



OFFICIAL KATS 2018 RULES & REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW

The 2018 Kayak Angler Tournament Series will consist of 7 individual qualifying tournament events, and a two day Classic Championship.

All anglers are invited to participate in the first 7 series events in one of two divisions (Pro or Social). Within the Pro Division a series-wide point system will be used to keep a running leaderboard based on individual event rankings.

The KATS Classic will be the final showdown between the top 25 eligible anglers. The Angler of the Year Award will be given to the competitor with the most overall points from his/her best 5 out of 7 qualifying events (does not include Classic). Additionally, an award will be given to the King of the Fish, the angler with the 5 biggest fish scored over the entire series (including classic). To earn points towards participation in the Classic or for Kayak Angler of the Year, you must earn them by competing in the Pro Division.

We will make every effort to keep the 2018 KATS season a competitive and fun series regardless of your angling experience. We had great series over the last twelve years and look forward to yet another one!

To stay up to date on anything related to the 2018 KATS 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
Program Director
KATS 2018 Series

Ryan Schaper
Tournament Director
KATS 2018 Series

IMPORTANT Information and Changes For 2018

We strive to make KATS the best kayak fishing tournament available. Thanks to all of you that have provided feedback and suggestions over the last few of years! While we try to accommodate as many wishes as we can, we are only able to enforce rules that make sense for the entire enterprise and that promote the growth of this group and the sport as a whole. Below are some changes that I encourage you to welcome to the 2018 KATS season, as I believe they will make it a more efficient, fairer, and even more enjoyable series of events!

- Kayak Angler of the Year eligibility will be based on the series leaderboard and 5 out of 7 events, not including the classic.
- Classic Championship eligibility will be based on a best 5 out of 7 qualifying events.
- Classic Champion (1st,2nd,3rd place) is determined by combined score for a two-day event.
- King of the Fish will go to the angler with the 5 biggest fish scored over the entire series including the Classic Championship.
- There may be several scheduled **Road-Runner** events, please see schedule and rules regarding roadrunners. There will also be pre-approved maps for acceptable launches during these road-runner events at fishkats.com.
- Meals/snacks will not be provided. Please plan accordingly.
- As a KATS competitor you are eligible for a discount in all ACK stores, make sure to let them know when you checkout.
- 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.**
- All KATS information is found on the KATS website: www.fishkats.com
- ALL registration will be through the online service and will be prior to the event. We will no longer be offering day-of or onsite registration for various reasons (including but not limited to State and Federal laws, time constraints, and efficiency to get you out on the water)! MAKE SURE to SIGN UP ONLINE by the deadlines! This includes the purchase of any merchandise and raffle tickets benefitting the select charity.
- The Payout Structure is as follows: the Top 1st -5th places divide the cash (45/25/15/10/5%) and 6th-7th will earn sponsor gear prizes. The Social division payout structure will remain the same as 2017 and will win certificates with a value to be redeemed at ACK. For more details see Payout section in rules below.
- KATS Advantage- **Payout formula for 2018**. Anglers in the Pro Division will have the option to increase 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.

- Meet 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. Our three newest members of the KGB for 2018 are located at the top!
 - **Ryan Herzog**- Off the old dusty shelves, this dude is back with a blast from the past! One of the original KGB members, we welcome Ryan back to the hawg pound to help keep this group of KGB newbies in line.
 - **Joseph Sanderson** - “El Champion” is the youngest member to have served the KGB but has more wins under his belt than Rocky Balboa. We are counting on his fishing and winning expertise to infiltrate the entire KATS Community.
 - **Ervin Coonrod** - One of or possibly THE longest running KATS Competitor, Ervin has been fishing KATS consistently since its inception 12 years ago. His perspective will be pivotal in ensuring we offer the best mix of the old with the new when making changes and looking to progress the series.
 - **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!
- ACK and the KGB has not fully decided who will be benefiting from our Charity Raffles/fundraising efforts in 2018 but in the past our donations have benefited efforts such as Veterans Programs (ex. Heroes on the Water), Children’s Outdoor Outreach Programs (ex. Explore Austin), and Children’s Medical Outreach Programs (ex. Dell Fishing Kids Event/Kidz Outdoor Zone).
- Launch Procedure is streamlined to launch earlier. Competitors need to be in line, for check-in by 6:00AM. Once this line is checked in the Captain’s Meeting will begin and the Launch will follow. Any anglers not in line by the time the Captain’s Meeting is started will have to wait until after launch. For example, if all anglers in line are checked in by 6:13 AM, the Captains Meeting will begin, and Launch may happen as early as 6:20 AM.

2018 Rule Changes/Addendum

(Any new, altered, or otherwise changed rules/items for 2018 KATS season will be listed here as they are approved by the KATS Governing Body.)

- Social Division will launch a delayed 15 minutes after Pro division launches. **NOTE:** Social will still return 30 minutes prior to Pro, which would make their official return time 2:30 p.m. instead of 2 p.m.
- To qualify for Kayak Angler of the Year as well as the KATS Classic Championship we will be going back to 5 out of 7 tournaments.
- Off limits or Prefishing Rules will remain the same with the **EXCEPTION** of Lake Sam Rayburn. Open prefishing Friday (03/23) will be allowed **FOR THIS EVENT ONLY.**
- Pre fishing or practice period from a **POWER BOAT**, not a motorized kayak, is **PROHIBITED** for **TWO** weeks before the event. Standard prefish or practice period applies, plus one week.
- In addition to the **HAWG TROUGH**, the Yak-Gear **FISHSTIK** will also be an approved measuring device.
- The Junior Angler will be invited to fish the KATS Classic Championship securing the 27th spot. (The 26th spot goes to the Previous year's Classic Champion if they do not qualify.)
- The individual's names who place in both divisions, Pro and Social, will be removed from the General Raffle. This includes those who win prizes in lieu of a payout.
- There will be Mandatory Captains Meetings for everyone at designated place including for road runner events.
- Designated Launches are announced for roadrunners at start of season as well as maps that show approved launching locations.
- KATS reserves the right to use polygraph test at anytime throughout the season and reserves the right to disqualify an angler from that event based on a failed or inconclusive polygraph test. The runner up will either automatically take the win or be liable to also take and pass polygraph test. Points are forfeit for the event if disqualified. NO refunds or compensation of any kind will be provided as a result of a failed or inconclusive polygraph.
- PFD and Hawg Trough Check will take place during check-in, please bring with you.

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 KATS competition series. We are very thankful for the participation and support you have given us over the last few 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 note that only the PRO division will earn series points towards the Classic Championship and Kayak Angler of the Year. If you switch divisions you will only earn points for the tournaments you compete in the Pro division. There are no requirements for changing divisions. Pick your division based on entry fee, the payout/prize structure that appeals to you most, your desire to take a chance at competing in the Classic and Kayak Angler of the Year, and your skill.
- 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.
- Darken the ruler lines on your hawg trough with a sharpie.
- 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 5 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 on and your Hawg Trough 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. **Failure to follow this rule may result in immediate or future disqualification.**
- Keep in mind that KATS is not a moneymaker for ACK or the KGB. KATS 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 possible by supporting sponsors and ACK 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!**

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 Texas Freshwater 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.
- A "Blue Sky Boatworks Catamaran" is an approved vessel that can be used to participate in KATS.
- 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.
- 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.

- Social Division will launch a delayed 15 minutes after Pro division launches and will return 30 minutes prior to Pro, which would make their official return time 2:30 p.m. instead of 2 p.m.

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.
- Wade Fishing as well as exiting the kayak to land a fish is PROHIBITED, if you need to exit the kayak for safety reasons or restroom breaks this is still permitted, NOT to land fish.
- 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

- 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.
- 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/>
- AKF 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.
- Captain's Meeting attendance is MANDATORY.

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. This includes 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.
- Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass and Guadalupe Bass.
- http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/bkbass_diagrams.phtml

- CPR: Catch, Photo, and Release alive only.
- **Sharelunker Exception**: a competitor may use a stringer or attachment system to temporarily hold a fish that qualifies for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Sharelunker Program. It is the angler's responsibility to decide whether they can continue to compete while meeting the TPWD guidelines or if it is wiser to concede and exit the tournament for that day. All decisions should be based on the safety, health, and capability to care for the fish in the best way possible.
- Proper care and handling of the fish must be employed (see link below for information on Sharelunker Program)
TPWD Sharelunker Guidelines
Call (903) 681-0550 to report catch

MEASURING DEVICE

- The Hawg Trough and the Yak-Gear FISHTIK Ruler are the only acceptable measuring devices for all KATS events.
- Competitors must use their own measuring device (no sharing).
- Your device may be checked by AKF 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 or FishStik.**
- Mouth Open or Closed to Furthest Tip of Tail
- See "CPR How-to Guide" online and examples of acceptable photos

PRACTICE PERIOD/OFF LIMITS

- 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) on the lake during off limits period will be disqualified and forfeit their entry fee. NO exceptions.
Example: Tournament is on Saturday January 16th 2018. 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.
Note: the entire lake is off-limits to the angler whether fishing or not, no scouting, paddling, or recreational use on the lake can take place during the off limits period.
- Pre fishing or practice period from a POWER BOAT, not a motorized kayak, is PROHIBITED for TWO weeks before the event. Standard prefish or practice period applies, plus one week.
- Off limits or Prefishing Rules will remain the same with the EXCEPTION of Lake Amistad. Open pre-fishing Friday (03/23) will be allowed FOR THIS EVENT ONLY.
- 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.**
- 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

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, 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!
- 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 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 into the Classic Championship, Kayak Angler of the Year, and King of the Fish.
- 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 season is as follows (first 7 events):
- Entry will be paid online by deadline posted:
Online Registration will end on the Thursday night prior to Tournament.
 - Pro Division \$75 (Big Bass included)
 - Social \$50 (Big Bass included)
 - \$5 of your PRO entry fee for each event goes towards KATS Classic Champion Prize 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)
- **Classic Championship:**
 - Entry Fee: \$200 (Big Bass \$25 included), \$50 KATS Advantage (optional)
 - Payout Details TBD
 - There are no separate divisions for this event.

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/prizes
- **SOCIAL Division Payout Schedule:**
 - Prize money (prize pot) will be awarded in the form of ACK (Austin Canoe and Kayak) 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 CLASSIC CHAMPIONS:**
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd will split Classic Payout 55-30-15%
 - King of the Fish will receive an award/prize*
 - The KATS Classic Champion is automatically entered into the following years' Classic. This angler will take the 26th spot in the Classic if not qualified via season.
- **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.

PHOTO CRITERIA/SUBMISSION/JUDGING

APPROVED CAMERAS

- Your PERSONAL DIGITAL CAMERA only.
- NO camera phones, disposable or film cameras are allowed.
- 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 info graphic 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

- **Memory cards are to be clear of any photos prior to event.**
- ONLY fish scoring pictures submitted. EX: No birthday or graduation pictures on memory card. Only scorable pics will be accepted!
- 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 5 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.
- KATS 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 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/ KATS CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP

- 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.
- Classic Championship eligibility will depend on the leaderboard, from best 5 out of 7 events
- The TOP 25 Anglers of the field of competitors will be qualified for the KATS Classic Championship.
- There will be ONE KATS Classic Champion, along with 2nd and 3rd place winners.
- Previous year Defending Champion is eligible for Classic Elite Series by meeting minimum 4 qualifying event participation requirement.
- The Angler of the Year will be determined by a total score of your best 5 out of 7 event scores.
- A “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.
- The Junior Angler of the Year will be awarded the 27th spot into the Classic if not already qualified.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR/KATS CLASSIC/KING OF THE FISH TIE 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.

POLYGRAPH/LIE DETECTOR TESTING:

- KATS reserves the right to use polygraph test at anytime throughout the season and reserves the right to disqualify an angler from that event based on a failed or inconclusive polygraph test. The runner up will either automatically take the win or be liable to also take and pass polygraph test. Points are forfeit for the event if disqualified. NO refunds or compensation of any kind will be provided as a result of a failed or inconclusive polygraph.

CONTACT

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

Email: katstexas@summitsports.com

