

# HOBIE® FISHING SOCIAL SERIES

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In 2016 Hobie Fishing will run a Hobie Fishing Social Series targeting Bass for anglers in both single and tandem sit on top kayaks of any kind with the major emphasis on fun.

The aim of the new Tandem Kayak Division is to foster a welcoming, environment where families and friends can fish together out of Tandem kayaks.

Anglers in the Single Kayak Division shall have the opportunity to compete for prize packs as well as ABT rankings points and ABT Angler of the Year (AOY). Anglers competing in the Tandem Kayak Division will have the opportunity to compete for Prize packs, but will not be awarded points. To ensure the social aspect of the series there will be no prize money payouts in either division.

The series shall consist of four one day events. These one day events are cast and retrieve, lure and fly only. Single kayak anglers and tandem teams shall photograph their catch on a digital camera, fill out a catch card and then present the camera card and catch card to the Tournament Director for sorting. This competition format is known as a Catch, Photo and Release Tournament (CPR).

## BASS 2016 RULES

### 1. KAYAK RESTRICTIONS

- 1.1 Canoes or sit-in kayaks are not allowed.
- 1.2 Sit-on kayaks are allowed.
- 1.3 Outriggers are allowed.
- 1.4 Combustion, sail or electric propulsion are not allowed.

### 2. ENTRY FEES

- 2.1 Single Kayak Division – \$20.00 for an on time entry - on-line entry.
- 2.2 Tandem Kayak Division \$40.00 for an on time entry - on-line entry.
- 2.3 Entries and payment received after 3:00pm (AEST or AEDT whichever applies at the time) on the Friday the week before the event (7 days) shall incur a late payment fee of \$20
- 2.4 First Time entrants who have not previously competed in a Hobie Kayak Tournament are eligible for a one off free entry. If an angler chooses this option they shall not be eligible for prizes and their scores shall not be recorded.

### 3. PRIZES

- 3.1 No cash prizes.
- 3.2 Single Kayak Division: Less than 10 kayaks there will be no prize pack. 10 to 15 anglers – 1 prize pack. (1 further prize pack shall be added for every 5 entries to a maximum of 5 packs based on online entries).
- 3.3 Tandem Kayak Division: Less than 3 kayaks there will be no prize pack. 3 - 6 tandem kayaks - 1 prize pack. (1 prize further prize pack shall be added for every 3 entries to a maximum of 5 packs based on online entries).

### 4. SAFETY

- 4.1 The care of fellow competitors and tournament staff is of the utmost importance. If an angler or a tournament staff member is in distress other competitors shall assist.
- 4.2 All competitors shall wear an Australian Standards Lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD) type 1 (or above), at all times when on the water.
- 4.3 All competitors shall be issued with a key-tag and shall return it to the key-tag board before the finish time.

- 4.4 Organisers shall search for late returns.
- 4.5 Competitors shall only use mobile phones for safety and emergency purposes or to communicate with event organisers. Emergency phone numbers shall be announced at the tournament briefing.
- 4.6 The tournament organisers reserve the right to reduce the fishing arena, change start or finish times, change the start and finish location and postpone or cancel a tournament if they deem it necessary for the safety of anglers or are required to by authorities.
- 4.7 All tournament staff have the right to direct any angler back to shore, at any time.
- 4.8 If the Tournament Director calls for a stop to fishing, the session shall be deemed cancelled for all anglers (whether they are or are not aware of the stop) and there will be no scoring.
- 4.9 Kayaks, determined by the organisers to be unsafe, shall be disallowed from competing.

## 5. PRE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Online entries at [www.hobiefishing.com.au](http://www.hobiefishing.com.au).
- 5.2 Anglers shall supply their kayak, tackle and safety equipment.
- 5.3 To fish in the Single Kayak Division anglers shall be 16 years of age or older at the time of the tournament. Proof of age may be required. To fish in the Tandem Kayak Division a parent or guardian over the age of 21 shall supervise an angler 6 years of age or older at the time of the tournament.
- 5.4 If a child under the age of 16 years of age is competing in the Tandem Kayak Division under the supervision of a guardian, that guardian shall supply a letter of authority from the child's parent at registration.
- 5.5 All entries require full payment within 24hrs of submission to be eligible. It is the responsibility of the competitor to contact Hobie Fishing (via \*protected email\*) if their entry is not listed on the event page at [hobiefishing.com.au](http://hobiefishing.com.au).
- 5.6 Anglers who have chosen the "First Timer Entry" option are exempt from paying the entry fee but are not eligible for prizes. Their scores shall not be recorded.
- 5.7 A new angler to the series who registers and pays the entry fee shall be eligible for prize packs.
- 5.8 Cancellation of an entry before the closing date for "on time entries" shall result in a refund or entry credits. Refer to specific event info sheet for dates.
- 5.9 Cancellation of an entry on the pre-fish, navigation or tournament day shall result in the forfeit of the entire entry fee, regardless of the reason.

## 6. WHAT ARE YOU GIVEN FOR THE DAY?

- 6.1 The organisers shall supply each Single Kayak angler and each Tandem Kayak Team with a measuring device. The device shall be returned at the completion of competition.
- 6.2 The event organisers shall supply a numbered key tag to each Single Kayak Angler or Tandem Kayak Team. The key tag shall appear in all catch photos to prove that the fish was photographed on that day.

## 7. WHAT EXTRA ITEMS DO I NEED TO TAKE TO A CATCH, PHOTO AND RELEASE TOURNAMENT?

- 7.1 iPhones or Smart phones are not permitted to be used for taking photographs unless they have a removable card that can be read on the Tournament Director's laptop.
- 7.2 A high resolution camera that has a removable memory card.
- 7.3 The camera shall have the current time and date set on the camera.

## 8. PRE-FISH BANS

- 8.1 A pre-fish ban means anglers are not allowed on competition waterways and linked systems for ANY REASON during the specified (pre-fish ban) dates.
- 8.2 During the pre-fish ban no person may be on tournament waters to locate fish or gain fishing information on a contestant's behalf.

- 8.3 There will be a pre-fish ban on all competition waterways and linked systems from Monday of the week prior to the competition, until the day before the competition, when pre-fishing will be permitted.
- 8.4 Example 1 Day Event:  
 Event Date: Sunday 31st January.  
 Pre-fish Ban starts and includes Monday the 18th January.  
 Pre-fish Ban finishes (fishing allowed) Saturday 30th January.  
 For details of pre-fish ban dates or if a practice navigation day is to be nominated by the tournament organisers. Please refer to the specific event information sheet for details.

## 9. REGISTRATION AND BRIEFING

- 9.1 Registration, Briefing, Start and Finish times may vary from event to event.
- 9.2 On the morning of the event, all competitors shall go to the pre-arranged location to register, where anglers must present for inspection their PFD, valid fishing licence or permit (if required). The angler or one member of each tandem team shall then be given their key-tag.
- 9.3 Registration will close 30 minutes before the tournament begins. Failure to register within the allocated time could cause start time penalties.
- 9.4 Briefing shall be held after the close of registration.
- 9.5 All anglers shall attend the entire briefing. Failure to attend the entire briefing could cause start time penalties.

## 10. START

- 10.1 The event will be a mass start but tournament organisers have the right to change the start order, procedure and time.
- 10.2 Once the start signal has been given competitors shall pedal or paddle across the defined start line in a specified direction.

## 11. PHOTO CRITERIA.

- 11.1 Each fish photo shall include ALL of the following criteria or it will not be scored:
- 11.2 Only fanned fork length measurements will be accepted.
- 11.3 The whole fish, tip to tail with the tail fully fanned. (Aside from your hand, fish shall be clear of any devices. Mouth/fins/tail cannot be obstructed in the photo)
- 11.4 Fish will be placed with the tip of the lip at beginning of the ruler with the mouth closed.
- 11.5 Measurement markings shall be clearly visible.
- 11.6 The mouth of the fish shall be closed.
- 11.7 Measurement markings shall be clearly visible.
- 11.8 Assigned key tag with number shall be visible.
- 11.9 Only one photo per fish shall be submitted to the scorer.
- 11.10 Photographs shall be taken from directly above the fish and not at an angle.



Fork length



Total length



**12. FISH HANDLING PROCESS**

- 12.1 Wet anything that the fish will touch (hands, net, measuring device).
- 12.2 Land your fish properly using a net. Avoid handling fish by their delicate gills.
- 12.3 Release fish immediately into the water after photographing (try to keep photographing under one minute).

**13. FINISH**

- 13.1 Competitors shall have their key tags on the board by the nominated finish time.
- 13.2 Failure to do so shall result in time penalties at the rate of 5cm per minute (or part thereof) late.
- 13.3 Disqualification of the bag for returns over 15 minutes late.
- 13.4 Anglers who return late and have caught no fish shall receive a negative score.

**14. MEASURE-IN PROCEDURE AND POINTS SCORING**

- 14.1 It is the angler's/teams responsibility to record on the catch card their session's longest, competition legal bag of fish.
- 14.2 The permitted number of fish per bag, per event or per session may vary.
- 14.3 Anglers fishing in the Tandem Kayak Division are fishing for a combined team length.
- 14.4 When filling in the catch card, fish lengths shall be rounded up to the nearest full centimetre. (e.g. a 30cm will be recorded as 30cm, 30.2cm will be recorded as 31cm)
- 14.5 After the session's close, anglers have 15 minutes to do the following:
  - Write your name on the provided plastic bag.
  - Fill out fish details, sign and date your catch card and place in the bag.
  - Place your camera card in the bag.
  - Submit your plastic bag to the Tournament Scorer.
  - Camera cards will be available for collection at the completion of scoring.

**15. TIES**

- 15.1 Ties will be settled on count back. The angler with the longest and then subsequent longest fish shall gain the higher place. If anglers cannot be split, they will share the placing.

**16. ADDITIONAL RULES**

- 16.1 Angler must obtain permits or licenses for the waterway in the state being fished. Organisers will not allow a competitor to compete without the legal licences and permits.
- 16.2 Competitors shall abide by all state fishing and boating regulations.
- 16.3 Trolling is not permitted – lure and fly casting only. Trolling is defined as using the momentum of a propelled kayak to give the lure action. Casting along a stretch of bank under pedal or paddle power is permitted if for maintaining the kayak's position.
- 16.4 Before altering a kayak's position, all lines shall be removed from the water.
- 16.5 The event organisers reserve the right to disqualify anglers deemed to be purposely trolling.
- 16.6 Drift fishing is allowed.
- 16.7 No fishing from outside the kayak, including fighting and landing fish.
- 16.8 Kayaks should remain a cast apart (30 metres) while fishing.
- 16.9 Any designated waterway restrictions shall be adhered to; failure to do this will result in disqualification and a maximum penalty of 75 cm may be applied.
- 16.10 If asked to leave a private marina or other facility, anglers shall do so immediately.
- 16.11 Once an angler has caught, measured and photographed a fish it shall be released.
- 16.12 Each anglers shall only use one rod at a time. This includes when a lure is snagged but still attached to the rod, anglers cannot pick up another rod and begin casting.
- 16.13 The lengths, measured from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail, to score points are: 27cm in Queensland; 25cm in Victoria; 25cm in New South Wales.
- 16.14 Single Kayak Division anglers must catch their own fish and photograph only fish they have caught. Tandem Kayak Division anglers have a shared length and shall only photograph fish caught by members of their tandem team.

- 16.15** In emergencies, organisers reserve the right to accept or refuse early scoring of catches.
- 16.16** Any complaint regarding rule breaches rules shall be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 10mins of the close of the session. Any complaints regarding breaches of the rules shall be submitted in writing to the on-site Tournament Director within 10mins of the close of session, as announced by the Tournament Director.
- 16.17** In the Tandem Kayak Division, two (2) anglers are required to constitute a team. A single angler on a tandem kayak is not permitted to enter the Tandem Kayak Division however they shall be allowed to enter the Single Kayak Division.
- 16.18** The rigging, scoring and registration areas are work places and designated non smoking areas.
- 16.19** Concerns regarding rules can be discussed with organisers BEFORE the tournament. All rules are applied as interpreted by the Tournament Director.

## **17. SPORTSMANSHIP AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 17.1** All contestants shall follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and conduct themselves in a manner that is a credit to themselves, to Hobie Fishing, Hobie Fishing's sponsors and the efforts to promote the sport.
- 17.2** No consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours including the weigh-in procedure.
- 17.3** Anglers are to refrain from using words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavourably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the opening statement of this section. This includes verbal communication and social media.
- 17.4** Conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, Hobie Fishing has the right to refuse an entry or deny a confirmed entry by returning the entry fee (minus deposit) or to disqualify a contestant.

## **18. BASS KAYAK RANKINGS**

- 18.1** Rankings Points, for the Single Kayak Division, will be calculated on Hobie Fishing Bass results.
- 18.2** The top four rankings points from year one (previous season) and the top four rankings points from year two (current season), will determine an angler's rankings score.
- 18.3** Anglers catching no fish shall be awarded 10 less points than the last placed fish catching anglers.
- 18.4** Rankings points are allocated as follows: The winner will be awarded 40 points, 2nd - 37points, 3rd - 34 points, 4th - 31 points, 5th - 28 points, 6th - 24 points, 7th - 23 points, 8th - 22 points, 9th - 21 points, 10th - 20 points etc.

## **19. HOBIE FISHING SOCIAL SERIES BASS ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY)**

- 19.1** Angler of the Year points shall be calculated on Hobie Fishing Social Series results.
- 19.2** Points from each event shall be allocated according to placing.1st 100 points.2nd 99 points etc.
- 19.3** Angler catching no fish shall be awarded 10 less points than the last placed fish catching angler.
- 19.4** The Hobie Social Series Bass Angler of the Year award shall be won by the angler with the highest accumulation of points from their best three events at the end of the qualifying rounds.
- 19.5** Angler of the Year ties shall be settled by a count back, the angler with the best performance in the most recent event shall gain the higher placing.