

Constitution and By-Laws

Amended 2/2012

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name: The Master's Bass Club

Section 2: Purpose:

To organize and maintain a group of men dedicated to the fulfillment of the "Great Commission" and to foster Christian principles, character and love, through the fellowship of bass fishing.

To promote the fight against pollution, to adhere to all conservation rules and codes, and to improve the fishing skills of each member through a brotherly exchange of fishing techniques and ideas.

To provide a positive, Christian witness to the fishing community.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The club's total membership shall not exceed 50 voting members. When the total membership reaches 50, the club will then give consideration to reorganizing into two separate clubs.

The number of members without appropriate "Bass Boats" shall be limited to no more than half of the voting membership.

Section 2: Requirements for Membership

To become a member, a person shall:

- A. At a regular monthly meeting, be sponsored by a member in good standing.
- B. Voluntarily express an interest in membership and provide a complete questionnaire to a club officer.
- C. Be at least 18 years of age. (See Section 5 – Junior Membership)
- D. Be voted on by members present for temporary membership. Affirmation must be by two thirds vote of the members present.
- E. The prospective member shall be required to fish one time with two different members, not to include his sponsor, within a 90 day period.
- F. Prospective member's fishing partners shall report to the Board as to the prospective member's character, sportsmanship, and personal conduct. The Board shall approve or disapprove the prospective member's application. Upon approval of membership by the Board, the prospective member's application shall be presented to the club at the next regular meeting for final approval by a majority vote of the members present.

- G. Each temporary member shall have the privilege of participating in all club activities.
- H. Each member and guest boater is required to carry liability insurance on his boat or any boat used in a tournament.

Section 3: Membership Dues

Membership fees and dues shall be payable upon being voted into the club. Should a member subsequently leave the club and at the point of leaving be a member in good standing, he will be allowed to return one time, upon an affirmative vote of two thirds majority vote without being assessed initiation dues. Annual dues and membership fees shall be \$150, payable in one of two ways:

1. Pay in full in February(\$150.00)
2. Pay (\$75.00) in February and pay (\$75.00) in July.

For new members who join the club during the year, dues and membership fees will be prorated based on the number of tournaments remaining in the calendar year in which they join. Guest fees will be applied to membership fees and dues until the last day of June of the calendar year in which a person joins.

Section 5. Junior Memberships

A junior member would be under the age of 18 and must be sponsored by and fish with their parent/guardian member in good standing. Dues for a junior membership will be the same as a regular member. The junior member will be voted into membership according to regular club procedure. A Junior member may participate as a guest provided they have submitted a parental consent form and have a valid boaters license.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Officers and Their Duties

PRESIDENT – Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Approve all committee functions. Supervise all Club functions.

VICE PRESIDENT/TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN – Assist the president in his duties and preside in the absence of the President. He will appoint a minimum of three members to assist him. It will be his duty to plan all tournament events. Also, he will keep the club informed about future tournaments at least three months in advance. He is also responsible for the club devotional the day of the tournament. He is responsible for the point's total.

SECRETARY – Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings of the membership and Board of Directors; produce a membership meeting newsletter and make other notices and mailings as directed; keep and distribute on a timely basis an up-to-date membership roster, Constitution and By-Laws and membership application. Serve as Club Reporter for public notice of Club functions to print and broadcast media.

TREASURER – Receive, disperse and maintain accurate records of all Club funds. Report Club financial statement at each Club meeting. Maintain and coordinate, with membership chairman, a current record of membership meeting attendance and dues. Announce and award winnings at Club meetings. Select and order all trophies, jackets and awards for the Club.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN – Provide programs for the monthly Club meetings.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN – Promote and recruit new Club members. Maintain an adequate supply of membership applications; notify the Board of any delinquent member.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Shall consist of the outgoing Club President, and the current elected Officers. The Board of Directors shall be directed by the current Club President and shall meet prior to each normally scheduled Club meeting at a time and place to be selected by the Board. The Board shall assist the President in conducting official Club business and the removal of delinquent, or otherwise ineligible, members from membership of the Club.

Section 2. Elections

Nominations shall be made at the regular October meeting. The election of Officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of November. Election shall be by simple majority of the members present. Election of each Officer shall be held separately in order listed in Article III, Section 1. Should it be necessary to combine or add additional officers, such action would require the majority approval of club membership at a regular scheduled meeting.

Section 3. Term of Office

The term of office is for one year, beginning January 1st and ending the last day of December or until the successor assumes office.

Section 4. Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

Section 5. Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible to hold office, a member must:

- A. Be a member in good standing.
- B. Have shown an active interest in all Club functions.
- C. Own and have read a current copy of the Club Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE IV AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section 1.

The Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the membership present. Notice of the proposed amendment will be presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors will have the authority to declare an emergency situation for the purpose of amending the by-laws. This can be done only with a unanimous vote of all Directors and presented to the membership at a regular monthly meeting.

ARTICLE V REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Removal of Membership

A member may be dropped by Board action from the membership roll for the following reasons:

- A. Three months delinquent in dues.
- B. Failure to participate in 70 percent of Club tournaments (without counting absences excused by the Pres. or Vice-Pres).
- C. Failure to attend 70 percent of scheduled meetings (without counting absences excused by the President or Vice President).
- D. Any action or misconduct that would reflect dishonor or disgrace to our Lord or the Club.
- E. A member may be dropped from the roll by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular monthly meeting for any of the above articles.

Section 2.

In the event of a member having expulsion charges brought against him for lack of sportsmanship or misconduct, the Board will inform the member of the charges, dates and details by registered letter, giving the member a chance to respond to said charges. The registered letter must be signed by all officers of the Club. The Board will then dismiss the charges or bring the charges before the general membership at the next regular monthly meeting.

ARTICLE VI CLUB FUNDS

Section 1.

All funds received by the Club shall be placed in a suitable depository.

- A. The Treasure and President may spend up to \$100.00 without prior approval.
- B. Expenditures in excess of \$100.00 require approval by a two-thirds vote of the Board.
- C. All funds received shall be used for the operation and advancement of the Club.
- D. All funds or fees paid to the Club are non-refundable.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held the first Thursday of each month or as scheduled by the Board with proper advance notice.

Section 2. Meetings may be called when deemed necessary by the offices after giving the membership advance notice of seven days.

Section 3. Eligibility to Vote - Each member is entitled to one vote. No proxy votes will be permitted. A voting member must be in good standing and dues must be current.

ARTICLE VIII TOURNAMENT RULES

Section 1. Sportsmanship

Any contestant, who displays poor sportsmanship, violates rules or violates State Game and Fish Commission laws will be disqualified.

Section 2. Participants and Eligibility

Only Club members who are PAID UP and in good standing may participate in Club tournaments. Any awards won by a member who is one month or more delinquent in dues will be forfeited. In addition, the entire boat, to included BOTH PARTNERS, will be disqualified. Guests are eligible to fish with a Club member in good standing. A \$20.00 fee will be imposed for each tournament. Guest may not participate in more than two tournaments per year as a guest.

Section 3. Type of Tackle

Only artificial lures may be used. Only rods and reels are permitted, and must not exceed 8 feet 0 inches in length.

Section 4. Fishing Hours

Fishing hours for each tournament will be safe light until time to be determined by Tournament Director. Night hours as well as check-in and check-out locations will be announced at regular club meetings prior to the date of the tournament. Contestants who have not checked out prior to check-out time must be in sight of the dock area by check-out (weigh-in) time or will be penalized 1 pound per minute from their total weight up to 15 minutes, upon which they will be disqualified.

Section 5. Check-in and Check-out

All members are required to check-in and check-out. A penalty of \$5.00 will be assessed against any member who fails to check-out at the end of any Club tournament. Such money will be paid to the Club Treasurer and added to the Club's general fund. In the case of sickness or accident, a responsible Club member may be asked to check-out for you.

Section 6. Ties

In case of a tie or ties, the most fish will determine the winner. In the even there is a tie of total weight and the number of fish, then the largest single fish will determine the winner. In the case of a tie of ties in the final yearly standing, the subsequent November tournament will serve as a special Fish-Off to establish a single winner among the winning contenders.

Section 7. Awards

Awards/prizes for each tournament shall be as follows:

- A. 1st Place \$30.00 to each participant
- B. 2nd Place \$25.00 to each participant.
- C. 3rd Place \$20.00 to each participant.

Big Fish Optional:

Those wishing to participate in a Big Fish pot may do so at their option for \$5.00. The Big Fish pay back shall be 50% of the contributions to Big Fish but no less than \$25.

Section 8. Complaints

Anyone registering a complaint must do so prior to the completion of the weigh-in. The complaint must be reported to a member of the Tournament Committee. The decision of the Tournament Committee will be final.

Section 9. Special Awards

- A. The Club member with the most total points at the end of the year shall be awarded \$100.00. The total shall be based on all tournaments scheduled in a single season + a fish-off if required.
- B. The Club member winning the Classic shall be awarded \$100.00.
- C. The Club member with the largest Big Fish at the end of the year shall be awarded \$75.00
- D. Tournament Point System:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Points (to each member of the team)</u>
1	15
2	12
3	10
4	8
5	6
6	5
7	4
8	3
9	2
10	1
Bonus Points:	
Meeting Attendance	3
Tournament Participation	2
Kickoff Meeting	5

- E. The Rookie of the Year Award shall be given to the rookie club member who has fished at least 6 tournaments in their qualifying season and leads the field in points among eligible rookies in their rookie year. Eligible candidates for Rookie of the Year must become a member of the club and in good standing, according to the by-laws (i.e. dues, etc.) during the year at which they become eligible. An individual who joins the Masters Bass Club with fewer than six tournaments remaining in that season may be eligible for the award during the following season and still be considered a rookie if the Rookie of the Year requirements are met in that season. No individual may be considered more than once for the Rookie of the Year title. The Rookie of the Year will receive an award of \$75.00 at the end of the season

Section 10. Fish Weigh-In

- A. Any bass brought to the weigh-in short of tournament length (12 inches) or short of minimum lake length when applicable, shall be penalized by the loss of the short fish and loss of the largest fish.
- B. Tournament competitors fishing alone, for whatever reason, compete with one stringer limit, no adjustments. A Club member fishing alone in a tournament shall receive double prize awards but not double points. Every effort will be made to avoid a member fishing alone more than once a year. The points system will not be affected.

- C. Competitive fishing shall be draw type format with total catch per boat being entry for tournament honors. There is a 5 fish limit for each boat.
- D. Dead Fish Penalty. A 4 oz.(or 3 tenths) penalty for each dead fish weighed in will be imposed. This will apply to the big fish pot, where 4 oz.(or 3 tenths) will be deducted from your big fish weight, if the fish is dead and entered into the big fish contest.
- E. It is the responsibility of each partner to verify that the other's dues have been paid-in-full. The Treasurer and or Tournament Chairman shall ask prior to starting time if any dues or fees should be paid.

Section 11. Safety – Housekeeping

- A. During any Club tournament, a fine of \$10.00 shall be imposed on any Club member not wearing his life jacket while the outboard motor is running and the boat is moving.
- B. A fine of \$20.00 shall be imposed on any member for littering.
- C. Those persons who fish a tournament and do not take a boat (termed “rider”) shall pay \$25.00 to the boat owner towards payment of gas and oil, provide lunch and pay launch fees, if any.