



Official KATS Midwest 2016 Rules & Regulations

Overview:

The 2016 Kayak Angler Tournament Series: Midwest will consist of 3 individual tournaments and a partnered event (Border City Classic). A Midwest series-wide point system will be used to keep a running leaderboard based on individual event rankings. The KATS Midwest Angler of the Year Award will be given to the competitor with the most overall points from his/her best 4 out of 4 qualifying events. To be eligible, you must have participated in a minimum of 2 of the 4 events. Additionally, an award will be given to the King of the Fish, the angler with the 5 biggest eligible fish scored over the entire series. We will make every effort to keep the 2016 KATS Midwest season a competitive and fun series regardless of your angling experience. To stay up to date on anything related to the 2016 KATS Midwest Series or to ask questions, please visit www.fishkats.com and/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
KATS Program Director
KATS National

Jeff Sherwood
Midwest Program Director
KATS Midwest 2016

Steve Schwarz
Tournament Director
KATS Midwest 2016

KATS Midwest Governing Body

Coming 2017! The KATS Midwest Governing Body or KGB will be a representative group created by and for Summit Sports/KATS Midwest to foster a sense of community and allow community anglers to voice opinions and input into the series. This informal group will meet regularly to discuss everything and anything related to KATS Midwest and the kayak fishing sport. Their duty will be to lead KATS Midwest in the best possible direction by leading efforts in series development, vision, and ongoing input. For the opening 2016 series, a group of contributors and community leaders will serve as an informal KGB to help get the season kicked off. The KGB election process will take place prior to 2017.

- Corbin Kench: "**Spoon**" - only a few years under his belt and the Rookie on the team, Cadet Corbin has a great vision for the growth of the Kayak Fishing sport in MI. Corbin is also one of the founders of the Central Michigan Kayak Fishing Club.

- Lucian Gizel : "**Lucky Lucian**" - With more than 15 years of experience in the sport, Captain Gizel was fishing out of a kayak long before it became popular in the Great Lakes Region. Lucian is also a Kayak Fishing Guide in the Metro Detroit Area and has participated in both saltwater and freshwater kayak tournaments over the last decade.

- Rich Ofner " Stogie" This Canadian angler who was the brainchild of the Border City Classic and countless years of kayak fishing experience. Rich brings a tremendous amount of experience to the KATS Midwest board and will be the voice of calm in the sea of tourney decisions.

2016 KATS Midwest charity fundraising efforts will benefit the following charity groups:

- TBA
- TBA
- TBA

Tournament Director's Notes

First, we want to personally thank you for participating in the first KATS Midwest season! We am proud for Summit Sports to organize and run a new region to become part of one of the largest and most organized kayak fishing tournament communities in the world. We are very thankful for the participation and support we have received with our past tournaments, and hope you will love this season!

Here are a few thoughts on what you can do on your part to help make this a smooth season.:

- Please read the rules carefully and be familiar with them.
- Please be meticulous with your **CPR** process. We have provided a comprehensive guide to doing this the proper way
- Please be on time, bring what you need, and make sure you have registered online.
- The Hawg Trough is the mandatory measuring device. No exceptions. **Darken the lines with a permanent marker**. If the scoring team cannot read the board due to glare and your lines are not darkened, the fish cannot be scored. Mouth Open or Closed to Furthest Tip of Tail.
- Please come to the Captain's meeting with your PFD and your Hawg Trough in hand.
- We are fortunate and thankful to have as many sponsors as we do. Please make sure to show them your support. Complaints about free/donated prizes won in a tourney or in a raffle do not help our efforts in retaining those sponsors. If a prize doesn't suit your needs or you have no need for it, please return it to the staff so it can be raffled and donated to someone who will benefit from it. **Failure to follow this rule may result in immediate or future disqualification.**
- Keep in mind that KATS Midwest is not a moneymaker for Summit Sports or the KGB. KATS Midwest costs more to put on and manage than it brings in and it wouldn't be possible without the help of our sponsors, volunteer staff, and community members. Please help make KATS Midwest possible by supporting sponsors and Summit Sports by choosing them for your outdoor gear needs.
- Have fun, after all that's why we are all really there! Leave the profanities, drugs and alcohol, cheating and any other unsportsmanlike conduct elsewhere - it will not be tolerated!

2016 Rule Addendum

(Any new, altered, or otherwise changed rules/items for 2016 KATS season will be listed here as they are approved by the KATS Governing Body.)

GENERAL RULES/DEFINITIONS

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- The Series 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 optional side pots or raffle tickets.
- Disabled or Special Medical Needs: Competitors will be allowed to use kayaks or canoes with maximum of 12V trolling motors, or Kayak Manufacturer Motors, for competitions with prior approval from Tournament Director.
 - TD reserves right to seek verification such as a doctor's note. Please contact the TD with ample time(see below) to make these arrangements.
 - Competitor must provide a medical athletic exemption note from licensed physician notifying that the competitor qualifies for a temporary exemption and may use a motorized kayak due to disability, health risks, and other medical situations that otherwise impair the ability to participate in a standard paddling event. Exemption note must include a time period of exemption not to exceed the current season (a new note will be required for subsequent seasons).
 - Exemption Form to be found on www.fishkats.com and must be submitted at least 2 business days prior to event.

LIABILITY RELEASE/LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- ALL competitors must agree to a liability release prior to start of the event, this will be completed during your online registration.
- 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. This will be completed during your online registration.
- ALL competitors MUST have a valid Michigan Freshwater Fishing License or be exempt under DNR regulations.
 - For current regulations and information on fishing licenses visit:
<http://www.eregulations.com/michigan/fishing/license-items-fees/.phtml>

APPROVED WATERCRAFT

- ONLY human powered vessels will be allowed.
 - Kayaks, canoes, rowboats, inflatable boats, paddleboats, stand up paddleboards are acceptable.
 - NO gasoline or electric motor propelled boats, sail boats, airboats, float tubes, or poled boats may be used.
- 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 from shore at designated launch spot(s).
- ALL competitors will launch at designated launch time.
- If a tournament is designated as "Roadrunner" event:
 - Boats may be launched at any legal and public launch site on the boundary waters of that particular event.
 - Competitors will be released at a specified time from Captain's meeting. You may leave and drive once the captains meeting is over and you have been checked by the staff for PFD and Hawg Trough. You must attend Captains Meeting, and you must 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/BAIT/LURES

- ONLY artificial baits/lures/flyes 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 downriggers allowed, trolling under human power is acceptable.
- 2 rods/lines in the water at anytime with a maximum of 1 trolling at any time, and 1 in angler's hands at any time.

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 DNR regulations.
 - http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_10884_11578---,00.html
- Competitors must meet all US Coast Guard Regulations.
 - <http://www.uscgboating.org/>
- Summit Sports official spotters will be present during competitions.

GENERAL RULES

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

COMMUNICATION

- There is to be NO electronic communication between competing anglers, or communication regarding fishing or the tournament during the competition.
- This rule is in place to cancel out any “unfair advantages” and the sharing of information that may create an unfair competitive advantage during the competition.

QUALIFYING FISH

- ALL fish must be caught within boundary waters during the tournament time.
- ONLY the following species will count towards your total.
 - Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass
- http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364_18958---,00.html?source=go_vdelivery
- CPR: Catch, Photo, and Release alive only.

MEASURING DEVICE

- The Hawg Trough is the mandatory measuring device for all KATS events.
- Competitors must use their own measuring device (no sharing)
- Your device may be checked by KATS Midwest staff at any time.
- If the judge cannot clearly see the markings, that fish will not be scored. **At a minimum ¼ inch increments need to be visible. Consider marking your lines with a black sharpie on the Hawg Trough.**
- Mouth Open or Closed to Furthest Tip of Tail
- See “CPR How-to Guide” online and examples of acceptable photos

PRACTICE PERIOD/OFF LIMITS

- 30 Day OFF limits of hiring guide services
- The lake where the current event will be held is strictly OFF LIMITS to any contestant participating in KATS starting 11:59 pm Sunday(one week) prior to tournament
 - ANY angler caught and reported (with proof) fishing a lake during off limits period will be disqualified and forfeit their entry fee. NO exceptions.
 - Example: Tournament is on Saturday January 16th 2016. You cannot fish on that lake starting at 11:59pm on Sunday, January 10th. The lake is then off-limits until the start of the tournament the morning of.

RESCHEDULING/CANCELLATION/NON-ATTENDANCE

- INCLEMENT 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 reschedule date for any event is the following day (same time/place/launch).

- If both days are rescheduled, the following weekend will serve as make-up event.
- If canceled or rescheduled, entrants can be refunded or have fee applied to next event.
- No refunds for prepaid entrants will be given for non-attendance regardless of the reason.

PHOTO RELEASE

- Contestants grant KATS, Summit Sports, 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.

IMPAIRMENT

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

RULES INTERPRETATION and PROTESTS

- All rules are decided and interpreted by the Tournament Director.
- Any protests should be registered with the tournament director immediately after the results being posted.
- The Tournament Director retains the right to make any changes at ANY time, and the FINAL decision.
- Not having read the rules is NOT an exception.
- Tournament director may consult with the KGB members for any rulings as needed and determined by TD.

SPECIAL RULES

- Each event is liable to have special rules. They will be posted under the Special Rules section on the KATS page.
- All necessary information will be posted prior to event.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- The KATS competition 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, illegal activity or disregard for the KATS Code of Conduct may result in your disqualification.**

- Any report of cheating will be investigated. Any cheating reported with proof will result in immediate disqualification. KNOW THE RULES!

DIVISIONS

- KATS is a TWO division series:
 - The Pro division is geared towards the experienced “veteran” kayak angler that is confident competing against the best of the best in the area. This is where we track series points and you earn your way towards the Kayak Angler of the Year, and King of the Fish awards.
 - The Social division is geared towards the semi-experienced or the “newbie”. You are participating not only for a competitive non-cash certificate prize but also fun and good times. You are not interested in competing for Kayak Angler of the Year or in the Classic. Any size bass counts.
 - Please see the rules for more details on prize payout structure etc.
- PRO Division (You Do Not have to be a professional to fish this division)
- SOCIAL Division (The Social Division is not eligible for series points or the KATS Classic.)
- There are no requirements for moving up in divisions based on performance.
- If you move up from Social to the PRO division, you will only accumulate series points from that point forward.

ENTRY FEES

- ALL participants MUST have paid entry fee prior to fishing.
- Entry Fee for this KATS Midwest season is as follows :
 - Entry will be paid online by deadline posted:
 - **Online Registration will end on the night prior to the captains meeting.**
 - Pro Division \$75 (Big Bass included)
 - Social \$50 (Big Bass included)
 - Border City Classic \$110 (Big Bass included)
 - \$5 of your PRO entry fee for each event goes towards KATS Midwest Angler of the Year Payout.
 - \$50 of Pro entry fee goes to cash payout.
 - \$30 of Social goes toward prize payout(non-cash).
 - Big Bass is included. Each competitor is automatically entered for \$10 value into Big Bass Payout for each event (all divisions).
 - KATS Angler Advantage is optional. Each competitor is able to put \$50 into this additional payout program.
 - The remainder (\$10) is applied to sign up costs, prizes and supplies, staffing and the costs associated with these events.

- Breakdown Review:
 - PRO \$75 = \$5(classic reserve payout) +\$50 (immediate payout) +\$10 (immediate big bass payout) + \$10 (to cover costs)
 - SOCIAL \$50 = \$30 (immediate payout) +\$10 (immediate big bass payout) + \$10 (to cover costs)
 - Border City Classic \$110 = see BCC for payout schedule

PAYOUT

- PRO Division Payout Schedule:
 - The cash prize pot will be divided as follows:
 - Total cash pot will go to 1-5th places
 - 45-25-15-10-5% payout
 - 6th and 7th place will be Sponsor gift cards
- SOCIAL Division Payout Schedule:
 - Prize money (prize pot) will be awarded in the form of Summit Sports gift certificates. This allows you to have more flexibility in choosing the gear you want for your winnings.
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places Payout 55-30-15%
 - 4th and 5th will win vendor gear
 - 4th payout for 30-39 anglers (in your division)
 - 5th payout for 40+ anglers (in your division)
- Big Bass Pot
 - Competitor with biggest bass wins entire prize. Ties are determined by standard tie criteria. Each event has its own Big Bass.
- KATS Angler of the year award
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd will split AOY Payout (accumulated over series)75-15-10%
- KGB Mystery Tackle Bag
 - Enter (\$5) for your chance to win a gift card (value of all Mystery entries - 100% payout) to TackleWarehouse.com. Sign up is offered online during registration. Both the PRO and Social division are allowed to sign up and qualify to win. One winner, take all, at the end of each tournament.
- KATS Advantage
 - KATS Advantage- NEW payout formula for 2016. Anglers in the Pro Division will have the option to buy into Advantage for an extra \$50 entering you in for an additional payout option in which the top 20% of the Advantage field will be paid out. See below for some estimated payouts based on a number of entries. **100% Payout**

KATS Advantage	Example: Payout Based On Entries			
Place	5 Entries	15 Entries	25 Entries	50 Entries
1st	\$187.50	\$400.00	\$591.25	\$980.00
2nd	\$62.50	\$187.50	\$281.25	\$500.00
3rd		\$112.50	\$152.50	\$300.00
4th		\$50.00	\$125.00	\$250.00
5th			\$50.00	\$220.00
6th			\$50.00	\$50.00
7th				\$50.00
8th				\$50.00
9th				\$50.00
10th				\$50.00

The KATS Advantage Payout is based on a algorithm that takes into account the total number of entries and calculates payouts in a fashion so that 20% of the Advantage field is compensated with at least their entry fee.

PHOTO CRITERIA/SUBMISSION/JUDGING APPROVED CAMERAS

- All KATS Midwest Tournaments will use the iAngler app to log catches
- Your PERSONAL DIGITAL CAMERA, or Camera Phone are acceptable
- You MUST provide whatever cables, cords, software, etc required to download photos via a USB port to judge's laptop.
- While we have a universal card reader, it is highly recommended that you bring a USB cord that is compatible with your camera.
- It is YOUR responsibility to make sure we can download your pictures.

PHOTO CRITERIA

- See the infographic on proper CPR process:
- Each fish photo MUST include ALL of the following criteria:
 - The whole fish, tip to tail.
 - Laying with the tip of the lip at beginning of hawg trough.
 - Mouth Open or Closed to Furthest Tip of Tail
 - Fish MUST be left side UP.
 - Measurement markings must be clearly visible
 - Assigned unique identifier must be visible
 - ONE OVERHEAD PHOTO SHOT FRAME (not at an angle)
 - Fish must be clear of any devices. Fins/tail/head cannot be obstructed in photo.
- ALL criteria must be met or photo will not be scored.
- Please avoid taking more than 2-3 photos of each fish.
- Consider using a numbering system.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA/PROCESS

- All KATS Midwest Tournaments will use the iAngler app to log catches
 - View iAngler process page for more details
- ONLY fish scoring pictures submitted.
- If ANY criteria are not adhered to, your photo may not be scored at all, or be penalized with up to a 6" subtraction from your TOTAL score.
- KATS Midwest is not responsible for failed or corrupt files.

WEIGH IN

- ALL competitors **must** have submitted all photos to iAngler App by designated time or be in line at weigh in and have on them the following items: camera, memory card, and USB cable for camera.
- ONLY the Tournament Director and KATS Midwest designated staff will be involved in the judging process.
 - Once you turn in your memory card, **please move away from the area until called.**
- LATE CHECK-IN will be permitted until **15** minutes after end-time; however, a penalty of 1" per every 5 minutes will be deducted from the competitor's total.

JUDGING

- Competitor photos will be reviewed and scored by Tournament Director and KATS Midwest designated staff.
 - Photos that do not meet the requirements as provided will not count.
 - The Tournament Director and AKF staff will be solely responsible and retain the right to declare any photo as "unacceptable".
- 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 up two 2 calendar days after event. Tournament Director will make final decision on whether adjustment will be made and which effect that will have on any prizes given out in the event of an error.

SCORING/POINTS/TIES/AWARDS

SCORING

- EACH competitor will be provided a unique identifier and will use their iAngler App Login for each event.
- Your 5 (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.
 - *** **SOCIAL division is any size bass counts*****
- The competitor with the HIGHEST total score is the WINNER. Next highest score will place second, and so on.
- Rounding will be DOWN and to the nearest ¼ (quarter) inch.
- Some permanent markers will be available (until supplies run out). **You are responsible for bringing your own, or returning the one you borrowed.**

TIES

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

PRO SERIES POINTS ACCUMULATION

A points system will be used to determine the overall SERIES RANKINGS.

- Each event will produce a ranking list scored as such:
 - 1st place-100 points
 - 2nd place-99 points
 - And so on for all competitors, however, you MUST catch at least one LEGAL fish to score any series points.
 - Competitors who do not catch any legal fish or who do not turn in a scorecard will score 0.
 - The Social Division is not eligible for series points or the KATS Classic.
- The Midwest Angler of the Year will be determined by a total score of your best 4 out of 4 event scores.
- A "Midwest King of the Fish" award will be given to the angler with the biggest 5 scored fish over the entire series (all events), along with a 2nd and 3rd place winner.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR/ KING OF THE FISH TIES POLICY

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

CONTACT

You may contact KATS Midwest Staff for questions or concerns (please read all rules and postings on www.fishkats.com/midwest)

Email: katsmidwest@summitsports.com

