**Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series**

**Overview:**

Thank you for supporting the Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series! The Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series will consist of multiple tournament events, located on some of the best tournament bass fishing lakes in the states of Missouri and Kansas. It is our goal to provide the best outlet for kayak anglers in our region to showcase their angling skills and to have a great time and meet new friends in the process. Whether you’re a hobbyist and you fish for fun, you’re a seasoned angler looking for competition, or you’re new to the sport and are looking for new challenge and to meet new friends in our sport, the Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series will do it’s best to provide one of the best days of fishing you’ll have all year! Check out the tournament website for individual tournament information, sponsors, and any other fun announcements as they become available.

**Stay Up-To-Date:**

Please check in to our website frequently for new tournament information. For questions, please contact us via the ‘Contact’ tab located at the top of our webpage at [www.mokankayakfishing.com](http://www.mokankayakfishing.com)

Jason Griffith - Tournament Director

and

Cole Spriggs – Tournament Admin

Preston Maples – Tournament Admin

Landon Stephens – Tournament Admin

**Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series**

**Official Rules & Regulations**

**Tournament Director’s Notes:**

* Please read the rules carefully and be familiar with them. You, and you alone, are responsible for knowing and understanding the tournament rules.
* Please be meticulous with your CPR process. We have provided detailed information for performing this process the proper way.
* Please be on time, bring what you need to be legal on the water and to get registered properly.
* Please darken the ruler on your Hawg Trough with a sharpie.
* Please fill out your score card completely, correctly, and legibly. Mark the length of each fish, the number of photos taken, your unique identifier in the top right corner, circle your top five fish, and provide the total of your five largest fish on the bottom of the card. Incomplete or lost cards will prolong the scoring process and may result in disqualification.
* Please be at the Captain’s Meeting on time and have your PFD on and your Hawg Trough in hand, as you will be checked prior to being released to get into your kayak.
* Please be patient. We will do our best to provide scoring as quickly as possible, but this does take some time to complete and we want to be accurate in scoring.
* We are fortunate and thankful to have as many sponsors as we do. Please show them your support. Complaints about free/donated prizes won in a tournament or raffle does not help our efforts in retaining those sponsors or adding additional sponsors for future events. If you have received a prize and it does not suit your needs or you have no need for it, please return it to the tournament director so it can be raffled and redistributed to someone that will benefit from it.
* Please keep in mind that the Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series is not a profit-based business. Any percentage of monies withheld from the total prize purse is directly related to tournament costs, including signage, website costs and upkeep, tournament food and beverages, attaining sponsor prizes when needed, and other miscellaneous supplies needed to operate.
* Please be responsible. Profanities, drugs, cheating, and any other unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Alcohol is not allowed before or during these competitions. Once you are safely back to shore at the designated check-in time set by the Tournament Director, the consumption of alcoholic beverages is your decision. Please be cognizant of State Laws, local park rules and regulations regarding alcohol possession and consumption, and please be respectful to the other attendees of these events.

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**Official Rules & Regulations**

**General Rules and Definitions:**

Participation and Eligibility:

* The tournament is open to all anglers provided they meet the requirements and honor all Rules and Regulations listed below.
* There are NO membership fees or dues aside from individual event registration fees and option side pots or raffle tickets
* Disabled or Special Medical Needs. Competitors will be allowed to use kayaks or canoes with a maximum of 12v trolling motors, or Kayak Manufacturer Motors, for competitions with prior approval from Tournament Director.
	+ Competitor must provide a medical exemption note from a licensed physician notifying that the competitor qualifies for a temporary exemption and may use a motorized kayak due to disability.
	+ Tournament Director reserves the right to verify any exemption note by contacting the physician office to receive verbal confirmation of the exemption note.

Liability Release/License Requirements:

* All competitors must agree to a liability release prior to the start of the event. These forms will be available during registration, prior to the Captain’s Meeting.
* 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.
* ALL competitors MUST have a valid fishing license for the state in which they are fishing the tournament.
	+ KANSAS: <http://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Fishing-Application-and-Fees>
	+ MISSOURI: <http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/permits>

Approved Watercraft:

* ONLY human powered vessels will be permitted.
	+ Kayak, canoes, rowboats, inflatable boats, paddleboats, stand-up paddleboards are acceptable.
	+ NO gasoline or electric motor propelled boats, sailboats, airboats, float tubes, or poled boats are allowed.
* Only ONE paid entrant per vessel.
* NO pier, shoreline, wade, jug, trot line, hand line, cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed.
* See disability exception above for motorized vessels.

Launch Point:

* ALL competitors must launch form the shore at a designated launch spot.
* ALL competitors will launch at a designated launch time.
* If a tournament is designated as a ‘Roadrunner’ event…
	+ Boats may be launched at any legal and public launch site on the boundary waters of that particular event. Competitors found launching at any other areas will immediately be disqualified
	+ Competitors will be released at a specified time from the Captain’s Meeting. You may leave and drive to your designated launch spot once you have been checked for PFD and Hawg Trough. You must attend the Captain’s Meeting and adhere to normal scoring and weigh-in times.
	+ 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, Baits, and Lures:

* ONLY artificial baits, lures,flies,and hand-tied flies will be permitted.
* NO live or dead bait may be used.
* Rod and Reel and Fly Rods are the only devices acceptable
* NO down riggers allowed.
* Trolling under human power is acceptable.
* 2 rods/lines in the water at any one time with a maximum of 1 trolling at any time, and a maximum of 1 rod in angler’s hand at any one time. Registered entrant’s boat must be moving under operators power (not drifting) to be considered ‘trolling’. Registered entrants found with more than rod in the water at any time and not trolling with at least one of those rods will be immediately disqualified.

Safety Regulations:

* 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.
* Competitors must meet all in-state and US Coast Guard regulations.
	+ KANSAS: <http://ksoutdoors.com/Boating/Boating-Legally>
	+ MISSOURI: N/A (could not find sufficient information for Missouri)
	+ US Coast Guard: <http://www.uscgboating.org/regulations/>

General Rules:

* NO competitors are to be within 20 yards of each other during tournament fishing time, except in the case of emergency.
* NO fish are to be kept on stringers.
* Any ONE fish can only be submitted ONCE.
* Fishing in off-limits areas will result in immediate disqualification.
* Captain’s Meeting attendance is MANDATORY. Extenuating circumstances happen, and entrants that do not make the Captain’s Meeting on time will be allowed to compete but will have a delayed start time determined by the Tournament Director at the time of incident.

Communication:

* The use of mobile communication devices such as mobile phone, marine radios, or walkie-talkies is strictly PROHIBITED during tournament fishing time. Communication between anglers without electronic devices is permitted. Emergency calls are permitted and the Tournament Director must be notified.
* Emergency, family, and employment related phone calls are allowed.
* There is to be NO electronic communications between competing anglers, or communication regarding fishing or the tournament during the competition.
* The ‘Communication’ rule is in place to eliminate any ‘unfair advantages’ with the sharing of information to create an unfair competitive advantage during the competition.

Qualifying Fish:

* ALL fish must be caught within boundary waters during the designated tournament time.
* ONLY the following species will count towards your total.
	+ Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass.
* CPR only – Catch, Photo, Release.

Measuring Device:

* The Hawg Trough or Ketch Board are the only allowed measuring devices for all Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series events.
* Competitors must use their own measuring device. (no sharing)
* Your device may be checked by the Tournament Director at any time.
* If the Tournament Director or acting judge cannot clearly see the measurement markings, that fish will not be scored. ***At a minimum, ¼” markings need to be visible. Consider marking your lines with a black sharpie on the Hawg Trough.***
* Fishes mouth must be visibly against the end of the board and measurement will be taken at the furthest tip of the tail. If the fishes mouth is not clearly against the end of the Hawg Trough, that fish will not be scored.
* Please see the ‘CPR’ section on www.mokankayakfishing.com for examples of acceptable photos.

Practice Period/Off Limits:

* 30 day off-limits for hiring guide services or fishing with any guides on the tournament lake.
* The lake where the current event will be held is strictly OFF LIMITS to any contestant participating in Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Tournament Series starting at 11:59pm Sunday (one week) prior to the tournament.
	+ Any angler caught and reported (with proof) fishing a lake during the designated off-limits period will be disqualified immediately. NO exceptions.
	+ Example: Tournament is on Saturday January 16th 2016. You are not allowed to fish on that lake starting at 11:59pm on Sunday, January 10th 2016. The lake is then off-limits until the start of the tournament.

Rescheduling/Cancellation/Non-Attendance:

* Inclimate Weather: The Tournament Director may delay, reschedule, or cancel the event.
	+ The first option will be a delay to be determined by the Tournament Director.
	+ The second option will be to reschedule the event to the following day, or the next available date determined by the lake authority.
	+ The third option will be to cancel the tournament. Those in attendance will be refunded their entry-fee for the tournament.

Photo Release:

* Contestants grant the Tournament Director and sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with the Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series, 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.

Impairment:

* DRUG and ALCOHOL use during the tournament is strictly PROHIBITED.
* ANY competitor found to be under the influence will be immediately disqualified.

Rules Interpretation and Protests:

* All rules are decided and interpreted by the Tournament Director.
* Any protests should be registered with the Tournament Director immediately.
* The Tournament Director retains the right to make a final decision or any changes at ANY time.
* It is the competitor’s responsibility to read and understand all rules of the tournament. Any questions of rules will be clarified by the Tournament Director.
* Tournament Director may consult with two non-biased competing anglers for any ruling being questioned.

Sportsmanship:

* The Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series is intended as a competitive and professional event. It is also intended to be fun and inviting for all levels of angling. ALL anglers are encouraged to be good sportsmen at all events. **Any disorderly conduct, violation of rules, illegal activity, or disregard for the Mo-Kan Kayak Fishing Series rules may result in your immediate disqualification.**
* Any report of cheating or misconduct will be investigated immediately. Any report of cheating or misconduct with proof will result in immediate disqualification of anyone found in violation.

Photo Criteria, Submissions, Judging:

Approved Cameras:

* Your personal digital camera with viewing screen and removable SD Card.
* Camera phones or smart pad devices with viewing screen.
* Top 5 Place Finishers are required to submit their scored fish, and the submitted pictures must reside on the Tournament Directors computer prior to the awards ceremony to avoid disqualification. A removable SD Card is preferred, however the Tournament Director will allow emailed photos to be accepted. Emailed photos will be sent to mokankayakfishing@gmail.com

Photo Criteria:

* Each scorable photo must include ALL of the following criteria:
	+ The entire fish, tip to tail
	+ Fish lip must be lying flat on Hawg Trough and lip MUST be touching the end of the board.
	+ Mouth can be open or closed as long as the lip is touching the end of the board.
	+ Fish must be left side up (mouth on the left side of your picture, tail on the right).
	+ Measurement markings must be clearly visible and easily scorable.
	+ Assigned unique identifier must be visible in picture
	+ Photo must be overhead shot and not at an angle.
	+ Entire fish must be entirely visible and not obstructed in the photo.
* All criteria must be met or photo will not be scored.
* Please have your photos logged and sorted for Tournament Director approval when checking in for scoring.

Submission Criteria and Process:

* Circle the 5 largest fish on your score card.
* Total your 5 largest fish on your score card.
* If ANY criteria are not adhered to, your photo may not be scored, or you may be penalized with a 6” subtraction from your total score per scorable fish photo.

Weigh-In:

* ALL competitors must be in line at weigh-in by the designated time announced at the Captain’s Meeting. All competitors must have their cards scored and totaled, and be ready to verify pictures of their top 5 fish.
* ONLY the Tournament Director and designated staff will be involved in the judging process.
* Once you have turned in your score card, please move away from the scoring area so other competitors can turn in their cards and so the Tournament Director and designated staff can continue to judge submissions.
* LATE CHECK-IN will be permitted up to 15 minutes after the designated check-in time set at the Captain’s Meeting. Any anglers not in line by the designated check-in time will be deducted 1” every minute, up to 15 minutes, for a total maximum deduction of 15”. Any anglers not in line within 15 minutes of the designated check-in time will be immediately disqualified. The official time will be announced at the Captain’s Meeting and it is up to the angler to make sure they have accurate time from that point forward, until the end of the tournament.

Judging:

* Competitor photos will be reviewed and scored by the Tournament Director and designated staff.
	+ Photos that do not meet the requirements as provided will NOT count.
	+ The Tournament Director and designated staff will be solely responsible and retain the right to declare any photo as unscorable.
* Winners will be declared and prizes/awards will be announced by the Tournament Director.
* The tournament will then be declared complete.
* Competitors may contest results at the time of prizes/awards, but may not contest after a time of 15 minutes past the completion of the tournament.

Scoring, Ties, Awards:

Scoring:

* EACH competitor will be provided a unique identifier and given a scorecard for each event.
* The competitors 5 longest verified lengths will be totaled for the competitors total score.
* Scoring will be to the ¼”. If the fish’s tail is not definitively touching the nearest ¼” line, it will be rounded DOWN to the nearest ¼”.
* You are responsible for bringing your own permanent marker to mark your scorecard. Permanent markers may be provided by the Tournament Director, and in which case, should be returned at the conclusion of the tournament so they may be used at future events.

Ties:

* In the event of a TIE, the following criteria will determine the winner:
	+ Largest fish (length)
	+ 2nd Largest fish (length)
	+ 3rd Largest fish (length)
	+ In the event all fish are equal size, a coin toss will determine the winner.

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