



# Bass Finatics Constitution & Bylaws

January 15, 2009

## ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

### **Section 1: Name**

This club shall be called Bass Finatics

### **Section 2: Date of Adoption**

This club was adopted on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

### **Section 3: Purpose**

The purpose of the Bass Finatics Club is to:

- Promote and encourage family and youth fishing and offer them the opportunities and experience of fellowship, recreation, and sportsmanship;
- Educate the youth in our community on the sport of Bass Fishing;
- Promote sportsmanship and honesty in competitive fishing;
- Stimulate public awareness of Bass fishing as a major sport;
- Offer the clubs assistance and support to state fisheries and conservation departments;
- Promote adherence to all conservation codes, water and legal management standards;
- Improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of techniques and ideas.

To realize our goals and fulfill our purpose, the entire club membership must continually be active in supporting each of the concentration areas.

## ARTICLE II: Membership

### **Section 1: Number of Members**

- a. The club will have a minimum of six members.

### **Section 2: Membership**

To become a Club Member, a person shall express a genuine interest in bass fishing and be supportive of the club's purpose.

### **Section 4: Membership Dues**

- a. \$25 annually per adult.
- b. \$40 annually per family. A family membership implies boat ownership.

### **Section 5: Meetings of Members**

The membership shall hold regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month.

## ARTICLE III: Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility

### **Section 1: Officers and their duties.**

The officers of the club shall consist of:

- a. **President:** Preside over all club meetings and direct all club business.
- b. **Vice President:** Assist the president in his/her duties, preside in the absence of the President, act as liaison for the club, act as tournament chairperson, designate launch sites, and provide directions to tournament sites.
- c. **Secretary:** Keep accurate minutes of club meetings, handle all club correspondence, and maintain a roster of club membership.
- d. **Treasurer:** Responsibilities include, maintaining clubs account, keeping accurate financial records, report the clubs current balance at each meeting, debits and credits since last meeting.
- e. **Scorekeeper:** Record accurate team, individual, and lunger results from each tournament. Maintain updated standings of both team and individual point's competition, and make this information available to all at each meeting and tournament.
- f. **Weigh-Masters:** Shall consist of two regular club members. They shall be fully qualified in tournament weigh-in procedures, including the use of equipment and fish handling. They will provide the necessary gear (Scales, Fish bags, Keeper Counter, etc.) for a smooth and accurate weigh-in.



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## ARTICLE VI: Tournament Fees

### **Section 2: Elections**

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular club meeting following the tournament season. Election shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in the order listed in ARTICLE III, Section 1. Elections will be the last order of business at the designated meeting.

### **Section 3: Eligibility of Vote**

Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

### **Section 4: Term of Office**

The term of office is one year and will conclude upon the next annual election.

### **Section 5: Vacancies**

In the event an office becomes vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office. The president can appoint a member to fill a vacancy until such time that a special or annual election is held.

## ARTICLE IV: Removal of Membership

### **Section 1: Removal of Membership**

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

- a. Failure to pay dues,
- b. Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on the club.

## ARTICLE V: Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended at a regular club meeting by a majority vote of the members present. All effort will be made to notify membership of proposed bylaw changes in advance of regular club meetings.

### **Section 1: Tournament Fees Adult Tournaments:**

Adult Tournament costs are \$25.00 per adult per tournament.

- i. 15.00 prize money
- ii. 5.00 lunker award
- iii. 5.00 club treasury

### **Section 2: Tournament Fees Family Tournaments:**

There are no expected fees for Family Tournaments.

## ARTICLE VII: Tournament Rules

The following rules shall apply to all Bass Finatics tournaments. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament.

### **Section 1: Participants and Eligibility:**

Tournaments are open to current members, family and guests.

### **Section 2: Practice and Competition:**

- a. There will be no official practice or off limits period.
- b. There will be a limit of four (4) people per boat in Family Tournaments, and (2) people per boat in Adult Tournaments.
- c. Bass must be a minimum of 12" in length and/or in accordance with state/local laws.
- d. Teams that show up late for the tournament launch can still fish the tournament provided they locate any club member and have their livewells checked prior to fishing.

### **Section 3: Tournament Schedule:**

The scheduling and locations of tournaments will be determined by the club officers.



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## Section 4: Safety:

- a. Safe boating must be observed at all times.
- b. All federal/state/local laws must be adhered to regarding boat operation and the use of personal flotation devices.
- c. Each contestant is encouraged to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation.
- d. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- e. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.
- f. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

## Section 5: Permitted Fishing Methods:

- a. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.
- b. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers.
- c. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time.
- d. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

## Section 6: Permitted Fishing Locations:

- a. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, or federal officials.
- b. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
- c. In the event of a needed restroom break, contestants are allowed to leave the boat.

## Section 7: Limits

- a. Two fish per child at all tournaments involving children.
- b. Three fish per adult when fishing adult/child tournaments.
- c. Five fish per person, and/or in accordance with state/local laws, when fishing an adult only tournament.

## Section 8: Basic Boat Equipment:

Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants.

## Section 9: Official Checkpoints:

There will be only one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

## Section 10: Infractions:

- a. A 4oz (.25) penalty will be imposed for each dead fish brought to the scales. Final decision of fish condition will be the weigh masters at time of release.
- b. A 4oz (.25 lb) penalty will be imposed for each short fish brought to the scales. Fish will be measured with an accepted standard measuring device and the weigh master will make the final decision. Short fish will not be weighed. Only one courtesy check is available per angler per tournament.
- c. A 4 oz (.25 lb) per minute penalty will be imposed for contestants who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time and disqualified if more than 15 minutes late.
- d. All culling must be done immediately. If an angler is found to have more than the tournament limit of fish, they will be required to cull their biggest fish until they are within the tournament limit. Culling a dead fish is not permitted and will result in disqualification.



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## Section 11: Tournament Take-Off Rules

- a. The order for tournament takeoffs will be determined by a random draw at the ramp prior to tournament takeoff.
- b. The highest number drawn will be the start boat.
- c. All tournament participants will remain behind the start boat until their number is called.
- d. All takeoffs by competitors will be by the ooze-off method.

## Section 12: Divisions:

- a. Adult
- b. Spouse / Guest
- c. Junior 12 to 16 years old.
- d. Youth 5 to 11 years old.
- e. The junior/youth division will be determined by the child's age on April 1<sup>st</sup> of the fishing season.

## Section 13: Scoring:

- a. Tournament standings, awards, and final winners shall be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament.
- b. Individual Point System:
  - 1. Individual points will be awarded based on finishing position (Table 1).
  - 2. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be the individual with the most fish. If still tied, then both individuals will be awarded the points for that position and the next place will be skipped.

Point System			
Position	Points	Position	Points
1	50	13	22
2	40	14	21
3	35	15	20
4	32	16	20
5	30	17	20
6	29	18	20
7	28	19	20
8	27	20	20
9	26	21	20
10	25	22	20
11	24	23	20
12	23	24	20
Bonus Points			
Tournament Lunker			5
Largemouth $\geq$ 5 lbs			2
Smallmouth $\geq$ 3 lbs			2

Table 1

- 3. The total points accumulated throughout the year will determine Angler of the Year. Ties will be broken by total weight for the year. The angler with the higher weight will be awarded the higher place. If still tied, we will award Co-Anglers of the Year.
- c. Bonus Points:
  - i. 5 points for tournament lunker,
  - ii. 2 points for each LM  $\geq$  5 pounds,
  - iii. 2 points for each SM  $\geq$  3 pounds.

## Section 14: Weigh-in Procedures:

- a. Weigh-ins will be conducted with an agreed upon scale.
- b. Bass entered for the weigh-in at bass tournaments shall be released unharmed into the same water body where caught as follows:
  - i. In lakes and ponds not less than 300 feet away from shoreline; and

