



Mid-Atlantic Kayak Bass Fishing Series
COVID-19 Pandemic
Best Practices for MAKBF Tournaments
Kayak Tournament Operations Guidelines
(May 10, 2020)

Introduction

The Mid-Atlantic Kayak Bass Fishing (MAKBF) Series is a chapter member of Maryland Bass Nation. Along with other state Bass Nations, it is part of the greater B.A.S.S. Nation, a global network of locally organized clubs whose members participate in and support a range of activities, including tournaments, scholarship programs, conservation initiatives, as well as college, high school and youth programs. There are thousands of B.A.S.S. members and close to 50 Nation clubs located in the state of Maryland.

Problem Statement & Objective

Bass Angler Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) hosts regional and national championship tournaments through a series of state-based qualifying tournaments. Qualifying state tournaments occur in the current year for B.A.S.S. regional and national championship tournaments that occur in the following year (e.g. 2020 tournament winners qualify for championship tournaments scheduled to occur in 2021).

This proposal seeks to attain state-level approval for kayak series tournaments. The nature of kayak series tournaments is completely virtual and can be conducted with zero contact with other competitors. The standards in which kayak tournaments are conducted require minimal, if any, adjustments in order to meet all Federal, State and CDC guidance. It represents an example for others to emulate and a way for tournaments to occur in this 'COVID-19 Pandemic' environment that will permit MAKBF qualifying tournaments to occur, thus facilitating a pathway for MAKBF members to participate in upcoming regional and national championship venues,.

Solutions Proposal

CDC, Federal and State guidelines will be followed during tournaments. There will be strict adherence to interpretive guidelines laid out by state government officials and any additional restrictions imposed by local authorities. CDC guidelines on social distancing, sanitizing, wearing masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment



(PPE) will be followed. Anglers and Staff are asked to stay home if they are sick. We encourage and welcome oversight of MAKBF tournaments by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The following guidelines outline the process 'end to end' (i.e. tournament registration, communication, travel, launch, competition day, weigh-in, results, awards, etc.). These are not exceptions and require no changes to current and historic operations.

Registration / Communication

- Tournament registration is performed completely electronically via TourneyX.com or via the TourneyX Pro cell phone application.
- No 'in person' registration is permitted

Tournament Day Travel

- Anglers compete as individuals and the nature of kayak angling does not allow for more than one individual.

Tournament Morning Check-in

- Anglers perform all check-in via the TourneyX application and do not check-in with any staff.

Launch & Blast-off

- Anglers launch themselves and are given the choice of any public launch within a set of pre-determined geographical boundaries for the tournament body of water. This allows for a distribution of all anglers across multiple ramps.
- Angler may enter their craft into the water within ½ hour of launch time and must remain within 50m of launch until official launch time. This prevents crowding of any kind at ramps that may encounter traffic.
- The Tournament Director's Captain's meeting occurs via Facebook or YouTube live 24 hours prior to the tournament.
- All anglers are authorized to depart the launch waiting area at the official launch time.

On The Water

- All competitors must remain 50 feet apart during competition per national rules standards.
- Kayak tournaments perform "CPR" (Catch, Photo, Release) style tournaments. This is a format where anglers take a photo of the catch on a personally owned industry-accepted bump board, submit it via the TourneyX application, and release the fish immediately. Judges review the submission electronically via a



“dashboard” and can accept, adjust or reject the submission for the angler. This allows for zero contact throughout the entire conduct of a tournament.

- Unless in the case of emergency, aid and coordination with other anglers is not allowed under any circumstance.

End of Day / Weigh-In

- At official “Lines Out” time, anglers must have all submissions electronically submitted via TourneyX.
- Totals are auto-calculated by the TourneyX system and a period of review is given to judges.
- There are no “in-person” weigh-ins of any kind.
- At the conclusion of the tournament, anglers are required to “check-out” via the TourneyX application which will notify the Tournament Director that anglers have safely come off of the water.

End of Day / Results & Awards

- There will not be an “in-person” results or awards ceremony after the tournament.
- Anglers are asked to attend a “Virtual Award Ceremony” on Facebook Live or YouTube Live where the tournament director will announce competitor totals and award finalists with their official placings.
- This format prevents gatherings of any kind for awards.
- Winners will be notified via email and social media.
- Winnings of any kind will be mailed or transferred electronically (PayPal, etc).

Conclusion Summary

In conjunction with the Maryland Bass Nation, Mid-Atlantic Kayak Bass Fishing acknowledges the critical nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic. These guidelines for conducting MAKBF tournaments in the State of Maryland are intended to demonstrate our commitment and support to operate in a safe environment consistent with the guidelines set forth by the CDC, Federal, State and Local jurisdictions. It also serves to demonstrate how MAKBF tournaments work to conserve the resource by minimizing impact to the target species. We believe our methods are the gold standard in conservation and in many cases, our proposed process exceed the established requirements.

It is our position that this proposed tournament guideline document can serve as a demonstration of our willingness to cooperate with guidelines and can be used by other organizations that wish to conduct bass fishing tournaments in the state of Maryland.



We ask for your consideration and approval in this matter so that our members who aspire to compete at the Regional and National championship venues are not disadvantaged as compared to other states that no longer face similar challenges.

We are very much open to any suggestions on your part to further enhance these proposed guidelines. We welcome your input. Our intention is to remain a golden standard of conservation and conduct in the black bass tournament fishing industry.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Mid-Atlantic Kayak Bass Fishing Series – Board

- President, Aaron White
- Vice President, Joshua Evans
- Secretary, Adam Hugoboom, Member of Maryland Black Bass Advisory Committee
- Alex Fiolka
- Matthew Campbell

Maryland Bass Nation – President, Roger Trageser