

Tri-County Bassmasters

2011 By-Laws

Article I: Name, Address and Purpose

Section 1: Name: Tri-County Bassmasters

President:
Tom Ballantine

Vice President/Secretary
Steve Casey

Treasurer
Mike Boyd

Section 2: Purpose

- A: To glorify God and our Savior Jesus Christ at all club events and to spread the Gospel of Christ to others.
- B: To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To Offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his/her crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through fellowship and the friendly exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas. To promote and encourage youth fishing and a love for this great recreation.

Changes to the 2011 By-Laws will be marked in RED.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Number of Members

- A: The club will “attempt” to maintain a membership of three boaters and three non-boaters.

Section 2: Requirements for membership

- A: In order to be eligible to join the club, the prospective member must attend one meeting and must fish two tournaments for evaluation with two separate current club members. The prospective member may fish from his/her own boat. The prospective member will not be awarded any points for their first tournament. After fishing two tournaments the prospective member will leave the meeting room and be voted on by the members present. The prospective member must receive a 100% “YES” vote to become a member.

B: A prospective member must be 16 years of age to become a member.

Section 3: Membership dues

- A: Club dues and big fish money should be paid at the monthly meetings. Dues can be paid at the weigh-in. Dues are \$35.00 per month. Below is a break-down of the dues. \$5.00 is paid to the club treasury. \$25.00 is used for the tournament pay-out using a 50/30/20 split. \$ 5.00 is used for the “big fish” pay-out.
- B: All dues and entry fees are non-refundable.
- C: Members that are sick or have to work on tournament day will be required to pay only the \$5.00 club dues that month.

Section 4: Meetings

- A: Members are required to participate in 80% of all club meetings and functions. A member will be terminated from the club if he/she misses 2 functions per year back to back without notification to another member as to their absence. The non-attending member must specify if he/she will be a boater or non-boater at the next tournament. The non-attending member if fishing as an open boater must notify the tournament director with the name of their partner for the upcoming tournament.
- B: Failure to comply with the rule stated above will result in disqualification for the upcoming tournament.
- C: Members working in club activities such as the Annual Open Tournament, Kids Casting events or other such designated club functions will be awarded **extra points** for each event. Extra points will be applied to that individual member’s total points for the year.

Article III: Officers, Elections, Vacancies and Eligibility

Section 1: Officers

- A: President – Presides over all meetings and directs all official business. Appoint and be an executive official officer of all committees. Supervise all club functions.
- B: Vice-President – Acts as a program chairman. Assists the President in his/her duties and presides in the absence of the President. Maintain regular communication with the President.
- C: Secretary – Maintains accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called by the club President. Maintain regular communication between the club.

Must have a copy of the by-laws at all events.
The Secretary will also record member's weights and points.

- D: Treasurer – Collect and disperse all money. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each monthly meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the club officers.
- E: Tournament Director – Responsible that the club tournaments are ran properly, members know their launch order and the launch is done safely. Keep correct time on club tournaments and ensure that the weigh-in is done properly. The Tournament Director will set up a rotation of boaters and non-boaters. The No Wake Zone at the launch ramp will determine the location that everyone must be at by the end of the official tournament time. This location will be determined by the Tournament Director before blast-off.
- F: Weigh-master – Ensure that the scale is working properly and that the fish weighed-in are of legal size, then returned to the water safely.

Section 2: Election of Officers

- A: The election of officers shall be by a silent ballot and shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of November. Election of each officer shall be held separately.

Section 3: Eligibility to Vote

Each member is entitled to one vote. One member shall not vote in another members place. A majority vote of members present rules.

Section 4: Terms of Office

Elected officers will serve for a one year period.

Section 5: Vacancies of Officers

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations will be taken from the floor and a vote by silent ballot will be held to fill the office. The State Bass Federation shall be notified of the change.

Section 6: Eligibility to Hold Office

- A: Must have been a member for at least 6 months.
- B: Having attended at least 75% of club meetings and functions.

Article IV: Removal of Membership

- A: Officers: If an officer is not doing his/her job with fairness to the club members or is in anyway doing wrong, then that officer can be voted out and a new officer will be voted in.
- B: The club President will notify any member that is 2 months behind on paying dues. If back dues are not paid within 2 weeks of notification it may result in the termination of membership.
- C: Any member caught cheating during a tournament will be terminated from the club. The officers will rule on the offence in a timely manner.
- D: Absolutely no alcoholic beverages or drugs (unless prescription) will be allowed at any club function. No person under the influence of the above mentioned items will be allowed at any club function.
- E: Any action that would reflect dishonor or disgrace to the club or any of its members.
- F: Failure to attend 50% of club meetings in a 1-year season.

Article V: Method of Changing By-Laws

By-laws may be changed at the November meeting by a 2/3 vote of members present. Written notice of changes should be presented at the October meeting.

Article VI: Leave of Absence, Bad Weather

Section 1: Leave of Absence

- A: Any member may take a leave of absence with notification to the club officers. The club member must terminate their leave of absence before being allowed to fish a tournament. The leave of absence must be a minimum of 2 months.

Section 2: Bad Weather

- A: In the event of bad weather being forecasted on the day of the tournament, the club members will vote by phone whether to fish or not to fish that day. Any decision to cancel the tournament shall be by a majority vote by the club members.

Article VII: General Tournament Rules
Section 1: Pairing of Partners

- A: The Tournament Director with the help of the Weigh-master shall strive as much as possible to avoid any team duplications. (The pairing team shall consist of one boater and one non-boater). If a member has a pairing conflict that he/she feels is not being properly handled by the pairing team, then he/she can ask for a change of pairing at a club meeting. A change can be made by a majority vote of the members present. There should be at least one open boater (solo competitor) at all local tournaments in case of a boater having mechanical problems, an emergency or a no show. Each boater's tournament starting position will be determined by a drawing at the monthly meeting.
- B: Members shall not fully withhold from the monthly pairings of partners to pair up at the tournament site. In the event of that this should take place, the team will be disqualified from fishing that tournament.
- C: No boater with an open boat can fish a tournament with a guest angler who has won two or more tournaments with another club or tournament series (such as BFL) in the preceding twelve months to the tournament date. Open tournaments of more than fifteen boats will be counted towards the Two-Win total. Our club tournaments do not count in the Two-Win total. The guests weight will count for the team's total weight. The boater is required to notify the tournament director by the Thursday before the tournament so that the non-boater can be added to the line-up. The guest is required to pay a tournament fee of \$35.00. Guest eighteen years old or younger and still attending school will pay a \$25.00 tournament fee. The tournament fee must be paid before the weigh-in.

Section 2: Handling of Fish

- A: The Weigh-master and Tournament Director are responsible for the measuring and weighing of fish. A courtesy check may be asked for before the fish are placed in the weigh-in basket and placed on the scales.
- B: All members will fish by catch and release ethics. All fish will be handled with care during the weigh-in and as being released after the weigh-in.
- C: A dead fish penalty of ½ pound for each dead fish will be deducted from the anglers total weight.

- D: All fish of questionable length will be measured by the Weigh-master.
- E: Fish that do not meet the minimum length requirements of the tournament lake will incur a 1 pound penalty for each short fish. The penalty will be deducted from the anglers total weight.
- F: Live wells will be inspected for proper function.
- G: There will be a 5 fish limit per angler on tournament day.

Section 3: Trophy Fish

- A: Trophy fish must be at least 7 pounds before a member may be allowed to keep that fish. Members may keep 2 fish per year. The second fish must weigh more than the first fish.

Section 4: Handling of Money

- A: All prize money and big fish money shall be equally divided between partners.
- B: Each angler can have 5 fish per tournament day. Total boat weight receives prize money. **No sharing of fish between partners.**
- C: Tournament pay-out will be 3 places with a 50/30/20 split of tournament fees. Big fish will pay 1 place using the big fish fee.
- D: All expenses of the tournament shall be split 50/50 between partners. There is a \$30.00 minimum to be paid to the boater by the non-boater.

Section 5: Buffer Zone

- A: During any club tournament a 25 yard (75 feet) buffer zone must be observed. Any complaints must be made to the Tournament Director who will then discuss the matter with the club officers.

Section 6: Off-limits

- A: The tournament lake shall be closed to fishing for all members starting the Monday before the tournament day and until the official tournament time begins. If that Monday is a National Holiday, then the lake will be closed from Tuesday until the official tournament time begins. On any travel tournament (I.E. Gaston, Kerr, etc.), the day prior to the tournament day will be open for pre-fishing. A "travel tournament" is defined as a tournament in-which most club members spend the night away from home at a motel near the tournament site. Lake waters are not closed to recreational use such as water skiing and boat

riding. No member can have anyone fish the tournament lake during the closed period in an effort to gain fishing information.

Section 7: Safety Equipment

- A: Coast Guard approved life jackets must be worn by each angler anytime the outboard motor is running. The boat driver must have the kill switch attached to the throttle and his/her body.
- B: Coast Guard regulations and posted lake information must be observed at all times, (I.E. No Wake Zones and Off-Limits).

Section 8: Forbidden Baits and Trolling

- A: No live bait is allowed during the tournament. Pork rinds are not considered live bait.
- B: No trolling is allowed during tournaments. "Trolling" is defined as, "movement of boat without making an attempt to fish with rod and reel".

Section 9: Livewells

- A: Boats involved in club tournaments must have functioning livewells. All tournament participants must be launched 15 minutes prior to the blast-off time to have the livewells checked.

Section 10: Tardiness and Leaving Early

- A: There will be a 1 pound per minute penalty deducted for being late to the designated area at the end of the official tournament time. No Exceptions. This location will be determined by the Tournament Director before blast-off. After 15 minutes the team or angler will be disqualified.
- B: Any member who leaves a tournament early must leave notification on the windshield of another members vehicle. If a member leaves without notice, then 3 pounds will be deducted from their total points at the end of the year.

Section 11: State Regulations

- A: North Carolina Wildlife Regulations will apply during all tournaments. All fish must be a minimum length of 14 inches and each angler may have 5 fish in creel unless otherwise specified by lake regulations, (minimum length and creel limit).

Article VIII: Club Awards, Club Classic and Federation Tournament

Section 1: Points Champion

A: The "Points Champion" shall be the member with the most points accumulated at the end of the year and will receive the "Points Champion" plaque.

Section 2: Angler of the Year

A: The "Angler of the Year" shall be voted on by the club members present at the monthly meetings. The angler with the most votes will receive the "Angler of the Year" plaque.

Section 3: Comeback Angler

A: The "Comeback Angler" shall be voted on by the club as the angler who has shown the most improvement over the past year. That angler will receive the "Comeback Angler" plaque.

Section 4: Big Fish of the Year

A: The angler who catches the biggest fish in a club tournament will receive the "Big Fish of the Year" plaque.

Section 5: Top Six of the Year

A: Awarded to the anglers who finish the season in the positions of 1 - 6 in the clubs points race. Those six anglers will receive a "Top Six of the Year" plaque.

Section 6: Classic Tournament Winners

A: The top boater and top non-boater of the "Classic Tournament" will receive individual "Classic Tournament Winner" plaques.

Section 7: Non-Boater of the Year

A: Award to be given to the non-boater with the most points at the end of the tournament season. This angler will receive the "Non-Boater of the Year" plaque.

Section 8: Annual Classic Tournament

- A: The club will hold one Classic Tournament each year. At the beginning of the season the club will vote on the lake which the "Classic" will be held. That lake will be off-limits until the day of the tournament.
- B: During the "Classic", club members will be paired up but will not fish as a team. Only club members will be allowed to fish.
- C: Pay-out for the "Classic Tournament" will be awarded to the top boater and the top non-boater only. The big fish pay-out will still be awarded to the individual with the big fish of the tournament.

Section 9: Club Banquet

- A: The banquet date and location will be determined by a majority vote of club members present. Family members are invited and the plaques will be awarded to the anglers.

Section 10: Extra Points

A: Extra points will be awarded for participating in the clubs open tournament or other approved club activities. Below is a breakdown of the points system.

- 5 points – Tournament Director.
- 4 points – Work morning and afternoon.
- 4 points – Enter tournament and work morning or afternoon.
- 2 points – Work morning or afternoon (1 session).
- 2 points – Enter tournament but not work tournament.