

4TH HOBIE® FISHING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RULES

SUMMARY

The Hobie Fishing World Championship is an invitational event involving top kayak anglers from across the globe for three days of competition. Qualification for the event is determined through a competitive format or bid selection in each competing country.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All anglers 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 Hobie, Hobie's sponsors, the sport of fishing and Hobie's efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules of the event.
- 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 comments, 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.
- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee (minus deposit) or to disqualify a contestant.

SAFETY

- All anglers are to wear EU Standards PFD at all times. Hobie will provide a PFD to all Worlds anglers who require them.
- At the morning Check-in the competitor will be issued with a numbered key tag that will be the angler's starting and competitor number for that day only. Anglers will be issued with a different key tag number each day.
- All anglers 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 angler/s not returning their key tag to the board by the specified finish time, the event organisers will commence a search for any missing angler/s.

HOBIE KAYAKS

- All anglers will fish from identically-rigged Hobie MirageDrive® Pro Angler 12 kayaks.
- No other decals, mounts or any other modification is allowed to be made to the factory supplied kayaks.

BRIEFING

- Attendance at daily briefings are mandatory for all anglers.
- See event Information sheets for exact briefing times.

DAILY CHECK-IN

- Exact check-in times will be announced at the Competitor Meeting. ALL anglers must collect their key tag before the start of each day and must have their key tags on the board 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 bag for returns over 15 minutes late.
- After the morning check-in each day and before the start, anglers' kayaks will be checked for safety equipment. Then the angler will be issued with a key tag for the duration of the day's event.
- The Worlds Day One start order will be announced by the Tournament Director at check-in.
- As this is a multiple day event the start order may be a reverse chasing start each day.
- ALL anglers must make their way to their desired spots by pedal or paddle-power.
- ALL rules are applied as interpreted by the Tournament Director and/or IHFW Committee, and the Director's decision is final.

FISHING

- Anglers must abide by all of the local fishing and boating regulations. Be prepared to show your current European fishing license and ID card at registration and have it with you all times while fishing. Inspectors patrol the weigh-in locations and the tournament waterways.
- ALL sessions will start at 7:30am (earlier if possible) and finish at 3:00pm.
- All three species must be the minimum legal length. Fish below the minimum size should immediately be released alive. No pictures to be taken, no points. The legal length are as follows: Pike: 45cm; Zander: 42cm; **Perch: 25cm.**
- Any undersized fish will be disqualified from the angler's bag.
- A maximum of: 1 Pike, 1 Zander, 1 Perch will be the daily target.
- The competition bag limit for this event is three fish per day per angler. World Championship anglers will fish for a total of 9 predatory fish over 3 days.
- It is the angler's responsibility for the wellbeing of the fish.

FISHING METHODS

- Cast-and-retrieve only - no trolling, no live baits, no dead baits.
- Only artificial lures and flies may be used during competition.
- **Drift fishing is allowed. Anglers may drift up to 50 meters between casts. Once an angler has drifted 50 meters, the angler must retrieve the lure and recast.**
- Commercially sold scents may be added and used.
- Only ONE rod, either casting, spin casting, spinning rod and reel or fly rod may be used at any one time.
- A maximum of 2 rigged rods per angler are allowed, spare rods can be brought along but only unrigged due to local regulations.
- All anglers must have at least one hook cutter and a proper unhooking tools must be available.
- **The use of fish grips at any time is not allowed.**
- ALL fish must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. A cast must be fully retrieved before an angler may select another rod.
- Anglers may not catch or measure fish that have been caged or confined in an area prior to the tournament.
- ALL fish must be caught from the provided Hobie kayak. If the angler is out of the kayak for any reason between casting and landing of the fish, the catch will not be permitted.

- During the hours of competition, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance, including but not limited to the following: a non-competitor's boat; the placing of markers by a non-competitor; being towed by or riding on motorized vessels; or receiving electronic, voice or data communication from a non-competitor.

FISHING LOCATIONS

- All fishing locations must be in waters accessible to the public and within the tournament body of water.

OFF LIMITS NOTIFICATION

- Anglers must remain within the boundaries set out by the Tournament Director. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in disqualification.
- **Off Limits- Dive area in the North Lake is off limits. Anglers are not allowed to cast within 10 meters of the yellow marker buoys or the perceived line between them.**
- **Off Limits- Natural Area in the North lake is off limits. Signage will state "Verboden Te Vissen". All other accessible and navigable waters are legal territory.**

PRE-FISH BANS

- Anglers fishing in the 4th Hobie Fishing World Championship will not be allowed to access the tournament arena Vinkeveense Plassen from and including Monday the 22nd of September 2014, till and including Monday the 6th of October 2014.
- A pre-fish ban means anglers are not allowed on competition waterways and linked systems for ANY REASON.
- A Navigation Day will be allowed for all anglers on Monday October 6th.
- During the Navigation Day, anglers may sound out fish but cannot take any fishing tackle out.
- A Pre-Fish Day will be on Tuesday October 7th
- During the pre-fish ban no contestant may be on tournament waters, and no person may be on tournament waters to locate fish or gain fishing information on a contestant's behalf.

EVENT FORMAT

The Hobie Fishing World Championship will consist of three days of competition, one pre-fish day and one navigation session. The breakdown of these days as follows:

- Sunday Oct. 5 Arrival Day.
- Monday Oct. 6 Briefing & Navigation Day.
- Tuesday Oct. 7 Pre-Fish.
- Wednesday Oct 8 Competition Day 1.
- Thursday Oct 9 Competition Day 2.
- Friday Oct 10 Competition Day 3 / Award Ceremony.
- Saturday Oct 11 "Leisure" Day (This day may be used to fish in case of a postponement of one competition day).
- Sunday Oct 12 Check out.

SCORING

- The event uses catch-photo-release scoring determined by the length of each species (Pike, Perch, Zander), combined in the case of an "Aggregate" and individually for big fish categories. Each angler will be issued a "uniform measuring device" and unique scoring marker/token.
- Fish must be photographed in or on the kayak, on the provided measuring device, clearly showing the length of the fish with the scoring marker and kayak visible.

- More than one photo of a fish may be taken. Length is determined from the forward-most point of the fish to the pinched fin of the tail with the fish's mouth closed.
- Fish must measure above the minimum to count.
- Ties will be settled by count back. The angler with the longest and subsequent longest fish etc will gain the higher place. If anglers cannot be split, they will share the placing.
- The Tournament Director will review the photos to verify reported results and determine place winners.
- The Tournament Director is responsible for the final call in all matters.
- Anglers may enter three (3) fish per day into the tournament, with a total aggregate number of centimetres of 1 Pike, 1 Zander, 1 Perch.
- A minimum of 1 target fish species is needed for the ranking.

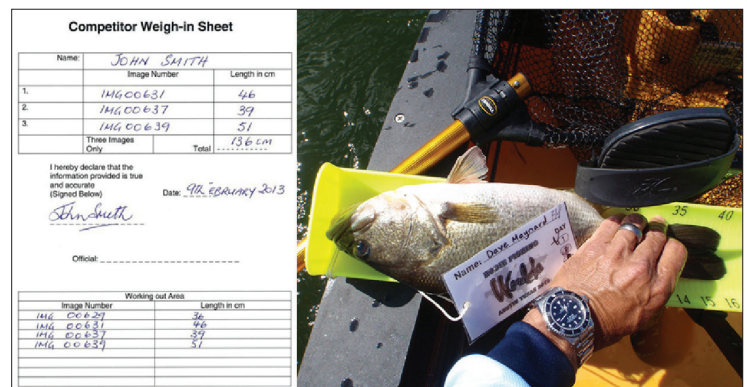


Fig 1. Example Catch card and supporting photograph

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- **"Angler Assist" will be allowed when weighing large fish. Anglers may summon a nearby competitor for assistance in measuring and photographing large fish in order to get a clear measurement and ensure safety of the fish. Photo must be taken with angler's own camera. Tournament director must be notified at scoring table when Angler Assist is implemented.**
- Participants may only use digital cameras with removable memory cards for recording fish (cameras may not be shared by anglers). Smart phones will not be allowed without removable memory cards.
- **If an angler is unable to use their camera, smart phone photos will be allowed. Images must be clearly visible.**
- Images may not be digitally altered or enhanced in any way.
- Entrant must bring the memory card from his or her camera to check-in. The tournament scorekeeper will download memory cards onto the official computer.
- The tournament scorekeeper will be able to read most standard memory cards; however anglers should bring a USB cable for their camera to ensure that their photos may be downloaded.

PHOTO CRITERIA

- Each fish photo MUST include ALL of 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. [See Fig 1.]
- Laying with the tip of the lip at the beginning of ruler (mouth must be closed).
- Measurement markings must be clearly visible.

- Assigned key tags must be visible.
- ONE OVERHEAD PHOTO SHOT FRAME (directly above and not at an angle)
- All criteria must be met or photo will not be scored.
- Photo criteria for Pike to be confirmed

RECORDING OF FISH LENGTHS

- It is the angler's responsibility to write down on the catch card their 3 longest fish.
- The angler must nominate the picture ID to each of the fish lengths. (No picture, no points and no key tag in photo, no points).
- Anglers will be given 30 minutes to sort out their longest fish and fill out their catch cards in full after the nominated finish time.
- When filling in the catch card, round up to the nearest full centimetre. ie a 30.1cm length fish will be recorded as 31cm, 30.5cm will be 31cm, 30.9cm will be 31cm.
- Filled in catch cards and memory cards, removed from the camera, must be handed to the tournament director within 30 minutes from the nominated finish time.
- The angler must sign the catch card declaration before submitting the catch card.

TIES

- Ties will be settled by count back. The angler with the longest and subsequent longest fish etc will gain the higher place. If anglers cannot be split, they will share the placing.
- All rules are applied as interpreted by the Tournament Director, and the Director's decision is final.

COMMUNICATIONS

- The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, pagers or any electronic device to communicate fishing information or to make contact with any one, including family members, during tournament hours is strictly prohibited.
- Communication among anglers is allowed on the water only by non-electronic methods. Emergency calls may be made and a tournament official should be contacted if an emergency call is made.

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:
 - A maximum penalty of 75 cm may be applied
 - Disqualification of catch for the day
 - Disqualification from the tournament
 - Disqualification from future Hobie Fishing Worlds events
- Any concerns regarding clarification of rules can be discussed with Hobie Fishing Worlds officials BEFORE the start of the tournament.

PRIZES

- Sponsor prizes will be awarded for various places.
- Sponsors may, at their discretion, and with approval from IHFA,

award contingency prizes to anglers winning or placing using sponsors' products.

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 Hobie Cat® remain the sole ownership of the Hobie Cat Company Worldwide.
- Contestants grant IHFA, Hobie Cat 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 LICENCE

- ALL anglers must have a valid Week – Visvergunning 2014.
- Fishing Licenses can be purchased at the anglers' lodging.
- The cost is 15,00 EUR.
- Be prepared to show your current European fishing license at registration.
- Keep the Week – Visvergunning and your ID card with you at all times during the tournament and while fishing.

CONDUCT

- During fishing sessions, no mobile phones or radios should be used, except in an emergency or to communicate with HFW staff.
- Kayaks should remain a cast apart (30 metres) while fishing.
- HFW sportsmanship will dictate that care of fellow anglers is of the utmost importance. If an angler or boat is in distress, it is expected that other anglers will assist. Remember that safety is more important than your day's catch.
- HFW will encourage Fisheries and Boating Officers to attend all HFW 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 HFW reserves the right to request a blood alcohol test prior to the start of competition.
- During competition hours, only approved event apparel and hats may be worn by all anglers.

RULE CHANGES

- Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director and/or the IHFC. Decisions of the Tournament Director and IHFC are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- Any/all rule changes will be posted for viewing on the event notice board and on the event website.
- All rules are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or the IHFC.

4th Hobie® Fishing World Championship Tournament Rules Updated:
7 October 2014