



Rules for the Georgia Kayak Fishing Tournament Trail “The First Statewide Kayak Fishing Tourney Trail”

Lake Blackshear April 18-19, 2008

Lake Lanier August 22-23, 2008

Tybee Island, Savannah October 24-25, 2008

- 1. RULE CHANGES** - Rules may change or be edited at the discretion of the Tournament Director at any time up to tournament date. Final rules will be discussed and clarified at the Captain’s Meeting. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Protests must be made in writing and delivered to the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of the contestant’s official check-in time.
- 2. PARTICIPATION and ELIGIBILITY** - Participation is open to all anglers 18 years old or above. Anglers younger than 18 years old may participate upon submitting a release form with parent or guardian signature. Georgia Kayak Fishing (GKF) must receive a completed entry form, waiver, and entry fee from each contestant. The entry fee includes the rights to fish, post tournament awards meal, three raffle ticket for door prizes, T-shirt, and Captain’s bag (limited to first fifty paid entrants per Tourney).
- 3. REGISTRATION and CAPTAIN’S MEETINGS** - Entry fee of \$50 can be paid by check, cash or paypal (on line). Registration will be accepted through the Captain’s Meetings. The Captain’s Meeting for The Blackshear leg will be held at 8:00pm, Friday April 18, 2008, at the Ramada Inn in Cordele. The Captain’s Meeting for the Lake Lanier Tournament will be held at Indigo Joe’s in Cumming, GA at 7 to 9pm, Friday August 22nd and the Captain’s Meeting for the Savannah Tournament will be Friday, October 24th at 6pm at The Crab Shack (<http://www.thecrabshack.com/map10.htm>). **Attendance at the Captain’s meeting is not mandatory but highly recommended.** The first 50 paid entrants will receive their Captain’s Bag at the meetings as well as the measuring device and rules. If you cannot make the meetings you must attend the 6:00 to 8:00am briefing the morning of each tournament. For Lake Blackshear meet at the GKF “Pavilion” at Georgia Veteran’s State Park. For the Lake Lanier Tournament, meet at Hammonds Fishing Center in Cumming, GA and for the **Savannah Tourney, you will meet at Tybee Island Bait & Tackle** (<http://www.tybeeislandbaitandtackle.com/index.html>).

Entry forms are available on line at: www.georgiakayakfishing.com/Trail

- 4. SCORING** - The tournament will be a catch-measure-photo-release event using the length of fish in inches to determine the score. Contestants can submit up to THREE fish for their total score.
- 5. Qualifying Fish** - Lake Blackshear Tournament: Largemouth Bass, Shoal Bass and Spotted Bass. Lake Lanier Tournament: A Striped Bass (1), Spotted or Largemouth Bass (only one of either), and Channel Catfish (1). Savannah Tournament: (1) Sea Trout, (1) Redfish and

(1) Flounder. The use of DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY to document all entries will be the only accepted method for recording fish. Each contestant will submit their camera, memory chip and download cable so that pictures may be retrieved. Contestants may be asked to assist in downloading their pictures. Be sure to state what model camera you will be using when you submit your registration. Cameras may be shared by more than one entrant. The first photo submitted must be of your kayak with your measuring device and tournament ID card. In the event of sharing a camera, each entrant's kayak, as stated above, shall be the first photos recorded on the camera. Each submitted digital picture of a fish must be made in or on your kayak, with the GKF issued measuring device and ID card in the photo. Each photo must also clearly show the length of the fish. Length is determined from the forward most point of the fish (fish must be facing to the left) to the natural un-pinched top of the tail. Fractions will be rounded down to the nearest 1/4 inch. Submitted fish measuring the same length must have distinctive differences in appearance or be subject to disqualification by the tournament judges. In the event of a tie, the entry checked in the earliest will be declared the winner. A signed Tournament Scorecard must be submitted to the judges. The judges will be responsible to review all photos to verify qualification and determine place winners. The tournament director will have final authority to review all submissions and certify winners.

6. **SAFETY** - Safety is of utmost importance and must be observed by all participants. Each participant is required to comply with US Coast Guard regulations including approved PFD. All USCG and GA DNR regulations are in effect at all times. Failure to comply will result in immediate disqualification. All vehicles parking at the State park will be required to have a park pass.
7. **SPORTSMANSHIP** - All participants are required to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. During competition, participants shall not obtain assistance including but not limited to following: from a non-participant's boat, the placing of markers by a non-participant, being towed, hauled, provided with electronic data or voice communication from non-participants. The possession/use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited. Any possession/use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, participation in criminal activity, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon our efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and/or compliance with tournament rules, are grounds for immediate disqualification and return of any prizes awarded.
8. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS** – Blackshear: Lake Blackshear and the Flint River. Lake Lanier: Any location on the entire Lake. Savannah: Any location as long as the angler launches and returns in Georgia waters.
9. **PERMITTED FISHING METHODS** - Lake Blackshear: All fish must be caught via hook and line using artificial bait only. Live Bait can be used in the Lake Lanier and Savannah Tournaments as long as rules and regulations of the GaDNR are followed as it pertains to the use of live or natural baits. All fish must be caught from a kayak. No wade fishing or shore fishing is permitted unless the kayak is tethered to the angler.
10. **OTHER** - Scoring photos shall remain the sole property of GKF to be used at their discretion. Participants agree to grant GKF and their sponsors the unrestricted right to use their name, voice, photographic likenesses and biographical information in connection with GKF tournaments, productions, promotions, articles, news releases and any/or other means determined by GKF, and shall not be entitled to receive any compensation of any form in connection of said use. Tournament rule interpretation is exclusively assigned to the Tournament Director and his decision in said matters are final and not subject to appeal.
11. **PRIZES** - First through third place will be awarded to any paid contestant for the most length of qualifying fish. 1st place: Lake Blackshear- a Native Watercraft Magic 14.5 Kayak, Lake Lanier- Ocean Kayak Trident 15, and Savannah- Ocean Kayak Trident 15. 2nd place (each

tournament) is an Ocean Kayak Drifter. 3rd place (each tournament) a Humminbird 55s VHF Handheld Marine Radio. A Junior Angler Award (each tournament) will be given an Extrasport Osprey PFD and Rod n Reel combo for the largest fish caught by a contestant under 18 years of age. A "Big Fish" award will be given to the contestant who scores the longest qualifying fish. Raffle prizes will be given away to contestants during the post tournament awards ceremony and meal. Contestants must be in attendance to win raffle prizes.

- 12. TOURNAMENT TRAIL SCORING:** Contestants carry over their inches (points) to the next tournament on the trail. **A grand prize of a fully rigged Ocean Kayak Big Game®**, will be awarded to the contestant with the highest cumulative score (Total Inches of qualifying fish) after the third tournament, on October 25, 2008 in Savannah.
- 13. ENTRY FEE:** The entry fee is \$50 per tournament. Any angler wanting to fish all three tournaments and increase their opportunity to win the grand prize can pay an initial fee of \$125 for all three tournaments. The value of the Captain's Bag is worth much more than the \$50 entry fee.
- 14. CHECK IN** - Check in times will be between 2-4pm. Check in location for the Savannah Tourney will be at Memorial Park on Tybee Island located between the Library at 405 Butler and the Gym at 202 5th St. All competitors must check in their cameras, memory chip and cable, along with their measuring device no later than 4:00pm to be eligible for fishing prizes. **You must be checked in or be in line at 4:00pm to avoid disqualification. No exceptions.** At Check In you must indicate whether or not you are submitting your camera for review and fill out a scoring sheet. The post tournament award ceremony, raffles, and meal will begin at 4:00pm.
- 15. NO MOTORS ALLOWED** - 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 engines are allowed. Kayaks only.
- 16.** Only **one** contestant per Kayak is allowed.
- 17.** The **tournament director** is responsible for the final decision in all matters.
- 18. RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE.** A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue must be signed by all contestants before competing in any tournament. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities.
- 19. The Best Dang Tackle Box** - "HotH2O's Best Damn Tackle Box" will be awarded at all three locations during the post tournament meal. To receive a raffle ticket you must donate one item to the tackle box. A special table will be set up at the Captain's meeting and at the GKF Tourney Pavilion so you can make your donation. Extra tickets are available for extra donated items. See GKF member Rob Garber to enter.

GKF would like to thank Mike Kogan of JaxKayakFishing.com with his help in formulating our rules! Thanks Mike!