

RULES – The KAOTY UK Series 2020 - Revised

SUMMARY

KAOTY (Kayak Angler of the Year) is a series of 2 kayak fishing tournaments at 2 venues. KAOTY is a Hobie Fishing Worlds 2020 Qualifier.

FORMAT

Anglers will be participating in a 1 day events using CPR format. Anglers will turn in pictures of their best predatory fish according to each tournament's requirement each day. Anglers must be using an approved measuring device.

~~KAOTY 1 – Weir Wood Reservoir – 8 May – 1xPike, 3xPerch, 3xZander KAOTY 2 – Bewl Water – 30-31 May – 1xPike, 5xPerch, 1xTrout~~

~~KAOTY 3 – Pitsford Water – 20 June – 2xPike, 5xPerch~~ KAOTY 1 – Rutland Water – 31 Oct – 1xPike, 3xPerch, 3xZander

KAOTY 2 – Grafham Water – 28th Nov – 1xPike, 3xPerch, 3xZander

REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEE

All participants must completely fill out the official registration form available at www.shorething.co.uk

All paperwork must be filled out online to ensure entry.

Entry Fee will be £55.00 per angler for single day event, ~~£95.00 for two day event (Bewl Water).~~

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship on and off the water. Be respectful of other participants that are launching or fishing in similar areas to you. Anglers are expected to follow all the rules. Anyone caught cheating could receive punishment by law and receive lifetime bans from other kayak fishing events and tournaments.

SAFETY

Each angler must have a valid fishing license for the days they will be on water. All participants must wear their life vest (PFD) through the duration of the competition. At the morning Check-in the competitor will be issued with a numbered key tag that will be the anglers starting and competitor number for that day only. Anglers will be issued with a different tag number each day. All competitors MUST return their key-tag to the tag board when they return to the event site at the end of the fishing day regardless of whether they are measuring fish or not.

In the event of an angler not returning their key tag to the board by the specified finish time, the event organizers will commence a search for the missing competitor(s).

COVID

Competitors are expected to wear face coverings and keep social distanced as soon as they arrive at the tournament venue. Failure to do so could cause the venues to refuse us entry. We will be following the Angling Trusts COVID guidelines to help keep all the competitors, tournament directors and the venues staff safe as possible. If you are feeling unwell or showing signs that you may have contracted COVID 19 please do not attend the event.

KAYAKS

KAOTY is open to all brands of kayak. Kayak must be manually propelled. If competitors require an electronic aid due to a disability, please speak to the organizer prior to the event.

BRIEFING

Attendance at the safety briefings are mandatory for all competitors. See event Information for exact briefing times.

CHECK-IN

Exact check-in times will be confirmed at the briefing. Key tags must be returned to the key tag board and measuring boards returned by the nominated finish time. Failure to do so will result in time penalties at the rate of 1cm per minute late (or part thereof) and disqualification of the catch for returns over 15 minutes late.

FISHING

Competitors must abide by all the local waters fishing and boating regulations. Be prepared to show your current fishing license at registration and have it with you all times while fishing. EA Bailiffs may be present at our events.

Due to COVID there will be no registration. Please take your Key Tag as per the list attached to the Key Tag board. Keep in a safe place, replace onboard when you return to shore within the cut off period, failure to do so will result in a disqualification unless a call to the organisers is received ahead of the cut off and good reason for late arrival.

- Briefing will be at 8am on the day of the event. ALL events are expected to start at 09.00 am and finish at 03.00 pm (rods out, the app closes).
- ALL fish must be taken with a fishing rod, line and hook on the day of the tournament. No other methods are permitted.
- ALL species must be the minimum length. Fish below the minimum size should be immediately be released alive. No pictures to be taken, no points of score. The legal length are as follows: Pike: 45cm, Zander: 40cm, Perch: 25cm.
- Any undersized fish will be disqualified from the angler's bag.
- Only 1 rod may be used at a time
- Cast-and-retrieve and vertical fishing – Lure fishing only, no live baits, no dead baits and no trolling (if the lure is behind your kayak as you manoeuvre you are trolling).
- It's the angler's responsibility for the wellbeing of the fish.
- Anglers must also adhere to the individual waters' rules. These can be found on the water's websites.

SCORING KEY TAG

Due to COVID we will not require any key cards or scoring tags in the photographs.

PREFISH BANS

Anglers fishing the KAOTY UK Series will not be allowed to access the tournament waters from and including the following dates:

~~KAOTY 1 – Weir Wood Reservoir – 24 April~~~~KAOTY 2 – Bewl Water – 16~~~~KAOTY 3 – Pitsford Water – 6 June~~

KAOTY 4 – Rutland Water – 17 Oct

KAOTY 5 – Grafham Water – 16 Nov

A pre-fish ban means anglers are not allowed on competition waterways and linked systems for ANY REASON. There will be no pre-fish.

Due to the change to the Perch Mania Tournament dates on Grafham Water, originally March 28/29 but due to COVID now on 14/15 November, we feel it only right that our Prefish Ban for Grafham be moved to Monday November 16 to allow those competitors booked on Perch Mania be able to compete in our KAOTY Tournament on Grafham Water. All other prefish bans remain in place and unchanged.

SCORING

We will be using the SCORE FISHING App for the KAOTY tournament's, you will need to download the app from the Play Store or Apple Store before the event. There will be a test period to get use to the app before the tournament, you must be registered for the events to test the app. The app has been tested at both venues and works very well on all devices and service providers.

If you are worried about using your phone on the kayak there are leashes available from Amazon. There will be no alternative means of recording your catch.

The event uses catch-photo-release scoring determined by the length of each species (Pike, Zander, Perch, Trout), combined in the case of an "Aggregate".

- Fish must be photographed in or on the kayak, on an approved measuring device, clearly showing the length of the fish with the kayak visible.
 - Fish must measure above the stated minimum to count.
 - Fish must be lying flat, facing left to right, dorsal fin facing away from the angler, with mouth closed in a natural resting position centred against the vertical portion of the measuring device. The fish must appear in a natural state. Any manipulation of the fish will result in a disqualification of that fish. The tail will be measured as it lies, measured to the point of the tail.
 - Only the anglers' hand can hold the fish down on the board. Use of bands, grips, stringers, etc... Will result in a disqualification of that fish.
 - Competitors may enter seven fish per day into the tournament as per the number of species breakdown listed above, total length will score. The SCORE FISHING App allows for upgrades
 - A minimum of 1 target fish species is needed for the ranking. 0 points will be awarded for no fish.
- The KAOTY 2020 and ticket to the Hobie Worlds 9 will be won by the angler who has the longest total length of scoring fish from both competitions. In the event of a draw then the longest fish will be used to determine the winner.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The only method of registering your catch is with a smart phone, sending in your catch via the Tournaments, please download before arriving at the event, available from the App Store or Apple Store. Please use ensure that your phone is safely tethered to yourself or kayak, the organisers will not be held responsible for any losses.

- Images may not be digitally altered or enhanced in any way.
- Judges have full discretion on open mouth and where the tail lies. If there is a questionable photo, judges can ask tournament director to make final ruling.

PHOTO CRITERIA

Each fish photo MUST include ALL the following criteria:

- The whole fish, tip to tail (Aside from your hand, fish must be clear of any devices. Mouth / fins / tail cannot be obstructed in photo)
- Laying with the tip of the lip at the beginning of the official measure (mouth must be closed)
- Measuring markings must be clearly visible.
- Scoring Marker must be visible.
- All criteria must be met, or photo will not be scored
- Measuring board must not be bent or manipulated.

RECORDING OF FISH LENGTHS

- It is the angler's responsibility to write down their catch lengths correctly for each species
- The SCORE FISHING App will close at 3pm on the day of the tournament.

– Lengths of fish are to be round up to the nearest full centimetre. A 30.1cm length fish will be recorded as 31cm, 30.5cm will be 31cm, 30.9cm will be 31cm.

TIES

In the event of a tie, the angler with the largest fish in the aggregate will be declared the winner, if still a tie, second longest fish. All rules are applied as interpreted by the Tournament Director, and the Director's decision is final.

PROTEST

All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director, in writing, along with a 100 EUR cash deposit, within fifteen (15) minutes of check-in time.

Any complaints regarding a breach of the rules must be addressed to the on-site Tournament Director within 24hrs of specific incidents. Penalties for rule and conduct violations may include the following:

- Disqualification of catch for the day
- Disqualification from the tournament
- Disqualification from future Hobie events

Any concerns regarding clarification of rules can be discussed with the Tournament officials BEFORE the start of the tournament.

PRIZES

TBC

Note: Prizes won or received at the event are final. There is no official trading or switching of items won!

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue is part of the entry form. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities.

PHOTO RELEASE

All photos taken by ShoreThing, Hobie Kayak Europe and the organisers may be used to promote their business and further events.

Contestants grant Hobie Kayak Europe, and the event sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in advertising, production, promotion, and/or articles and press releases, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

FISHING LICENSE

Competitors must have a valid EA fishing license. Fishing licences can be purchased at:

<https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences>

RULE CHANGES

Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

- Any/all rule changes will be posted for viewing on the notice board and online prior to the event.
- All rules are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

“CHECK, CLEAN, DRY”

Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms – particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

Clean and was all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If there are washdown points at the reservoir, use them as you leave the water, wash your kayak, wheels, and boots. If you come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

Dry all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you do not transfer water elsewhere.