

2017 IFA Kayak Fishing Tour Rules

1. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY. Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Minors are eligible to participate with a parent or legal guardian signature on the release form. A completed entry form, waiver, and entry fee must be received no later than the published entry date. If a participant is awarded prize money during the year a SSN will be required before getting a check. Each participant is responsible for taxable earnings at the end of the year.

2. REGISTRATION AND CAPTAINS MEETING. Registration will be from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM local time the Saturday before each event followed by the Captain's meeting promptly at 7:00 PM. An entry fee of \$50 will be due when registering, if not already paid, in order to fish the event. Entry fee for the 2017 Championship will be \$50. All entry fees are NON-TRANSFERABLE and NON-REFUNDABLE. Attendance at the Captain's Meeting is required for all contestants. Should the need arise for an angler to miss the Captains Meeting; they should call the Tournament Director prior to the meeting to request a hardship exemption from the meeting. Should the Tournament Director approve the angler's request for a hardship exemption to miss the meeting, it will be the angler's responsibility to find a representative to stand in for the meeting. It is the angler's responsibility to get all the information pertaining to the meeting from their stand in representative. The angler will be required to meet the Tournament Director at the Tournament Director's hotel or other designated location one hour before safe light on the day of the tournament to pick up their uniform measuring device and token. The uniform measuring device and token may not be given to a stand in representative at the Captain's Meeting. Uniform measuring devices and tokens will be distributed at the Captain's Meeting. Exact fishing times will be announced at the Captain's Meeting by the Tournament Director on Saturday. To participate in the Angler's Advantage Program, an additional \$50 is due by the Captain's Meeting prior to the event. Go to www.ifakayakfishingtour.com for more details on meeting locations & times.

3. NO FISHING OR KAYAKING BETWEEN CAPTAIN'S MEETING AND SAFE LIGHT. Anglers are prohibited from fishing after the Captain's Meeting until Safe Light's launch time. Anglers are also not permitted to launch their kayak for the purposes of traveling, positioning, or scouting between the Captain's Meeting and Safe Light. The day's kayaking must begin at the point of launch, when the put-in photo is taken.

4. SAFETY. Safe boating will be observed at all times. During competition each contestant is required to comply with US Coast Guard regulations. In addition, participants must wear a PFD at all times while competing in the event and be in possession of a sounding device. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. The decision to shorten or to cancel will be left totally to the discretion of the Tournament Director. A 4-hour period shall constitute a day of fishing.

5. CHECK IN. Check in will be announced at the captains meeting. All competitors must check in their photos, token and measuring devices by the check in time to be announced at the Captain's Meeting to be eligible for fishing prizes. At check in you must indicate whether or not you are submitting your photos for review and fill out a scoring sheet.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP. Competitors in the IFA Kayak Fishing Tour events are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon the IFA's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. Evidence of chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon

the IFA efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any act deemed by the Tournament Director that gives an angler an unfair advantage not specifically covered under this set of rules shall be grounds for disqualification. Any violation by an angler deemed intentional or preconceived by the Tournament Director to gain an unfair advantage, would be grounds for permanent disqualification.

7. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS. The consuming or transporting of any alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription or OTC drugs) during official tournament hours, on any tournament angler's boat is prohibited, and angler or anglers will be disqualified from this and possibly all future tournaments.

8. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS. All fish must be caught, photographed, and released alive in a conventional sporting manner. A cast must be fully retrieved before an angler may pick up another rod. A foul hooked Redfish will not be scored. A foul hooked Redfish is defined as a Redfish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released. Anglers may not catch fish or weigh in fish that have been caged or confined in an area prior to the tournament. All fish must be caught from either the kayak (self-propelled water craft) or wade fishing (provided the kayak is tethered to the angler). During the hours of competition, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance, including but not limited to the following: a non-competitor's boat, the placing of markers by a non-competitor, being towed by or riding on motorized vessels, or receiving electronic, voice or data communication from a non competitor.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT. Only artificial lures may be used during competition. Commercially sold pork trailers or scents may be added and used. Only ONE casting, spin casting, spinning rod and reel or fly rod may be used at any one time per angler. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Be prepared to show your current fishing license, at registration, from the state in which the tournament is being held.

10. COMMUNICATIONS. A VHF radio is recommended for all tournament vessels. The VHF may be mounted or portable. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, pagers or any electronic device to obtain and use fishing information from anyone during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. Communication among anglers is allowed on the water only by non-electronic methods. Medical emergency calls may be made and then a tournament official should be contacted.

11. NO MOTORS. The use of a boat or motorized water vehicle to transport your boat on the water is prohibited. All craft must be self-propelled - no motors are allowed (electric or combustion).

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS. All fishing locations must be in waters accessible to the public at all times according to state and federal regulations.

13. DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES.

Anglers may fish anywhere within the boundaries of the division's waters unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Director at the Captain's Meeting. Boundaries shall be specified as such:

Texas Division. All Texas Waters.

Florida West Division. All Florida West Coast waters.

Florida East Division. All Florida East Coast Waters.

Atlantic Division. From the middle of the St. Mary's River northward to the Virginia State Line.

Louisiana Division. All Louisiana Waters.

14. PRIVATE LAUNCHES. There will be no launching from private property. You must launch from any PUBLIC land or boat launch. Marinas, fish camps, or boat launch areas that are providing access if the angler pays an

access fee not exceeding \$20.00 will be considered public launches. No private access launch sites. Private arrangements to gain access will not be allowed & anglers who use them will be disqualified.

15. **SCORING.** The event uses catch-photo-release scoring determined by the length of each fish (only one fish per species may be entered), combined in the case of an "Aggregate" and individually for big fish categories. Each angler will be issued a uniform measuring device and unique scoring marker/token at the Captain's Meeting. The first photo on the camera must be of your rigged boat as put in at launch with measuring device and scoring marker visible. Fish must be photographed in or on the boat, on the provided measuring device, clearly showing the length of the fish with the scoring marker and boat visible. More than one photo of a fish may be taken. Length is determined from the forward-most point of the fish to the pinched top of the tail with the fish's mouth closed. Fish must be above the state minimums to count – fish may be above the slot limit. The maximum fish size is 45". In the event of a tie the entry checked in earliest will be declared the winner. The Tournament Director will review the photos to verify reported results and determine place winners. The Tournament Director is responsible for the final call in all matters. Competitors may enter only one fish per species into the tournament, with a redfish and speckled trout (trout) total aggregate inches comprising a true "Aggregate". An entry consisting of only one species (redfish or trout) may be scored as an "Aggregate"; however a true two species "Aggregate" will be given the higher ranking in the scoring. In other words, a true two fish "Aggregate" will always take the higher ranking and the corresponding payout over a one fish "Aggregate" even if the one fish "Aggregate" is greater in total inches. Further, after all of the true two fish "Aggregates" have been awarded the longest one fish aggregate would finish in the next highest position and receive the corresponding payout behind the smallest true two fish "Aggregate". In the event that no true two fish "Aggregates" are caught, the longest one fish aggregate total would take the top ranking and corresponding payout in the event. Although only one fish of each species is eligible to be entered into the tournament, an angler that has a true two fish "Aggregate" may have their fish count towards the big fish award. As an example: If an angler has a true two fish "Aggregate", for the purpose of scoring each single fish will be entered into the appropriate species big fish category: redfish or trout as well as the "Aggregate" category.

16. **MINIMUM FISH LENGTHS.** Fish must meet minimum lengths in effect at the tournament location, as well as the minimum length at the actual fishing location. If an angler is fishing in an area within the Divisional Boundaries where the legal minimum length is greater, anglers may not submit a photo of that fish for judging.

17. **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY.** Participants may only use digital cameras or cell phones for recording scoring fish (cameras may not be shared by competitors). Images may not be digitally altered or enhanced in any way. Anglers should shoot images at maximum resolution possible. Entrants must bring the memory card from their camera to check-in. The photography scoring process will be explained in detail at each Captain's Meeting.

18. **PROTEST.** All protests must be submitted in writing along with a \$100 cash deposit, within thirty (30) minutes of check-in time to the Tournament Director. The protester also agrees that if there is a question of verifying the charge of a protest that he or she also may be subject to take a polygraph and agree to testify in a court of law if necessary. If the Tournament Director, or polygraph, upholds the protest, the cash deposit shall be returned to the contestant submitting the protest.

19. **POLYGRAPH.** Each contestant who fishes an IFA Kayak Fishing Tour event agrees to potentially submit to a polygraph examination at a time and location determined by the Tournament Director following the end of the competition in each tournament and abides by its conclusion. Failure to pass the polygraph will result in disqualification.

20. RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE. A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue are part of the entry form. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities.

21. PHOTO RELEASE. Anglers agree to grant the Inshore Fishing Association a non-exclusive license for the photos to be used at their discretion. Contestants grant the IFA and the sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with Inshore Fishing Association 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.

22. RULE CHANGES. Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

23. CONTINGENCY PRIZES. Sponsors may at their discretion award contingency prizes for anglers winning or placing using their products.

24. POINTS. 200 points will be awarded to the winning Angler of each tournament, 199 points to 2nd, 198 points to 3rd, etc.

25. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS. 2016 Championship fee will be \$50. All Anglers that enter two (2) regular season events and fish at least One (1) will qualify for the Championship. The IFA Kayak Fishing Tour Championship will be a 2-day event with no off limits prior to the event.

26. ANGLER OF THE YEAR QUALIFICATIONS. Anglers must fish 2 events in one division to be eligible for the Divisional Angler of the Year. The Divisional Angler of the Year will be awarded to the Angler in each division that has accrued the most points in the two divisional qualifying events. Angler of the Year will receive one set of entry fees paid for one division in 2017. If an Angler wins the Angler of the Year for their division, they would be eligible to compete against the other divisional winners head to head at the Championship for the Over All Angler of the Year. Over all Angler of the Year will receive a check for \$1,000.