



Official Rules & Regulations: Kayak Division

Effective January 1, 2020

The terms and conditions presented in this document apply between WISCO BASS, LLC and those persons registering for and participating in WISCO BASS competitive Events ("Competitor"). "Events" include both "Tournaments" (meet-up competition) and "Challenges" (virtual, online-only competition where participants do not congregate). The pronouns "he," "him," "himself," and "his" herein are used as generic, gender-neutral terms and do not restrict or confirm access on the basis of sex.

Each WISCO BASS kayak competition is a CPR (Catch-Photo-Release) contest in which each Competitor catches his own fish in places, during times, and by procedures permitted in all pertinent rules and regulations, digitally photographs them according to the standards described herein, and submits the lengths and photographs for verification. These Competitions are conducted according to WISCO BASS Competition Rules found in two documents:

1. *WISCO BASS Competition Rules Standard (this document) cover about 90% of the terms, conditions and standards common to all WISCO BASS Events.*
2. *Event-specific rules located at www.wiscobass.com Event Information Page, which includes details such as dates, locations, times, eligible water boundaries, restrictions, and exceptions to the WISCO BASS Rules Standard.*

Together, these two documents comprise the *WISCO BASS Competition Rules*. As a condition of participation in any WISCO BASS Competition, the participating angler ("Competitor") agrees to read, understand, and comply with all WISCO BASS Competition Rules. Failure to comply will result in penalty, which may range from points deductions to submission denial or disqualification.

The Tournament or Series Director has responsibility for interpretation and enforcement of the WISCO BASS Competition Rules and may amplify or clarify them to make them more relevant or complete. Tournament and Series Director decisions may be disputed, as described in Section 17.A. WISCO BASS management will review and revise the WISCO BASS Competition Rules appropriately.

1. Participation and Eligibility

A. KBF/WISCO BASS Membership

i. To participate in WISCO BASS Tournaments, each Competitor must be an active KBF (Kayak Bass Fishing) Member & have paid their WISCO BASS yearly membership. Competitor's must be 18 years of age to compete.

B. **Event Registration** — All WISCO BASS event registration's must be completed at www.wiscobass.com, kayak registration. Event registration closes at midnight 7 days prior to the event.

C. **Entry Fees** — Entry Fee amounts posted under the kayak registration tab at www.wiscobass.com.

No Satisfaction Guarantee — Competitor understands and agrees that payment for the Event does not secure a guarantee or promise of satisfaction.

D. **Payment** — Competitor agrees that once an Event Registration is submitted, the terms and conditions of the WISCO BASS Competition Rules constitute an Agreement that is a legally binding and enforceable obligation of Competitor.

E. **Competitor's Right to Cancel** — Any competitor wishing to cancel an Event Registration may do so by contacting WISCO BASS management.

Event Registration fees will be refunded up to 7 days prior to competition, otherwise fees will be forfeited.

F. **Pre-Tournament Check-in** — Each Tournament Competitor is responsible for reviewing the Schedule of Events at www.wiscobass.com, the Event Information Page for pre-event check-in times and location. Each Competitor must check in with official WISCO BASS Competition staff at the time and place designated in the Schedules of Event for verification of eligibility, signing of waivers if required, and rules acknowledgement. Late check-in and registration process (if permitted), event-specific instructions, and Event schedule are specified on the Event Information Page.

2. Fish Eligibility

A. *Species*—For “Bass” KBF Competitions, only “black bass” are eligible for scoring. That designation includes the three most common species (Largemouth Bass – *Micropterus salmoides*, Smallmouth Bass – *Micropterus dolomieu*, and Spotted or Kentucky Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus*) as well as other less well-known species or varieties:

i. Shoal Bass – *Micropterus cataactae*

ii. Redeye Bass – *Micropterus coosae*

iii. Suwannee Bass – *Micropterus notius*

iv. Guadalupe Bass- *Micropterus treculi*

v. Bartram's Bass – *Micropterus bartrami*

vi. Alabama Spotted Bass – *Micropterus punctulatus henshalli*

vii. Mean Mouth Bass – hybrid offspring of *M. dolomieu* and *M. punctulatus*

B. *Length*—The minimum length of bass scored in competition is 12 inches. Photos of bass shorter than the minimum will be denied.

C. *Condition*—Fish must be hooked in the mouth or jaw. It may not appear to have snagged, snatched, or hooked *only* in the body or a fin. If hooked in the mouth, a second treble hook that snags a gill plate, fin, or body is considered incidental and does not eliminate that fish.

Fish must appear to be alive. If fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged, or it appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, the photo will be denied.

D. *Caudal (Tail) Fin*—For bass, the tip of at least one lobe of the caudal (tail) fin must be contact with the measuring board. If the bass' entire caudal (tail) fin is lifted away from the measuring board so that neither tip remains in contact with the board, the photo will be denied.

E. *Eye*—The fish's left eye must be visible in photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

3. Competition Period

A. Competition start and end dates and times are stated on www.wiscobass.com Event Information Page. Any Competitor who launches (i.e., places his watercraft on the water, occupies it, and goes under way) before the stated "Earliest Launch" time or begins fishing before the official Competition Start Time on any day of competition will be disqualified from the Event. **When launch site congestion prevents others from launching safely, Competitors may place their watercraft in the water, occupy them, shove off and then stage (float, drift, or anchor) in the immediate area until the official "Earliest Launch," at which time they may proceed under way.** Under no circumstance will a fish photographed outside of the official Competition Start and End times be considered for scoring.

B. **Check-in**—Tournament Competitors who have already submitted digital photos by upload to the TMS must be in the Judges' Check-in Line at Tournament HQ by the time specified on the Event Information Page at www.wiscobass.com. Failure to be in or through the Judges' Check-in Line by that time will result in disqualification from the Event.

C. **Early Check-in**—Tournament Competitors who could not or did not upload their photo submissions to the TMS must report to the Judges' Check-in Line at an "Early Check-in Time" specified on the Event Page and turn in their digital media (i.e., memory card), camera, or camera phone with USB cable in order for judges or tournament staff to download them to a computer and then manually upload them to the TMS for subsequent evaluation and scoring.

4. Pre-fishing and Official Practice Period

Until the start of an Official Practice Period, if any, Competitors may pre-fish with no restrictions regarding boundaries, types of watercraft, propulsion, fishing methods, equipment or types of bait used. During an Official Practice Period, Competitors on eligible water must comply with all rules that apply to the Event for which they are practicing. Official practice begins one day prior to event at dawn and ends at dusk. All competitors must be off the water at dusk one day prior to event.

5. Competition Area

A. Competitive fishing is allowed only on publicly-accessible waters within the geographic area designated on the Event Information Page at www.wiscobass.com as "Eligible Water." Photos of fish caught outside of eligible water boundaries will be denied.

B. Competitors may launch from any public-access shore directly onto Eligible Water or may launch and then paddle or portage to Eligible Water. Crossing restricted property to reach Eligible Water is not permitted. Tributaries, canals, sloughs or estuaries separated from the rest of eligible water by temporary obstructions (e.g., fallen trees, log jams, beaver dams) that, if removed, could be entered by floating/paddling are considered eligible waters in which competition is permitted, and competitors are permitted to drag or portage watercraft over or around such obstructions. Those separated by obstructions of a permanent nature (e.g., levees, earthen or concrete dams, berms, roadbeds, spillways, waterfalls) are ineligible water, and competition in such areas is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

- C. Competitors are not restricted to fishing where they start out each day but are permitted to relocate to other Eligible Water during tournament hours.
- D. Watercraft must not be anchored in such a position as to prevent or block access for other watercraft or powerboats. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
- E. Fish caught in eligible water while wading or walking on the shore are eligible for submission under the following conditions:
- i. Competitor's watercraft must be launched before fishing from it or vacating it to catch and land fish while wading or walking on the shore or an ice field. "Launched" means placing the watercraft on liquid water, occupying it, and going underway.
 - ii. Competitor must pedal, paddle, or power his watercraft to the fishing location.
 - iii. Competitor must remain within sight of his watercraft at all times during competition, and the watercraft must be visible in every fish photo submitted. Any Competitor who goes out of sight of his watercraft for any reason (e.g., restroom break, to seek or render aid, or to report an emergency) must cease competition fishing and resume it only after re-launching the watercraft. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

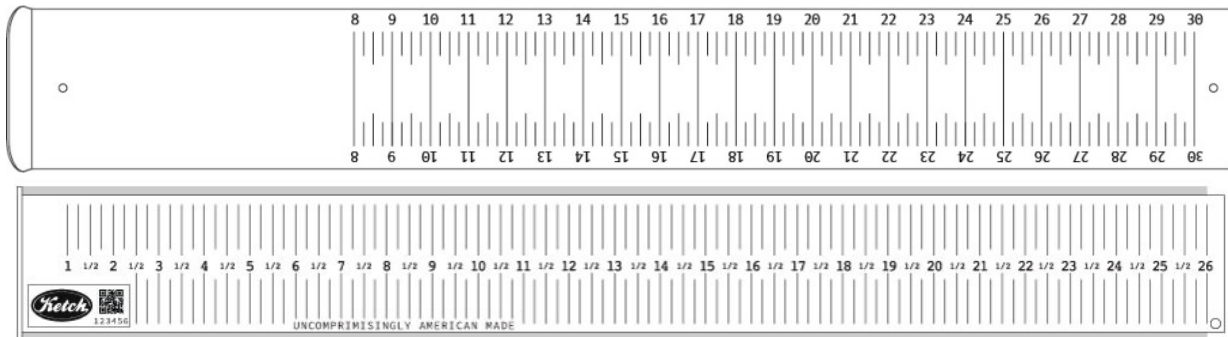
6. Cooperation and Assistance

- A. Up until the end of the established pre-fishing period, competitors may fish with and receive direct assistance from other anglers and professional guides on the Eligible Water, except as restricted in Rule 6.B. and 6.C., below.
- B. Within 30 days prior to the Event, a Competitor may not fish on Eligible Water with, nor receive expert advice from, a professional fishing guide who receives payment for those services. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the Event.
- C. Before and during the event, competitors may (i.) share gear, tackle and equipment, (ii.) assist in photographing a fish for submission, and (iii.) communicate with and fish in proximity to other people, including other Competitors (except Professional Fishing Guides, as stipulated in Rule 6.B., above); however, Competitors may not receive assistance in catching fish that are photographed and submitted for scoring, including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation will result in Competitor's disqualification from the Event.
- D. Competitors may not submit photos of fish if, at any time from cast to landing of the fish, the competitor or watercraft was in physical contact with another person or watercraft. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

7. Fishing Tackle, Equipment, and Methods

- A. All fish submitted for score must be caught live by the Competitor who submits them for scoring using only equipment and legal methods that comply with all sportfishing statutes and regulations of the states and body of water in which they are taken. Competitors are responsible for research of and compliance with all applicable fishing and boating regulations. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted. When visually fishing a bed for spawning bass, to be admissible all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
- B. All fish must be caught by the Competitor on rod, reel, line and hook with artificial lures only. No traps, snares, set lines or other methods of fishing other than rod, reel and line are permissible, even if legal under state game laws. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.
- C. Acceptable measuring boards include the **Hawg Trough** manufactured by Hagen's (pictured below), a **FishStik Version 2** (with Bump Board Arrows and Lock Slide) and the **Ketch Co Measuring Board**. Measuring boards may be shortened by removing inches from the upper end (opposite the fence) For example, one may cut a measuring board off at the 26 inch mark in order to fit crossways between a watercraft's gunwales. However, it may not be broken,

snapped, or cut apart and then reassembled at any point between the two ends. A crack that does not separate the measuring board into pieces and does not affect the measuring board's accuracy may be repaired and reinforced for use. Violation will result in denial of photo.



D. Competitors may share measuring boards.

E. A break of the measuring board's fence may be mended for use if the repair is rigid, flat and at a right angle to the measuring surface. The mended measuring board must be submitted to the Tournament or Series Director, personally or by two or more photographs that clearly show (i.) the mended area and (ii.) a side view of the measuring surface and the fence. Violation will result in denial of photo.

F. Each competitor must use a mobile phone with camera or a digital camera or video camera capable of producing still photos with memory card and/or download cable to submit digital photographs.

When a Competitor's smart phone becomes inoperable or is lost, he may share smart phones with other Competitors, provided each Competitor logs into his own TMS account in order to submit photos of fish he caught. Competitor under the same circumstances may share digital cameras, provided each Competitor can clearly and positively identify photos of the fish he caught. Violation will result in denial of photo.

G. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No live bait, preserved bait, or prepared bait will be permitted during competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

H. Only ONE casting, spin-casting, spinning, or fly rod and reel may be in use at any one time. A rod and reel is considered to be "in use" when a lure attached to it by a line is in or on the water. A hung lure (one snagged in an overhanging tree) that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and the attached rod and reel may be set aside while another is in use.

I. Nets and grippers (e.g., Fish Grip, Boga-Grip) may be used for landing fish during tournament competition, but grippers must not remain attached to the fish in photos. Violation will result in denial or disqualification of the photo.

J. If a Competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or by hand to secure the line and land the fish to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. If a Competitor loses his rod and reel while landing a fish he MAY use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit. If after retrieval, the fish is still hooked, it may be landed, photographed, and submitted as a legal fish. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

8. Watercraft & Propulsion

A. Watercraft acceptable for use in WISCO BASS Competition are those manufactured and marketed as canoes, kayaks, or SUPs for which paddling is the primary means of propulsion. Any other watercraft must be submitted to WISCO BASS Administration for review and approval prior to use in competition. Watercraft specifically approved as exceptions in advance of competition by WISCO BASS Management are:

- Blue Sky Boatworks 360 Angler
- Biyak

Unless approved as exceptions by WISCO BASS Management, the following watercraft may not be used in competition:

- a. Gas- or liquid-fueled motorized or hybrid fuel/electric powerboats or personal watercraft
- b. Sailboats
- c. Jon boats
- d. Pirogues, coracles, and rowboats
- e. Dinghies and skiffs
- f. Float tubes, inflatable rafts, and rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac)
- g. Pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft, or similar.

Use of watercraft in competition other than those listed above as acceptable or exceptions will result in disqualification from the Event.

B. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor.

C. Unless specifically prohibited on the Event Information Page at www.wiscobass.com, use of a single electric propulsion unit per watercraft in a WISCO BASS competition is approved with the following restrictions:

i. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use, and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

ii. Electric motor used to propel a watercraft:

- a. must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation, and
- b. may not exceed the lesser of (a.) manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity, (b.) 3 HP, or (c.) 155 foot-pound thrust. Violation of either condition will result in disqualification from the Event.

D. Towing, transport or relocation assistance from another watercraft, including "mothershipping," is NOT permitted except in cases of emergency, as when pulling a kayak from a danger zone or restricted area. Once the emergency has ended, the Competitor may resume fishing only if the watercraft was pulled no more than 100 yards from the danger zone. Violation will result in disqualification from the Event.

E. Trolling (i.e., lure(s) attached to a single rod and towed behind a watercraft while underway) is permitted in WISCO BASS Competition.

9. Photo Standards

Digital photographs of each fish submitted to judges for scoring must meet these criteria:

A. *Unique*—Each digital photo submitted in each Event must be of a different fish.

Subsequent digital photos of the same fish submitted by the same Competitor in an Event will be denied.

B. *Visible/Legible*—Each photo must be in sharply focused and clear enough for a judge to:

i. Verify the correct Identifier Form and Event ID Code. Inability of the judge to verify will result in denial of photo.

ii. Verify the fish's condition. Violation will result in denial of photo.

iii. Verify the fish's length. Judge will score fish at the greatest length of which he is certain.

iv. Verify whether the bass' jaw or lip, is in contact with the measuring board fence. Inability of the judge to verify will result in a penalty of **1 inch**.

v. Except where covered by hand or fingers, the entire fish, from its mouth/jaw to the tip of its caudal (tail) fin, must be visible in photos. If either end is covered or cropped off, the photo will be denied.

C. *Centered*—Camera lens positioned directly over the center of the fish's body, which contributes to accurate measurement by judges. Photos taken at a low angle in order obscure an open mouth may be denied or penalized at the Tournament or Series Director's discretion.

D. *First-generation*—Each digital photo must be a first-generation image (not a photo or screen-shot of another photo). Violation will result in denial of photo.

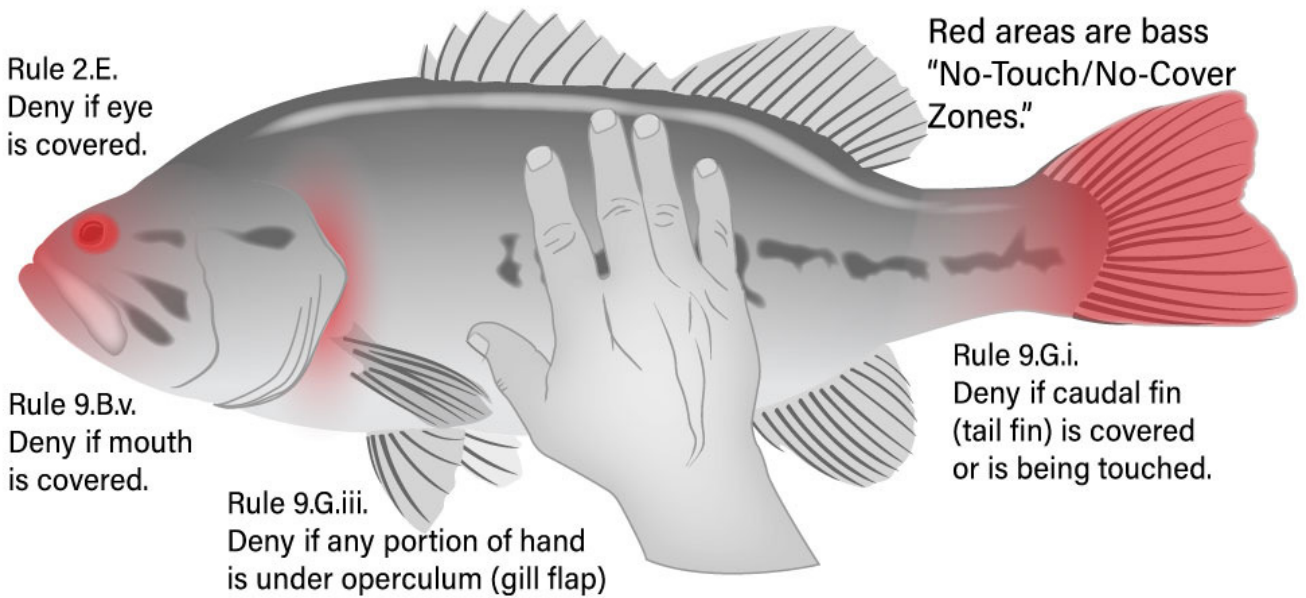
Photos submitted for scoring that, in judges' opinions, contain evidence of a possible disqualifying infraction—including photos that appear to have been cropped or modified (e.g, image enhanced or filtered) in such a way as to obscure infractions—will be accepted with a score of 0.01" and a note indicating the nature of the infraction is communicated to the Competitor. The Tournament or Series Director will review all such photos and will make any disqualification ruling. The Tournament or Series Director may also contact Competitors to request submission of original un-cropped, un-filtered photos for further review and verification. Failure by Competitors to respond or refusal to submit the original photo will result in denial of the photo.

E. *Identifiable*—Official WISCO BASS Identifier Form above, below, or beside that fish (not covering any portion of the fish, unless attached to the Competitor's hand or arm). Neither a hand-drawn form nor an image of the WISCO BASS Identifier Form on a smart phone are permissible. Violation will result in denial of photo.

F. *Background*—Competitor's watercraft clearly visible in the photograph. Violation will result in denial of photo.

G. *Hand Position*.

i. In bass competition, hand or finger(s) may be in contact with the caudal peduncle (fleshy, scaled part of the bass' body at the base of the caudal fin) but not touching any portion of the caudal fin (tail fin). Violation will result in a **1-inch deduction in score**.



iii. No portion of a hand or finger may be under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap). Violation will result in denial of photo.

H. Mouth

- i. Bass' lip, jaw or nose must be in contact with measuring board fence (bump board, upright), and the fence must be visible in the photo. Violation will result in denial of photo.
- ii. In bass fishing competition, a closed mouth is preferred for uniformity of measurement. If judge considers the mouth to be open 1/4 inch or more, even if it is structurally unable to close, a **one-inch penalty** will be assessed.

I. *Not "In-possession."* In most states, though not all, unless a fish is secured by a restraint device or is placed in a holding container, state regulatory agencies do not consider it to be "in possession" by Competitors, so states' minimum length regulations do not apply for photo submissions. If Event takes place in a state where photographing a fish constitutes "possession," and a photo is submitted of a fish that does not comply with state size limits, the photo will be denied. (Refer to regulatory compliance, Rule 7.A.)

10. Scoring

A. Fish length is determined by its caudal fin (tail fin) touching or crossing the factory-marked quarter-inch marincrement (e.g., ridges, grooves) on the measuring board. If it falls short of a 1/4-inch factory mark, the length is rounded down to the next lower 1/4-inch mark that the bass' caudal fin actually touches or crosses. In reviewing photographs, judges will visualize as accurately as possible where a 1/4-inch factory mark would be if it extended the full width of a board and use that imaginary line to determine a fish's length.

B. In bass fishing competition, if any portion of a bass' caudal (tail) fin extends off the edge of a Measuring Board surface, the score will be determined by the highest 1/4-inch measurement reached or crossed by the portion of caudal fin on the Measuring Board. Any portion of the caudal fin extending off the edge of a Measuring Board is not considered in scoring. Alignment aids and attachments to a WISCO BASS-approved measuring board (e.g., a cradle attachment for the Ketch measuring board) will not be considered part of a Measuring Board surface when determining a fish's length.

C. Tournament ranking, contingency awards, Angler of the Year Points, and Championship qualification shall be determined by the aggregate length of each Competitor's photos remaining on the Leader Board when judging has concluded and the Dispute Period has closed. Unless otherwise stipulated on the Event Information Page:

i. In one-day tournaments the scores of the five longest fish on the Leader Board when judging is complete will be combined to determine the aggregate score.

ii. In two-day tournaments, the scores of the five longest fish of Day 1 and the five longest fish on Day 2 on the Leader Board when judging is complete will be combined to determine the aggregate score.

D. If a Competitor's photo is denied by a judge after end-of-competition, it may be automatically replaced by a previously submitted and auto-culled photo; however, no Competitor may submit a replacement photo after end-of-competition time.

E. In the event of a tie in score, the tied competitors' longest (highest-scored) fish are compared, and the tie breaks in favor of the competitor with the longest (highest-scoring) fish. If the longest fish are equal, the second-longest fish are compared and determine which competitor wins the tie. If the second-longest are identical, the process repeats for each of the remaining fish. If all of the tied competitors' highest scoring fish are identical, then the tie breaks in favor of the competitor whose last Leader Board photo was uploaded earliest.

F. WISCO BASS judges apply the following scoring criteria to adjust measurements, approve or deny photos, and to penalize photos by deducting points (length) or disqualifying a Competitor.

G. Angler of the year points. Bass will be registered in inches format, closest 1/4". YTD points will start at 100 for first place & subtract 1 point from that point down the leader board + the anglers total length in inches of the day (example: angler takes 1st place with total of 80", his total points will be 180). 10 points subtracted from last place will be granted for an angler with no fish registered through TMS.

Item	Photo Scoring Criteria
a. Photo	Blurry photo/length unclear: scored at the highest mark of which there is no doubt
b. Photo	Blurry photo; completely unable to judge
c. Photo	Appears to be second-generation (e.g, screen shot, photo of photo)
d. Photo	EXIF data and other evidence substantiates photo taken outside of Eligible Water boundaries
e. Photo	EXIF data, other evidence substantiates photo was taken outside of competition hours
f. Photo	Multiple digital photos submitted of the same fish; unintentional violation
g. Photo	Multiple digital photos submitted of the same fish; evidence indicates intentionally
h. Photo	Competitor's watercraft not visible in photo background
i. Photo	Entire fish not in picture
j. Orientation	Fish positioned with right side of body toward camera; head pointing right and caudal fin left
k. Orientation	Fish positioned with dorsal fins at bottom of photo, pelvic and anal fins upward
l. Identifier	Official identifier Form missing, counterfeit, or incorrect for event
m. Identifier	Identifier Form is lying on or covering any portion of the fish
n. Identifier	Incorrect Event ID Code for Event or illegible Event ID Code
o. Fish	Secured by restraining device (e.g., stringer, tape, or clip attached to fish)
p. Fish	Photo violates state regulations regarding possession
q. Species	Photo of any species or variety of fish other than that approved for the Competition
r. Body	Photo Bass caudal (tail) fin tip fails to reach 12.00" line on measuring board
s. Body	Any portion of a hand or fingers under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap)
t. Body	Finger(s) or hand touching a bass' caudal (tail) fin
u. Body	Hand touching or covering any part of a redfish in front of operculum
v. Body	Entire caudal (tail) fin entirely lifted away and out of contact with the measuring board
w. Body	Left eye covered; not visible in photo
x. Body	Fish appears to have been snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body rather than mouth
y. Body	Fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged
z. Body	Fish appears to have been mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered to increase its length
aa. Mouth	Bass lip or jaw clearly not touching measuring board fence (upright end plate)
ab. Mouth	Unable to ascertain with certainty that bass lip or jaw is touching measuring board fence
ac. Mouth	Mouth open 1/4 inch or more, even if it appears to be structurally unable to close completely.

11. Penalties

A. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament or Series Director may impose such penalties as deemed appropriate, including without limitation, the following:

- i. Reduction of score (length) as described above or determined by the Tournament or Series Director
- ii. Loss of catch for the day or up until the violation has been remedied
- iii. Disqualification from the tournament in question
- iv. Any additional penalties determined by the Tournament or Series Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Competitor of Year points.

Subject to the dispute and appeal processes set forth below, the Tournament or Series Director's decisions on violations are final.

B. Following a review of evidence, a determination by the WISCO BASS Tournament or Series Director and/or Chief Operations Officer of cheating or conviction of fraud will result in permanent suspension from all WISCO BASS competition and KBF-affiliated Events.

C. Competitor acknowledges that (i.) the use of polygraph tests may be necessary to verify compliance with rules and to settle disputes and (ii.) entry constitutes acceptance of this requirement and agreement to abide by its conclusion. Refusal by a Competitor to submit to a polygraph test is grounds for immediate disqualification from the WISCO BASS Event and prohibition against future participation in any WISCO BASS/KBF-affiliated Event. Results of a polygraph test will not be the sole determining factor in a WISCO BASS Management Review of a Competitor's eligibility for awards and qualification for future participation but may be one of several factors considered in such review.

D. WISCO BASS Tournament or Series Director or Chief Operations Officer shall

- i. Have the discretion to determine the need for a Polygraph examination.
- ii. Be responsible for (i.) selecting an independent expert to administer the polygraph test, (ii.) establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions that may be asked during the test examination, and (iii.) interpreting the results.
- iii. Have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest WISCO BASS headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost.

E. The Competitor shall:

- i. Make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament or Series Director or Chief Operations Officer.
- ii. Cooperate in all respects with such test.

F. Competitors may be selected at random to undergo polygraph examinations during or following WISCO BASS competitive Events.

12. Awarding of Prizes

A. Prizes and numbers of positions paid out are addressed on the Event Information Page. Amounts paid per rank are subject to change based on participation (lower value for fewer entries and higher value for more entries) and sponsor provision.

B. Prizes will be processed after all photos submitted for scoring have been judged, the results reviewed by a separate panel, and disputes have been resolved.

C. Product prizes (e.g. kayaks, paddles, propulsion units) may require additional processing or delivery time.

13. Taxes

Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards. Failure to meet those obligations may result in disqualification from all future WISCO BASS/KBF events. All prize recipients whose cumulative total for the year adds up to \$600 or more must fill out and turn in an IRS Form W-9 including name, address, social security number, signature and date. These are used to prepare IRS 1099 forms for distribution in January.

14. Safety

A. During competition, every Competitor must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment, (e.g., light source, whistle or other audible signal device, Coast Guard-approved, chest-type life preserver [PFD]). See www.uscgboating.org/.

B. *PFD Usage* — At all times, except as described below (Rule 15.C. PFD Wear Exceptions) while on the water during Competition hours, Competitor must wear a fastened vest-style PFD or float jacket. A belt-style PFD, even one that deploys as a vest, is not permitted during Competition. When an infraction, as described above, is verified by the Tournament Director, the Competitor is disqualified from participation in the Event.

C. *PFD Wear Exceptions* — Competitor assumes responsibility for all consequences of removing his PFD. Competitor may cease competition and remove the PFD while his watercraft is beached, anchored or adrift only if doing so creates no unsafe condition. Competitor must put on and securely fasten the PFD before going underway or resuming competition.

If all of the following conditions exist, Competitor may briefly remove his PFD while afloat (anchored or adrift) in order to change, add or remove articles of clothing:

- i. No fishing lines are in the water; and
- ii. The watercraft is not underway; and
- iii. Weather and water conditions permit one to do so safely.

When finished changing his attire, Competitor must immediately put the PFD back on before going underway, fishing, or engaging in any other competition-related activity.

D. The Tournament or Series Director has the right to postpone or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of adverse weather conditions or other factors that would jeopardize Competitors' safety. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

E, In the event of weather emergencies that pose an imminent threat to Competitors, the Tournament or Series Director may terminate Competition before the scheduled end-of-competition time. An Early Termination Announcement with an adjusted end-of-competition time will be broadcast to Competitors via group text messaging and will also be posted on the TMS site and social media sites. The Announcement will also specify an adjusted report-in time and location. If safe to do so, upon receiving the Announcement, Competitor should make his way to the specified location at that time.

Competitor is required to stop fishing as soon as he receives the Early Termination Announcement. No photos of fish caught after the adjusted end-of-competition time may be submitted for scoring; however, to accommodate those seeking shelter immediately, Competitor has up to 15 minutes after the Adjusted End Time to submit a photo of any bass caught before the adjusted end-of-competition time/photo submission deadline.

F. In the event of an emergency situation, Competitor should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

G. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any Competitor during an Event will not be tolerated and will be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future WISCO BASS/KBF tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in watercraft

during competition days. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes 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 rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the WISCO BASS Director of Operations. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a WISCO BASS tournament, and/or disqualification from a WISCO BASS tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the WISCO BASS Director of Operations.

H. All participant boats must be equipped with working Coast Guard-approved running lights. Running lights must remain on *in accordance with the governing state regulations*. [Note: Kayaks are categorized by USCG as “oar-driving craft” and meet USCG requirements by having “at hand” an “electric torch” (a.k.a. flashlight) that can be used to signal other boaters. While anchored, all watercraft must display a 360-degree white light. Some states impose additional requirements.]

ii. The WISCO BASS Event Coordinator or Tournament Director shall have *predetermined the availability* of cell phone or radio coverage to assure reasonable communications in the event of an emergency. [Note: All competitors should make sure their cell phone numbers are entered in the TMS and the Tournament Director should have a list of all competitors with cell phone numbers for texting or calls.]

iii. The WISCO BASS Event Coordinator or Tournament Director shall *have on hand the contact information for emergency rescue and medical services and must maintain the ability to make contact at all times during the tournament*.

iv The governing authority, *as required by law or ordinance*, shall be notified of the tournament date and hours.

v. Competitors are restricted to an on-the-water speed limit of not more than 35 miles per hour between sunset and sunrise.

vi. The Tournament or Series Director shall have in place a system of accounting for the return of all participants. [Note: This includes not only an end-of-competition check-in but also a way for competitors who leave early to notify the KBF Event Coordinator or Tournament Director.]

15. Competitor Conduct

Competitors participating in any WISCO BASS/KBF sanctioned event must observe the applicable rules for the Competition and must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects favorably on the sport of kayak bass fishing, WISCO BASS, KBF, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, integrity, safety and conservation in support of the sport of kayak bass fishing, especially when in the vicinity of non-Competitors who may be on or beside Eligible Water. Any Competitor who violates these principles, intentionally violates WISCO BASS Competition Rules or regulations (attempts to commit fraud) or behaves in ways that reflect unfavorably upon WISCO BASS efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may forfeit tournament winnings, face suspension from future WISCO BASS/KBF sanctioned events, be permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by WISCO BASS.

.16. Disputes and Appeals

A. If a Competitor wishes to dispute a rules violation penalty, a judge's scoring decision, a Tournament or Series Director's decision or other action that materially affected the Competitor's ranking or prize eligibility, a written appeal must be presented to WISCO BASS officials within 45 min. or before awards are presented.

i. Event title, location, and date

ii. Description or identification of penalty imposed, or condition being disputed

iii. Reference to pertinent rule

iv. Reason for dispute and requested action

Except for situations involving fraud or other law violation, any disputes submitted after the 45 minute dispute deadline will be reviewed without affecting the outcome of an event. No change in rank or reward will result from disputes submitted after the deadline. Only Competitors in the Event where the disputed action occurred may submit disputes. Disputes must be handled privately. All parties directly involved will be provided a copy of the dispute. The Tournament or Series Director (for judge's rulings) or Chief Operating Officer (for Series Director rulings) will review the Competitor's claims, thoroughly investigate the disputed decision, and issue a ruling.

B. The Competitor who filed the dispute may appeal the dispute results. Appeals of dispute results must be written and presented to WISCO BASS officials within 45 minutes of final check-in/final awards presentation. An Appeals Processing Fee of \$100 must be paid to WISCO BASS. WISCO BASS officials will submit its findings and recommendations, whose decisions are final. If the final ruling is in the Competitor's favor and reverses or nullifies a dispute ruling, then the entire Appeal Processing Fee will be refunded; however, if the ruling stands, then the Fee is forfeited.

17. Public Comments

A. The favorable public reputation of WISCO BASS, LLC as a sanctioning organization in the sport of kayak bass fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media channels are valuable assets and tangible benefits for WISCO BASS, LLC. Accordingly, it is an obligation of Competitors to refrain from comments in public forums and social media or to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of WISCO BASS Fishing tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow Competitors or the WISCO BASS organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with WISCO BASS policies are encouraged, as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that a Competitor knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of WISCO BASS, LLC, officials, WISCO BASS members or sponsors, may result in disciplinary action.

B. Sponsor contributions will not be devalued by disputes or disagreements in public forums or social media platforms.

C. Publicly disputing a judge's ruling or any dispute or appeal decision by a WISCO BASS Tournament Director, Series Director or WISCO BASS Executive will result in participant receiving a warning for a first offense. A repeat of the offense will result in disciplinary action up to disqualification from the current Event and permanent termination of eligibility for future WISCO BASS Events, even if previously qualified. This provision is not intended to discourage legitimate disputes but to ensure that a fair and unbiased approach is used and the approved challenge and appeals processes are followed in determining the best possible outcome.

18. Unavailability and Force Majeure

WISCO BASS will use reasonable efforts to hold the Event; however, under no circumstances will WISCO BASS be held responsible for unavailability caused by circumstances beyond WISCO BASS's control, including flood, fire, hurricanes, earthquakes or other "acts of God," acts of government, civil unrest, acts of terror, strikes or labor problems nor will any Event Registration be cancelled, altered or amended once the Event has commenced on the basis of circumstances beyond WISCO BASS's reasonable control.

19. Compliance with Laws

All rights and obligations of WISCO BASS and the Competitor under this Agreement are subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. These terms and conditions shall be deemed revised to conform to applicable statutes, rules and regulations. WISCO BASS may modify the terms and conditions stated herein at any time in its sole and absolute discretion. Competitor shall be bound by the modified Agreement and agree that no other modifications shall be enforceable. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements between the parties, whether written or oral. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision hereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. The waiver of any breach shall not constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach.

20. Waivers and Releases

A. Name and Likeness Release — By registering for this WISCO BASS Fishing Event, the Competitor grants to WISCO BASS, LLC the right to use all photographs, likenesses, stories, accounts, details of Competitor contributions, exploits, interviews, bloopers, and information pertinent to the WISCO BASS Event, as well as any video footage, photographs gathered at the Event, for marketing and promotional purposes. This release is granted without expectation for additional compensation upon submission of Event Registration.

B. Waiver and Release of Liability — As a condition of participation in a Competition, and by virtue of registering for the Competition, each Competitor agrees to accept the terms and condition of the Kayak Bass Fishing Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement (below). This Agreement absolves WISCO BASS, LLC, its officers, staff, and volunteers from responsibility and threat of litigation in the case of injury, loss, or death sustained by a Competitor in the Event.

Attachment

WISCO BASS, LLC WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT

READ BEFORE REGISTERING FOR ANY WISCO BASS COMPETITIVE EVENT

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the WISCO BASS, LLC's Event and its related competition and activities, I, the undersigned (or registrant), being at least 18 years of age, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. I affirm that my participation in any WISCO BASS Event is voluntary and declare that I am physically fit and capable to participate in such; and
2. I acknowledge that kayak fishing participation and competition involves certain inherent dangers, and hazards; that the risk of injury from the activities involved in this event is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular skills, physical fitness, 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, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
4. I willingly 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 immediately bring such to the attention of WISCO BASS Officers or Tournament Directors; and,
5. in full recognition and appreciation of the dangers and risks inherent in such activities, I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS WISCO BASS, LLC and its owners, officers, managers, officials, volunteer event staff, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, event service and technology providers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used for the activity ("Releasees"), with respect to any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property, whether arising from the negligence of the releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and I hereby waive, release, and forever discharge Releasees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action, for costs, loss, expenses, or damages to personal property, or personal injury, or death, which may result from my participation in the KBF Event.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.