

West Coast Championship

Competition Rules Standard — 2026 Edition

Revisions Log

The following changes to the West Coast Championship Competition Rules Standard were adopted effective February 27, 2021, and remain in effect for the 2026 season. These changes supersede all earlier versions of this document.

1. Hand Position (Section 9.G.i): In bass competition, hands or fingers may be in contact with the BODY ONLY. The hand may not extend past the anal fin but may cover the gill flap, provided the eye is not covered. No portion of the tail may be touched. Violation results in a 1-inch deduction in score.

2. Pre-Fishing Restrictions (Section 4.A): There is a two-week off-limits period for prefishing the body of water from any power boat (bass boat, ski boat, or pontoon-style boat). The only exception is when serving as a boater for a kids' tournament on the same body of water. Competitors may fish from a power boat in waters that are not considered eligible during competition.

West Coast Championship Competition Rules Standard

The terms and conditions presented in this document apply between West Coast Championship and those persons registering for and participating in West Coast Championship competitive events.

The pronouns “he,” “him,” “himself,” and “his” are used herein as generic, gender-neutral terms and do not restrict or confirm eligibility on the basis of sex.

1. This West Coast Championship Competition Rules Standard (this document) covers approximately 90% of the terms, conditions, and standards common to all West Coast Championship events.
2. Together with the information on the website (westcoastchampionship.com), this document comprises the West Coast Championship Competition Rules. As a condition of participation in any West Coast Championship competition, each participating angler (“Competitor”) agrees to read, understand, and comply with all West Coast Championship Competition Rules. Failure to comply will result in penalty, ranging from points deductions to submission denial or disqualification.

For each event, the Tournament Director (“TD”) will be identified on the website (westcoastchampionship.com). The TD is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the West Coast Championship Competition Rules and may amplify or clarify them as needed to make them more relevant or complete. Tournament Director decisions may be disputed as described in Section 17.A. West Coast Championship management will review the TD's actions and revise the Competition Rules as appropriate. Such revisions will be summarized in the Revisions Log above and highlighted in red in the body of the rules standard. Rule changes will also be announced in the West Coast Championship Facebook group at least fifteen (15) days prior to implementation.

1. Participation and Eligibility

A. Registration — Each Competitor must register on the West Coast Championship website (<https://westcoastchampionship.com/registration-liability-agreement-form/>) and on TourneyX (<https://tourneyx.com/leaderboard/standings/west-coast-championship-2026>) prior to the start of competition. Failure to complete registration on both platforms may result in ineligibility for the event.

B. Professional Fishing Guides may register and compete in events, provided they do not guide for pay on Eligible Water within 30 days prior to the event's start-of-competition date.

C. Event Registration — All West Coast Championship competitions are conducted using a Tournament Management System (“TMS”) (TourneyX). Each angler who wishes to participate must create a TMS (TourneyX) user account before the first day of competition and must register for the event and pay the entry fee through the TMS (TourneyX).

D. Entry Fees — Entry fee amounts, administrative surcharges, registration deadlines, late-fee exceptions, and refund or transfer restrictions are specified on the website (westcoastchampionship.com) for each competition.

No Satisfaction Guarantee — Competitors understand and agree that payment for an event does not secure a guarantee of satisfaction.

A Competitor's failure or inability to participate in any or all activities of the event, for any reason except as otherwise provided herein, does not relieve or suspend the Competitor's obligation to make all required payments on a timely basis, nor does it entitle the Competitor to a refund or credit, except as provided below.

E. Payment — By submitting an Event Registration, the Competitor agrees that the terms and conditions of the West Coast Championship Competition Rules constitute a legally binding and enforceable Agreement.

F. Competitor's Right to Cancel — A Competitor wishing to cancel an Event Registration may do so by emailing the Tournament Director at the address provided on the website (westcoastchampionship.com).

Unless otherwise specified on the website (westcoastchampionship.com), cancellations made more than 15 days before the event incur no administrative fee. Cancellations made 15 days or fewer before the event will incur an administrative fee equal to 10% of the entry fee; all side pot fees will be fully refunded.

Once an event has started, no cancellations will be accepted and no refunds will be provided.

West Coast Championship is not responsible for refunding any expenses related to travel, lodging, or other third-party payments.

G. Pre-Tournament Check-In — Each Competitor is responsible for reviewing the Schedule of Events on the website (westcoastchampionship.com) for pre-event check-in times and locations. Each Competitor must check in with official West Coast Championship staff at the designated time and place for verification of eligibility, signing of waivers (if required), and rules acknowledgment.

Late check-in and registration procedures (if permitted), event-specific instructions, and the event schedule are specified on the website (westcoastchampionship.com).

2. Fish Eligibility

A. Species — For “Bass” West Coast Championship competitions, only “black bass” are eligible for scoring. This designation includes the three most common species — Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), and Spotted/Kentucky Bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) — as well as the following less common species and varieties:

- a. Shoal Bass (*Micropterus cataractae*)
- b. Redeye Bass (*Micropterus coosae*)
- c. Suwannee Bass (*Micropterus notius*)
- d. Guadalupe Bass (*Micropterus treculii*)

e. Bartram's Bass (*Micropterus bartrami*)

f. Alabama Spotted Bass (*Micropterus punctulatus henshalli*)

B. Length — The minimum length for a scored bass is 12 inches. Photos of bass shorter than the minimum will be denied.

C. Condition — Fish must be hooked in the mouth or jaw and must not appear snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body or a fin. Fish must appear to be alive. Photos of fish that appear dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged — or that appear mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered — will be denied.

D. Caudal (Tail) Fin — The tip of at least one lobe of the caudal fin must be in contact with the measuring board. If the entire caudal fin is lifted away from the board so that the tip is no longer in contact, the photo will be denied.

E. Eye — The fish's left eye must be visible in the photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

3. Competition Period

A. Competition start and end dates and times are stated on the website (westcoastchampionship.com). Any Competitor who launches (propels an occupied boat away from shore) before the stated “Earliest Launch” time, or begins fishing before the official Competition Start Time on any day of competition, will be disqualified from the event. Fish photographed outside the official Competition Start and End times will not be considered for scoring under any circumstance.

B. Check-In — Competitors who have submitted digital photos to the TMS (TourneyX) must be in the Judges' Check-In Line at Tournament HQ by the time specified on the website (westcoastchampionship.com). Failure to be in or through the Judges' Check-In Line by that time will result in disqualification from the event.

4. Pre-Fishing

A. Practice on Eligible Water is permitted until the time specified on the website (westcoastchampionship.com) on the day before competition. If no pre-fishing deadline is stated on the website, practice may continue until six hours prior to competition start time. Fishing on the event's Eligible Water after the pre-fishing deadline will result in disqualification from the event. (See Rule 6 regarding pre-fishing with a professional fishing guide.)

There is also a two-week off-limits period for prefishing the body of water from any power boat — bass boats, ski boats, or pontoon-style boats. The only exception is when serving as a boater for a kids' tournament on the same body of water. Competitors may fish from a power boat in waters that are not considered eligible during competition.

5. Competition Area

A. Competitive fishing is permitted only on publicly accessible waters within the geographic area designated as “Eligible Water” on the website (westcoastchampionship.com). Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

B. Competitors may launch from any public-access shore directly onto Eligible Water, or may launch and paddle or portage to Eligible Water. Crossing restricted property to reach Eligible Water is not permitted. Tributaries, canals, sloughs, or estuaries separated from Eligible Water by temporary obstructions (e.g., fallen trees, log jams, beaver dams) that could be entered by floating or paddling if the obstruction were removed are considered Eligible Water; competitors may drag or portage watercraft over or around such obstructions. Waters separated by

permanent obstructions (e.g., levees, earthen or concrete dams, berms, roadbeds, spillways, waterfalls) are ineligible, and competing in such areas is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

C. Competitors are not restricted to fishing where they start each day and may relocate to other Eligible Water during tournament hours.

D. Watercraft must not be anchored in a position that blocks access for other watercraft or powerboats. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

E. If a Competitor must go out of sight of his watercraft for any reason (e.g., a restroom break, contacting a tournament official, or reporting an emergency), he must cease fishing until he returns to the watercraft, at which point he may resume fishing. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

6. Cooperation and Assistance

A. Until the end of the established pre-fishing period, Competitors may fish with and receive direct assistance from other anglers and professional guides on Eligible Water, except as restricted in Rule 6.B.

B. Within 30 days prior to the event, a Competitor may not fish on Eligible Water with, or receive expert advice from, a professional fishing guide who is paid for those services. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

C. Before and during the event, Competitors may (i) share gear, tackle, and equipment; (ii) assist in photographing a fish for submission; and (iii) communicate with and fish near other people, including other Competitors (except Professional Fishing Guides, as stipulated in Rule 6.B). However, Competitors may not receive assistance in catching fish — including boat positioning, casting, retrieving, hooking, playing, or landing a fish. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

7. Fishing Tackle, Equipment, and Methods

A. All fish must be caught live, using only equipment and legal methods that comply with all sport fishing statutes and regulations of the applicable state and body of water. Competitors are responsible for researching and complying with all applicable fishing and boating regulations. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted. When sight-fishing a bed for spawning bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth to be admissible. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

B. All fish must be caught on rod, reel, line, and hook, using artificial lures only. Traps, snares, set lines, or other methods besides rod, reel, and line are not permitted, even if legal under state game laws. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

C. Acceptable measuring boards are the Ketch (non-folding) and the YakAttack Leaderboard. Boards may be shortened by removing the end opposite the fence — for example, cutting a board at the 26-inch mark to fit crossways between a watercraft's gunwales. A board may not be broken, snapped, or cut apart and reassembled at any point between the two ends. A crack that does not separate the board into pieces and does not affect measuring accuracy may be repaired and reinforced for use. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

C.1. Any other board modification or tampering — including attempting to bend or push on the board to gain inches — will result in disqualification from the event and from the series for a minimum of one year.

D. Competitors may share measuring boards.

E. A break in a measuring board's fence may be mended for use if the repair is rigid, flat, and at a right angle to the measuring surface. The mended board must be submitted to the Tournament Director in person, or by two or

more emailed photographs clearly showing (i) the mended area and (ii) a side view of the measuring surface and fence. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

F. Each Competitor must use a mobile phone with a camera capable of producing still photos. If a Competitor's phone becomes inoperable or is lost, he may share phones with other Competitors, provided each Competitor logs into his own TMS (TourneyX) account to submit photos of the fish he caught and can clearly and positively identify those photos. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

G. Only artificial and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. Live, preserved, or prepared bait is not permitted, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

H. Only one casting, spin-casting, spinning, or fly rod and reel may be in use at any time. A rod and reel is considered "in use" when a lure attached to it by line is in or on the water. A hung lure (e.g., snagged in an overhanging tree) that is not in or on the water is not considered in use, and the attached rod and reel may be set aside while another is in use.

I. Nets and grippers (e.g., Fish Grip, Boga-Grip) may be used to land fish during competition, but grippers must not remain attached to the fish in photos. Violation will result in denial or disqualification of the photo.

J. If a Competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he may attempt to secure the line and land the fish by hand or with the rod being used, and the fish may still be counted as legal. He may not hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. If a Competitor loses his rod and reel while landing a fish, he may use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit; if the fish is still hooked after retrieval, it may be landed, photographed, and submitted as legal. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

8. Watercraft and Propulsion

A. Acceptable watercraft:

- i. Small, narrow, single-hull watercraft not exceeding 44 inches in hull width and 17 feet in hull length (or 18 feet in combined hull length plus attachments) that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable and modular kayaks
- ii. Stand-up paddleboards (SUP)
- iii. Canoes
- iv. Other watercraft specifically pre-approved as exceptions by West Coast Championship management
- v. Approved exceptions: Blue Sky Boatworks 360 Angler; Hobie Lynx; NRS/STAR Inflatable Kayaks and SUPs; Wilderness Systems iA.T.A.K.
- vi. If unsure about a watercraft's eligibility, contact West Coast Championship management in advance for a determination.

Unless approved as an exception, the following watercraft may not be used in competition:

- a. Gas- or liquid-fueled motorized or hybrid fuel/electric powerboats or personal watercraft
- b. Sailboats
- c. Jon boats
- d. Pirogues, coracles, and rowboats
- e. Dinghies and skiffs

f. Float tubes, inflatable rafts, and rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac)

g. Pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft, or similar

Use of any watercraft other than those listed above as acceptable or approved as an exception will result in disqualification from the event.

B. Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole, or electric motor.

C. Unless specifically prohibited on the website (westcoastchampionship.com), a single electric propulsion unit per watercraft is approved for use in West Coast Championship-sanctioned competition, subject to the following:

i. Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to registration, use, and operating restrictions for motorized/electric-propulsion watercraft in the designated fishing area. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

ii. An electric motor used to propel a watercraft must be safely attached, and may not exceed the lesser of (a) the manufacturer's labeled maximum HP/thrust capacity, (b) 3 HP, or (c) 155 foot-pounds of thrust. Violation of either condition will result in disqualification from the event.

D. Towing, transport, or relocation assistance from another watercraft (including “mothershipping”) is not permitted, except in emergencies — such as pulling a kayak from a danger zone or restricted area. Once the emergency has ended, the Competitor may resume fishing only if the watercraft was pulled no more than 100 yards from the danger zone. Violation will result in disqualification from the event.

E. Trolling (towing a lure attached to a single rod behind a moving watercraft) is not permitted in West Coast Championship competition.

9. Photo Standards

Digital photographs of each fish submitted for scoring must meet the following criteria:

A. Unique — Each photo submitted by a Competitor in an event must be of a different fish. Subsequent photos of the same fish will be denied.

B. Visible/Legible — Each photo must be sharply focused and clear enough for a judge to:

i. Verify the correct Identifier Form and Event ID Code. If the judge cannot verify this, the photo will be denied.

ii. Verify the fish's condition. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

iii. Verify the fish's length. The judge will score the fish at the greatest length he can be certain of.

iv. Verify whether the bass' jaw or lip is in contact with the measuring board fence. If the judge cannot verify this, a 1-inch penalty will apply.

v. See the entire fish, from mouth/jaw to the tip of the caudal fin, except where covered by a hand or fingers. If either end is covered or cropped off, the photo will be denied.

C. Centered — The camera lens must be positioned directly over the center of the fish's body to support accurate measurement. Photos taken at a low angle that obscures an open mouth may be denied or penalized at the Tournament Director's discretion.

D. First-Generation — Each photo must be a first-generation image, not a photo or screenshot of another photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

Photos that, in a judge's opinion, contain evidence of a possible disqualifying infraction — including photos that appear cropped or modified (e.g., enhanced or filtered) to obscure an infraction — will be accepted with a score of 0.01" and a note describing the infraction, emailed to the Competitor. The Tournament or Series Director will review all such photos and make any disqualification ruling, and may request the original, uncropped, unfiltered photo for further review. Failure to respond, or refusal to submit the original photo, will result in denial of the photo.

E. Identifiable — The official West Coast Championship Identifier Form must appear above, below, or beside the fish (not covering any portion of it, unless attached to the Competitor's hand or arm). A hand-drawn form or an image of the Identifier Form on a smartphone is not permissible. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

F. Background — The Competitor's watercraft must be clearly visible in the photograph. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

G. Hand Position

i. In bass competition, hands or fingers may be in contact with the BODY ONLY. The hand may not extend past the anal fin, but may cover the gill flap as long as the eye is not covered. No portion of the tail may be touched. Violation will result in a 1-inch deduction in score.

ii. No portion of a hand or finger may be under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap). Violation will result in denial of the photo.

H. Mouth

i. The bass' lip or jaw must be in contact with the measuring board fence (bump board/upright), and the fence must be visible in the photo. Violation will result in denial of the photo.

ii. A closed mouth is preferred for uniformity of measurement. If the judge considers the mouth open — even if it is structurally unable to close — a 1-inch penalty will be assessed.

I. Not "In Possession" — In most (though not all) states, a fish that is neither secured by a restraint device nor placed in a holding container is not considered "in possession," so state minimum-length regulations do not apply to photo submissions. If an event takes place in a state where photographing a fish constitutes "possession," a photo of a fish that does not comply with state size limits will be denied. (See Rule 7.A regarding regulatory compliance.)

10. Scoring

A. Fish length is determined by where the caudal (tail) fin touches or crosses the quarter-inch marks on the measuring board. If the fin falls short of a 1/4-inch mark, the length is rounded down to the next lower 1/4-inch mark the caudal fin actually touches or crosses.

B. If any portion of a fish's caudal fin extends off the measuring board, the score is determined by the highest 1/4-inch mark reached or crossed by the portion of the fin still on the board. Any portion extending off the board is not considered in scoring.

C. Tournament ranking, contingency awards, and Angler of the Year points are determined by the aggregate length of each Competitor's photos remaining on the Leader Board when judging concludes and the Dispute Period has closed. Unless otherwise stipulated on the website (westcoastchampionship.com):

i. In one-day tournaments, the five longest fish on the Leader Board when judging is complete are combined for the aggregate score.

ii. In two-day tournaments, the five longest fish from Day 1 and the five longest fish from Day 2 on the Leader Board when judging is complete are combined for the aggregate score.

D. If a Competitor's photo is denied by a judge after the end of competition, it may be automatically replaced by a previously submitted, auto-culled photo; however, no Competitor may submit a new replacement photo after the end of competition.

E. In the event of a tie, the tied Competitors' longest (highest-scored) fish are compared, and the tie breaks in favor of the Competitor with the longer fish. If those are equal, the second-longest fish are compared, and so on for each remaining fish. If all of the tied Competitors' scoring fish are identical, the tie breaks in favor of the Competitor whose last Leader Board photo was uploaded earliest.

F. West Coast Championship judges apply the following scoring criteria to adjust measurements, approve or deny photos, and penalize photos by deducting length or disqualifying a Competitor:

#	Category	Criteria	Penalty
1	Photo	Blurry photo; length unclear	Scored at the highest mark of which there is no doubt
2	Photo	Blurry photo; completely unable to judge	Deny
3	Photo	Appears to be a second-generation image (e.g., screenshot, photo of a photo)	Deny
4	Photo	EXIF data or other evidence shows photo taken outside Eligible Water boundaries	Deny
5	Photo	EXIF data or other evidence shows photo taken outside competition hours	Deny
6	Photo	Multiple photos submitted of the same fish; unintentional	Deny
7	Photo	Multiple photos submitted of the same fish; evidence indicates intentional	Ban
8	Photo	Competitor's watercraft not visible in photo background	Deny
9	Photo	Entire fish not in picture	Deny
10	Orientation	Fish positioned with right side toward camera, head right, caudal fin left	Deny
11	Orientation	Fish positioned with dorsal fin at bottom of photo, pelvic/anal fins upward	Deny
12	Identifier	Official Identifier Form missing, counterfeit, or incorrect for event	Deny
13	Identifier	Identifier Form lying on or covering any portion of the fish	Deny
14	Identifier	Incorrect Event ID Code for the event	Deny
15	Fish	Secured by a restraining device (e.g., stringer, tape, clip attached to fish)	Deny
16	Fish	Photo violates state regulations regarding possession	Deny
17	Species	Photo of any species/variety other than that approved for the competition	Deny

#	Category	Criteria	Penalty
18	Body	Bass caudal fin tip fails to reach the 12.00" line on the measuring board	Deny
19	Body	Any part of hand past the anal fin	1.00"
20	Body	Any portion of hand or fingers under the fish's operculum (hard gill flap)	Deny
21	Body	Finger(s) or hand touching a bass' tail	1.00"
22	Body	Entire caudal fin lifted away and out of contact with the measuring board	Deny
23	Body	Left eye covered; not visible in photo	Deny
24	Body	Fish appears snagged, snatched, or hooked in the body rather than the mouth	Deny
25	Body	Fish appears dead, mutilated, frozen, mangled, or otherwise damaged	Deny
26	Body	Fish appears mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered to increase its length	Deny
27	Mouth	Bass lip or jaw clearly not touching the measuring board fence (upright end plate)	Deny
28	Mouth	Unable to ascertain with certainty that lip or jaw touches the fence	Deny
29	Mouth	Mouth open, even if structurally unable to close completely	1.00"

11. Penalties

A. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose penalties as deemed appropriate, including but not limited to:

- i. Reduction of score (length), as described above or as determined by the TD
- ii. Loss of catch for the day, or until the violation is remedied
- iii. Disqualification from the tournament in question
- iv. Additional penalties determined by the TD, including monetary fines or reduction of Competitor of the Year points

Subject to the dispute and appeal process below, the TD's decisions on violations are final.

B. Following a review of evidence, a determination by the West Coast Championship Director of Operations of cheating or fraud will result in permanent revocation of West Coast Championship membership, suspension from all West Coast Championship competitions and series, and revocation of all West Coast Championship social media privileges. Findings will be published on an invite-only West Coast Championship tournament anglers Facebook page.

C. Competitors acknowledge that (i) polygraph tests may be necessary to verify compliance with the rules and settle disputes, and (ii) entry constitutes acceptance of this requirement and agreement to abide by its conclusion. Refusal to submit to a polygraph test is grounds for immediate disqualification from the event and prohibition from future participation in any West Coast Championship event. Polygraph results will not be the sole factor in a

West Coast Championship management review of a Competitor's eligibility for awards or future participation, but may be considered among several factors.

D. The West Coast Championship Director of Operations shall:

- i. Have discretion to determine the need for a polygraph examination
- ii. Be responsible for (i) selecting an independent expert to administer the test, (ii) establishing, in consultation with the administrator, the scope of questions, and (iii) interpreting the results
- iii. Have sole responsibility for selecting the location, date, and time of the test, considering all concerned parties' schedules and travel costs

E. The Competitor shall:

- i. Make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director
- ii. Cooperate fully with the test

F. Competitors may be selected at random for polygraph examinations during or following West Coast Championship events.

12. Awarding of Prizes

A. Prizes and the number of paid positions are addressed on the website (westcoastchampionship.com). Amounts paid per rank are subject to change based on participation.

B. Prizes will be processed after all submitted photos have been judged, results reviewed by a separate panel, and disputes resolved.

C. Product prizes (e.g., kayaks, paddles, propulsion units) may require additional processing or delivery time, allowing Competitors flexibility in selecting model, color, or style. Product selection may be limited to specific features and models.

13. Taxes

Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on cash and merchandise awards. Failure to meet these obligations may result in disqualification from all future West Coast Championship events. Prize recipients whose cumulative total for the year reaches \$2,000 or more must complete and submit IRS Form W-9, including name, address, Social Security number, signature, and date. These forms are used to prepare IRS 1099 forms for distribution in January.

14. Sale of Prizes

Prizes won at West Coast Championship events may not be advertised or promoted for sale on West Coast Championship Facebook pages for one full year. Violation will result in ineligibility for future events and forfeiture of qualification status.

15. Safety

A. During competition, every Competitor must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment (e.g., light source, whistle or other audible signal device, Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver/PFD). See www.uscgboating.org.

B. PFD Usage — At all times while on the water during competition hours, except as described in Rule 15.C (PFD Wear Exception), Competitors must wear either an inherent-flotation or inflatable USCG-certified PFD, vest-style or float jacket. A belt-style PFD — even one that deploys as a vest — is not permitted. The PFD must be properly positioned and adjusted per USCG and manufacturer instructions. A verified infraction results in disqualification from the event.

C. PFD Wear Exception — A Competitor may briefly remove his PFD while afloat to change, add, or remove clothing if all of the following conditions are met:

- i. No fishing lines are in the water
- ii. The watercraft is not underway
- iii. Weather and water conditions permit doing so safely
- iv. The Competitor is over age 12

The Competitor must put the PFD back on immediately after changing, before resuming navigation, fishing, or any competition-related activity.

D. The Tournament Director may postpone or cancel the start of a tournament day due to bad weather or other safety concerns. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time due to bad weather.

E. In a weather emergency posing an imminent threat to Competitors, the TD may terminate competition before the scheduled end time. An Early Termination Announcement, with an adjusted end-of-competition time, will be broadcast via email and group text and posted on the TMS (TourneyX) site and social media. The announcement will specify an adjusted report-in time and location; Competitors should proceed there if safe to do so.

Competitors must stop fishing immediately upon receiving the announcement. No photos of fish caught after the adjusted end time may be submitted; however, to accommodate those seeking shelter, Competitors have up to 15 minutes after the adjusted end time to submit a photo of a bass caught before that time.

F. In an emergency, Competitors should call 911 first, then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

G. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than over-the-counter medication or those prescribed by a licensed physician) by any Competitor during an event will not be tolerated and will result in automatic disqualification from that and all future West Coast Championship tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants are allowed in watercraft during competition. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, felony conviction or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably on safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, or rules compliance are grounds for rejecting an application or disqualification, following review by the Director of Operations. Any disqualification, suspension, or other disciplinary action by another tournament or fishing organization is grounds for rejecting an application or disqualifying a Competitor, following review by the Director of Operations.

16. Competitor Conduct

Competitors in any West Coast Championship-sanctioned event must observe the applicable rules for that event and conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects favorably on the sport of kayak bass fishing, West

Coast Championship, its members, officers, representatives, tournaments, and sponsors. Competitors are expected to uphold high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, integrity, safety, and conservation — especially near non-Competitors on or beside Eligible Water. A Competitor who violates these principles, or whose behavior reflects unfavorably on West Coast Championship's efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean water, and courtesy, may forfeit tournament winnings, face suspension from future events, be permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof, as determined by West Coast Championship.

17. Disputes and Appeals

A. A Competitor who wishes to dispute a rules violation penalty, a judge's scoring decision, a Tournament Director's decision, or other action that materially affected the Competitor's ranking or prize eligibility must email, call, or text a dispute to the Tournament Director within 24 hours (one full day) of the completion of event judging. The dispute must include:

- i. Event title, location, and date
- ii. Description or identification of the penalty imposed, or the condition being disputed
- iii. Reference to the pertinent rule
- iv. Reason for the dispute and requested action

Except in cases of fraud or other law violations, disputes submitted after the 24-hour deadline will be reviewed without affecting the outcome of the event; no change in rank or reward will result from late disputes. Only Competitors in the event where the disputed action occurred may submit disputes. Disputes are handled privately, with a copy provided to all directly involved parties. The TD will review the Competitor's claim, investigate thoroughly, and issue a ruling.

B. The Competitor who filed the dispute may appeal the TD's ruling. Appeals must be submitted to the West Coast Championship Director of Operations by email within 24 hours of the ruling, along with a \$100 Appeals Processing Fee paid via PayPal. The Director of Operations will impanel an appeals committee consisting of one West Coast Championship staff member not directly involved in directing or judging the event, and two West Coast Championship Members who were not Competitors in the event. Appeals hearings will take place within seven (7) business days of receipt of the written appeal, and all parties must be available at the scheduled hearing time. The appeals committee will submit its findings and recommendation to the Director of Operations, whose decision is final. If the Director of Operations rules in the Competitor's favor and reverses or nullifies the ruling, the Appeals Processing Fee will be refunded; if the ruling stands, the fee is forfeited.

18. Public Comments

A. West Coast Championship's favorable public reputation as a sanctioning organization, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media channels are valuable assets. Competitors are obligated to refrain from public or social-media comments, or comments to the news media, that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of West Coast Championship tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members or Competitors, or the West Coast Championship organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and may question the rules and officials. Responsible expression of legitimate disagreement with West Coast Championship policies is encouraged, as distinct from attacks on the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that a Competitor knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of West Coast Championship, its officials, members, or sponsors, may result in disciplinary action.

B. Sponsor contributions will not be devalued due to disputes or disagreements in public forums or social media.

C. Publicly disputing a judgment decision by a Tournament Director, the Director of Operations, or judges will result in one warning, followed by disciplinary action — up to permanent disqualification — for repeated offenses. Any public dispute of final rulings or ongoing judging determinations is grounds for immediate disqualification from the current event and termination of eligibility for future events, even if previously qualified. This provision is not intended to discourage legitimate disputes, but to ensure a fair, unbiased process through the approved dispute and appeal channels.

19. Unavailability and Force Majeure

West Coast Championship will use reasonable efforts to hold each event; however, West Coast Championship is not responsible for unavailability caused by circumstances beyond its control, including flood, fire, hurricanes, earthquakes, or other acts of God, acts of government, civil unrest, acts of terror, or strikes/labor disputes. No Event Registration will be cancelled, altered, or amended once an event has commenced, based on circumstances beyond West Coast Championship's reasonable control.

20. Compliance with Laws

This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of California. All rights and obligations of West Coast Championship and the Competitor under this Agreement are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and these terms are deemed revised to conform to such laws as needed. West Coast Championship may modify these terms at any time in its sole discretion; the Competitor is bound by the modified Agreement, and no other modifications are enforceable. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements, written or oral. If any provision is held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain in effect. Waiver of any breach does not constitute waiver of any subsequent breach.

21. Waivers and Releases

A. Name and Likeness Release — By registering for a West Coast Championship event, the Competitor grants West Coast Championship the right to use all photographs, likenesses, stories, accounts, details of the Competitor's participation, interviews, bloopers, and related information, as well as video footage and photographs gathered at the event, for marketing and promotional purposes, without expectation of additional compensation.

B. Waiver and Release of Liability — As a condition of participation, and by registering, each Competitor agrees to the terms of the West Coast Championship Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement below. This Agreement releases West Coast Championship, its officers, staff, and volunteers from responsibility and liability in the event of injury, loss, or death sustained by a Competitor. Registrants under 18 must have their waiver/release form signed by a parent or adult guardian, who must accompany them throughout competition. A printed copy of the Waiver and Release Form is available at the Event HQ check-in table and must be signed and on file before a registrant is eligible to compete. Registering to fish West Coast Championship events through the Tournament Management System constitutes agreement to the Waiver and Release of Liability form below.

West Coast Championship Waiver and Release of Liability

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Registrant's Name (Print): _____ Registrant's Signature:

Date of Signing: _____ Registrant's Age: _____

☐ I will serve as Adult Supervisor and will accompany the Registrant while he is on the water during competition hours.

☐ In place of, or in addition to, me, the Adult West Coast Championship Member designated below will act as Adult Supervisor and accompany the Registrant while he is on the water during competition hours.

Parent's or Guardian's Name (Print): _____ Parent's or Guardian's Signature:

Designated Adult Supervisor's Name (Print): _____ Designee's Signature:
