

**BIG SANDY CREEK BASS CLUB  
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS  
2008**

ARTICLE I. NAME & PURPOSE

- A. The name of this group of anglers shall be Big Sandy Creek Bass Club.
- B. The purpose of this club is to promote sportsmanship, camaraderie, conservation, and education while enjoying the sport of bass fishing. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation embracing the principles and purposes of B.A.S.S.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP & DUES

A. MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Membership will be by application only and is subject to approval by a vote of the club members present at the time of the meeting.
- 2. Applicants are required to attend one meeting and fish one tournament as a guest before being voted into the club. All acquired weight will carry while attending as a guest. This rule excludes previous members who have left the club and wish to return.
- 3. A returning member from the previous year, whose membership has lapsed and is in good standing, may re-join the club by paying their dues prior to fishing any tournaments.
- 4. A member must sponsor individuals under the age of eighteen. Sponsors must be over the age of eighteen. Sponsors of such individuals will be responsible for the actions of those so sponsored.
- 5. Applicants who have been accepted by the membership shall become voting members upon payment of membership dues.
- 6. By accepting membership, the member agrees that all corresponding documents produced for the club shall become club property.
- 7. Membership may be cancelled under any of the following conditions:
  - a. Violation of rules.
  - b. Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on the club and/or B.A.S.S.
  - c. Non-payment of dues.
  - d. By recommendation of the officers and a two-thirds majority vote of the club members present at the time of the meeting.

B. DUES

- 1. Yearly club dues for returning members will be \$20.00.
- 2. Club dues for new members joining throughout the year will be based on the following pro-rated scale:
  - a. Jan – Apr \$20.00
  - b. May – Aug \$14.00
  - c. Sep – Dec \$7.00
- 3. Club dues for the year will be due by the first meeting in January and delinquent after the first meeting in February. Returning members must pay club dues prior to fishing any tournaments scheduled between the first meeting in January and the first meeting in February.

4. Yearly B.A.S.S. Federation dues are \$20.00 for the National Federation and \$18.00 for the State Federation. B.A.S.S. dues are due before December 31 of the current year.
5. Club dues will be used for club responsibilities and are non-refundable.

### ARTICLE III. CLUB OFFICERS

#### A. POSITIONS & DUTIES

##### 1. President

- a. Presides over all meeting and functions of the club.
- b. Acts as the representative for the club at all club related functions.
- c. May not vote except in the case of a tie.
- d. Assumes the duties of the Tournament Director in the absence of both the Vice President and Tournament Director.
- e. Creates and delegates special committees as required for the club to function.

##### 2. Vice President

- a. Assumes the duties of the President in the absence of the President, or at the President's request.
- b. Assumes the duties of the Tournament Director in the absence of the Tournament Director.

##### 3. Secretary

- a. Records the minutes at all club meetings.
- b. Maintains the club standings.
- c. Maintains the club roster.
- d. Writes and distributes the club newsletter on a monthly basis.
- e. Responsible for clearly recording results at club tournaments.

##### 4. Treasurer

- a. Collects all club dues and tournament fees.
- b. Maintains a file of all receipts, bills, canceled checks, and financial reports.
- c. Submits a treasurer's report at each meeting.

##### 5. Tournament Director

- a. Official timekeeper for all club tournaments.
- b. Responsible for measuring and weighing at club tournaments.
- c. Maintains club scales.
- d. Acts as a point of contact for tournament information. This includes coordinating with members that require a partner.
- e. Enforces all tournament rules.

#### B. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Nominations of officers will occur at the last meeting in November.
2. Election of officers will occur at the first meeting in December. Vote may be by secret ballot or by a show of hands of members present.

C. ADDITION OF OFFICER POSITIONS

1. By member vote, the club may create additional officer positions, along with defining the authority and duties of those positions.

D. VACANCIES

1. Excessive absence of a club officer will result in vacating the office. Excessiveness will be determined at the discretion of the remaining club officers.
2. Any office vacancies, except for the office of the President, will be filled by a nomination and election at the next available meeting. Vote may be by secret ballot or by a show of hands of members present. If the Presidents office becomes vacant, the Vice President will assume the role of the President and a nomination and election will be held to fill the office of the Vice President. National B.A.S.S. Headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

ARTICLE IV. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

A. METHOD

1. The Constitution & Bylaws may be amended by written proposal only. The proposal shall be submitted to the club officers at the last meeting in October. The written proposal shall consist of a reason why the document should be amended and a solution to the amendment. The written proposal should reference this document.

B. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE

1. The club officers will review the written proposal and at their discretion, determine if the amendment should be accepted.
2. Club members will vote on accepted amendments at the last meeting in November. Amendments require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.
3. Amended Constitution & Bylaws will be distributed to members at the last meeting of the year.

ARTICLE V. MONTHLY CLUB TOURNAMENTS

A. TOURNAMENT FEES, EXPENSES, AND PAYOUTS

1. FEES

- a. Entry fee for each tournament is \$20.00 per member. The entry fee is due and payable prior to or at the weigh-in of each tournament. Failure to pay the entry fee to a tournament fished will render the member ineligible to fish any future tournaments until said entry fee is paid.
- b. (Optional) Entry fee for the "Big Bass of the Year" award is \$12.00. This is a one-time fee per year. Members have the option to pay prior to fishing their first tournament of the year. If funds are available, club will match the pot up to \$300 at the end of the year by means of raffles, sponsors, donations, etc... Only bass caught during regular monthly club tournaments are eligible to win the award.

2. EXPENSES

- a. All expenses and winnings shall be split between boater and non-boater for each tournament. The boater shall keep written track of all expenses and split the cost with the non-boater at the end of the tournament. If non-boater refuses to pay their fair share, the boater may take the appropriate expenses from the winnings. If no winnings are due, then the non-boater will be ineligible to fish any future tournaments until appropriate costs are paid.

3. PAYOUTS

- a. 100% of the tournament entry fees will be paid back to the contestants at the first meeting following the tournament. Standard tournament payouts for 1-14 teams will be based on the following scale:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Team	50%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Team	30%
Big Bass	20%

Standard tournament payouts for 15+ teams will be based on the following scale.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Team	40%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Team	30%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Team	20%
Big Bass	10%

- b. In the event of a tournament in which no fish are weighed, all entry fees will be rolled over into the pot for the next tournament.
- c. In the event of a tournament in which only one team weighs fish, 100% of the payback will be paid to that team.
- d. In the event of a tie, the team members involved have the option to split the prize money for the respective places or flip a coin to break the tie. A club officer must perform the coin flip.

B. TOURNAMENT SELECTION

- 1. Members will vote on tournament weekends for the upcoming year during the last meeting in December. To avoid conflicts, the President will create a small committee to research weekend availability and present the club with a calendar that displays popular tournaments, event, moon phases, etc... before the last meeting in December.
- 2. Members will vote on lakes, two-day tournaments, and specific dates of the elected weekends for the upcoming four months during the last meeting in December, April, and August. The President may create a small committee to research lake productivity and report back to the club before the last meeting in the above stated months.
- 3. Members will vote on times, type (paper or draw), and weigh-in site for the upcoming month during the last meeting of the current month.

C. TOURNAMENT RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY

- b. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed at all times.

- c. If a member is unable to secure a partner, he is eligible to compete as a team as long as he notifies an officer of the club (This excludes paper and draw tournaments).
- d. A non-club member may only fish in a tournament as a guest of an individual member once per year.
- e. A member cannot fish with another non-sponsored member more than 4 times per year. This excludes draw tournaments.
- f. Contestants will abstain from consuming alcoholic beverages until after tournament hours.

## 2. SAFETY

- a. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver anytime the boat is on plane.
- b. The kill switch (if equipped) must be attached to the boat operator any time the boat is on plane.
- c. Due to inclement weather, the club officers may shorten the tournament hours or cancel it for the safety of its members.

## 3. FISHING AREAS & HOURS

- a. Standard starting time will be safe light (30 minutes before sunrise) and standard weigh-in time will be 3:00PM for a one-day tournament and the first day of a two-day tournament. Standard weigh-in time for the second day of a two-day tournament shall be 1:00PM. Night tournaments will start a minimum of 30 minutes prior to sunset and end a minimum of 2 hours after sunrise. Tournament hours can be changed by two-thirds majority vote of members attending the meeting before the tournament. Each tournament must be at least 8 hours with the only exception being the second day of a two day and the Classic Championship.
- b. Members may launch from any public or private ramp on the tournament lake with legal access. Trailering to the weigh-in site is permitted if your live well system is adequate to maintain fish in a healthy condition.
- c. No fishing is allowed from 12:00AM to tournament start time on the day of the tournament.
- d. No fishing is allowed from outside your boat or within 50 yards of an anchored or tied boat with its trolling motor in the stored position without the express permission of its occupants.

## 4. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT

- a. Only artificial lures may be used, the only exception is pork rinds.
- b. Only one rod per person may be in use at any one time. Each cast must be completed before another is made.
- c. Trolling with the main engine is NOT allowed.

## 5. WEIGH-IN & CONSERVATION

- a. The bag limit for each tournament shall be five fish per day per man, or lake limit, if less than five.
- b. All tournament contestants must be at the weigh-in site at the time of weigh-in. A late penalty of 4oz per minute will be assessed on the teams' tournament weight up to 5 minutes. After 5 minutes the teams' total catch will be disqualified. The penalty will be assessed as 2oz per team member. If a team member has no catch – his portion of the penalty will be waived. i.e. – no “negative” penalty.

- c. All fish must be transported to and from the weigh-in line in a bag filled with water. Failure to follow this rule will result in disqualification of that days catch.
- d. No pale-gilled fish (white or pink gills) will be weighed. Dead fish may be put on ice in order to maintain redness of gills. A penalty of 4 oz per dead fish weighed will be assessed against the individual members weight. If the big bass to be weighed is dead, the 4 oz penalty will be subtracted from the big bass weight.
- e. Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be weighed. Each spotted bass must be a minimum length of 12 inches on lakes with no minimum length limit set (This excludes paper tournaments). "Pro Rule" will be the official measuring board used by the Tournament Director to measure fish. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and tail compressed.

## 6. PAPER TOURNAMENTS

- a. Weight of fish shall be determined by weight chart provided by the club. All lengths to be verified by boating partner.
- b. Fishing solo will not be permitted in a paper tournament. A member that is unable to team up with a partner must be put in a boat with another team to be eligible for solo angler's weight to be accountable.
- c. To be eligible to qualify for the big bass pot, the fish must be legal by lake rules and brought to the weigh-in and weighed on club scales. Overall standings and weight for the tournament will be determined by the paper weight of the big bass.
- d. Guests are not allowed to fish in paper tournaments unless the guest is a prospective member and has attended one of the last three meetings prior to the tournament.

## 7. DRAW TOURNAMENTS

- a. Draw for Partners at the Ramp
  - i. Draw tournaments will be conducted by drawing for partners 30 minutes prior to start time. All contestants must be present before the draw can take place (They must be on the Tournament Directors list of participants). If a contestant will be late he must contact the Tournament Director and notify him of the estimated time of arrival. The draw will take place no later than 10 minutes before the start of the tournament. All contestants that are not present at the time of the draw will be penalized 2 pounds per person subtracted from their overall weight for that tournament.
  - ii. To be included in the draw each boater must secure a non-boater or each non-boater must secure a boater prior to the tournament.
  - iii. In cases of hardship, a member may fish solo only if the draw tournament is not also a paper tournament. If the draw tournament is also a paper tournament, the member has the option to fish as a third person in another teams boat or fish solo using lake rules for length limits.
  - iv. Guests are not allowed to fish in draw tournaments unless the guest is a prospective member and has attended one of the last three meetings prior to the tournament.

- b. Draw for Partners at the Meeting
  - i. Drawing for partners at a meeting before the tournament will be done so by taking an equal number of boaters and non-boaters that have declared their intention to fish and drawing for partners with those members. For all other members that are not in attendance but who wish to fish, will go into a draw by phone or at the ramp conducted by the tournament director before the start of the tournament. If a member going into a draw by phone does not have a draw partner the member will wait until a draw is attempted at the ramp. If the member is still unable to get a draw partner and fill a team, the member may then fish solo in the tournament with no penalty as long as it is not a paper tournament.
  - ii. Guests are not allowed to fish in draw tournaments unless the guest is a prospective member and has attended one of the last three meetings prior to the tournament.

#### 8. RULE CHANGES

- a. Under special conditions, rules may be changed by majority vote.

#### 9. RULE VIOLATIONS

- a. Any violation of tournament rules may result in disqualification at the discretion of all officers in attendance.

### ARTICLE VI. YEARLY OPEN TOURNAMENT

- A. Each year the club may host an open tournament to produce revenue for the club and benefit a local charity. This tournament will require participation from all club members to organize and work at the tournament.
- B. The club will allow qualified club members to fish this tournament. It will be left to the discretion of the club officers to determine the number of members allowed to fish the event.
- C. For a club member to qualify to fish this event, the member must be a Classic Championship qualifier in the current year and must have worked at the two previous Open Tournaments. The qualifiers names will be placed in a drawing and the selected members will be responsible for their individual entry fees to the event.

### ARTICLE VII. CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

#### A. EXPLANATION

- 1. This yearly tournament rewards those who actively participate in the club throughout the year.
- 2. If funds are available, the club will contribute \$600.00 bonus prize money to the tournament. The payout scale will be decided by club vote prior to the tournament.

#### B. QUALIFICATION

- 1. For a club member to qualify for this event, the member must earn a minimum of 30 bonus points in the current year prior to the event date.

### C. FORMAT

1. This tournament will be a team tournament on a lake in which the club has not fished in the corresponding season.
2. Entry fee will be \$20.00 per contestant. 100% of the tournament entry fees will be paid back to the contestants at the first meeting following the tournament.
3. The date, times, lake, ramp, type, partners, and rules will be determined by vote of qualifying members by the end of the following calendar year. The tournament will be held the following calendar year by the end of the year.
4. This tournament will be a draw/team event for a 5 fish team limit.
5. The draw for the teams will be done so with qualified members. Option to be a boater is based on previous years standing.
6. Alternates will be used when a team is needed to be filled. Alternates are chosen based on being a pre-qualifier, current member, and by total meeting / tournament points of current year.

### ARTICLE VIII. NON-CLUB SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

- A. If funds are available, the club will contribute money to the top six members in the corresponding year standings for expenses to The B.A.S.S. State Federation Championship. The amount contributed by the club shall be determined at the first meeting in January.
- B. Members are required to wear BSCBC attire.
- C. For a top six member to participate in this tournament, they must have earned at least 36 bonus points 1 year prior to the event.

### ARTICLE IX. CLUB STANDINGS

- A. The club secretary shall maintain and publish individual club standings in monthly newsletters.
- B. Standings will be determined as follows:
  1. Each member will earn one pound for attending each club meeting.
  2. Each member will earn two pounds for attending each club tournament. Three pounds for a two-day tournament.
  3. Each member will earn the actual weight of fish weighed in at each club tournament.
  4. Each member that works the open tournament will be rewarded 3 pounds for working and 2 pounds for any extra participation (selling ads and other pre-tournament tasks). Member participation rewards is determined by the officers discretion.
  5. Each member will earn extracurricular bonus points for participation in activities in which the club is actively seeking participation from members. Some examples are KidFish events, attending conservation education, Casting Kids events, etc. The bonus points awarded for the activity must be discussed and approved by the club officers before the event.

### ARTICLE X. AWARDS & BANQUET

- A. First place "Angler of the year" and the remainder of the "Top Six" individuals, as determined by the final club standings will be awarded plaques.
- B. The angler of the year will receive an "Angler of the year" pack that includes a jacket, shirt, and cap. Merchandise and club insignia will be selected by the club officers.

- C. The club should vote on a banquet date and location for the corresponding year standings for the top six. This banquet should be the week following the top six tournament and should be held no later than the first week of May.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

- A. Standard meeting time is 7:30PM
- B. Meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

ARTICLE XII. CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND/OR DONATIONS

- A. All donors of charitable contributions to Big Sandy Creek Bass Club will receive a receipt for all cash items.
- B. A portion of all money received from donations will be contributed to a selected charity.

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