 2020. A Captain's Meeting will be held at the Tournament Headquarters at the Bayou La Batre City Docks at 6:00 PM July 31, 2020, the day before the tournament. Attendance is not required. There will be no mandatory Check-In. Anglers must have either their physical ticket or their printed purchase confirmation sheet with them at all times during the tournament. You will need these documents at the weigh-station. The BLBKC will observe an "Honor Start" at 5:00 AM. Anglers may launch from any site within the Tournament boundaries. No lines shall be in the water before 5:00 AM.

**3. SAFETY.** Safe boating must be observed at all times. During competition each contestant is required to comply with US Coast Guard and Alabama State Regulations including the possession of a PFD and sounding device. If you find yourself in an emergency situation, please call 911 or channel 16 on a VHF radio. If you plan to launch your vessel before sunrise or low visibility situations, you will be required to have a white light producing device capable of producing a visual signal to avoid collision with other vessels as defined by USCG regulations, however no line shall be in the water until 5:00 AM.

**4. WEATHER.** The BLBKC can be cancelled or re-scheduled due to inclement weather. The decision to cancel or re-schedule will be made no later than 2:00

PM on July 31, 2020. Notification will be posted on the BLBKC website, Facebook page, and to the email address provided to us upon registration if the decision is made to cancel or re-schedule. Four (4) consecutive hours of fishing constitutes a tournament and the BLBKC Tournament Committee reserves the right to call the tournament at any point for inclement weather or safety reasons.

**5. DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES.** Anglers will compete in two divisions: Adult and Junior. The Junior Division shall be anglers shall range from age 4 to 15 years and must be accompanied by an adult. Anglers in the Junior Division may catch and enter fish that were caught from a dock or shoreline. No competitor over the age of 15 will be allowed to compete in the Junior Division and no competitor under the age of 16 will be allowed to compete in the Adult Category.

**6. CATEGORIES.** The following categories will be offered:

ADULT DIVISION- Redfish, Flounder, Speckled Trout, Triple Threat, White Trout

JUNIOR DIVISION-Redfish, Catfish, Speckled trout, Ground Mullet, White Trout, Croaker

**7. WEIGH-IN.** All competitors must weigh in their fish, dead or alive, at the official weigh station at the Bayou La Batre City Docks. Weigh Station will be open form 10:00AM-3:00PM on the day of the tournament. All fish shall be kept in as good a condition as possible, preferably on ice, so the Weighmaster can make an accurate judgment as to its freshness. And fish deemed to be spoiled or rotten may be disqualified. Any fish that has been shot, cut, mutilated, frozen or showing signs of unsportsmanlike handling may be disqualified. In addition, all fish entered may be subject to a Torrymeter test. Winner's in each category may be subject to a polygraph test. The Weighmaster's decision shall be final.

**8. SPORTSMANSHIP.** Competitors in the Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic 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. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, that is deemed unsportsmanlike by the tournament committee shall be reason for disqualification. Any act deemed by the Organizer that gives an angler an unfair advantage not specifically covered under this set of rules shall be

grounds for disqualification. Any violation by an angler deemed intentional or preconceived by the Organizer to gain an unfair advantage, would be grounds for permanent disqualification.

**9. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS.** The consuming or transporting of any alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription or over the counter drugs) during official fishing hours on any tournament angler's boat is prohibited, and angler or anglers will be disqualified from the tournament and possibly face future bans from competition as determined by the Organizer.

**10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS.** All fish must be caught by the participant entering the fish, on rod and reel with artificial lures, live bait or dead bait from a kayak/canoe, except for anglers in the Junior Division (see Rule 5). No motorized vessels allowed. Flounder may NOT be giggered. NO bow fishing, wade fishing, trot lining, jug lining, or spear fishing will be permitted. All entrants and competitors agree to abide by all Federal, state and local boating, recreational, and game laws. All participants 16 years of age and older must have a valid Alabama Saltwater Fishing License.

**11. NO MOTORS.** The use of a boat or motorized water vehicle to transport your boat on the water is prohibited. All craft must be self-propelled; no motors of any power are allowed (electric or combustion).

**12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS.** All fishing locations must be in waters accessible to the public at all times according to state and federal regulations. If you should have any questions about whether a location is within the legal boundaries for the tournament the angler should ask the Organizer at the Captain's Meeting or before fishing begins. Fishing or attempting to fish on any other waters will result in immediate disqualification and a ban from all future tournaments without exception. The Boundaries for the Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic include all Alabama waters.

South: As far south as the angler is safely able to venture

East: Alabama/Florida State Line

West: Alabama/Mississippi State Line

**13. SCORING.** All winners in each category will be determined by the largest fish entered according to weight. In the event of a tie, the angler who weighed their fish first, shall win the tie. An angler may place in more than one category but shall not hold more than one place within the same category. Points towards the Master Angler award and Junior Master Angler award will be given as follows: 1st Place: 3 points, 2nd Place: 2 points, 3rd Place 1 point. The triple threat will be calculated by the aggregate weight of one speckled trout, one flounder, and one slot red. In the event no triple threat is entered,

the winner will be determined by the aggregate weight of two of the three required fish. In case of a tie, winner will be determined by first fish weighed in.

**14. AWARDS.** 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded for each category. Master Angler and Junior Master Angler awards will be determined based on the accumulated points listed in the above section. In the event of a tie for Master Angler or Junior Master Angler, the angler who weighed in their first fish earliest shall win the tie. Every angler weighing in a legal fish shall be entered into a drawing for prizes to be awarded at the awards ceremony after the weigh station closes.

**15. TANDEM.** Two contestants are allowed to compete in the same boat. The boat must be the type of boat that is generally recognized as a canoe or kayak and be intended for use by two individuals, with final discretion left solely to the Organizer. In this situation, both people in said boat must be registered competitors (no non-competitors are allowed in the boat). Competitors competing in tandem must score their fish individually. If any competitors competing in tandem are found to be violating these rules, they will all be immediately disqualified and banned from future events.

**16. PROTEST.** All protests must be submitted in writing along with a \$50 cash deposit, before the Awards Ceremony to the BLBKC Tournament Chair. If the BLBKC Tournament Chair, who has sole discretion in deciding the validity of protests, upholds the protest, the cash deposit shall be returned to the contestant submitting the protest. Protests may be made with regards to the fairness of the rules or enforcement of the rules. Allegations of cheating by other competitors are not protests (no \$50 deposit required) but should be reported to the BLBKC Tournament Chair.

**17. CHEATING & BANS.** Any competitor found cheating will face punishment as determined by the Organizer and likely to include a lifetime ban from Bayou La Batre Area Chamber of Commerce events. The names of cheaters will also be displayed prominently in public (including but not limited to the Internet) and distributed to all motor and non-motor tournament organizers within a reasonable distance. There is not an appeals process for bans or other punishment and the Organizer has final discretion on these matters. Any angler who sees or suspects another angler of cheating should attempt to photograph said actions with their camera. Whether or not the angler is able to photograph the alleged cheating, it should be reported to the Organizer at weigh-in (or via phone during tournament hours). Alleging cheating is not a protest and does not require a \$50 deposit.

**18. RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE.** A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue are required to compete. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities. Competitors must accept that canoe and kayak fishing is inherently dangerous and safety and individual responsibility must be exercised at all times.

**19. RULE CHANGES.** These written rules become finalized at the end of the Captain's meeting. Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Organizer. Rules can and will be changed between stages and should be reviewed by competitors before each stage. The decisions of the Organizer are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.