

Kentucky Youth Anglers League

Rules and Requirements

1. Eligibility
 - A. Open to any youth currently enrolled in grades 2-12. A graduate from the twelfth grade will be permitted to complete the season in which they started.
 - a. Grade 9-12 will be in the Varsity division.
 - b. Grades 2-7 will be in the Junior Varsity (J.V.) division.
 - c. An angler in the 8th grade will be able to declare as a Varsity or J.V. angler. Once they declare as a varsity anglers they can not go back to the J.V. division.
 - i. No Varsity age angler will be permitted to fish in the J.V. division but, J.V. anglers may choose to fish in the varsity division.
 - ii. At each event, J.V. teams will:
 1. Be sent out after varsity teams.
 2. Be required to be back to weigh-in prior to the Varsity division.
 3. Have a reduced entry fee and payout.
 - B. Guides or professional anglers are not permitted to be boat captains. Either must be two (2) years removed before eligible to be a boat captain.
 - a. A guide is defined as anyone who currently or in the previous two years has possessed a valid guides license or advertises guide services on public waters.
 - b. Professional Angler is defined as anyone competing in a series or league of tournaments that requires an entry fee of \$500.00 or more per event.
 - i. They are permitted to compete in a single event (including one in a series or league) with an entry fee of \$500.00 or more. If they compete in more than one event of a series or league per season, then they are ineligible.
 - C. All boat captains and anglers must take and pass a U.S. Coast Guard approved Boaters Safety Course. Proof of passing the course must be carried at all times by boat captains and anglers. Failure to show proof when requested may result in a disqualification.
 - D. Boat Captains are not allowed to fish at any time and are not allowed to tie baits/lures on for Varsity anglers during competition hours.
 - E. Boat Captains must be twenty-one (21) years of age or above.
 - F. All anglers must have permission from a parent or guardian stating they are permitted to be in a vessel with any adult who is not their parent and/or legal guardian.
 - G. Each angler must be a member of a recognized Kentucky Youth Anglers Club.
 - a. Only one Club per school district.. The club does not have to be recognized by a school district.
 - b. If there is not an organized club in a district, then you must join the closest, affiliated club. "No Lone Wolf teams" and an angler may not be on more than one roster.
 - i. To be a "recognized club", the club must submit to Kentucky Youth Anglers the following; school district in which it is located, head coach's name and contact info, roster, etc. prior to Dec. 1 of each year. There is a form for each club to fill out and submit on the Kentucky Youth Anglers website.

2. Permitted Equipment

A. Tackle and baits

1. Only artificial lures/baits are permitted. No live bait.
2. Each angler may use only one rod at a time.
3. Any lure/bait that is not permitted by law shall not be used.

B. Boats, Safety Equipment, and Boat Operation

1. Each boat must meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements.
2. All U.S. Coast Guard required safety devices must be on board and in good working condition.
3. All boats must be sixteen (16) feet or more in length.
4. No boat shall be powered by a combustion engine rated above 250 horsepower by the manufacturer.
5. Gas/fuel shall only be stored in factory installed gas/fuel tanks. No gas/fuel shall be left at any point for refilling purposes. Refueling may only take place at marinas who sell gas/fuel to the public.
6. No pontoons or similarly cumbersome vessels are permitted.
7. Each vessel must be equipped with a functioning, aerated live-well system.
8. Any vessel used must carry a \$500,000.00 liability policy from a reputable insurance provider and must cover all occupants.
9. Anytime a vessel is underway by the combustion engine:
 - i. The boat captain must be in control and seated behind the steering wheel.
 - ii. The kill switch must be attached to the driver as required.
 - iii. All occupants must be seated below the gunnels of the vessel while under power of the combustion engine.
 - iv. No occupants may be on any casting platform (front/back deck) while the vessel is under power of the combustion engine.
 - v. Anglers are permitted to assist in unloading and loading the vessel. But, the U.S. Coast Guard rules still apply.
10. Life jackets
 - i. Each boat must have the required U.S. Coast Guard floatation devices for all occupants.
 - ii. Additionally, each occupant must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved, non-inflating, life jacket anytime the vessel is under power of the combustion engine. No inflatable life jackets are permitted when the vessel is under power of the combustion engine.
11. All tournament blast-offs will be by single file, starting with Boat # 1. You are expected to know your boat number and locate your spot in the blast-off line well before we start calling numbers. Any action that slows the blast-off by any team will result in that team waiting until the last boat is sent out plus an additional ten (10) minute penalty.
12. No angler/youth is permitted to operate the vessel under power of the combustion engine during competition hours. However, they may assist with unloading and loading the vessel at idle speed. U.S. Coast Guard rules apply at all times.

13. No boat captain may operate the trolling motor while anglers are actively fishing in any fashion, either manually or by remote.
 - i. An exception is permitted to prevent injury or damage. However, while a boat captain is operating the trolling motor, no occupant is permitted to fish.
 - ii. J.V. boat captains are permitted to deploy & stow the trolling motor for J.V. anglers. They are not permitted to operate the trolling motor passed deploying or stowing, except in accordance with Rule C.13.i above.
 14. All lights must be on and functioning during blast-off and anytime there is diminished visibility.
 15. In the event a participant/team must leave early, the tournament director must be notified and arrangements made for the return of the lockout device.
 16. In the event of an emergency and the situation dictates, call 911. Then as soon as possible contact a tournament official.
 17. Failure to check-in before leaving tournament waters will result in a penalty, disqualification, and/or suspension.
- C. Fishing methods, Size, & Creel Limits
1. No trolling, long lining, or strolling is permitted.
 2. Participants are not permitted to leave the vessel to make a cast or land a fish.
 3. No live bait.
 4. No participating in "hole setting".
 5. No information from anyone who is not in the vessel pertaining to tournament rules, times, or locations during competition hours.
 - i. An exception will be allowed in the event of an emergency with notice to the tournament director.
 6. No vessel may encroach on another vessel, whose occupants are actively fishing, closer than fifty yards while fishing without first asking whether they are in a tournament or not.
 - i. You may ask permission to fish within fifty yards of another vessel that is actively fishing, whether they are in the tournament or not. But if they grant permission, then all competitors are permitted to fish within that same area.
 7. Size limits.
 - i. Statewide and/or lake rules will dictate size limits.
 - ii. Under no circumstance will fish smaller than twelve inches be permitted.
 - iii. All fish will be measured by measuring the fish from the tip of the lower jaw (closed) to the tip of the tail with fish laid flat on rule with tail lobes squeezed together.
 - iv. A spotted bass must meet the same size limit imposed on largemouth for tournament waters.
 8. You are permitted to weigh-in your best three (3) fish. But, do not bring more than three (3) fish to the weigh-in scales.
 - i. You may weigh one fish of your choosing for big fish. No second try!
 9. There are no courtesy bumps at weigh-in. You can verify your bump board against the tournament bump board when you check-in tournament morning.

10. Boat captains may only net fish in the case of a single angler being in the vessel. This does not pertain to cases where an angler's partner may leave to boat for a short period of time, such as a bathroom break.
11. Any citation issued to a participating team during tournament hours will result in a disqualification and possible suspension.
12. Fish must be brought to weigh-in in a bag of sufficient size to hold a limit of fish and with sufficient water. A team bringing a bag found not to have sufficient water or a bag containing fish seen by tournament officials resting on a paved surface will result in that team losing their day's catch.

D. Electronics

1. No more than two operational electronic devices capable of producing an image at the drivers console and/or one on the bow. This means no more than three devices total that are capable of producing an image may be on a vessel used during competition hours, only one of which may be on the bow.
 - i. No hand-held devices shall be used for navigation purposes by the boat captain while the boat is under power of the combustion engine.
2. Screens may not obstruct the view of the boat captain while operating the vessel under the power of the combustion engine.
3. No Forward-Facing Sonar (FFS) transducer may be used at any time during official competition. You do not need to remove the FFS transducer. An orange lockout device can be placed on the cord that attaches to the fish-finder that will render the corresponding transducer inoperable. The locking device must stay in place until a tournament official inspects to ensure it has not been removed. Any appearance of tampering will result in an automatic disqualification and suspension.

E. Penalties

1. All penalties (unless self reported) will be included in the final tournament report published on the Kentucky Youth Anglers website.
2. If improper safety equipment is witnessed:
 - i. Not allowed to blast off until all U.S. Coast Guard and tournament requirements are fulfilled.
 - ii. Must wait a full ten minutes after the last boat leaves blast off.
 - iii. Disqualified on the second offence of any safety violation.
3. Late for weigh-in: one pound for each full minute late to the announced check-in time. Disqualified after a full fifteen minutes have passed
4. Boat Captain witnessed fishing or operating the trolling motor is grounds for disqualification.
5. Dead Fish: one full pound penalty for each dead fish. Can not weigh a dead fish for a big fish.
6. Fishing in an official off-limits area will result in the loss of that day's catch.
7. Improper fish care:
 - i. Inadequate water in a livewell or weigh bag : automatic loss of days catch.
 - ii. Setting weigh bag on hot pavement, excessively dropping fish, excessive time out of water (picture taking) etc. penalty T.B.D. by the tournament director on a case by case situation.

F. Protests and Reporting Violations

1. It is expected all participants will self report any safety or rule violation committed.
2. Each participant is also expected to report any safety or rule violation by other competitors they witnessed.
3. A signed protest form must be completed prior to the closing of the tournament and before any placements are announced. That form will be made available upon request. But, it must be signed and submitted before the closing of the tournament and before any placements are announced.
4. No verbal protest will be heard and substantial proof must accompany any formal protest.

One final statement about rules.

These rules are not all inclusive. We can't make a rule for every situation.

We, as anglers, parents, coaches, captains, or tournament officials are responsible for the integrity of our sport. These rules are intended to provide a fair and level "field of play" for all that chose to compete, support, or operate in the Kentucky Youth Anglers League. Any attempt to "skirt" rules or advance by playing the "grey areas" will be looked at negatively. If we (as a League) have to implement a new rule based on someone exploiting a "grey area" then we don't need that person or team at our events.

We reserve the right to deny entry to any angler, captain, or coach who we feel has violated the sanctity of fair competition by repeatedly exploiting supposed "grey areas".