West Australian Tournament Anglers Association

KAYAK TOURNAMENT RULES FOR 2026

PRE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- The minimum age is 17 years.
- The organisers reserve the right to have the final say in acceptance of entry – i.e. submitting an entry does not guarantee acceptance.
- **Entries close at 5pm AWST on the Wednesday the week of the tournament - $25 late fee will apply to all entries received after this time. Entries are not accepted without payment and payment is not accepted without an entry form.**

FIRST TIME ENTRANT OPTION:

- First time entrants are eligible to choose a one-time free entry fee.
- First time entrants who choose the free entry option will not be eligible for prizes, scores will not be officially recorded, and scores also won't contribute to AOY points.
- First time entrants are only eligible for one entry to one round. The first-time entry does not apply per year or per season.

KAYAK INFORMATION

- Canoes or sit-in kayaks are not allowed.
- Sit-on kayaks are allowed.
- Outriggers are allowed.
- Kayaks that self-drain are preferred.
- Combustion, sail or electric propulsion are not allowed.
- All competitors shall wear an Australian Standards Level 100+ Lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD), former type 1 category, at all times when on the water.
- Inflatable lifejackets shall be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or state regulations.
- Live wells shall have a minimum capacity of 23L and be fitted with a functioning, battery operated, recirculating pump.

GENERAL EVENT RULES

- The WA Bream Series is a lure and fly only, catch and release, Bream fishing competition. The use of baits is prohibited. Anyone caught using baits will be disqualified.
- Vessels are permitted to be dragged over shallow water lines and sand bars provided the water is covered during a high tide.
- Competitors under the age of 18 years will not be eligible for prizes consisting of alcohol. Other prizes will be made available at the tournament organiser's discretion.
- Anglers must fish within the current fisheries rules and regulations.
- Any non-fishing areas must be adhered to. It is the competitors' responsibility to obtain information on these items. The organisers will advise of any additional areas prior to the event.
- If you are caught fishing out of bounds areas, you are automatically disqualified.
- After registration and before the start, competitors' vessels will be checked for empty live wells, safety gear and then issued with a key tag;
- Anglers are not permitted to fish outside their vessel at any time during the competition; this includes fighting and landing fish.

- If you are asked to leave a private marina then you must do so immediately.
- Anglers may only use one rod at a time while fishing including when a lure is snagged but still attached to the rod.
- Trolling is not permitted - lure and fly CASTING only. Trolling is defined as using the momentum of a vessel to give the lure action.
- Be responsible at all times.
- You may return to the weigh in earlier than the designated time (usually 2.00pm but please confirm prior to the event) however no further fishing can be undertaken by that kayak. It is imperative that those competitors that finish early advise the organisers to prevent an unnecessary search being instigated.
- All anglers must return their key tag to the tag board when they return to the event site before the designated time (usually 2.00pm but please confirm prior to the event). Organisers will search for late returns.
- The competition organisers accept no responsibility or liability for any accident, loss or injury.
- A 2-week pre-fishing ban is to commence preceding the competition until the start of the event. In other words, no fishing by competitors in the designated fishing areas from the Monday 2 weeks prior to the competition. For example:
    - Event Date: Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st January.
    - Pre-fish Ban starts and includes Monday the 18th January.
- Competitors are encouraged to have a first aid kit on their vessel.
- Any complaints regarding a breach of the rules must be addressed to a WATA official at the completion of the weigh- in. There will be an allocated time of 10 minutes for this after the final bag is weighed-in.
- Competition organisers reserve the right to disallow unsafe vessels from competing; they also reserve the right to disqualify whosoever does not abide by the rules.
- Penalties for rules violations will be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director; these may include disqualification from the tournament or disqualification from future events.
- All decisions by the organisers are final – an explanation will not necessarily be provided.

WEIGH IN PROCEDURE AND POINT SCORING

- Each angler may bring in three bream each tournament day to the weigh-in, and bream must a minimum of 26cm in size to the tip.
- You can upgrade. When an upgrade fish is caught, one of the four fish on the vessel is to be released leaving only three fish on the vessel.
- Fish must be alive to be considered for weighing. The organiser's decision is final.
- Fish are to be released alive after the weigh in. Any fish found not to be released in a healthy condition may be re-weighed and deducted from that anglers bag weight.
- All anglers must be at the weigh in by the designated time (usually 2.00pm, but competitors should confirm this) any late arrivals will be penalised 50 grams per minute and anglers returning later than 15 minutes after the finish time will be penalised 750 grams and all fish caught on that day shall not be weighed. The organiser may exercise discretion for exceptional circumstances.
- Anglers will finish the session by placing the key tag back on the appropriate allocated number before the session finishes. Anglers placing their key tag on the allocated number after the session finish time will incur a weight penalty. Generally, WATA officials are not permitted to place the key tag for anglers – it must be placed by one of the anglers competing.
- Dead fish, or those unable to swim away from the release point (as deemed by WATA officials) will not score points. At all times, bream are the responsibility of the anglers.
- 1 Day Tournaments - Ties will be settled by count back on each anglers individual big bream (it is up to each angler to have their biggest bream weighed), if neither angler in the count back has weighed their biggest bream then a tie will be awarded.
- 2 Day Tournaments - Ties will be settled by count back on the anglers largest individual bag weight – on any one day. If neither angler has a larger single day bag then it will be settled by count back on each anglers individual largest big bream (it is up to each angler to have their biggest bream

weighed), if neither angler in the count back has weighed their biggest bream then a tie will be awarded.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to WATA, WATA's sponsors, the sport of fishing and WATA's efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the WATA events.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably 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 first sentence of this section. This includes verbal communication and social media.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY)

- The Kayak WA Bream Series Angler of the Year (AOY) is one of WAs most prestigious awards a Bream angler can achieve. It rewards the angler that is the most consistent highly placed angler throughout the qualifying events, with points per round including the Grand Final allocated according to placing.
- AOY will be based on your total points over the season including the Grand Final.
- During all Rounds the points will be allocated on the following basis, the first placed angler will receive 100 points, and each place below that receives one point less:

  1st - 100 2nd - 99 3rd - 98 4th - 97 5th - 96 etc.

- Anglers do not need to catch a fish to receive AOY points, however, they do need to fish in an event to score, and anglers who catch no fish for a tournament will incur a 10 AOY point penalty for that round.
- If there are equal weights with no countback then AOY points will also be equal, e.g. Equal 1st means both anglers would get 100 points. In this scenario 3rd place would still obtain 98 points.
- At the end of the series when AOY is finalised if there is an equal score, then AOY will be settled by countback on the Grand Final result. If this is not the case, then the angler with the best performance in the most recent event will gain the higher placing.

WA BREAM SERIES GRAND FINAL QUALIFICATION

- The top 5 placing anglers in each of the three kayak rounds will receive qualification to the relative Grand Final.
- Grand Final entries and payment must be received by the closing date on the entry form or your position will be reallocated to the next team in line, it is the angler's responsibility to ensure the entry has been received.
- Wildcard entries are given out based on the final confirmation of attendance from the qualifiers. Generally given based on current AOY standings after the 3 rounds however is at the full discretion of the organisers.

ETIQUETTE/CODE OF CONDUCT

- Anglers will at all times abide by the rules and the organisers' discretionary powers.
- If you do arrive late please contact the tournament organisers (safety issue).
- You should not "drop in" on another vessel's drift.
- Both during and outside of the events anglers are expected to never make any derogatory comments towards fellow anglers, WATA and its organisers which includes any comments made verbally, by text messages or via any social media platforms.
- During fishing sessions, no mobile phones or radios should be used to communicate with other competitors, except in an emergency or to communicate with WATA Officials.
- Kayaks should remain a cast apart (30metres) while fishing.
- WATA sportsmanship would dictate that care of fellow competitors is of utmost importance. If an angler is in distress it is expected that other competitors will assist. Remember that safety is more important than your day's catch.
- WATA will encourage Fisheries and Boating Officers to attend all WATA tournaments to police safety regulations, registration, relevant boating legislation as well as alcohol and drug laws.
- Anglers are not to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while competing. Legally required blood alcohol levels must be adhered to, and WATA reserves the right to request a blood alcohol test prior to the start of competition.
- It is expected that Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming a professional sportsperson. Behaviour that will reflect unfavourably on WATA, its members, representatives and sponsors will subject the angler's catch to penalty or disqualification.

EVENT STARTS

- The competition commences at 7.00am usually (please confirm prior to the event). Please check in at least 30-60 minutes before the allocated event start time to allow for the checking of live wells, PFDs etc. and the briefing.
- Before the start of the event a briefing will be given to all competitors.
- Starting Procedures:
    - There will be no start order for the kayak series and all starts will be a gunshot style start.
    - Anglers are to align themselves within the designated area which will be mentioned at the briefing;
    - A WATA Official will check that everyone is inline and ready by asking you to raise your hand.
    - Following this the WATA Official will announce the beginning of the tournament by starting a count down.
- It is a requirement of entry that all anglers must attend the briefing. Failure to do so will result in a starting penalty regardless of reason for absence.

MODEL RELEASE

I give West Australian Tournament Anglers the right to use my name, photographs and video of me for sale to any medium for the purposes of advertising, trade, display, exhibition, social media, television or editorial use.

LIABILITY WAIVER

The responsibility for a person to participate in WATA events is his or hers alone. I am conscious of the dangers inherent to boat fishing.

I agree that none of the organisations or persons involved with the WATA events including ABT, Hobie, sponsors, promoters, or any other involved persons or parties accepts liability for damages due in

negligence or any other reason whatsoever while conducting or connected with this event for injury, to property or person, I may suffer while participating in the tournament and while upon the event premises.

I know the risks of danger to myself and my property while preparing for and participating in the tournament, and while upon the event premises, relying upon my own judgment and ability, assume all such risks of loss and hereby agree to reimburse all costs to those persons or organisations connected with this tournament for damages incurred as a result of my negligence.

Furthermore, I agree to be bound by the West Australian Tournament Anglers and any other rules that govern this tournament. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament.

These terms do not operate to exclude any provision of the Australian Consumer Law that applies and cannot be excluded by agreement.

BREACH OF RULES

WATA and its organisers reserve the right to enforce a suitable punishment to any competitor who fails to follow these rules and/or breaks any code of conduct/s. This punishment can range from a verbal warning through to a life ban from all WATA run events and is up to the discretion of WATA and its organisers.

AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL RULES

The Tournament Director has the ability to change, amend or delete a rule as necessary. Changes will take place prior to the start of a session and will be announced at the session briefing or prior to the start time of any round or championship. Please remember that the emphasis is on having an enjoyable experience fishing in a competitive environment.

Thanks for your support. The Organisers.

Rev 1: 25th January 2026