

# CINCINNATI BASSMASTERS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (2023)

All members are expected to have a firm understanding of the Cincinnati Bassmasters Constitution and Bylaws and be in compliance with the current calendar year B,A.S.S. rules at all times. Failure to comply will result in tournament disqualification, suspension and/or dismissal from the club as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE I: PURPOSE**

Cincinnati Bassmasters' purpose is to provide a fair playing field for membership while competing in the sport of bass fishing and to function as a dynamic link with any organization it has chosen to affiliate with.

## **ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION**

- A. Cincinnati Bassmasters is managed by a Board of Directors, here in referred to as the Board. The Board consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Director, Webmaster and a Youth/Conservation Director. Each member of the Board is entitled to one vote on all issues and Board votes that end in ties are determined by membership vote.
- B. Official roster and new member selection: anyone requesting membership must submit an application to the Board for approval. Annual dues must be paid to be an official member.
- C. Annual meeting: A non-mandatory membership meeting/award party is held after season or prior to the next season. The board meets as need throughout the year via phone or video conference with at least one in-person meeting occurring prior to the season starting.
- D. Elections and Terms of Office: The membership elects a President from existing Board every 4 years. The vote will be at the end of the tournament season and effective immediately (2019, 2023, 2027, 2031...) Remaining Board members are appointed by the President with terms of office coinciding with that of the President.

## **ARTICLE III: DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

- A. The President manages meetings, public relations activities and represents membership. He maintains the constitution as well as all other official documents and ensures the website and social media pages are maintained by the Webmaster.
- B. The Vice-President assists the President as the membership director and as requested on all business otherwise. The Vice President assumes the President's position if vacated, serving until fulfillment of the unexpired term.
- C. The Secretary manages the roster and any required affiliation documentation and in partnership with the Tournament Director, maintains accurate records of tournament results and points standings throughout the year.
- D. The Treasurer receives and disburses all club funds while maintaining accurate financial records. He distributes the completed financial statement to the President.
- E. The Tournament Director manages tournaments and tournament equipment and is responsible for angler pairings for each tournament.
- F. Assistant Tournament Director assists in the management of tournaments and tournament equipment at the direction of the Tournament Director.
- G. The Webmaster is committed to maintaining and updating the club website with the current year schedule and results in a timely manner after each event. The Webmaster will also ensure communications are cross posted to social media as appropriate.
- H. Youth/Conservation Director; Manages youth and conservation events and is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Assist to the Tournament Director.

## **ARTICLE IV: TOURNAMENTS**

### **Section 1: Annual Tournament Structure**

- A. The fishing season consist of 8 regular season tournaments and a club championship. The Board will choose locations and dates for tournaments after reviewing local tournament trails, holidays and polling membership.
- B. The Tournament structure will be a Team format with a Boater and Co-angler paired by the Tournament Director prior to the event. The Boater and Co-angler will fish as a team for a 5-fish limit and will split any winnings including the Big Bass pot.

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- C. One regular season event will be a two day travel tournament to a “destination lake” within 8 hours of Cincinnati. The travel event will be 100% payback and both members will receive like (applicable) points.
- D. Local tournaments may precede affiliated or other larger tournament trails to help membership be best prepared for those events.
- E. All regular season tournaments will be selected as random draw TEAM events. Each member will receive like (applicable) points based on their team’s finish in each event.

## Section 2: Tournament Eligibility

- A. Co-Anglers must sign-up no sooner than two weeks prior to each tournament by sending a time stamped email or text to the Tournament Director. Acceptance into each tournament is first come first served. Boaters can sign-up anytime.

## Section 3: Entry Fees

- A. The entry fee for one day tournaments is \$40.00 per member, including big bass. Example: \$30 entry + \$10 big bass = \$40. Two day tournaments are \$80.00 per member including big bass. Example; \$60 entry + \$20 big bass = \$80. The board may decide to payout big bass for both days or only on the final day.
- B. Co-Anglers are responsible to pay the big bass entry for the Angler they are fishing with. The exception being two day TEAM travel tournaments.
- C. All expenses for two day travel tournaments should be split evenly but are at the discretion of the team. Driving in separate vehicles to and from the travel tournament should not exclude anyone from splitting expenses with their partner.

## Section 4: Pre-Tournament Logistics

- A. Co-Angler members fish from the rear deck unless invited to the front deck.
- B. Pairing are determined by random draw using randomizer software or “drawing from the hat”.
- C. Deviations from tournament times and locations are not permitted unless under special circumstance.
- D. Members are required to arrive at the designated ramp 30 minutes prior to the tournament start and must call a Board Member if they are running late. A 1-lb. penalty may be taken from that individual’s total weight for not calling.
- E. Members arriving after the tournament start must obtain a live well check prior to fishing the tournament.  
Boat numbers will be given to determine starting position and will be drawn by the order in which members arrive / check-in.
- F. Minimum fish length for each tournament will be determined based on the local Fish and Wildlife regulations.
- G. A live well check may be performed prior to the start of each tournament.

## Section 5: Duration & Weigh-In’s

- A. All tournaments last 8 hours; no tournament may be extended past the original “set” weigh in time regardless of a delayed start. Exceptions to the 8 hour time limit are night tournaments and any 2 day event, or special/conservation events. Night tournaments will last no longer than 10 hours from start to finish. Two day tournaments may be up to 10 hours on day one and no longer than 8 hours on day two – the two day combined time shall not exceed 16 hours.
- B. All fish are to be measured mouth closed and gill plates down. Tail fanning and/or pinching is permitted.
- C. Angler/Co-Angler teams may bring a maximum of 5 black bass of legal length to the scales.

## Section 6: Annual Standings, Points, Payouts and Ties

- A. The best 5 tournaments will count toward total annual point totals
- B. Points are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup>=50, 2<sup>nd</sup>=45, 3<sup>rd</sup>=42, 4<sup>th</sup>=41, 5<sup>th</sup>=40...  
10 points will be awarded for attendance where no fish is caught.
- C. Members that tie will share position finished, and awards i.e. two Members who tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place will split the total of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place cash. Annual trophies will be duplicated.

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- D. Members who fish from their own boat in 1 or more events during the season are exempt from participating in the Co-Angler of the year race.
- E. Payout percentages are maintained on an approved payout form and in the Treasurers annual financial statement.

## **Section 7: Tournament Rules**

- A. We follow the current year Bassmaster B.A.S.S. Open Series tournament rules (B.A.S.S. rules) which are posted to [www.bassmaster.com](http://www.bassmaster.com) website WITH EXCEPTIONS AS FOLLOW:
  - a. The use of Umbrella rigs / Alabama Rigs / A-Rigs are permitted. All state and local laws must be followed in relationship to the number of wires and hooks permitted.
  - b. The use of a landing net is permitted.
  - c. Cellphones cannot be used to provide a competitive advantage to an angler during a tournament. Anglers may only contact the Tournament Director or President during a tournament for purposes of seeking a ruling. Please refer to the B.A.S.S. rules for additional details.
  - d. Anglers and co-anglers may pre-fish until sunset the day prior to an event.
- B. Any disagreement to the understanding of the B.A.S.S. rules will be discussed and an official ruling voted on by the Board.
- C. Any Boater under the age of 18 cannot fish in a Club tournament with a Co-angler under the age of 18.
- D. All Members born after 1/1/82 must complete a State Boater Safety Course and present the Certification Card number to the Club Secretary for documentation purposes.
- E. The minimum age to join the Cincinnati Bassmasters as a fishing member is 14yrs old as of the date of the tournament being fished.

## **ARTICLE V: COMPLAINTS AND PROTEST**

Complaints and protest should be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director (or acting Tournament Director should the Tournament Director not be present) or President of the board (or acting President of the board should the President not be present.) Tournament protest should be filed within 15 minutes of the weigh-in being completed. A protest filed during a tournament may prompt the Tournament Director to hold payouts until the Board has discussed and drafted a resolution.

## **ARTICLE VI: DISAFFILIATION / REVOCATION, OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

See the BASS Open Series Rules; Issues of poor sportsmanship, slander or any violation of this constitution will be discussed and voted on and by the Board. Additionally, members who "no show" after signing up for a tournament are subject to disciplinary action up to being removed from the club.

## **ARTICLE VII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

The Board votes on all amendments to this constitution. Suggestions for change should be brought to the attention of the Board who will respond to the individual and/or to the entire membership.