

CINCINNATI BASSMASTERS CONSTITUTION (2016)

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 Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Director, and a Youth/Conservation Director. Each member of the Board is entitled to one vote on all issues and ties are split by membership.
- B. Official Roster and New Member Selection; There is a cap of 45 members. Anyone requesting membership must submit an application to the Board for approval.
- C. Annual Meetings; The Board meets once during the tournament season. A non-mandatory membership meeting/award party is held after season or prior to the next season.
- D. Elections and Terms of Office; The membership elects a President from the Board every 4 years in November and the term begins on December 1st. (2015, 2019, 2023...) The Board is appointed by the President and their terms of office coincides 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 website.
- B. The Vice-President assist the President as requested and 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.
- D. The Treasurer; receives and disburses all monies while maintaining accurate financial records. He distributes the completed financial statement to the President.
- E. The Tournament Director manages tournaments and tournament equipment.
- F. The Assistant Tournament Director assists in the management of tournaments and tournament equipment.
- G. The Youth/Conservation Director; Manages youth and conservation events and is a 2nd Assist to the Tournament Director.

ARTICLE IV: TOURNAMENTS

Section 1: Annual Tournament Structure

- A. The fishing season consist of 8 tournaments with the Board choosing locations and dates after reviewing local tournament trails, holidays and polling Anglers availability. 5 Sundays, 2 weekdays and 1 two day weekend may be planned. Where no two day is planned an additional Sunday will be chosen.
- B. Local tournaments may precede affiliated or other larger tournament trails to help membership be best prepared for those events.
- C. One tournament annually may be selected as a TEAM travel event. This event will be considered a TEAM tournament where members will be paired and fish for a combined total weight. These tournaments will be chosen from the BASS top 100 places to fish list. TEAM travel events will be 100% payback and both TEAM members will receive like (applicable) points.

Section 3: Tournament Eligibility

- A. Co-Anglers must sign-up no sooner than two weeks prior to each tournament by posting their intentions to participate on the club website calendar. Acceptance is first come first serve.
- B. Anglers can sign-up anytime. Anglers who withdraw from an event after the pairings have been posted may be subjected to penalties and other disciplinary actions if the withdrawal isn't justified.

Section 4: Entry Fees

- A. The entry fee for one day tournaments is \$30.00 per member, including big bass. Example; \$20 entry + \$10 big bass = \$30. Two day tournaments are \$60.00 per member including big bass. Example; \$40 entry + \$20 big bass = \$60. The board may decide to payout big bass for both days or only on the final day.
- B. Co-Anglers are responsible to also 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 TEAM travel tournaments should be split evenly but are at the discretion of the team. Driving in separate vehicles to and from the TEAM travel tournament should not exclude anyone from splitting expenses with their TEAM partner.

Section 5: Pre-Tournament Logistics

- A. Co-Angler's fish from the rear deck unless invited to the front deck.
- B. Pairing is determined by reviewing past tournaments and rotating.
- C. Deviations from tournament times and locations are not permitted unless under special circumstance.
- D. Pre-tournament live well checks are at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- E. Members are required to arrive at the designated ramp 30 minutes prior to the tournament start or must call a Board Member. A 1-lb. penalty may be taken off the members total weight for not calling.
- F. Members arriving after the tournament start must obtain a live well check prior to fishing the tournament.
- G. Boat numbers may be given to determine starting position and will be determined by the order in which members arrive and sign-up.

Section 6: 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, the first day of 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.
- B. All fish are to be measured mouth closed and gill plates down. Tail fanning &/or pinching is permitted. DNR weight/limits are followed.
- C. Co-Angler's & Anglers bring up to 5 appropriate length fish to the scales unless the DNR restricts or expands upon this for the event.

Section 7: Annual Standings, Points, Payouts and Ties

- A. The best 4 tournaments will count toward total annual point totals
- B. Points are as follows: 1st=50, 2nd=45, 3rd=42, 4th=41, 5th=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 2nd place will split the total of 2nd and 3rd place cash. Annual trophies will be duplicated.
- 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 8: Additional Rules

- A. All members are expected to have a firm understanding of and be in compliance with the current calendar year Bassmaster "open series official rules" for any rule not covered in this constitution.
- B. Any disagreement to the understanding of the Bassmaster "open series official rules" will be discussed and voted on by the Board.
- C. The use of a net is permitted.

ARTICLE V: COMPLAINTS AND PROTEST

Complaints and protest should be brought to the attention of the Board. Tournament protest should be filed within 15 minutes of the weigh-in. 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.

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.