

## Participation and Eligibility

- A.** Anyone that has a kayak and a desire to compete is eligible for GRBY tournaments, including children!
  - a.** Any competitor under the age of 18 is required to have a chaperone over the age of 18 on the water with them at all times during tournament competition.
    - i.** Chaperone must remain within eyesight of the competing child at all times.
- B. Event Registration-** All GRBY competitions are held using TourneyX. At a minimum, each angler must set up a free TourneyX account in order to compete.
- C. Entry Fees-** All regular season GRBY events will be \$40 unless stated otherwise. The GRBY Championship will be \$75
  - a.** All entry fees include:
    - i.** \$6 TourneyX fee
    - ii.** \$7 Paypal/Admin fee
    - iii.** \$5 Big Bass entry
- D. Payment-** Payments will be made using Paypal. After you register using TourneyX, submit your payment via Paypal. Remember, you aren't fully registered until payment has been submitted!
- E. Refunds-** Due to how our tournaments are formatted, NO REFUNDS will be issued after you are signed up. If a tournament is cancelled you will have the option of a refund or rolling your entry to another event.
- F. Captain's Meetings-** GRBY competition does not require live in person Captain's Meetings, with the exception of the awards ceremony at the end of Day 2 of the Championship. You'll want to be there for that to be eligible for prize drawings!
- G. Championship Qualification-**
  - a.** Fish four events in the same GRBY lake series or a combination of 8 events from any GRBY lake series and you are eligible for the GRBY Lake Championship.
  - b.** Fish four events in the same GRBY river series or a combination of 8 events from any GRBY river series and you are eligible for the GRBY River Championship.

## Fish Eligibility

- A. Species-** Black Bass species including the Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass, and any hybrid of the above are the accepted species during competition.
- B. Length-** No minimum length for submission
- C. Condition-** Fish may not appear to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged, to include mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered
- D.** The same fish may only be submitted once per tournament, even if caught on separate days in a multiple day tournament.

## Competition Period

- A.** GRBY uses a "multiple single day" tournament format during the season. Tournaments will run from Thursday-Monday with anglers picking only one of those days to compete against the entire field of anglers that fish during the 5 day period. Multiple entries into the same tournament are not allowed.

- B.** Competition days will be 8 hours long with at least 2 hours allowed for submissions after lines out.
- C.** Sign up deadline will be 1 minute before lines in on Thursday for regular season events unless otherwise noted. Sign up deadline for the Championship will be 1 week prior unless otherwise noted.
- D.** Specific lines in/out/submissions times will be on each TourneyX event page.
- E.** Competitors may change their competition day themselves using web based TourneyX (not the app) up until lines in on Thursday providing there are still available slots for the day.
  - a.** Lake based series are restricted to 14 anglers per day unless otherwise noted
- F.** In the event a day is deemed unsafe by a Tournament Director due to inclement weather or water levels, competitors will be contacted and allowed to switch their day to a later available day (14 angler per day limit still applies to lake series events)
  - a.** In the event a competitor cannot make a day change, they can either do nothing and have the event still count towards Championship qualification, or take a refund and the event will not count towards Championship qualification.

### **Pre-fishing**

- A.** GRBY does not restrict pre-fishing for any tournaments. If you are pre-fishing on a competition day, we ask that you give competing anglers the right of way.

### **Competition Area/Launching**

- A.** Public launches as well as launching from public shoreline is allowed on all GRBY series unless otherwise noted on the TourneyX event page. Any angler launching from a privately owned location, or that trespasses across private property to launch will be disqualified.
- B.** Each GRBY event will have the eligible water for competition defined on the TourneyX event page. Anyone caught fishing restricted/unallowed water will be disqualified.
- C.** Wade fishing is allowed providing the following criteria are met:
  - a.** Kayak is launched
    - i.** Placed in water
    - ii.** Occupied
    - iii.** Placed under power by paddle, pedal, or power
  - b.** Kayak must remain in sight at all times
  - c.** Violation of these rules regarding wade fishing will result in disqualification

### **Cooperation and Assistance**

- A.** All competitors may share gear, tackle, and equipment at any point.
- B.** Assist in photographing a fish for submission
- C.** Communicate and fish in the area with other people

- D.** Competitors MAY NOT assist with catching a fish that will be photographed for submission. This includes:
  - a.** Boat positioning
  - b.** Casting
  - c.** Retrieving
  - d.** Hooking
  - e.** Playing
  - f.** Landing a fish
- E.** Kayaks or competitors may not make contact with another kayak or competitor during this process
  - a.** Violation of these rules regarding assistance will result in a disqualification

### **Fishing Tackle, Equipment, Methods, and Measuring Boards**

- A.** All fish submitted must be alive and caught within the regulations placed by the State of Indiana.
- B.** No snagging or snatching fish
- C.** When sight fishing bedded fish, the fish must be hooked in the mouth to be eligible for submission
- D.** All fish must be caught with a rod, reel, line, and hook using artificial baits only
- E.** GRBY is a Ketch Board only organization. The Original, X, and Karbonate boards are allowed.
  - a.** Keep your board clean to ensure accurate measurement and judging
  - b.** Competitors may share Ketch boards
- F.** GRBY uses an individual code generated by TourneyX for each angler. This code may be written on an identifier, piece of paper, your hand, or any item you have with you (PG only please)
- G.** Only one rod and reel may be used at a time. If the lure is in the water, it is in use.
- H.** Nets and fish grips may be used for landing fish. Grips must be removed prior to photographing for submission
  - a.** Fish may only be retained on the grips for a short period to revive the fish and prepare for the photograph

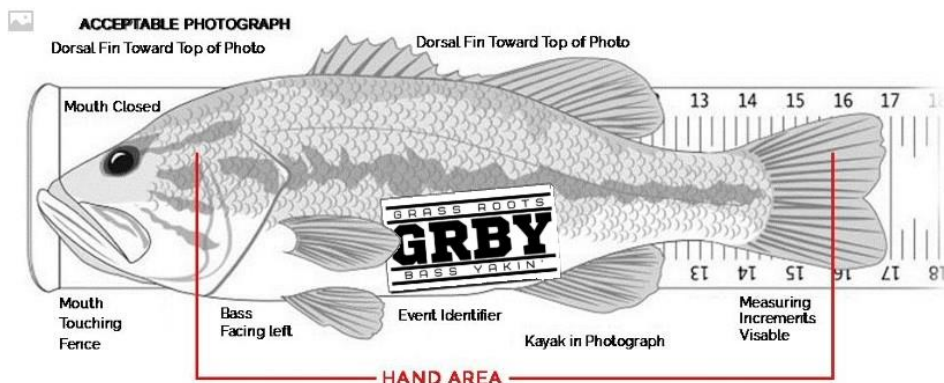
### **Watercraft and Propulsion**

- A.** GRBY allows kayaks, canoes, and SUPs to be used during competition.
  - a.** Any questions regarding to if a specific vessel is good for competition should be directed to a TD for discussion and a ruling prior to competition
- B.** Paddle, pedal, and electric motors are allowed during competition
  - a.** Only 1 motor can be mounted/utilized during competition days
  - b.** Must be mounted in a safe manner
  - c.** All Indiana boating regulations regarding registration and lighting must be followed
- C.** Competitors may be towed or assisted by another kayak in the tournament or guardians kayak at any time for competition purposes or emergencies. If a competitor has an equipment malfunction or weather event that inhibits them from safely making it back to their ramp, towing is allowed by any vessel.

- D. Trolling lures is permitted, but does count as a line in use
- E. Only one fish may be in possession at a time. Don't leash a fish and then resume fishing in an attempt to catch followers. This will result in a disqualification.
  - a. Multiple fish caught on the same lure during the same cast are eligible for submission

## Photo Standards

- A. Each photo submitted must be of a different fish. Any duplicate submissions will be denied, even if it is the same fish caught on different days
- B. Each photo must be in focus and clear enough for the judge to:
  - a. Verify the TourneyX code on the identifier
  - b. Verify the fish's condition
  - c. Verify the length
  - d. Verify the mouth is touching the fence
  - e. The entire fish must be visible in the photo, except where covered by the hand
- C. Camera is to be positioned directly over the fish's body and centered. This assists in accurate judging. Low angle photos that make judging length difficult, or make it difficult to confirm that the mouth is in contact with the fence, may be penalized or denied at the judge's discretion
- D. The identifier, if used, may be located above, below, or beside the fish.
- E. Competitor's watercraft must be visible in the background of the photo. Failure to do so will result in a denied submission.
- F. Hand Position



- a.
- b. No portion of the hand may enter the gill plate. Violation will result in a denied submission
- c. The lip, eye, and end of tail cannot be obstructed in the photo, even by your hand or identifier. Judge must be able to tell the following things: It's touching the fence, it's alive, and see the end of tail for measurement. If the judge can't verify one of these three things, the fish will be denied.
- d. Pinching and holding the tail is permitted.
- G. Bass orientation must be facing to the left, tail to the right, belly toward the angler.
- H. The bass' lip or jaw must be in contact with the measuring board fence and the fence must visible in the photo. Violation will result in a denied submission

- I. The bass' mouth may be open less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". If the judge determines it to be open  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or more, a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " penalty will be assessed. In the event of an excessively open mouth, the judge may impose a larger penalty up to denial of the fish.

### **Photo Submission Time**

- A. All GRBY Tournaments will have a 2 hour submission time from lines out. If a judge identifies an issue with an angler's picture after submission time has expired, anglers will be have 2 hours, from the time of contact to replace the picture. Replacement pictures will be allowed during this 2 hour window.

### **Scoring**

- A. Fish length is determined by the line on the measuring board that the caudal (tail) fin touches or crosses. In the event that the tail crosses one  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark but does not touch the next, that fish will be rounded down to the mark that it touched or crossed.
  - a. Example: Your submission's tail crosses the 15.50" mark, but falls short of 15.75" mark. That fish will be scored as 15.50"
- B. Any portion of the tail that extends off the board is not considered for scoring. The longest mark the tail obviously touches or breaks will be awarded.
  - a. Be careful with tail placement. It becomes difficult to tell whether a tail makes the next mark if it is lying on a portion of the board that is unlined. If that happens, it is judge's discretion for scoring.
- C. Tail must be in contact with the measuring board. Photo will be denied if the tail is raised.
- D. Tournaments will be a best 5 fish format unless otherwise noted. Auto cull is turned on for all tournaments in TourneyX
- E. In the event of a tie in an event, big fish will break the tie. If competitors' biggest fish are equal, it will continue to roll down until the tie is broken.
- F. AOY points will be awarded in a 100 point format per event. 100 to 1st, 99 to 2nd, 98 to 3rd, ect minimum of 20 points. In the event an angler has 0", either 50 points or last place points will be awarded (whichever is lower)
  - a. AOY per series will consist of an angler's best 4 out of 5 events unless otherwise noted.
- G. In the event of a tie in a series AOY race, the tie breaker will be total inches submitted for the 4 qualifying events. If there is still a tie, a roll down of best finishes will break the tie.
- H. In the event of a tie for a region AOY race, the tie breaker will roll down to the 9<sup>th</sup> best finish and so on until an angler runs out of event points. If there is still a tie after after one of the anglers runs out of events, the tie breaker will be total inches caught from the 8 qualifying events.

<b>Photo Scoring Criteria</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Blurry photo/length unclear: scored at highest mark of which there is no doubt	N/A
Blurry photo; completely unable to judge	Deny
Appears to be second generation (screen shot, photo of a photo)	Deny
GPS/Time data does not exist and/or other evidence shows photo taken outside of eligible water	Deny
GPS/Time data shows photo taken outside of tournament hours	Deny
Multiple photos submitted of the same fish; unintentional	Deny
Multiple photos submitted of the same fish; intentional	Ban
Competitor's watercraft not visible in photo	Deny
Entire fish not in picture	Deny
Fish positioned with right side of body toward camera; head pointing right and caudal left	Deny
Fish positioned with dorsal fins at bottom of photo, pelvic and anal fins upward	Deny
Identifier card/code missing or incorrect	Deny
Secured by restraining device to the board	Deny
Incorrect species	Deny
Any portion of the hand or fingers under the gill plate	Deny
Fingers or hand touching or covering the mouth or eye	Deny
Tail fin lifted off the board	Deny
Fish appears to have been snatched, snagged, or hooked in the body	Deny
Fish appears to be dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or manipulated to increase length	Deny
Bass lip or jaw clearly not touching the fence	Deny
Unable to tell with certainty that the bass lip or jaw is touching the fence	-1"-Deny
Mouth open equal to or greater than ¼", even if structurally unable to close	-.50"-Deny

## **Judging**

- A. GRBY Tournament Directors will be the judges for all regular season events, and an impartial outside judge will be selected for the Championship
  - a. Any Tournament Director that competes in a series will not be able to judge that series to ensure fairness across the board

## **Penalties**

- A.** In the event of a rules violation, the judge and Tournament Directors may impose penalties as deemed appropriate, including:
  - a.** Reduction of length as described above
  - b.** Loss of catch for the day, or until violation has been fixed
  - c.** Disqualification from the event
  - d.** Banned from competition
- B.** Tournament Directors will make every effort to get in contact with anglers that are in violation so that they can make adjustments, but sometimes it isn't possible. Please ensure you read and understand the competition rules to avoid penalties as much as possible.

## **Disputes/Appeals**

- A.** In order for an angler to dispute a penalty incurred during competition, they must contact a Tournament Director prior to the submissions due time of the day they are competing. Decision will stand as originally called if contact is made later.
- B.** Tournament Directors will review any info or resubmitted photos given by the angler with a dispute and adjust or leave scores/length as determined after review.
- C.** In the event a situation arises that is not covered by GRBY rules or exists in a "gray" area, the dispute/issue will be evaluated by GRBY Tournament Directors as a group and a vote will be taken. Majority rules and whatever is decided is final.

## **Awarding of Prizes/Money**

- A.** GRBY pays out 10% of the field at each competition unless otherwise noted. Payment will be made to the competitor's PayPal. Payout scale is available on the GRBY website.
- B.** Prizes (drawings, AOY, ect) will be distributed to the winning anglers in a timely fashion
- C.** Anglers must be present at the awards ceremony at the end of day 2 to be eligible for the applicable prize drawing at the GRBY Championship, unless otherwise stated.

## **Taxes**

- A.** Any GRBY competitor that is awarded over \$600 will be required to fill out and submit a 10-99 to GRBY before their prize money will be released.

## **Safety**

- A.** During competition, all competitors must wear a fastened USCG approved vest style life jacket (PFD)
  - a.** PFD may be inflatable, or inherent flotation. A belt-style PFD, even one that deploys as a vest, is NOT permitted
  - b.** "Fastened" is defined as zipped or buckled depending on your PFDs fastener type.
    - i.** If your PFD has both a zipper and buckles, the PFD must be zipped up to be considered fastened.

- c. Inflatable PFDs must be worn outside of any garments, including jackets
- d. Brief PFD removal to add or remove attire criteria as follows;
  - i. Lines are out of the water
  - ii. Watercraft is not underway
  - iii. Weather and water conditions allow
  - iv. Competitor is at least 12 years old
- B. Tournament Directors have the right to postpone, cancel, or cut short competition days due to adverse weather conditions or other factors that could jeopardize angler safety. Tournament Directors may also restrict tournament waters due to adverse weather.
- C. No drugs or alcohol while competing.
- D. Night competitions require a light. If you are pedaling or paddling, a handheld torch (flashlight) works. If you anchor up, a 360 light is required.

### **Conduct and Sportsmanship**

Conduct yourselves at all times in a manner that positively reflects the sport of kayak bass fishing, GRBY, our sponsors, and your fellow anglers. We share the water with a lot of people not in our competitions. Sportsmanship, courtesy, integrity, safety, and conservation in support of the sport of kayak bass fishing goes a long way to making the right impact for our organization. Any conduct or sportsmanship violation could result in a disqualification from an event up to a ban from GRBY.

### **Waiver and Release of Liability**

In order to compete in GRBY, you must have a signed waiver on file each year that you compete. The waiver is found on our website [www.grbyindiana.com](http://www.grbyindiana.com) Anyone that fishes an event without a signed waiver will be disqualified from that event.

### **Tournament Director/Sponsor Bye**

Tournament Directors and sponsors will have a bye into the GRBY Championship to show appreciation for all of their hard work and support of our amazing series. They will not be eligible for any prize drawing or raffle that requires qualifying in a series, however, if they take advantage of the bye.

### **Decision by Committee**

- A. Rule changes will always be voted on by Tournament Directors. All must cast a vote, and majority rules.
- B. In the event that a situation arises that is not covered by the existing rules, Tournament Directors will discuss and vote on a solution. Majority rules.
- C. Tournament Directors reserve the right to discuss and vote on refunding individuals experiencing extenuating circumstances beyond their control (i.e. death of a loved one, medical emergency, unforeseen catastrophic property damage, ect.) In the event a refund is issued, it will be posted on the GRBY Facebook page for transparency.
- D. GRBY reserves the right to make further clarifications to the rules during the season.