



OFFICIAL KATS 2017 GULF COAST RULES & REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW

The 2017 Kayak Angler Tournament Series is proud to continue its Gulf Coast tournament for the third year in addition to its existing freshwater program. All anglers are invited to participate in this Gulf Coast tournament.

Unlike its freshwater counterpart, KATS Gulf Coast will not have separate Pro and Social divisions, ALL anglers will be entered in the single division.

We hope you are as excited as we are to continue growing this venture and hope to see all you “salty dogs” out on the bay.

To stay up to date on anything related to the 2017 KATS or to ask questions, please visit www.fishkats.com (make sure to look for the KATS Gulf Coast tab on the right) and the Austinkayakfishing.com forums or contact us via the information on the last page of this rules packet. We look forward to seeing you at the all of our KATS events!

Fish On!

Kristian Kolflat
Program Director
KATS 2017 Series

Ryan Schaper
Tournament Director
KATS 2017 Series

John Henry Boatright
KATS Manager
KATS 2017 Series

IMPORTANT Information KATS Gulf Coast Tournament 2017

- Top 3 fish aggregate of slot Redfish:
 - Oversized fish **do not** count towards the overall ranking, just side prize pots. Minimum TPWD legal size limits must be followed:
 - Red Drum: no smaller than 20 inches and no larger than 28 inches
- There will be side prize pots for largest single Redfish, Speckled Trout and Flounder that anglers are automatically eligible for upon tournament entry, as well as a sidepot for most Redfish spots.
- Registration will be available ONLINE until Wednesday prior to the tournament for \$50. Registration at the Captains meeting will be \$60.
- The Gulf Coast tournament will be a “roadrunner” tournament with a MANDATORY Captain’s meeting the evening before. A Safe Light launch time will be announced at the Captain’s meeting.
- We pay out to the Top 1st -5th places dividing the cash(45/25/15/10/5 %) and 6th-7th will earn sponsor certificates or gear with a value to be redeemed at ACK. For more details see Payout section below.
- KATS Advantage- Payout formula for 2017. Anglers will have the option to double their entry fee to be entered into this program. For the extra \$50 you are entered in 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.

- 30 Day OFF limits of hiring guide services from DAY OF tournament. Ex: If event takes place on 1/31. Guide Services are OFF limits after 12/31, 11:59pm
- Pre-fishing rules are: Boundary waters for the upcoming event is off-limits starting at beginning of Captains meeting, day prior to tournament.
 - Example: Tournament is on Saturday, 6/3/17. You cannot fish on the boundary waters starting at start of the Captains Meeting on Friday, June 2nd. The boundary waters are then off-limits until the start of the tournament the following morning.
- You may have 2 rods/lines in the water at anytime with a maximum of 1 trolling at any time, and 1 in the anglers hands at any time.
- Meals/snacks will not be provided outside of what is available for purchase at the Captains meeting and Weigh-in. Please plan accordingly.
- As a KATS competitor you are eligible for discount in all ACK stores, make sure to let them know when you checkout. Expect to see a KATS punch card offering select discounts. You must participate in KATS to receive this.
- All KATS information is found on the KATS website: www.fishkats.com
- 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.**
- Join us in welcoming the **KATS Governing Body or KGB**. The KATS Governing Body is a representative group created by and for ACK/KATS to foster a sense of community and allow community anglers to voice opinion and input into the series. This informal group will meet regularly to discuss everything and anything related to KATS and the kayak fishing sport. Their duty will be to lead KATS in the best possible direction by leading efforts in series development, vision, and ongoing input.
 - **Brandon Campbell** - "The Artist, Creative Master" - Brandon is a creative dreamer by nature and we're counting on him to keep things exciting and fresh.
 - **Troy Lawson** - "The Fiery Ferrari, The Lawman" - Troy's been around since the beginning and he is a stickler for rules, we're counting on him to help make sure we are always headed in the right direction.
 - **Matt Moccia** - The Salty Dog, Big Fish Hunter" - Aside from his unreal ability to find big fish, Matt will be the founding backbone to the Gulf Coast side of KATS.
 - **Chris Siebenthaler** - "Everyone's favorite kayak fishing MC" Chris has been fishing KATS for several years now, always has a smile on his face and is the best entertainer the Kayak Fishing World has ever seen!
 - **Andrew Jacobson** - "Ironman" Andrew has been fishing KATS for three years now and has not missed a single event, this paired with the fact that he has been helping run the TNT

tournaments will give him an outside perspective that is sure to greatly help KATS continue to grow!

- **KGB Most Spots Prize-Pot**
 - This prize-pot will be offered to all participating anglers. For this prize pot the angler will take a standard score-able picture on a hawg trough and judges will count the spots. If the Redfish has more spots on its right side (typically the side down) then they **can** take a **second** picture of the right side on a hawg trough as well. One winner, take all, at the end of each tournament, 100% payout.
- The KATS freshwater and Gulf Coast series are separate and each have their own rules and regulations.

2017 Rule Addendum

(Any new, altered, or otherwise changed rules/items for 2017 KATS season will be listed here as they are approved by the KATS Governing Body.)

- A 360 Light is required under TPWD regulations when fishing 30 minutes before sunrise or 30 minutes after sunset or anytime in between and will be required when our launch times fall under these guidelines. **Supernovas or LED light strips DO NOT meet these requirements.** You will be held back for launch or DQ'ed if launching without a 360 light prior to safe light.
- We reserve the right to polygraph anyone entering in the KATS tournaments to determine foul play. We also reserve the right to disqualify anyone from the results of the tests including inconclusive test results.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

First, we want to personally thank you for participating in this year's KATS season! I am proud to say that this is one of the largest and most organized kayak fishing tournament communities in the world. This is ACK's seventh year of owning/operating the Austinkayakfishing.com forum and the KATS competition. We are very thankful for the participation and support you have given us over the last three seasons and we 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.
- Please fill out the scorecard completely and correctly. Mark the length of each fish, the number of photos taken, and your unique identifier in the top corner, circle your top 3 fish, and total your inches at the bottom. Turn in NO MORE than 2 pictures for each fish. Incomplete, lost, or blank scorecards make scoring take longer.
- Please come to the Captain's meeting with your PFD in hand.
- Bring your patience. Downloading picture files and saving them for 60-100 anglers takes the majority of the time in this process. Issues with memory cards, cameras, USB cables, and score cards lengthen the process. Next, we have to verify the top performing scorecards on-site. Every picture is different, and we want to make sure we score accurately and in a fair manner. Awards are then filled out and announced. Unlike events such as marathons where an electronic chip is automatically scanned and processed, our process is more complex and prone to errors (which we want to avoid). Please bring whatever items you need to stay comfortable (chairs, etc) during this time. Many anglers find that this is a good time to load up the gear and kayak prior to the award ceremony.
- 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.
- Have fun, after all that's why we are all really there!

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(athletic exemption). Please contact the TD with ample time 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

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 Texas Saltwater Fishing License or be exempt under TPWD regulations.
 - For current regulations and information on fishing licenses visit:
 - <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/licenses/index.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/jug/trot line/hand line/cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed.
- Anglers may only wade/shoreline fish with kayak tethered to them.

LAUNCH POINT

- ALL competitors must launch from shore at any legal and public launch site within the boundary waters of that particular event.
- ALL competitors will launch at designated launch time/first cast provided at Captain's Meeting.
- 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 max of 1 trolling at any time, and 1 in anglers 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 TPWD regulations.
 - <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/laws/>
- Competitors must meet all US Coast Guard Regulations.
 - <http://www.uscgboating.org/>
- KATS official spotters will be present during competitions.
- A 360 Light is required under TPWD regulations when fishing 30 minutes before sunrise or 30 minutes after sunset or anytime in between and will be required when our launch times fall under these guidelines. **Supernovas or LED light strips DO NOT meet these requirements.** You will be held back for launch or DQ'ed if launching without a 360 light prior to safe light.

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.
- Captain's Meeting attendance is MANDATORY.
- Fishing in OFF-LIMITS areas will result in disqualification. OFF -LIMITS areas are defined as but not limited to any and all areas marked by buoys , signage, or barriers with the intent of keeping people out. Any posted, legal, private property, or otherwise off limits areas plus any specific areas as determined by KATS staff are strictly OFF-LIMITS to anglers. **Anglers may NOT fish, cast a line, or be in the off-limits areas.**

COMMUNICATION

- The use of mobile communication devices such as mobile phones, marine radios, or walkie-talkies is strictly PROHIBITED during fishing hours. Communication between anglers without electronic devices is permitted. Emergency calls are permitted, and the Tournament Director is to be notified.
- Emergency, family, and employment related calls are allowed.
- There is to be NO electronic communication between competing anglers, or communication regarding fishing or the tournament during the competition, **includes use of Social Media such as Facebook.**
- 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.
 - Red Drum (Redfish).

- https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_br_v3400_045_red_drum.
- CPR: Catch, Photo, and Release alive only.

MEASURING DEVICE

Approved Measuring Devices:

Only store-bought fish-measuring devices are accepted for this tournament. No homemade devices will be allowed. Below is a list of suggested devices. Remember: oversized fish count for a side prize pot so the bigger the ruler the better, you can only score up to the total length of your ruler.

- Hawg trough
 - Check it stick
 - 321fish
 - Rapala
 - Yak gear
 - Cabelas
 - Academy
- **Ruler must be brought to Captains Meeting for approval.**
 - Competitors must use their own measuring device (no sharing) from the approved list located above.
 - Your device may be checked by KATS 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.
 - 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
- Jetties, Piers, and Ferry lanes and landings, and offshore waters are OFF LIMITS
- The boundary waters where the current event will be held is strictly OFF LIMITS to any contestant participating in KATS starting at the beginning of the Captains Meeting day prior to tournament
 - ANY angler caught and reported (with proof) fishing during off limits period will be disqualified and forfeit their entry fee. NO exceptions.
 - Example: Tournament is on Saturday June 4th 2017. You cannot fish starting at the opening of the Captains Meeting on Friday, June 3rd. Fishing is then off-limits until the start of the tournament the following morning.

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

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, or illegal activity 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!
- We reserve the right to polygraph anyone entering in the KATS tournaments to determine foul play. We also reserve the right to disqualify anyone from the results of the tests including inconclusive test results.

DIVISIONS/ENTRY FEES/PAYOUT

DIVISIONS

- KATS Gulf Coast Series is a single division tournament.

ENTRY FEES

- ALL participants MUST have paid entry fee prior to fishing.
- Entry Fee for this KATS season is as follows:
 - **Online Registration will end on the Wednesday night prior to Tournament**
 - Entry Fee \$50
 - Registration taken at the Captains Meeting will be \$60.
 - \$40 of entry fee goes to cash payout.
 - KATS Angler Advantage is optional. Each competitor is able to put \$50 into this additional payout program (100% Payout).
 - The remainder is applied to sign up costs, prizes and supplies, and the costs associated with these events.

PAYOUT

- Salt Division Payout Schedule:
 - The cash prize pot will be divided as follows:
 - Total cash pot will go to 1-5th places (subject to number of entries)
 - 45-25-15-10-5% payout
 - 6th and 7th place will be Sponsor gift cards
- Big Catch Prizes
 - Competitor with biggest fish in categories below will win a sponsor prize. Ties are determined by standard tie criteria.
 - Biggest Red Drum
 - Biggest Spotted Seatrout
 - Biggest Flounder
 - Spot Pot (redfish with most spots, either side)

PHOTO CRITERIA/SUBMISSION/JUDGING

APPROVED CAMERAS

- Your PERSONAL DIGITAL CAMERA
 - NO camera phones, disposable or film cameras.
 - 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 furthestmost tip of the fish(head) 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.
- Consider using a numbering system.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA/PROCESS

- Memory cards are to be clear of any photos prior to event.
- ONLY fish scoring pictures submitted.
- A maximum of 2 pictures can be turned in for each fish. Make sure they are quality before releasing the fish.
 - The Judge will choose your best photo for each fish.
- The number of photos taken for each fish will be recorded on your scorecard.
- Circle your 3 biggest fish on the scorecard. Total your inches at the bottom.

- If ANY criteria are not adhered to, your photo may not be scored at all, or be penalized with a 6" subtraction from your TOTAL score.
- AKF is not responsible for failed or corrupt files.

WEIGH IN

- ALL competitors **must be** in line at weigh in by the designated time. All competitors must have on them the following items: camera, memory card, and USB cable for camera.
- **ONLY** the Tournament Director and AKF 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 AKF 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 given a scorecard for each event.
- Your 3 (three) **LONGEST SLOT** verified lengths will be totaled for your score.
 - Top 3 fish aggregate of Redfish
 - Oversized Redfish do NOT count towards anything but a side prize pot. Minimum TPWD legal size limits must be followed:
 - Red Drum: no smaller than 20 inches
- 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 Redfish
 - 2nd Biggest Redfish
 - 3rd Biggest Redfish
 - And so on until there are no more fish to compare; then a coin toss.

CONTACT

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

Email: katstexas@summitsports.com