



Slay Nation Upstate New York Kayak Series 2024

Official Rules

Slay Nation New York recently marked the successful conclusion of our 3rd Season of Tournament Fishing in Upstate New York, making it our most prosperous season to date. Our series is dedicated to providing a platform for anglers to share their passion and compete at a high level without the need to travel outside the state. Our objective is to offer a fair and memorable experience for anglers of all skill levels, and we are excited about the potential opportunities that 2024 may bring. The following rules and regulations are designed to address and resolve any questions anglers may have specifically related to our kayak series. These rules are aligned with the official Hobie BOS 2024 Rules, serving as the foundation for our series as we continue into the future.

1. Enforcement of Rules

- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed and will always supersede our rules. Violation of any laws may be grounds for disqualification.
- These rules will remain subject to change by official tournament directors
- Decisions of tournament director(s) are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- A violation of tournament rules may result in penalties, disqualification, or banishment at the discretion of TDs

2. Participation in Events

- All participants must pay the full entry, complete all liability release forms, view the mandatory rules live meeting
- Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have permission and a signed release of a parent or legal guardian.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish before they begin fishing. Unless there are promotional/ free fishing days during the event days
- Slay Nation reserves the right to distribute payouts at their discretion based on the total purse and number of paid entrants.

3. Off-Limits, Practice & Competition

- Competitors must be off the water by 4PM on Friday and may not enter tournament waters for any reason after 4pm.
- During practice and competition, anglers are not allowed to make changes to the waterway, and it must be utilized how it's naturally presented. This includes but is not limited to adding, cutting, or removing trees/ brush, digging/ filling ditches, adding or removing rocks and purposely adding or removing vegetation.
- The Official Practice Period window will begin at 6:00 AM 2 Weeks prior to the event and end at 4pm local on that Friday.
- All time on water during official practice and tournament must be done in an approved vessel (kayak or canoe) ONLY
- During the 2 Week Practice period for each event, you may not solicit or use a guide service of any kind on tournament waters. You may not reach out to guides for advice during this time or during the event as well.

4. Safety

- Each contestant is REQUIRED to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during tournament hours. The personal flotation device must always be worn on the outside of all clothing and visible.
- All Kayaks must be equipped with emergency equipment as required by all Federal, State and Local Laws.
- At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- Competitors are expected to use sound judgement and are accountable for their own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation. (i.e., lightning, excessive wind, rough waters, recreational and commercial marine traffic, hunting areas, etc.)
- In the event of an emergency, competitors should contact local authorities like 911 or Fish and Game before contacting directors.
- We ask that all anglers use the check-in and check-out feature on TourneyX each day they participate in live event competition.

5. Sportsmanship

- All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation.
- Verbal or physical abuse towards a fellow competitor, tournament officials, or others on or off the water, will not be tolerated.
- Blocking navigable waters from fellow competitors to pass through is not allowed.

6. Vessel Regulations

- Eligible vessels must be at least 9 foot in length and no longer than 18 foot and manufactured as a personal kayak or canoe.
- Pedal, paddle, electric motor, and push-pole are the only acceptable forms of propulsion.
- Any motorized kayak must be legally registered in the state/ country where it resides and have all proper equipment and lighting to be legal to use.
- Mother-shiping, tethering/holding or any on-water transportation coordination with a non-competitor is strictly prohibited

7. Fishing Regulations

- All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the angler.
- All lures must adhere to state regulations.
- Only artificial lures may be used
- Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time.
- Each cast must be completed before another cast is allowed and there can never be more than one presentation from one rod actively fishing in the water at any time.
- Trolling as a method of fishing is NOT allowed.
- All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.
- No fish are to be kept on stringers.
- An angler's catch must be safely released before casting or fishing may resume.
- Unless posted otherwise, the fish must be targeted and caught while the angler is inside the kayak. Only an angler's arm or arms can extend into the water to help land a fish they hooked legally.
- Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates will be issued for individual events and published within the event page.
- Contestants may fish anywhere on eligible tournament waters that are available to the public and accessible by kayak except areas posted or otherwise designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing"

8. Tournament Scoring & Criteria to Submit Fish

- Scoring is determined by length using 1/4-inch increments of each contestant's catch during each tournament day via the Catch, Photograph, and Release (CPR) method.
- All bass must measure/ score a minimum of 10 inches.
- Ketch Board offerings are the mandatory and official measuring devices.
- A clean measuring device is expected to ensure we can give you a proper score.
- Anglers must be able to submit their original photos to our tournament submission application.
- Ties between anglers will be automatically broken by big bass.
- Fish may only be scored once per event.
- TourneyX is the only approved Tournament App for our trail. No manual submissions.

9. Photo Criteria

- No edited, manipulated, screenshot, or video clip of fish picture will be accepted or utilized to make a scoring judgement.
- Each fish photo must include all criteria to avoid penalties or disqualification as outlined in this section.
- The entire bass, from the tip of the lip to the end of the tail, on an approved measuring device, while in a tournament legal vessel.
- Bass must be laying with the tip of the lip against the post end of the measuring device. Measuring device post must be visible.
- The mouth of the Bass must be CLOSED COMPLETELY to receive full score.
- The tail of the Bass must be lying flat on the board and will be measured to the longest point.
- Pinching and holding the tail is permitted.
- Bass orientation must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler.
- Measuring device markings must be clearly visible. Including the actual numbers.
- One overhead photo shot frame (not shot at a drastic angle).
- Fish must be clear of any holding devices including fishing lure or hook.
- The lip, eye, and end of tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier.
- If a fish has a visibly glossy eye or odd markings, we ask that the competitor take video of that fish to prove it is alive, showing it going from the board to the water and actively swimming away.
- Quality of the photo submitted is the responsibility of the angler.
- All criteria above must be met, or the photo may not be scored.

10. Penalties

- Mouth cracked or slightly open - .5" deduction
- Mouth blatantly open- 1"-2" deduction
- Lip or full tail not touching board: No score
- Tournament Directors will judge fish and apply penalties in fairness at their discretion.
- Anglers can lose rights to compete in events in Slay Nation based on Director discretion in the best interest of all anglers in the club.

11. Angler of Year Scoring

- Angler of Year points are calculated off points scale determined by directors utilizing 100 point scale and is equal to all 8 live events.
- Angler total events scoring will be based off the best 5 out of 7 regular live events, and the championship.
- Anglers may drop their 2 lowest scores of the season (if completing all 8 events). Championship score counts for all.
- Angler of Year must attend Championship and awards to receive their sponsorship gifts and AOY pictures.
- AOY points are only obtained at Live Events.
- Top 10 in AOY Scoring will qualify for NYS Invitational
- Tag Team of the Year will follow same scoring, but total score will be the teams best 4 scores of any live events they fished together as a team.
- Tag Teams are required to fish together for 4 events minimum to obtain a score into Tag Team of Year race.

We look forward to fishing with you! Please contact the Tournament Directors with any questions,

Justin Queary & Joshua Fuson ----- Contact: SlayNationNewYork@Gmail.com

