



BYLAWS and TOURNAMENT RULES

As adopted on November 9th, 2006

Updated December 7th, 2010

“Follow ME, and I will make you fishers of men”, Mathew 4:19

PURPOSE

TO ORGANIZE AND MAINTAIN CHRISTIAN MEN WHO WILL DO THE LORD’S WILL FIRST AND ENJOY THE SPORT OF BASS FISHING AND FELLOWSHIP SECOND.

MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Club will consist of no less than six members and no more than fifty members, with approximately 60% owning or having the use of a boat regularly.
- B. A member should profess that **JESUS CHRIST** is his **LORD** and **SAVIOR**.
- C. A prospective member must be recommended by an active member, accepted by motion, and voted on by the membership after fishing no less than **THREE** regularly scheduled tournaments.
- D. A prospective member must be at least 16 years of age.
- E. A member must pay dues and fees in a timely fashion.
- F. A member must attend at least 50% of the monthly club meetings and participate in a like number of tournaments during a calendar year, exceptions being made for work commitments.
- G. A member must not use abusive language or alcohol during a tournament or meeting, during any indoor club functions, or take any actions which might disgrace or dishonor the **LORD**, the **CHURCH**, or its **MEMBERS**.
- H. A member or prospective member must not use tobacco products during prayer, devotional or during any indoor Club functions.
- I. If a member becomes inactive for a period of 90 days, the member will be designated as on “Inactive Status”. The member will remain on this status for an 18 month period, after which time the member will be removed from the Club’s membership role. Should the member decide to re-activate his membership during this 18 month time period, he may do so by requesting “active status” through one of the Club’s officers. If a Club member, who has paid his dues for the entire year (\$50.00), becomes *PHYSICALLY* unable to complete his current year’s membership, he will have the option of carrying the remainder of his membership dues over to the proceeding year. The amount of this “carry-over” will be determined by the presiding

officers of the club, at the time of the request. No exceptions will be made for “carry-over” except for health reasons. The presiding Club Officer’s ruling on eligibility for the above exception will be final.

DUES AND FEES

- A. Dues may be paid as follows:
Annually - \$50.00
Quarterly - \$20.00 (This is to be paid at the first meeting of each quarter whether or not the member fishes any tournaments during said quarter.)
- B. 20% of all dues (\$20.00 of the annual dues) will be designated to the Charitable Fund.
- C. The annual dues are defined as \$20.00 for charity and \$30.00 for club dues.
- D. All members MUST be a member of B.A.S.S. membership number must be provided at time of dues.
- E. A minimum no-boater gas fee of \$25.00 is required to be paid the night of the meeting to aid the boater, and also to ensure that the no-boater is sincere about fishing.

OFFICERS

- A. **President** –presides over all Club meetings and/or functions, directs all official business of the Club, and must be on active member status.
- B. **Vice President**-will be the official Tournament Chairman/Director, and preside over club meetings and/or functions during the president’s absence. He will be charged with ensuring that all Club functions begin and end with prayer.
- C. **Secretary/Treasurer**-will keep accurate financial records, collect all Club dues, keep minutes of all Club meetings and report the minutes at each meeting. Also, he is to publish and report a financial report at the end of each quarter.
 - **Charity Fund Director** is in charge of researching and recommending various methods of fund raising to the club. Club membership will decide which methods will be accepted by voting on recommendations presented by the Director. CFD will report through the SECRETARY/TREASURER at regular club meetings. Charity events should be held during the month of April or May as adopted by motion of the Club Membership in the November meeting.
 - **Charity Funds** collected by the club will be distributed by the SECRETARY/TREASURER to the approved charities during the week following the club’s regularly scheduled December meeting. Distribution will be the responsibility of the presiding SECRETARY/TREASURER.

REQUIREMENT OF CLUB OFFICERS

- A. Officers must have quarterly meetings to discuss present and/or future Club business and events.
- B. An officer must be an active member and attend at least 75% of the Club's functions.
- C. Officers are elected in November, with their term to begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of the preceding year.
- D. If an officer becomes inactive, a replacement will be elected by the membership at large to finish out the term of that office.

MEETINGS

- A. Meetings will be held on the Thursday night prior to the scheduled tournament date.
- B. Members and Guests wanting to participate in the Tournament must be present at the meeting or make notification of their intent to participate to the Tournament Chairman prior to the meeting. Any exceptions must be approved by the Club's presiding officers.
- C. Members/Guests should notify an officer of the Club the Friday night prior to the scheduled tournament if they do not have a partner and a replacement will be found if possible.
- D. Rule changes will be discussed by the Club membership and voted on during the November and/or December meetings each year.
- E. All rule interpretations and application will be the sole responsibility of the Club's presiding officers. All decisions of the Club's officers will be final.

TOURNAMENTS

- A. Tournaments will be held on the second Saturday of each calendar month. (Reference: Only exception: refer to Rule U)
- B. All boats must be at the landing at the official start time. If anyone starts the tournament late, they must notify the Tournament Chairman or another officer, by leaving a note on the officer's vehicle.
- C. All boats must be within sight of the Tournament Chairman at the official ending time. A horn will be sounded, allowing a two minute grace period before the official ending of the tournament. The final horn will be sounded at the end of the grace period. Any boat not in sight of the Tournament Chairman by this time will be disqualified and all weights forfeited.
There will be no exceptions/excuses accepted.
- D. If anyone must leave before the official ending time, he may leave his fish with another member and they will be weighed and credited to him for the tournament. The member should make every effort to keep fish alive.
- E. Only **FIVE BASS** (*TEN BASS per boat for Buddy Tournaments*) per man may be brought to the weigh-in scales. All bass must be at least TWELVE INCHES in length with their mouths closed. Any disputed measurement will be settled by the Tournament Chairman using the Official Club Golden Rule ruler. A one pound penalty per short fish brought to the scales will be imposed on all bass less than the required twelve inches in length. IF MORE THAN ONE SHORT BASS IS

PRESENTED AT THE WEIGH-IN, ALL WEIGHT FOR THE PRESENTING FISHERMAN WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

- F. State creel limits are enforced at all tournaments. Also, all State imposed length limits will be adhered to and enforced, if applicable.
- G. No bass caught with LIVE BAIT, WHILE FISHING FROM THE BANK, or WHILE TROLLING (USING THE GASOLINE POWERED MOTOR) WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE WEIGH-IN.
- H. No two boats are allowed within 100 feet of each other while fishing in a tournament, except in the case of emergencies or by invitation from the other boat.
- I. No-boat fishermen are required to mark their bass (If separate live-wells are not available). Any unmarked bass will be considered as belonging to the boater.
- J. If a boat becomes disabled at or before the official start time, swapping of boats by fishermen may be allowed. However, once the tournament starts, no boat swapping will be allowed.
- K. Everyone (Boaters and No-boaters) enters the draw for each tournament. To equal out Boaters and No-boaters, the appropriate number of blanks will be included in the draw with the No-Boaters names. The draw will be held as follows: a Boater's name will be drawn and then a No-boaters name will be drawn and paired with it. There will be no limit to the number of blanks a Boater can draw during the tournament year. (Exception –Rule Q)
- L. Life jackets (Coast Guard approved PFD) must be worn while the boat is on plane. All Water Patrol Safety Regulations must be adhered to at all times
- M. All live bass should be released after the weigh-in. The largest bass that a member or guest caught may be kept for mounting.
- N. The No-boater is allowed to have some choice of fishing areas if they so desire.
- O. Prayer time will be determined by vote of the Club Membership at the Thursday meeting (one time from members, one time from the Officers, and one time from the Tournament Chairman) prior to Saturday's tournament. Launching will occur after the Prayer time (unless otherwise stated by the Tournament Chairman). The official fishing time starts at the Tournament Chairman's signal.
- P. Violation of tournament rules may result in warning penalties and disqualification as ruled by the Tournament Chairman and/or presiding Club Officers.
- Q. Regarding a Guest; it is permissible for the Guest to fish his first tournament with the member who brought him. This is providing there are enough boats for No-boater members. After the Guest's first tournament, his name must go into the draw.
- R. Club members must drop (delete) two tournaments of their choosing from the Club's tournament trail events per year. Any points awarded during these dropped tournaments will NOT be counted in tournament trail standings. (Exception: Two points awarded for attending the tournament).
- S. REFERENCE: Tournament Trail Standing – No points will be awarded if no bass are caught (Places 1 through 10) except the two points awards for participating in the tournament.
- T. All above listed regulations will apply to ALL Club sponsored tournaments unless otherwise specified by the presiding Club Officers.

- U. The President and Tournament Chairman may change the tournament starting time, tournament site location, and/or length of the tournament after the monthly meeting for safety and/or other extenuating circumstances without consulting with the general Club Membership.

NOTE: The Club's September Tournament will be designated as the Christian Bassmen's Memorial Tournament and will be held each year on the Alabama River out of the Gunter Hill Park landing. A special certificate will be awarded to the winner of this Tournament at our Annual Awards Banquet.

AWARDS

- A. **MONTHLY**-First and Second Place certificates will be awarded plus for "Big Fish" (no weight limitations). A Guest Award Plaque will be awarded to the Guest with the most weight among the Guests fishing in the tournament.
- B. **ANNUAL**-Awards will be given for places 1st through 10th based on participation and position held (points) during each Christian Bassmen Tournament Trail event. Also, a "BIG FISH" Award will be given to the individual catching the largest bass during the year's regular tournament competition.
- C. **CHRISTIAN BASSMEN MEMBER OF THE YEAR**-To be voted on by the Officer's of the club and awarded at the annual banquet.
- D. **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**-To be presented by the Club's Officers when deemed appropriate.
- E. **NO BOATER OF THE YEAR AWARD**-This award is given to the No-boater who has the most points based on participation and position for the regular tournament trail events during the year.
- F. **ANGLER OF THE YEAR**-Award based on the Member with the most weight from the regular tournament trail events for the year.