

RULES 10th Hobie Fishing European Championship

SUMMARY

HFE 2024 is an invitational event involving top kayak anglers from across Europe for two days of competition.

FORMAT

Anglers will be participating in a two day event using CPR format. Anglers will turn in pictures of their best predatory fish (Pike, Perch and Zander) each day. Anglers must be using an approved measuring device, provided by Hobie Kayak Europe.

HFE 2024 will consist of two days of competition, the breakdown of these days as follows:

- Thursday August 29th, Pre Fish Day 1
- Friday August 30th, Registration, Pre Fish Day 2, Registration, Captains Meeting
- Saturday August 31st, Tournament Day 1
- Sunday September 1st, Tournament Day 2, Awards

REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEE

All participants must completely fill out the official registration form available at www.hobiefishingeuros.com.

All paperwork must be filed before June 30th 2024.

Entry Fee will be 140,00 EUR per angler.

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 through the duration of the competition, this includes the pre-fish days. 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).

KAYAKS

Competitors bring their own Hobie Kayak. Only Hobie MirageDrive Kayaks are allowed. Only one person per kayak.

BRIEFING

Attendance at the Competitors Meeting (August. 30th) and daily briefings are mandatory for all competitors. See event Information sheets for exact briefing times.

CHECK-IN

Exact check-in times will be announced at the Competitor Meeting. All competitors must collect their key tags & Scoring Marker 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.

FISHING

Competitors must abide by all of the state fishing and boating regulations. Be prepared to show your current fishing license at registration and have it with you all times while fishing. Inspectors patrol the tournament waterways.

- ALL events are expected to start at 07.00 am and finish at 03.00 pm.
- 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 - TBA
 - Perch - TBA
 - Zander - TBA
- Any undersized fish will be disqualified from the angler's bag.
- Exact catch card to be announced
- Only 1 rod may be used at a time
- Cast-and-retrieve only – Lure fishing only, no live baits, no dead baits and no trolling.
- It's the angler's responsibility for the wellbeing of the fish.

SCORING MARKER

Anglers will be given a Scoring Marker (assigned unique identifier) for each day of the tournament.

This scoring marker is very important to the angler as it must be in the picture of your fish for the fish to count. An angler is responsible for this token from the moment it is assigned to them until they check in for the day. No replacement scoring markers will be available.

PREFISH BANS

Anglers fishing HFE 2024 will not be allowed to access the tournament arena the Haringvliet, Hollands Diep and the Volkerak from and including August 14th 2024, till and including Wednesday the August 28th 2024. A pre-fish ban means anglers are not allowed on competition waterways and linked systems for ANY REASON.

Two pre-fish days will be allowed for the competitors on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th of August 2024.

SCORING

The event uses catch-photo-release scoring determined by the length of each species (Pike, Perch and Zander), combined in the case of an "Aggregate" Each angler will be issued a "uniform measuring device" and unique scoring marker at the Briefing.

- 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 boat visible.
- You are allowed to use a camera phone or digital camera for the picture.
- Fish must measure above the state minimum to count.
- Fish must be lying flat, facing left to right, with mouth closed in a natural resting position centered 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.
- 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 (TBA) fish per day into the tournament.
- A minimum of 1 target fish species is needed for the ranking.

TOURNEY X

Participants will use TourneyX Pro app on their mobile phone to record and submit their fish.

- Photos will have to be taken from within the TourneyX Pro app to record the gps-location of the catch. This data only is available for the judges to check if they are within the tournament arena and will not be shared with anyone else.
- 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.
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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 ruler (mouth must be closed)
- Measuring markings must be clearly visible.
- Scoring Marker must be visible.
- All criteria must be met, or the photo will not be scored.

RECORDING OF FISH LENGTHS

- It is the angler's responsibility to submit the catches within the TourneyX Pro app.
- When submitting, round up to the nearest full centimeter. A 30.1cm length fish will be recorded as 31cm, 30.5cm will be 31cm, 30.9cm will be 31cm.

TIES

Ties are broken based on the largest fish caught, if all fish are the same size, the angler who submitted their last catch first breaks the tie.

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 anyone, 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 such 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:

- 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

- Top 10 Awards.
- Big Fish Award.

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 Hobie Kayak Europe® remain the sole ownership of the Hobie Cat Company Worldwide.

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 LICENCE

All competitors must have a valid VISPAS. The procedure to get one can be found on www.hobiefishingeuros.com.

RULE CHANGES

Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director and/or the EHFA. Decisions of the Tournament Director and EHFA 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 on the event website.
- All rules are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or the EHFA.