



Official KATS – Midwest 2019 Rules & Regulations

Overview

The 2019 KATS-Midwest will consist of three individual and one final (qualified anglers) tournament events.

A Midwest series-wide point system will be used to keep a running leaderboard based on individual event rankings. The KATS Midwest Angler of the Year Award will be given to the competitor with the most overall points from all three events. You must fish all three events to be eligible.

Additionally, the top three anglers from each of the three events (roll downs to replace duplicate winners) will be invited to a season ending Championship. If the AOY did not place in the top three in any of the events, he/she will be added to the field of nine anglers.

The 2019 series will be in all new lakes and the third September 7th event will be a total fish length event (minimum 14 inches)

The Divisions have been renamed to Competitive and Recreation from Pro and Social. We will make every effort to keep the 2019 KATS-Midwest season both competitive and fun.

Richard Ofner

Tournament Director
KATS Midwest Series

Important Information and Changes For 2019

We strive to make KATS-Midwest the best kayak fishing tournament series in Southeast Michigan available. Thanks to all that have provided feedback and suggestions over the past few years. Below are some of the changes for 2019. The changes made including lakes and formats are to keep things fresh, interesting, easy to participate and also to try and keep consistent with other series rule and regulations when possible.

- AOY is based on the angler with most points based on the event leaderboard in all three events
- King Of The Fish will be replaced with the season ending Championship which will be a 9 or 10 angler field based on top three placings from each of the three events. It will be a "Blind Lake Fish Off" using the total fish length format, including 14 inch minimum.
- As a KATS-Midwest competitor you are eligible for a discount at all Summit Sports stores, once you have registered for each event. Your discount expires on the day of the event until you register for the next event.
- All registration will be done through iAngler and will be prior to the event. There will be no day of registration. The waiver is also included during the iAngler registration.
- The payout structure is as follows: Top 1st – 5th places divide the cash (45/25/15/10/5%). The Recreation division payout structure will remain the same as past years and be awarded gift certificates with a value to be redeemed at all Summit Sports stores.
- Added to the CPR structure is that you cannot have anything on the fish other than your hand with the identifier only can be on top of your hand and not touching any part of the fish otherwise.
- KATS Governing Board will be replaced with Summit Sports Fishing Team. The Summit Sports fishing team is comprised of anglers that have participated in past KATS-Midwest Series and will help to foster a sense of community and allow community anglers to voice opinion and input into the series. This informal group will still participate in events and will give input to the directors of KATS-Midwest. They will help to lead KATS-Midwest into the best possible direction by leading efforts in series development, vision, and ongoing input. The Members of the 2019 Summit Fishing Team are;

Paul Biediger
Tim Percy
Mike Godlewski
Craig Hefner

- 2019 KATS-Midwest Charity fundraising efforts will benefit the following charity: Blessings in a Back Pack.

2019 Rule Changes/Addendum

- King Of the Fish eliminated for “Blind Lake Fish Off” end of season Championship
- KATS Advantage eliminated
- Governing Body replaced by Summit Sports Fishing Team
- Pro and Social Division names replace with Competitive and Recreation Divisions
- Liability/Waiver is acknowledged during iAngler Registration
- Removed KGB Mystery Tackle Bag
- Photo Criteria – Identifier cannot be placed anywhere touching fish, (back of hand is accepted)
- All fish to be uploaded to iAngler app via smart phone or digital phone uploaded to website.
- If uploading fish at the weigh in location, participant must be able to log into Wi-Fi to upload fish. When uploading at weigh in, participant must only upload his top five fish. No cards or cords attached to phones to be used for uploading at weigh in unless internet not available.

Competitive Series Points Accumulation

- Points structure based on number of participants
 - Up to 30 participants start at
 - 1st – 100
 - 2nd – 97
 - 3rd – 94
 - 30 to 50 participants
 - 1st – 100
 - 2nd – 98
 - 3rd – 96
 - Over 50 participants
 - 1st – 100
 - 2nd – 99
 - 3rd – 98

This puts more weight on placings based on number of participants

Tournament Director's Notes:

First we want to personally thank you for participating in this year's KATS-Midwest season. We are proud to say that this is one of the largest and most organized kayak fishing tournament communities in the world. This is ACK's eighth 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 Competitive division will earn series points towards Kayak Angler of the Year. If you switch divisions you will only earn points for the tournaments you compete in the Competitive 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 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
- 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 Summit Sports. 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/Summit Sports by choosing them for your outdoor gear needs.
- Have fun, after all that's why we are all 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 post 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 two business days prior to event.

Liability Release/License Requirements

- All competitors must agree to the 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. This will be completed during your online registration.
- All competitors must have a valid Michigan Freshwater Fishing License or be exempt under DNR regulations.
- For current regulation and information on fishing licenses visit:
https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79146---,00.html

Approved Watercraft

- Only human powered vessels will be allowed
- Kayaks, canoes, inflatable-kayaks, and stand up paddleboards are acceptable.
- A "Blue Sky Boatworks Catamaran" is an approved vessel that can be used to participate in KATS -Midwest
- 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/s.

- 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 given a first cast time at the Facebook Live Captains meeting. You may not have lines in the water or be fishing prior to this time.
- 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
- 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 that is permitted, NOT to land fish.
- 1 rod/line in the water at any time with a maximum of 1 trolling at any timer, or 1 in angler’s hands at any time.

Safety Regulations

- Our events will always be after first light, which eliminates the need for 360 white lights.
- 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 DNR regulations.
- https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79146---,00.html
- Competitors must meet all US Coast Guard Regulations
<https://www.uscgboating.org/>
- Summit Sports official spotters will be present during competitions.

General Rules

- No Bass are to be kept on stringers
- Any one fish can only be submitted once
- Must view Captains Meeting on Facebook Live and know any clarifications or rules changes mentioned. Will be posted on Kayak Angler’s Tournament Series – Midwest Page.

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
- CPR: Catch, Photo, and Release alive only

Measuring Device

- The Hawg Trough and the Yak-Gear Fishstik Ruler are the only acceptable measuring devices for all KATS – Midwest events.

- Competitors must use their own measuring device, they may share if broken or lost during event only. (must start with own Measuring stick)
- Your device may be checked by KATS Midwest staff at any time.
- If the judge cannot clearly see the markings, that fish may not be scored. Consider marking your lines with a black sharpie on the Hawg Trough or FishStik.
- Mouth Open for Recreation and Closed for Competitive to furthest tip of tail

Practice Period/Off Limits

- Pre-fishing or practice period from a POWER BOAT, not a motorized kayak, is PROHIBITED for one week before the event.
- 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-Midwest 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 ACK, Summit Sports, and the sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with ACK, and Summit Sports 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.

Rule 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 Summit Fishing Team 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-Midwest Page.
- All necessary information will be posted prior to event.

Sportsmanship

- KATS-Midwest is a Two division series:
- The Competitive (formerly Pro) Division is geared towards the experienced “veteran” kayak angler that is confident competing against other experienced kayak anglers. This is where points are tracked to earn your way into Angler Of The Year.
- The Recreation (formerly Social) Division is geared towards the semi-experienced or beginner kayak angler. You are participating not only for a non cash gift certificate, but also fun and good times. You are not interested for Kayak Angler of the Year. Any size bass counts.
- Please see the rules for more details on prize payout, structure, etc.
- Recreation Division is not eligible for AOY
- There are no requirements for moving up in divisions based on performance
- If you move up from Recreation to Competitive, 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-Midwest Season is as follows:
- Entry will be paid online by deadline posted
 - Online Registration will end on Friday night prior to the tournament date
 - Competitive Division - \$75 (Big Bass included)
 - Recreation Division - \$50 (Big Bass included)
 - \$5 of your Competitive entry fee goes towards KATS Midwest Angler of the Year Payout
 - \$50 of Competitive entry fee goes to cash payout
 - \$30 of Recreation entry fee 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 (both divisions)
 - The remainder of the entry fees is applied to sign up and app costs.

Payout

- Competitive Division Payout Schedule:
 - Total Cash pot will go to 1-5th places
 - 45-25-15-10-5% payout
 - 6th and 7th place will be sponsor gift card/prizes
- Recreation Division Payout Schedule
 - Prize money (prize pot) will be awarded in the form of Summit Sports gift certificates.
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places Payout 55-30-15%
 - 4th and 5th will win vendor gear

- Big Bass Pot
 - Competitor with biggest bass wins entire prize. Ties are determined by standard tie criteria. Each event has its own Big Bass.

Photo Criteria/Submission/Judging

Photo Criteria

- Each fish photo must include all of the following criteria:
 - The whole fish, tip to tail
 - Laying with the tip of the lip at the beginning of hawg trough
 - Mouth closed for Competitive and can be open for Recreation Division
 - Fish must be left side up
 - Measurement markings must be clearly visible
 - Assigned unique identifier must be visible
 - Only your hand can be on the fish, away from gills, eye, and tail.
 - Identifier can be either on top of your hand (tourneyTag Holder) otherwise not touching fish

Submission Criteria/Process

- All KATS – Midwest Tournaments will use the iAngler app to log catches
- Your personal digital camera, or camera phone are acceptable
- If you are having trouble with the app please notify TD immediately.
- If not able to upload through app and after notifying TD, you can text or email picture of fish. Acceptance will be at discretion of the TD.
- It is the participants responsibility to be able to upload pictures.
- KATS-Midwest not responsible for corrupt or failed files uploaded to app
- Late Check-In will be permitted until 15 minutes after end-time; however, a penalty of 1” per every five minutes will be deducted from the competitor’s total.

Judging

- Competitor photos will be reviewed and scored by the Tournament Director and KATS -Midwest designated staff.
 - Photos that do not meet the requirements as provided will not count
 - The TD and KATS – Midwest Staff will be solely responsible and retain the right to declare any phot as “unacceptable”
- Winners will be declared and prizes/awards will be announced by the TD
- The Tournament will then be declared complete
- Competitors may contest results up to two 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 given a code on the night before the event that will be inserted on their pre – printed KATS-Midwest Identifier card
- Your five (5) longest verified lengths will be scored
- 14” minimum for Competitive and 8” minimum for Recreation
- Scoring is rounded down to the closest 1/4” on your measuring board.