



OFFICIAL KATS 2012 RULES & REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE

LAKE	DATE
Bastrop	Saturday, January 28 th - DONE
Fayette	Saturday, February 25th
Travis	Saturday, March 24th
Stillhouse Hollow	Saturday, April 28th
KATS Wildcard: Decker	Saturday, May 12th
KATS Classic: TBA	Saturday, June 2nd

OVERVIEW

The 2012 Kayak Angler Tournament Series will consist of 4 individual tournament events, followed by a Wildcard playoff, and will ultimately finish the series with a Classic championship event.

All anglers are invited to participate in the first four series events in one of two divisions (Pro or Amateur). A series-wide point system will be used to keep a running leader board based on individual event rankings. The Top 10 ranked anglers will automatically qualify to fish the KATS Classic. An individually scheduled Wildcard event will provide 5 additional anglers an opportunity to qualify for the KATS Classic. All anglers are invited to fish the Wildcard provided they have fished a minimum of two prior events.

The KATS Classic will be the final showdown between 15 eligible anglers. The Angler of the Year Award will be given to the competitor with the most overall points from his/her best 3 out of 5 events (including Classic, excluding Wildcard). Additionally, an award will be given to the King of the Fish, the angler with the most inches over the entire series (all events). For those who do not qualify for the Classic Championship, a roadrunner team charity event will be held on the same day on a separate but nearby body of water.

We will make every effort to keep the 2012 KATS series a competitive and fun series regardless of your angling experience. Please help make this one of the best series yet by catching the biggest fish in the lakes, following the rules, and having tons of fun!

To stay up to date on anything related the 2012 KATS or to ask questions, please use the Austinkayakfishing.com forums or contact us via the information on the last page of this rules packet. We look forward to seeing you at the all of the events!

Fish On!

Kristian Kolflat
AKF Team Tournament Director
KATS 2012 Series

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. The Series is open to ALL anglers provided they meet the Requirements and honor all Rules and Regulations listed below.

LIABILITY RELEASE/LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ALL competitors must sign a liability release before the start of the event.
2. ALL competitors UNDER the age of 18 must provide a liability release signed by a parent or guardian before the start of the event. Parent or guardian must be present.
3. ALL competitors MUST have a valid Texas Freshwater Fishing License or be exempt under TPWD regulations.
 - a. For current regulations and information on fishing licenses visit:
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/licenses/index.phtml>

ENTRY FEES

1. ALL participants MUST have paid entry fee prior to fishing.
2. Entry Fee for 2012 KATS series is as follows(first four events):
 - a. Prepaid Entry (PPE) for each event is (all events):
 - i. PRO Division \$35
 - ii. AMATEUR Division \$25
 - b. Day of the Event (DOE) entry for each event is (all events):
 - i. PRO Division \$45
 - ii. AMATEUR Division \$35
 - c. \$5 of your entry fee for each event goes towards KATS Classic Champion Prize Pot (all divisions).
 - d. \$25 of PRO entry fee goes to cash payout pot.
 - e. Big Bass Pot is optional. Each competitor is able to put \$5 into Big Bass Pot for each event (all divisions).
3. Wildcard and Classic Events:
 - a. Prepaid Entry (PPE) is \$35 for both events.
 - b. Day of the Event (DOE) is \$45 for both events.
 - c. \$20 of entry fee goes towards Classic Prize Pot.
 - d. There are no separate divisions for these events.
4. Classic Team Roadrunner Event(for non qualifying competitors)
 - a. Prepaid Entry (PPE) is \$20 (per person) for event.
 - b. Day of the Event (DOE) is \$35 (per person) for event.
 - c. There are not separate divisions for this event.
 - d. Teams are comprised of two persons.
 - e. A portion of your entry fee will go to a select charity.

DIVISIONS

1. PRO Division (You Do Not have to be a professional to fish this division)
2. AMATEUR Division (Fun/Beginners Division)
 - a. A competitor who places in the top 3 rankings in any event must fish the PRO division for the remainder of the series.

APPROVED WATERCRAFT

1. ONLY human powered vessels will be allowed.

- a. Kayaks, canoes, rowboats, inflatable boats, paddleboats, stand up paddleboards are acceptable.
 - b. NO gasoline or electric motor propelled boats, sail boats, airboats, float tubes, or poled boats may be used.
2. Only ONE paid entrant per vessel.
3. NO pier/shoreline/wade/jug/trot line/hand line/cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed.

LAUNCH POINT

1. ALL competitors must launch from shore at designated launch spot.
2. ALL competitors will launch at designated launch time.
3. If a tournament is designated as "Roadrunner" event:
 - a. Boats may be launched at any legal and public launch site on the boundary waters of that particular event.
 - b. Competitors will be released at a specified time from Captain's meeting.
 - c. Transporting vessels/competitors via power driven boats (including towing) is strictly prohibited except in the case of an emergency as determined by the tournament director.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS/BAIT/LURES

1. ONLY commercially available artificial baits/lures/flyes and hand-tied flies will be permitted.
2. NO live or dead bait may be used.
3. Rod and Reel and Fly Rods are the only devices acceptable.
4. NO downriggers allowed, trolling under human power is acceptable.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. PFD (lifejacket) MUST be worn at ALL times while on the water. NO exceptions. Violators will be immediately disqualified if spotted not wearing a PFD.
2. Competitors must meet all TPWD regulations.
 - a. <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/laws/>
3. Competitors must meet all US Coast Guard Regulations.
 - a. <http://www.uscgboating.org/>
4. AKF official spotters will be present during competitions.

GENERAL RULES

1. NO competitors are to be within 10 yards of each other during fish-time; except in the case of emergency when assistance is required.
2. NO fish are to be kept on stringers.
3. Any ONE fish can only be submitted ONCE.
4. Fishing in OFF-LIMITS areas will result in disqualification.
5. Captain's Meeting attendance is MANDATORY.

COMMUNICATION

1. The use of mobile communication devices such as mobile phones, marine radios, or walkie-talkies is strictly PROHIBITED during fishing hours. Communication between anglers without electronic devices is permitted. Emergency calls are permitted, and the Tournament Director is to be notified.

QUALIFYING FISH

1. ALL fish must be caught within boundary waters during the tournament time.
2. ONLY the following species will count towards your total.

- a. Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass and Guadalupe Bass.
 - b. http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/bkbass_diagrams.phtml
3. CPR: Catch, Photo, and Release alive only.

WEIGH IN

1. ALL competitor camera memory cards must be turned into drop box by designated time.
2. ONLY the Tournament Director and AKF designated staff will be involved in the judging process.
 - a. Once you drop your memory card, please move away from the area until called.
3. LATE CHECK-IN will be permitted until 30 minutes after end-time; however, a penalty of 1" per every 5 minutes will be deducted from the competitor's total.

JUDGING

1. Competitor photos will be reviewed and scored by Tournament Director and AKF designated staff.
 - a. Photos that do not meet the requirements as provided will not count.
 - b. The Tournament Director and AKF staff will be solely responsible and retain the right to declare any photo as "unacceptable".
2. Winners will be declared and prizes/awards will be announced by the Tournament Director.
3. The Tournament will then be declared complete.

PRACTICE PERIOD/OFF LIMITS

1. The lake where the current event will be held is strictly OFF LIMITS to any contestant in the KATS series for a 5 day period prior to said event.
 - a. The specific dates for off limits time will be posted under Special Rules.
 - b. ANY angler caught and reported (with proof) fishing a lake during off limits period will be disqualified and forfeit their entry fee. NO exceptions.

RESCHEDULING/CANCELATION/NON-ATTENDANCE

1. INCLEMENT WEATHER: The Tournament Director may delay, reschedule, or cancel the event.
 - a. The reschedule date for any event is the following day (same time/place/launch).
 - b. If both days are rescheduled, the following weekend will serve as make-up event.
 - c. If canceled or rescheduled, entrants have the option to be refunded or have fee applied to next event.
 - d. No refunds for prepaid entrants will be given for non-attendance regardless of the reason.

SCORING

1. EACH competitor will be provided a unique identifier and given a scorecard for each event.
2. Your 5 (five) LONGEST verified lengths will be totaled for your score.
 - a. Fish UNDER 14" will not be scored and should not be photographed or recorded.
 - b. A 14" bass is legal; a 13.5 in bass is not legal, no rounding will apply.
3. The competitor with the HIGHEST total score is the WINNER. Next highest score will place second, and so on.
4. Rounding will be DOWN and to the nearest ¼ (quarter) inch.

PHOTO CRITERIA

1. Each fish photo MUST include ALL of the following criteria:
 - a. The whole fish, tip to tail.
 - b. Laying with the tip of the lip at beginning of ruler

- i. Fish MUST be left side UP.
 - c. Measurement markings must be clearly visible
 - d. Assigned unique identifier must be visible
 - e. ONE OVERHEAD PHOTO SHOT FRAME (not at an angle)
 - f. Fish must be clear of any devices. Fins/tail/head cannot be obstructed in photo.
2. ALL criteria must be met or photo will not be scored.

PHOTO RELEASE

Contestants grant AKF and ACK and the sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with AKF and ACK tournaments, production, promotion, and/or articles and press releases, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA/PROCESS

1. Memory cards are to be clear of any photos prior to event.
2. ONLY fish scoring pictures submitted.
3. Photos must be submitted in EXACT ORDER they were taken. NO DELETIONS.
 - a. The Judge will choose your best photo for each fish.
4. The number of photos taken for each fish will be recorded on your scorecard.
5. If ANY criteria are not adhered to, your photo may not be scored at all, or be penalized with a 6" subtraction from your TOTAL score.
6. AKF is not responsible for failed or corrupt files.

APPROVED CAMERAS

1. Your PERSONAL DIGITAL CAMERA
 - a. NO camera phones, disposable or film cameras.
 - b. You MUST provide whatever cables, cords, software, etc required to download photos via a USB port to judge's laptop.

MEASURING DEVICE

1. Competitors must use their own measuring device (no sharing)
2. Your device may be checked by AKF staff at any time.
3. The KATS recommended measuring device is the HAWG TROUGH.
 - a. NO homemade devices allowed.
4. If the judge cannot clearly see the markings, that fish will not be scored. At a minimum ¼ inch increments need to be visible.
5. See "How-To CPR (Catch - Photo - Release)" and example of acceptable photo document (attached to end of the rules)

IMPAIRMENT

1. DRUG and ALCOHOL use during the tournament is strictly PROHIBITED.
2. ANY competitor found to be under the influence will be disqualified and will receive a score of ZERO.

RULES INTERPRETATION and PROTESTS

1. All rules are decided and interpreted by the Tournament Director.
2. The Tournament Director's decisions are FINAL.
3. Any protests should be registered with the tournament director immediately after the results being posted.

4. Once the award ceremony begins the results are OFFICIAL and FINAL even in the event of an error.
5. The Tournament Director retains the right to make any changes at ANY time.
6. Not having read the rules is NOT an exception.

TIES

1. In the event of a TIE, the following criteria will decide the winner:
 - a. Biggest Fish
 - b. 2nd Biggest Fish
 - c. 3rd Biggest Fish
 - d. And so on until there are no more fish to compare; then a coin toss.
2. The criteria will determine the rankings.

PAYOUT

1. PRO Division Payout Schedule:
 - a. The cash prize pot will be divided as follows:
 - i. 55-30-15% payout for 0-29 anglers (in your division)
 - ii. 50-30-15-5% payout for 30-39 anglers (in your division)
 - iii. 45-25-14-10-6% payout for 40+ anglers (in your division)
2. AMATEUR Division Prizes
 - a. Prizes will be NON-cash*
3. Big Bass Pot
 - a. Competitor with biggest bass wins entire pot. Ties are determined by standard tie criteria. Each event has its own Big Bass pot.
4. Wildcard Event
 - a. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place NON-cash prizes*
 - b. The top 5 anglers from this event will qualify for Classic.
5. KATS CLASSIC:
 - a. 1st, 2nd, 3rd will split Classic Pot (accumulated over series) 55-30-15%
 - b. Angler of the Year will be announced and given award/prize*
 - c. King of the Fish will receive an award/prize*
6. KATS "CLASSIC" TEAM CHARITY ROADRUNNER EVENT (for non-qualifying competitors):
 - a. Prizes will be NON-cash*
 - b. Portion of entry fee goes to a charity organization.

** Please note: actual prizes will be announced as we get closer to the event dates.*

SERIES POINTS ACCUMULATION/ KATS CLASSIC

1. A points system will be used to determine the overall SERIES RANKINGS.
2. Each event will produce a ranking list scored as such:
 - a. 1st place-100 points
 - b. 2nd place-99 points
 - c. And so on for all competitors, however, you MUST catch at least one LEGAL fish to score any series points.
 - d. Competitors who do not catch any legal fish or who do not turn in a scorecard will score 0.
3. The competitor's scores from his/her BEST 3 EVENTS will be totaled to provide rankings for the Classic Tournament.

- a. The TOP TEN competitors will be qualified for the KATS Classic Championship.
 - b. A Wildcard Tournament will be held after the last series event, and prior to the Classic. The Top 5 anglers from the Wildcard will move on to the Classic.
 - c. ALL anglers who have fished a minimum of 2 series events are eligible to compete in the Wildcard.
 - d. There will be ONE KATS Classic Champion.
4. The Angler of the Year will be determined by a total score of your best 3 out of 5 event scores. This can include the classic (should you participate); however, the wildcard scores do not count.
 5. A "King of the Fish" award will be given to the angler with the most total inches over the entire series (all events excluding Team Charity Event).
 6. The "Classic" Team Roadrunner Event will be a fun event and will not count towards any series points.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR/ KATS CLASSIC/ KING OF THE FISH TIES POLICY

1. Ties will be decided by a 4-hour FISH-OFF
 - a. Total length, no limit, 14" minimum
 - b. Time and place to be decided between involved competitors and Tournament Director.
 - c. The winner takes 1st place and the runner up will move to 2nd, pushing 2nd to 3rd and so on.

SPECIAL RULES

1. Each event is liable to have special rules. They will be posted under the Special Rules section on the KATS page.
 - a. Boundary waters, off-limit waters, off-limit periods, start/launch areas, restrooms, and parking are clearly marked on the Google maps on the KATS page.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. The KATS series is intended and will be a competitive and professional event. It is also designed to be lots of fun. That being said, ALL anglers are encouraged to be good sportsmen throughout the series. Any disorderly conduct, violation of rules, or illegal activity may result in your disqualification.
2. Any report of cheating will be investigated. Any cheating reported with proof will result in immediate disqualification. **KNOW THE RULES!**

CONTACT

You may contact AKF Staff for questions or concerns (please read all rules and postings on AKF first):

AKF: RedHook, AKFTeam
E-MAIL: Kristian@austinkayak.com

AKF: ACKBones, AKFTeam
E-MAIL: Roland@austinkayak.com

KATS Fishing Tournament Release/Entry Form

In participating with the KAYAK ANGLERS TOURNAMENT SERIES (KATS) and all related events and activities, I, the undersigned, acknowledge, appreciate and agree that:

1. I am over the age of 18 and I am responsible for the safety of any and all minors in my charge
2. The risk of injury from activities involved with KATS are significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular skill, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist and,
3. I knowingly and Freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown including: head injuries, exposure to the natural elements, sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps and hypothermia; exposure to potentially dangerous wildlife, insects, plants; and accidental drowning is also a possibility. Even if arising from the negligence on the releasees or others and assume full responsibility for my participation: and,
4. I will agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual, significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the KATS staff immediately
5. I agree to wear my personal flotation device/life jacket at all times while I am in the watercraft.
6. All participants consent that the KATS organizers may use, without payment, restriction or permission any photographs, videos and other information taken by the KATS staff, where the participant may appear or be named for any purpose including, but not limited to, print and electronic distribution.
7. I agree to abide by all KATS Rules and Regulations.

I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreements, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

TOURNAMENT RELEASE:

Date	Print & Sign Name	Complete Address	Phone/Cell
10/16/11	Your Name	0000 Your Address	000-000-0000
	Your Signature	State, City, Zip	
Email: email@email.com			
Email			

CIRCLE ONE:

Pre-Registered (Prepaid)		Day Of Event Registration		AKF Staff Use Only
PRO	AMATEUR	PRO (\$45)	AMATEUR (\$35)	

Big Bass Pot Sign-Up		AKF Staff Use Only
YES (\$5 cash only)	No Thanks	

Identifier #	
AKF Staff Use Only	

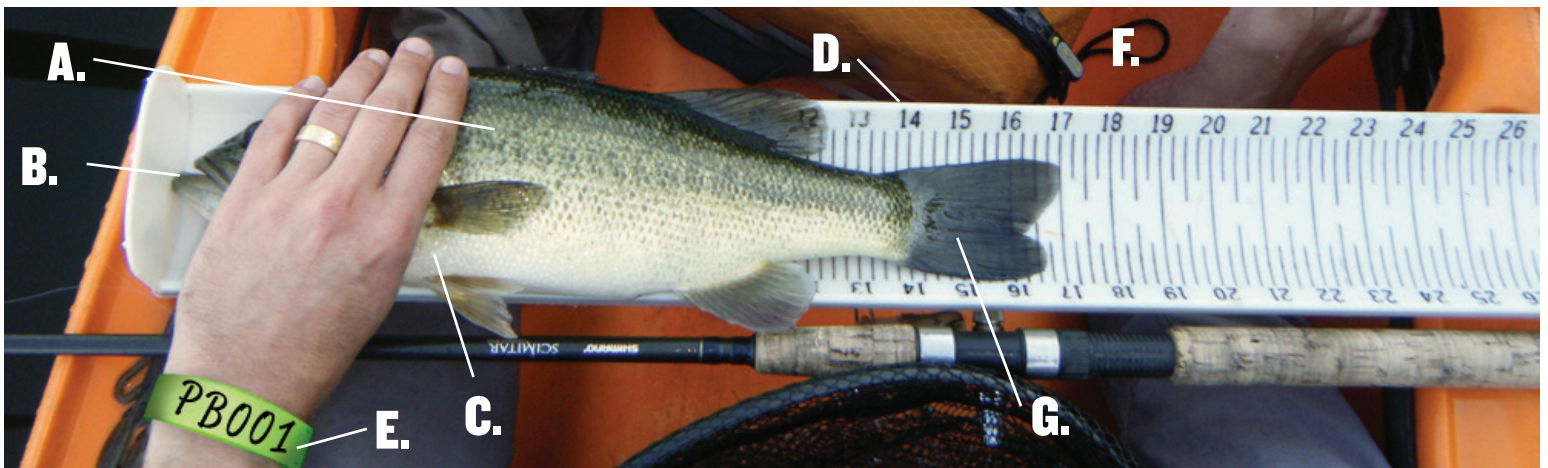
HOW-TO CPR (CATCH - PHOTO - RELEASE)

SCORING:

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2. Your five LONGEST verified lengths will be totaled for your score.
 - Fish UNDER 14" will not be scored and should not be photographed or recorded.
 - A 14" bass is legal; a 13.5 in bass is not legal, no rounding will apply.
3. The competitor with the HIGHEST total score is the WINNER. Next highest score will place second, and so on.
4. Rounding will be DOWN and to the nearest ¼ (quarter) inch.

CPR PROCESS:

- Wet anything that the fish will touch (hands, net, measuring device).
- Land your fish properly using a net. Avoid handling fish by their delicate gills.
- Place your fish on measuring device and photograph. Make sure you meet all requirements.
- Release your fish as quickly as possible (shoot for under one minute).
- Make sure fish is completely revived before release.
- Mark on your scorecard the length of the fish and the number of photos taken.
- Repeat for all LEGAL fish caught.



Picture by: Dan Campbell

PHOTO CRITERIA

1. Each fish photo MUST include ALL of the following criteria:
 - A. The whole fish, tip to tail. (Aside from your hand, fish must be clear of any devices. Mouth/fins/tail cannot be obstructed in photo.)
 - B. Laying with the tip of the lip at beginning of ruler (open or closed).
 - C. Fish MUST be left side UP.
 - D. Measurement markings must be clearly visible.
 - E. Assigned unique identifier must be visible.
 - F. ONE OVERHEAD PHOTO SHOT FRAME (not at an angle).
 - G. No pinching of the tail.
2. ALL criteria must be met or photo will not be scored.

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