



General Rules & Information

This document is intended to provide OKFS competitors with tournament related details to enable them to safely and successfully compete in any Ontario Kayak Fishing Series event. Please be sure you read and fully understand these rules prior to competing in these events. Not knowing these on the day of competition is not an excuse for not following them.

Any questions can be directed to the Organizer okfs@nomadac.com prior to the event. Some of this will be reviewed at the Captain's Meeting but don't rely on that for answers to any specific questions you may have.

Specific Rules may apply to different events and will be identified on the OKFS website, Facebook Page, and at that event's Captain's Meeting.

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General Rules & Information

1. Registration

Registration opens on the day the events for that year are announced. The deadline for registration is generally one month prior to the date the event is held.

- a) *Entry Fee* – must be paid by the deadline to guarantee your acceptance to that tournament.
- b) *Refunds* – participants who cannot attend the event they paid for are asked to defer their payment to an event later in the Series, or the following year. Those who cancel in the last 48hrs prior to an event are not eligible for refund or deferral.
- c) *Payments* – PayPal is preferred or contact Organizer for other arrangements.
- d) *Eligibility* – OKFS reserves the right to refuse individuals based on unwelcome conduct relating to other kayak fishing events or activities.

2. Live Events

Will have a host site or headquarters for scoring and awards, however, may or may not have a live captains meeting or meal available to participants. This is subject to the tournament itself, and number of participants.

- a) *Check-Ins* are required for all live events. Pre-tourney check-in is required and can be done on the evening prior to the event or in the hour prior to the event start time.
 - l) *Post event Check-Ins* are required by all competitors who wish to submit their catch.

3. Online Events

Will not have a host site or headquarters, and scoring will be [TourneyX](#). These are Cash Payout only, and the cash prizes will be mailed to the Winners after judging and placement has been confirmed.

4. Cancellation

Competitor Cancellation is allowed with full refund if requested 30 days or more prior to the event. Competitors are encouraged to apply their fee to a future OKFS event. Since this is a charity-based tournament series.

- a) If a competitor wishes to cancel after that period; a \$25 administration fee will be charged.
- b) Cancellations in the 5 days leading up to the event are not eligible for refund, only deferral.
- c) Canceling in the last 48hrs forfeits the entry fee and deferral option.

Organizer Cancellation can occur when the Organizer or OKFS Team Member(s) feel the safety of the competitors may be jeopardized by following through with the event. This is generally weather oriented.

Other organizational cancellations at no fault of the competitors could be eligible for refund, but again, competitors are encouraged to apply their fees to a future event.



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5. Captain's Meetings

These meetings will be held at all Live Events; however, they will be live streamed at the events whenever possible. A discussion of any location specific rules not covered in the OKFS General Rules will be announced and a brief question period will follow. *Loaner measuring boards* may be available based on first-come, first-served basis.

Attending or streaming this meeting is not an excuse for not knowing all the OKFS General Rules, only location specific rules will be covered.

6. Fishing Boundaries

These will be identified by the OKFS Team up to one month prior to any OKFS event. Anyone observed fishing outside these limits will be disqualified from the event. Please be respectful of the OKFS Boundaries, and those set out by landowners and navigational markers.

7. Pre-Fishing

Pre-fishing on any Great Lake or connected waterways is allowed by the OKFS up to dusk on the evening prior to the event. Pre-fishing on inland lakes and rivers is allowed up to 24hrs prior to the start time of the tournament. Anyone found in violation of this will be disqualified from that event without refund.

8. Watercraft

Single person human-powered watercraft only, be it paddle or pedal. This includes canoes, SUP boards, and pedal SUP's. OKFS reserves the right to rule on eligibility of any modified vessel. Motorized kayaks must be disabled and demonstrated to the OKFS Team should an individual choose to qualify it for the tourney.

[Small Vessel Regulations](#) and [Safe Boating Guide](#) are the responsibility of the participants not the Event.

9. Angling Methods

Only standard rod and reel sportfish angling methods may be practiced at any OKFS event. Participants must adhere to all provincial regulations and any specific local restrictions that may apply. Be certain to fully understand all Ontario Fisheries Management Zone regulations prior to start time of the event you plan to fish. A valid Ontario fishing license is required at all times, with the exception of License-Free Week that occurs annually in July.

10. Provincial Laws and Regional Regulations

It is 100% the angler's responsibility to read and understand ALL provincial fishing rules and regulations that may apply for the waterbody they intend to compete in. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources annually releases the Fisheries Management Zone [FMZ Rules](#) for the province.



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11. Small Vessel Regulations - Safe Boating Practice & PFDs

It is the participants responsibility to read and fully understand all vessel and safe boating laws and regulations prior to competing in any OKFS tournaments.

PFDs are required at all OKFS tournaments, and any angler in violation may be disqualified from that event. All PFDs must be CSA approved and meet the safety guidelines for the province/Canada.

[Small Vessel Regulations](#) and [Safe Boating Guide](#) are the responsibility of the participants not the Event.

12. Competitor Conduct

Any form of unethical conduct at an OKFS event will not be tolerated. Disrespect for the host, host site, fellow angler(s) or their property, slandering or malicious behaviour, report or suspicion of rule violations, and any type of behaviour or talk that may be perceived as undermining the event; all will be treated accordingly. This may involve a warning, score deduction, disqualification, banning from series or host site, and involvement with local authorities if necessary.

13. Photo Submission

A clear photo of each fish being entered which shows the whole fish on the measuring board with the nose touching the board stop, increments of measurement visible, and identifier in view.

- a) *Measuring Board*
 - i) Must have a clear contrast between the board and the digits/increments to enable judges to quickly verify the length.
 - ii) Must be sufficient length to accommodate the whole length of the target species.
 - iii) All non-factory boards must be reported and verified by an OKFS official before and after judging.
 - iv) Competitors may share boards but not assist other anglers except to photo a large fish on a board.

- b) *Identifiers*
 - i) Must appear in every photo submission, on the angler's wrist, hand, or board (on-line only).
 - ii) Will be sent thru TourneyX for online events.
 - iii) Available at *Check-Ins* for live events

- c) *Photo*
 - i) An unmistakable image of the whole fish on the board with no interpretation required to determine the length of the specimen.
 - ii) Must be caught and submitted within the OKFS event specifications.



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14. Deductions & Penalties

ITEM	CONDITION/DISPOSITION	JUDGEMENT
Photo	Length of fish cannot be determined due to blurry photo. Score at length where measurement is certain.	Allow
Photo	Too blurry to make any length determination.	Deny
Photo	Manipulation of original photo to a 2 nd generation image.	Deny
Photo	Evidence that photo was taken outside the specified tournament hours.	Deny/Disqualify
Photo	Multiple images of same fish on data card: unintentional	Deny
Photo	Multiple images of same fish on data card: intentional	Deny/Ban
Photo	Evidence of Live Bait use in photo – See exceptions.	Disqualify
Photo	No evidence of angler's watercraft in background.	Deny
Photo	Crossover fish from other active OKFS events.	Allow
Identifier	Not visible in photo.	Deny
Identifier	Not clearly legible displaying the correct event code(s)	Deny
Identifier	Incorrect for the event.	Deny
Identifier	Cannot obstruct measurement of fish.	Penalty
Fish	Appears dead or dying; in poor condition.	Deny
Fish	Nose must touch board stop with closed mouth.	Penalty
Fish	Tail must be on incremental portion of measuring board.	Penalty
Fish	Lip Gripper for large fish over 30" or Esox species.	Allow
Live Bait	No Live Bait may be used at Live Events. EXCEPTIONS: Coarse Fish; Carp-Catfish-Gar ONLINE EVENTS ONLY.	Deny/DQ Allow
Handling	Evidence of fish related assistance. ONLY the angler can handle anything related to the fish and the fish itself. Other anglers may assist with taking the photo only where the fish exceeds 36".	Deny



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15. Format & Scoring

Scoring is determined by total combined length for specified number of target species. This may vary from one event to the next depending what the target species may be, and the number of eligible fish being scored.

Formats:

Visit www.ontariokayakfishingseries.com for each individual event's information.

Any changes or variations will be announced at the Captain's Meeting.

16. Awards & Prizes

Cash prizes will be awarded live at the tournaments as a non-refundable large size cheque. The actual cash prizes will be e-transferred to the winners once all results are confirmed as final. Non-monetary prizes are awarded live at the events however, these prizes can be revoked should evidence contrary to the event judgement dispute an individual's placing.

17. Prize Retention

All boat prizes awarded at OKFS tournaments are requested to be retained by the individual winners for a period of six months before being advertised or sold. At no time may any of these prizes be advertised for sale on any Ontario kayak fishing forums or related social media pages. Out of respect for our great Sponsors, please sell your prizes privately. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in possible ban from future events on loss of qualification for Provincial Championship.

18. Appeals and Disputes

Competitors who feel they can provide evidence that may dispute a judgement or standing are encouraged to disclose this to the Judging Panel. The appeal will be heard, and a judgement rendered after the whole Panel has had time to evaluate the claim. The OKFS Official has the right to make this judgement as an individual or together with the Panel. All judgements at this point are final.

19. Personal Conduct Outside OKFS Events

Any activity or comments that may be deemed as inflammatory and detrimental to the Series, or negatively reflect our; Sponsors, participants, organizers, and host sites will be dealt with accordingly. This may include but not limited to:

- a) Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, and other forms.
- b) Online fishing and kayak fishing forums.
- c) Statements made in public that are verifiable.



General Rules & Information

20. Registration, Waivers and Releases

All three of the following forms MUST be signed and submitted prior to participation to avoid ineligibility.

- a) Registration Form
- b) Participation Form – PG 1 of 2 *Liability Waiver*
- c) Participation Form – PG 2 of 2 *Code of Conduct*

REGISTRATION FORM

Valid Ontario Fishing License Required

Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

In case of emergency, contact:

Name _____

Phone _____

For emergency locating purposes we need to know your:

Kayak

Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

Vehicle

Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

License Plate _____

Tent

Color _____

Class: I wish to enter the following class: (please *check*)

General Tourney

Provincial Championship

Cash Prize



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PARTICIPATION FORMS

PG 1 OF 2

Please sign 2 pages – **Waiver** AND **Code of Conduct** and hand in at Registration

OKFS LIABILITY WAIVER:

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to compete, officiate, observe, work for, or participate in any way in the EVENT(S) EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED, for themselves, their personal representatives, heirs, and next to kin:

HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE the promoters, participants, associations, sanctioning organizations or any subdivision thereof, operators, owners, officials, craft owners, rescue personnel, any persons, promoters, sponsors, advertisers, owners and leases of premises used to conduct the EVENT(S), premises and event inspectors, surveyors, underwriters, consultants and others who give recommendations, directions, or instructions or engage in risk evaluation or loss control activities regarding the premises or EVENT(S) and each of them, their directors, officers, agents, employees and affiliates, all for the purpose herein referred to as "Releasees," FROM ALL LIABILITY TO THE UNDERSIGNED, his/her personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin FOR ANY AND ALL LOSS OR DAMAGE, AND ANY CLAIM OR DEMANDS THEREFORE ON ACCOUNT OF INJURY TO THE PERSON OR PROPERTY OR RESULTING IN DEATH OF THE UNDERSIGNED ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THE EVENT(S), WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Releasees and each of them FROM ANY LOSS, LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR COST they may incur arising out of or related to the EVENT(S) WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

HEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE arising out of or related to the EVENT(S) whether caused by the NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise.

HEREBY acknowledges that THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EVENT(S) CAN BE DANGEROUS and involve the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage. Each of THE UNDERSIGNED, also expressly acknowledges that INJURIES RECEIVED MAY BE COMPOUNDED OR INCREASED BY NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS OR PROCEDURES OF THE RELEASEES.

HEREBY agrees that this Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement extends to all acts of negligence by the Releasees, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of the Province in which the Event(s) is/are conducted and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

SIGNATURE

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DATE

WITNESS

(If under 18 years of age)
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN



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PARTICIPATION FORMS

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OKFS CODE OF CONDUCT:

AT ALL TIMES I, (*print name*) _____ understand that while participating in any OKFS event, I will be responsible for my behavior towards other persons and towards the environment, both on the land and the water. I will also be responsible for the actions and behavior of those who accompany me, both on the land and the water. I understand that this responsibility starts at the time I enter the Tournament Site, until the time I leave the Tournament Site to go home. I pledge that I will behave in a manner becoming a sportsperson and that I will be considerate in my attitude towards other people. I agree to abide by all the "OKFS General Rules", a copy of which I have been provided with. I understand that these commitments are made for the safety of all parties involved, and I understand that by signing my name to this document, I agree to these pledges and commitments.

AGREEMENT:

1. I HOLD A VALID ON FISHING LICENSE (or am exempt by the Family Fishing Day exemption).
2. I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE 'OKFS GENERAL RULES' WHICH I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND.
3. I AGREE TO COMPLY WITH ALL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR ONTARIO.
4. I HAVE READ THE KAYAK TOURNAMENT LIABILITY WAIVER AND SIGNED IT.
5. I AGREE THAT TOURNAMENT SPONSORS, AFFILIATES AND ORGANIZERS, ALONG WITH THE TOURNEY ITSELF, ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR INJURY OR LOSS DURING THE TOURNEY OR ANY EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE TOURNEY.
6. I AGREE TO ALLOW BEING PHOTOGRAPHED FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE KAYAK FISHING TOURNEY AND THE USE OF ANY PHOTOGRAPHS WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

This Code of Conduct is agreed to by:

Sign _____ PRINT Name _____

Date: _____ Witness _____