



NJKBFC TOURNAMENT RULES

OVERVIEW

To determine the top fisherman at each individual tournament, determine an Angler of the Year, determine a Lunker award winner, and determine eligibility for the NJKBFC Classic. Awards to be presented to the Top 3 finishers for the year and the Lunker winner. NJKBFC is a Catch, Measure, Photograph, and Immediately Release Organization.

TOURNAMENT RULES

- Minimum age for participation is **18** years
- Only black bass, including Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, are eligible for scoring. No tournament participant will keep any Bass caught for any reason.
- A minimum of 30 minutes prior to tournament commencing each tournament participant **must** have:
 - A valid fishing license in the state of the tournament
 - Completed our annual tournament waiver form
 - Registered and paid for the event on Fishing Chaos
 - Valid NJ Boat registration and numbers properly displayed on the vessel or motor for kayaks with an electric motor, otherwise they will not be allowed for tournament use.
- Tournament Fees:
 - Members - \$30
 - Guests - \$35
 - Lunker Pool - \$5.00 per angler (*optional*)
- Each tournament competitor must supply an approved Ketch measuring device; Measuring will be done by each angler as each fish is caught. The angler will take a picture of the catch from above. Figure 1, below, clearly demonstrates what is an acceptable vs unacceptable photograph.

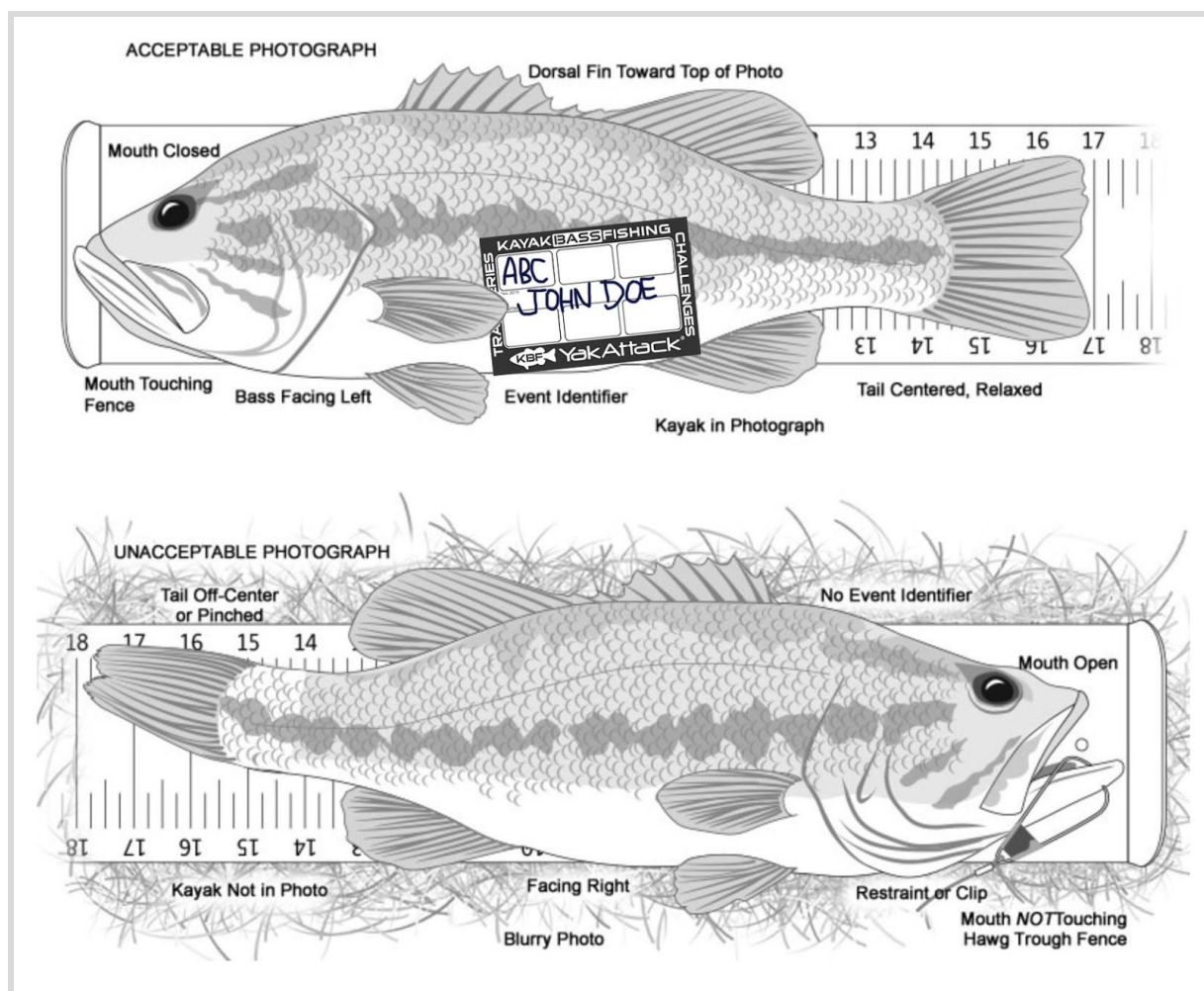


Figure 1

- Fish will immediately be released. Pictures should be shot at high resolution to enable judges to zoom in for detailed analysis. Photos that do not clearly show the proper positioning of the fish on the board, and the clear length of the fish measurement or clear photo of the Anglers identifier will not be considered valid and will be excluded. All fish should be uploaded to the Fishing Chaos app as soon as the fish is caught and not held to the end of the tournament. The only exception to this would be if the area has poor cell service. If an angler loses their identifier during the event another will not be presented. All fish without an identifier will be disqualified.
- Multiple pictures of the same fish submitted to Fishing Chaos will result in disqualification of participant and possible club sanctions.
- Each event will have a specific format, launch time, and finish time, designated launch site, and fishing boundaries.
- Scoring will be done by the tournament directors and/or helpers. Tournament Directors decisions concerning scoring and protests of any kind will be final.

- Members are not to pre fish the upcoming tournament waters within 2 days preceding the tournament. Pre fishing ends Thursday night at 8:00pm prior to the event. If a member is known to have fished on the tournament lake within the 3 days, they will be disqualified from that tournament. Pre-fishing will be allowed on Saturday ON SELECT EVENTS ONLY.
- Guests will be limited to three (3) tournaments. To continue to fish thereafter they must become a member. Any Guest being accepted for membership during the year will have any points accumulated during tournaments fished, that year, as a Guest applied toward annual club awards
- Guests will earn winning tournament proceeds the same as members.
- Anglers, including Guests, are responsible for understanding the tournament rules and point structure. It is the responsibility of ALL participants to read, understand, and abide by all Tournament rules and the Angler of the Year rules.
- All anglers participate at their own risk. Tournament officials, club members, volunteers, sponsors, individuals and any others directly or indirectly involved in this or any other NJKBFC organized tournament or event, are exempt from liability from loss, damage, injury, negligence, or harm to any entrant, their companions or other participants, their vessels, equipment, supplies, or any other personal property, whether on the water or land.
- Observe safe boating measures at all times. Every angler is expected to follow all U.S. Coast Guard regulations.
- It is MANDATORY the all NJKBFC members and Guest WEAR A PFD AT ALL TIMES DURING OUR TOURNAMENTS of the angler will be disqualified. (NO BELT STYLE PFDS ALLOWED)
- The use of mobile phones is allowed
- The use of landing nets is permitted
- Tournament participants arriving late will be permitted to fish, providing all pre-tournament requirements have been completed beforehand.
- Late arrivals must report to a Tournament Director before dropping a line in the water.
- If a participant is late for assigned tournament end time inside the predetermined return area at check-in, he/she will be penalized against his total length of catch as follows:
 - Up to one minute late penalized 1 inch
 - Up to two minutes late penalized 2 inches
 - Up to three minutes late penalized 3 inches
 - Up to four minutes late penalized 4 inches
 - Up to five minutes late penalized 5 inches
- After 5 minutes late total catch is disqualified, including lunker competition.
- In addition, any competitor that has a line in the water at any time after the official end time of the tournament will have his entire catch immediately disqualified in total
- Should an angler have to leave the tournament early for any reason they must notify the Tournament director or Club President to inform us that they have left the water and the event! The Angler must upload his or her fish to the Fishing Chaos app before leaving the event or the fish will be disqualified.

- Once a vessel has left the water during a tournament it may not re-enter the water. The vessel is out of the water if it is on the trailer, car-topped, or loaded into or on a truck or any vehicle.
- Anglers must stay at least 50' from any participating angler's vessel, unless the angler that is approached, agrees to allow the approaching angler permission to be within the 50' rule
- Anglers drifting and fishing must give right of way to anchored vessels.
- All fish must be caught via hook and line. Only one line may be in the water at any time. Line must be hand controlled, the number of hooks allowed and fishing rigs or lures will be governed by the State of New Jersey rules. Trolling is allowed.
- Only artificial baits and lures are permissible. Pork rind baits are permitted. No live bait of any kind permitted.
- Anglers may not put lines in the water prior to launching at the scheduled start time on the day of a tournament.
- While the use of commercially available fish attractants applied to artificial baits is permissible, no chumming is allowed.
- Only craft allowed in tournaments are kayaks and canoes, with any means of propulsion including paddling, pedaling, and electric motors only (if the craft is thus equipped.). Only one person per vessel is permissible.
- No towing of another angler by Kayak with electric motors is allowed during the tournament (with the exception of emergency situations.) if found in violation the both anglers will be disqualified.
- No Wake is allowed within 50' of another Angler, If you see another angler sitting on a spot please slow down so no wake affects the other angler and once you pass you can get back to speed.
- All vessels must comply with all State and Federal operation and safety laws and regulations.
- All anglers must comply with all existing State and Federal Fish and Game laws and regulations.
- All angling must be done from the vessel. No participant is allowed to leave his/her craft in order to land a fish, whether it be into the water or on to land. No fishing while standing (except in the vessel) or wading is allowed.
- If, in the course of a tournament an angler must leave his/her vessel for any reason, no rods or other equipment shall accompany them out of the vessel, except at the launch area to exchange rods from your vehicle
- If any tournament site has to be changed due to uncontrollable circumstances, alternate site locations might be set as needed by the Tournament Director(s). Start and end times are also subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament director(s).
- Anyone wishing to continue fishing after the tournament ends will first notify the Tournament Director, so we do not have to search for you later.
- Membership Code of Conduct will be governed by the NKBFC By Laws

PROTESTS AND VIOLATIONS

- Any accusation of violations of any of the tournament rules must be levied immediately at the scheduled end of the tournament time to have an effect on the outcome of that tournament's standings. Violations of any rules may result in disqualification.
- Any protests involved with any tournament procedures or outcomes must be filed immediately upon occurring, or upon discovery.
- Any participant found guilty of cheating in a tournament will be disqualified from that tournament, forfeit any and all prizes +/- prize money from that tournament, and, if a member of the Club, be subject to any further actions as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
- Unintentional infractions of the rules will be decided on a case by case basis by the members of the executive committee.

WINNER AND PRIZES

- Winner of the tournament will be the angler with the largest total length of his longest five (5) fish.
- In the event of a tie, the angler with the longest single fish will be the winner. If there is still a tie the judging will proceed to the second longest fish, third longest fish, etc.
- An additional end of the season tournament, the "NJBFC CLASSIC" will be scheduled annually. See by laws for eligibility.
- Tournament winners will receive the appropriate prize for that tournament. Total prize money for each tournament's winner/s will be the sum of that tournament's regular entry fees collected less \$5.00 per angler that goes to the club.
- Payout is always 3 places paid regardless of # of entrants and 50/30/20 split.
- The "Lunker" prize goes to the competitor with the largest single qualifying bass and will be paid out 100% from the Optional Lunker Pool.
- If no qualifying fish are caught in a tournament and there are no winners, 100% of entry + lunker fees go to the club.
- If there is one (1) winner, it's a 'winner takes all' of the eligible winnings.
- If there is a first and second place only, third place winnings are split 50/50 with first place winner and second place winner.
- Payouts will be deposited to the winners via Fishing Chaos following the tournaments.
- All tournament participants are eligible to compete for prizes for that tournament. Only NJKBFC members will accumulate points toward the annual club awards.