

**Bass Club of San Diego  
Constitution and By-Laws  
Amended and Re-Styled  
As of 27 March, 2019**



**ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE, & PHILOSOPHY**

**Section 1-Name:** The club shall be called the Bass Club of San Diego.

**Section 2-Purpose:** To stimulate and encourage 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, to demand the legal enforcement of an adequate water standard, to detect and report any polluter, to detect and report any poacher and call public and political attention to their crime, to improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas and to promote and encourage bass fishing and a love of this great sport. The Bass Club will function as a dynamic and effective link with all other bass clubs that embrace the principles and purpose of good sportsmanship.

**Section 3-Philosophy:** The Bass Club was formed for the purpose of creating a weekend fisherman's organization. The only limitations the club shall have are those imposed by state and local laws as well as those voted on and approved by the general membership of the Bass Club. The club will be a teaching organization where any new member can feel comfortable whether fishing as a beginner or a seasoned veteran.

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1-Member in Good Standing:** A member in good standing is defined as any member who is current on the payment of all dues and fees, and who abides by the rules and regulations set forth in the club's by-laws.

**Section 2-Number & Gender:** The club shall be open for both male and female membership. All members in good standing are eligible to run for election for any of the club's elected offices. The club shall have an unlimited membership. The minimum age requirement for membership in the club is 16 years of age.

**Section 3-Dues:** Membership dues of forty dollars are payable annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>. In any current year, members whose dues are delinquent, by March 31<sup>st</sup>, will be considered to have resigned from the club and must re-apply and be re-instated by a vote of the membership. Dues shall be prorated quarterly in accordance with the chart below. (Amended 27, March, 2019)

<b><u>Month Paid</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Due</u></b>
<b>January – March</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>April – June</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>July – September</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>October - December</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

**Section 4-Tournament Entry Fee:** The entry fee for participation in any tournament is thirty dollars, (\$30.00) per entrant, per tournament. An administrative fee of twenty percent, (20%) will be set aside from all tournament entry fees for the administrative expenses incurred by the club. The balance of the entry fee shall be paid to the top finishers based upon a payback matrix. The payback is based on the number of participants in any particular tournament. Checks for the top finishers may be issued at the lake, or mailed by the Treasurer within two days following the completion of the tournament. If NO fish are caught during a scheduled tournament all entry fees will remain in the general fund.

From the remaining eighty percent, (80%), of the tournament entry fees, the sum of seven dollars, (\$7.00) per entrant will be contributed toward a Revolving Big Fish Pot. The Revolving Big Fish Pot will be paid to any member in good standing (see section 5, qualifying for the Revolving Big Fish Pot), who catches the big fish in a monthly club tournament, said fish having a weight equal to or greater than seven pounds, (7 lbs.). If no qualifying fish is caught in any particular tournament, the Revolving Big Fish Pot will be rolled over to each succeeding month and will continue to accumulate until a qualifying fish is caught in a regularly scheduled club tournament. The Revolving Big Fish Pot will be capped at \$500.00 and excess funds will accumulate in subsequent pots of \$500.00 each. In any given tournament, multiple catches of 7 lbs. or greater by different individuals, will be awarded subsequent revolving Big Fish Pots until funds are exhausted. When three Revolving Big Fish Pots reach \$500.00, additional funds shall be placed in the general fund until one or more of the Revolving Big Fish Pots is won. Only one Revolving Big Fish pot will be awarded per individual in a tournament. In the event of a tie where two or more fish have the same weight, the Revolving Big Fish Pot concerned will be split evenly by the anglers involved.

In addition to the Revolving Big Fish Pot, there is an optional Big Fish Pot available to all participants in a club tournament. The fee for the Big Fish Pot is five dollars, (\$5.00), and is due at the time the tournament entry fee is paid. The Big Fish Pot is paid on a "winner take all" basis to the participant who weighs the largest eligible fish in any particular tournament. In the event of a tie where two or more fish have the same weight, the Big Fish Pot concerned will be split evenly by the anglers involved.

Members must present an application and entry fees at the designated tournament meeting. A phone call to a board member prior to the meeting, stating intent to participate, will be required if a member cannot attend. All participants must be entered into the draw.

Entry fee deadlines will be set at the discretion of the club Treasurer. Fees must be received prior to the beginning of each Tournament. Failure to pay prior to launch will result in Disqualification (DQ) for the Tournament;

No shows at a tournament will forfeit the entry fee. To request a roll over to the next tournament, a club officer must be notified no later than the day before the tournament.

Five (5) points will be awarded members for attendance at each club tournament meeting.

**Section 5 – Qualifying for the Revolving Big Fish Pot** - To become eligible for the revolving big fish pot, a member must fish either two (2) consecutive tournaments or two (2) tournaments in a quarter, followed by a minimum of one (1) tournament per quarter thereafter. If a member

fails to fish in any subsequent quarter, that member will be required to re-qualify for the Big Fish Pot.

**Section 6 -New Members:** To become a member of the Bass Club a person shall:

- a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership and complete a membership application.
- b) Be sponsored or recommended for membership by a member in good standing at a monthly membership meeting.
- c) Fish the following regular club tournament as a prospective member. The prospective member must fish with a current member in good standing. The prospective member's conduct and behavior will be evaluated by the member in good standing and reported on at the next monthly membership meeting.
- d) Be voted into the membership at the next monthly membership meeting by a majority of the members in good standing in attendance at said meeting. The responsibility of notifying the prospective member of the club's decision generally falls to the sponsoring member.

When participating in a Bass Club regular club tournament, a prospective member must pay all standard costs such as the tournament fee of \$30.00. Additionally, if fishing as a non-boater, the prospective member will be required to pay launch and permit fees. The prospective member may also participate in any optional big fish pool(s). However, no prospective member is eligible to win the Revolving Big Fish Pot.

**Section 7- Termination of a Member:** Any member of the Bass Club may be terminated by a simple majority vote of the club membership for any of the following reasons:

- a) Flagrant violation of Fish and Game Laws, including but not limited to poaching or the use of illegal bait.
- b) Poor sportsmanship.
- c) Any violation of the Bass Club by-laws or tournament rules.
- d) Any action that would result in dishonor, disgrace, or a loss of credibility being brought upon the Bass Club.

**Section 8- Procedure for Termination:** Whenever a member witnesses, or is made aware of a violation or action, which would result in the termination of another member, the following procedure shall be followed:

- a) The member reporting the incident, (reporting member), shall submit a written request for investigation of the violation or action, of the offending member, to a member of the Board of Directors. The reporting member may remain anonymous.
- b) The Board of Directors shall meet to review the written request for investigation and determine by a majority vote if the reported action is sufficient to bring to the general membership for consideration of termination of the offending member. During the review,

the offending member has the right to present his or her case to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine if the matter is serious enough to proceed. The reporting member will be notified of the Board of Director's decision. The members in good standing in attendance, excluding the Board of Directors, will vote on the matter. The offending member will be asked to leave during the taking of the vote. The decision will be reached by a simple majority vote. The decision is final. Any terminated member may not reapply for membership in the Bass Club.

### **ARTICLE III - OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES & ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1-Board of Directors:** The Bass Club shall have a Board of Directors consisting of five elected officers: President, Vice-President/Tournament Director, Secretary, Treasurer, & Weigh-Master. The Board of Directors shall direct the month-to-month club business.

**Section 2- Eligibility:** Any member in good standing may run for and hold any office.

**Section 3-Elections:** Elections for elected officers are to be held annually. The President shall appoint a nomination committee in September to contact club members and determine interested and eligible candidates for office. The nomination committee will submit nominations to the general membership during the October regular membership meeting. Elections will be held during the November regular membership meeting.

**Section 4-Vacancies:** In the case of a vacancy in one of the elected offices, the President will appoint a nomination committee in the month immediately following the creation of the vacancy. The nomination committee will determine and nominate eligible and interested candidates during the next regular membership meeting. An election for the vacated office will be held at the regular membership meeting following the nomination. The term of office for any person elected in the case of a vacancy expires in December. Said person may be nominated and run for any office during the annual elections.

**Section 5 - Officers and their duties:** The duties for the elected officers are as follows.

- a. **President:** Preside over all meetings and directs all official business of the Bass Club. Provide leadership and planning for all club activities. The President shall represent the club by sitting as a voting member at the San Diego Council of Bass Clubs. The President will act as the Tournament Director at any tournament in which the Tournament Director is not present. The President will oversee the compiling of the final weights and statistics of a club tournament and communicate the tournament results to the Treasurer for the preparation of checks for tournament awards. The President has the power to exercise executive privilege to make temporary decisions he or she believes are in the best interest of the club in those cases where a vote by club membership is unfeasible or otherwise unavailable.
- b. **Vice President/Tournament Director:** Assists the president in the execution of his or her duties and act on behalf of the President during his or her absence. The Vice President will not vote on issues put to a vote by the club membership unless required to in the event of a tie vote. The Vice President's vote will break the tie. Responsibilities as Tournament Director include the determination of the site and time of the tournament

check-in period, the announcement of the minimum size and creel limits for any tournament, the determination of the official time for the tournament, and the announcement of the official weigh-in time. The Tournament Director will monitor the participants in any Bass Club tournament for timely check-in, proper launching procedures, and arrival at the designated weigh-in site prior to the official weigh-in time. Additionally, as required, the Tournament Director will appoint a grievance committee to review any properly filed grievance at the Bass Club tournament. The Tournament Director may also appoint any member in good standing to assist in the carrying out of the required functions at a tournament.

- c. **Secretary:** Record the minutes of the regular membership meeting of the Bass Club. Record the weigh-in results during a club tournament and forward those results to the President for final approval. The Secretary will maintain a permanent record of the official tournament results as well as an annual record of the total points accumulated by each member during each tournament year. The Secretary will prepare and mail or E-mail a newsletter to each member in good standing. The newsletter will contain the results of the previously held tournament, the cumulative point total for each member ranked by standings, the date, time, and location of the next regular membership meeting, the Bass Club tournament schedule, and any item of interest. The newsletter must be mailed no later than (10) days following the completion of the previous club tournament. The Secretary shall maintain a master copy of the Club's By-Laws and Constitution/Tournament Rules.
- d. **Treasurer:** Maintain a checking account in the name of the Bass Club of San Diego, collect dues and tournament entry fees, and pay the accounts payable of the club. The Treasurer shall render a financial statement or report at the beginning of the regular membership meeting. The Treasurer is responsible for the processing of tournament award checks in accordance with the club payback matrix. The Treasurer's duties also include the issuance of tournament award certificates, updating/maintaining the annual club roster, and the collection and preservation of the club's membership application.
- e. **Weigh-Master:** Conduct the tournament weigh-in, including the weighing and measuring of all fish presented for weigh-in. Provide for the maintenance and safe keeping of the club's scales. The Weigh-Master's decision as to the length and weight of any fish presented for weigh-in is final. In the event the Weigh-Master cannot make a tournament, the Weigh-Master will appoint an assistant to act in his or her place.

**Section 6 – Liability:** Members and prospective members participate in all *Bass Club* activities at their own risk. Neither the *Bass Club* nor its *officers* shall be held liable for club proceedings or actions of any of the members resulting in adverse or injurious consequences. All boat owners participating in a Club Tournament shall have current personal boat insurance. The personal boat insurance policy must cover the participant while tournament fishing with a minimum liability limit of \$300,000.00. Proof of current boat insurance SHALL be carried in your boat or vehicle glove box at all Bass Club tournaments. A spot check may be performed by the Tournament Director at check in. Non-compliance will eliminate that boat from the current tournament event.

## ARTICLE IV - CLUB EXPENDITURES

**Section 1-Authorities:** The Secretary or Treasurer shall be allowed to spend up to fifty (\$50.00), dollars without requiring a club vote for approval, to pay the necessary expenses for operation of the club. Any expenditure in excess of fifty dollars must be approved by a majority vote of the club members in attendance at the regular membership meeting when said expenditure comes up for vote.

Any member in good standing shall feel free to make a motion for club expenditures they feel are in the best interest of the club. Said motion must be seconded and approved by a majority vote of the members in good standing in attendance at the regular membership meeting at which the motion is made.

## ARTICLE V - TOURNAMENTS

**Section 1-Number of Tournaments:** Tournaments will be held based on a January through December tournament year, with participant's best 10 of 12 tournaments (allowing for two "throw-out" tournaments in any one year) counted for cumulative year end points for the Top-Six Team and Tournament of Champions representatives.

- a) **Tournament Schedule:** The President, Tournament Director and two selected members in good standing shall prepare an annual twelve month tournament schedule beginning with January tournament and will submit copies of the schedule for all members attending the November regular membership meeting, at which time the schedule will be finalized and approved. Tournament dates once set are final but for exceptional circumstances. Changes are to be determined and voted upon only by a majority of club officers. Lakes may be indicated by "TBA," or may be changed due to unknown lake conditions, etc. The choice of "TBA," lakes, or lake changes, may be voted on and decided at the regular membership meeting prior to the tournament by a majority approval of voters present at the meeting and/or by absentee ballot on the back of entry forms.
- b) **Tournament Eligibility:** Participants are limited to club members in good standing and prospective club members, and "Guests" on a back seat room available basis only.
- c) **Start and Weigh-In Times:** The Tournament Director will establish the Start time. Start times shall be no earlier than safe light, or at such time lake personnel announce it is approved to leave the launch area. Weigh-in for standard time/winter months shall be 1500 hours (3:00PM), and for daylight savings time 1600 hours (4:00PM). Exceptions are for such occasions as a two day tournament requiring an earlier time or when temperature conditions require two weigh-in times to be set. During Department of Fish and Game temperature mandates all participants are to return to the weigh-in site, at 1100 hours (11:00AM) and 1600 hours (4:00PM) regardless of whether they have fish to be weighed or not.
- d) **Disqualification:** All Participants are subject to the tournament rules, attached hereto as Exhibit "A". Failure to adhere to the tournament rules is cause for disqualification.
- e) **Mechanical Failure/Disabled Vessel:** If a boat breaks down, they may wave down another participant (standard signal is the waving of a dip net in the air) to deliver their fish to the

weigh-in. Said assisting participant may have late penalties waived by the Tournament grievance committee if transferring fish caused a delay. Down boat's non-boater, if any should accompany fish/assisting boater to weigh-in. Participant in down boat must mark his/her fish before transferring them to the assisting boat. Said participant shall receive full credit for his/her catch, with the exception of penalties as outlined in Exhibit "A". Culling:

- f) No participant shall have more fish in their possession at any time than allowed by the tournament. When a participant catches another legal sized bass after having caught the limit, a fish must be immediately culled. No dead fish will be culled. Any participant culling fish inside the buoy line shall be disqualified from the tournament.
- g) Special Care of Fish: During any tournament, if a participant catches a fish in excess of five pounds, (5lbs), and the participant determines said fish is at risk for its survival, the participant may elect to take the fish to the boat dock for immediate weighing and release. Three individuals must witness the weighing of the fish: The participant, another club member, & a city or county lake employee. The weight must be recorded and attested to in writing by the lake employee and the witnessing club member. The written record of the weight of the fish must be presented to the Weigh-Master during the weigh-in for inclusion of the weight in the participants total for the day.
- h) Early Departure/Emergency or Illness: Any participant needing to leave the lake, for any reason, prior to the final weigh-in may leave his/her fish with another participant and receive full credit for his/her catch. Said Participant must inform another club member fishing the tournament of his/her need to leave the tournament. If said participant is a boater, the non-boater will be transferred to another boat for the remainder of the tournament. Failure by the leaving participant to notify another club member of their early departure will result in disqualification.

## **ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS AND RULE CHANGES**

### **Section 1-Ammdments to By-Laws:**

- a) Any changes or additions to the by-laws must be submitted in writing to one of the officers of the club and brought to motion at the next general meeting, seconded and voted on. A majority vote of voters present is required to pass and/or approve the change and or addition. Said change and/or additions to the by-laws shall become effective immediately.
- b) Tournament rules shall remain in force for the tournament year. Any suggested changes should be submitted in writing to a tournament committee member, President, Vice President/Tournament Director, Secretary, or Weigh-Master to be brought before the club at any regular membership meeting. The requested change must be brought by proper motion, seconded and voted in by a majority vote of members present or by absentee ballot on the back of entry forms to be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. All tournaments will be draw tournaments except for tournaments designated as “out of town tournaments”.
2. All entrants must check-in with the Tournament Director or his/her designee, by the specified check-in time to be announced at the regular monthly meeting prior to the tournament. Any Fees owed must be paid at this time. Failure to check-in as specified may result in disqualification. (Note: Lake permits and launch fees are normally provided by the Back-Seat participant.)
3. There will be no fishing in any designated No Fishing Area.
4. All Fish and Game Department and Lake Regulations must be adhered to. Any participant ejected or cited by lake officials will be disqualified from the tournament.
5. Any participant that is disqualified from a tournament will receive zero points for that tournament.
6. Only artificial baits/lures may be used. No live baits will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, etc.
7. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time.
8. The minimum size fish for any tournament will be no less than that specified by the lake regulations and will be announced prior to the tournament by the Tournament Director. Fish will be measured in accordance with the prevailing regulations at the tournament site. The Tournament Director, prior to the start of the tournament, will announce the method of fish measurement to be used. Weigh-Master’s decision is final on length of fish.
9. Once a participant hands any of his fish to the Weigh-Master, all the participants fish are deemed as entered for weigh-in and cannot be retracted. The Weigh-Master will not measure any fish during the weigh-in except in an official capacity as Weigh-Master.
10. A short fish presented at weigh-in will result in the loss of the weight of that fish plus one pound (1 lb), of the contestant’s total weight.
11. A dead fish presented at weigh-n will result in the loss of four ounces, (0.25 lb) from the participant’s total weight.
12. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be consumed during the tournament. Tournaments shall be deemed to run from 12:01am until completion of the weigh-in. A contestant or any member in the boat believed to be consuming alcohol will be disqualified from the tournament.

13. All participants must wear a Coast Guard approved life vest at all times when the boat "is up on plane." The life vest must be zipped or otherwise secured.
14. An operable kill switch must be attached to the operators life vest. The non-boater participant is responsible to check said kill switch at beginning of the tournament.
15. All protests concerning tournament rule violations must be submitted in writing to an officer within 30 minutes of completion of the tournament. In the case of a protest, the Tournament Director will appoint a grievance committee to make a decision regarding said protest.
16. Fishing is not permitted within a fifty foot sphere of castability of another contestant, unless all parties involved agree, with the exception that two boats working the same shore in opposite directions may pass without being in violation of said rule.
17. No trolling, in the true sense of the word (using big motor), is allowed. Contestants may use trolling motors to maneuver or may anchor.
18. All fishing must be done from an approved, checked-in boat. No bank fishing is allowed
19. Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each must have a functional bilge pump and livewell space (with exceptions made in an instance where rental boats are required), properly aerated, to adequately maintain a limit catch of bass by both fishermen using the boat. All boats must have an adequate fish-measuring device.
20. There will only be one official point for weigh-in designated by the Weigh-Master. Participants not at the weigh-in site at the designated time will be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute, deducted from his/her total weight for the day. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late for the weigh-in will be disqualified for the day. These penalties are assessed against both contestants in the boat, since each person shares equal responsibility for checking-in on time. If a boat breaks down, the participants may wave down another contestant and hand their fish (properly marked) to said contestant to deliver to weigh-in and will receive full credit for their catch.
21. Safety and Sportsmanship shall be a primary consideration. Any violation if these basic principles will be subject to disqualification.
22. The Tournament Director will establish and announce the number of fish, not to exceed the tournament lake limit, allowed as a tournament limit prior to the start of any tournament. No participant shall have more fish in their possession at any time than allowed by the tournament. When a participant catches another legal sized bass after having caught the limit, a fish must be immediately culled. No dead fish will be culled. Any participant culling fish inside the buoy line shall be disqualified from the tournament.
23. Total weight of participant's fish determines place of finish. In the case of a tie, big fish breaks the tie.

24. Points will be awarded to members in good standing only.(Perspective Members and guests will not receive points):

Points will be allocated on a declining scale of two points per position down to 25 points.

Any club member that participates in a tournament but does not weigh a fish will be awarded 25 DNP (did not place) points

25. In the case of a tie in total year end points following the December tournament, the participant's total weight for the year will determine the higher placement. If the total weights are the same, big fish for the year will determine the tie-breaker.
26. The tournament schedule shall consist of 12 tournaments, on a January through December tournament year. Each contestant will be allowed two (2) throw outs during the year. Accumulated points for balance of tournaments will be used to determine member's year-end standings.
27. These Tournament Rules are a part of the Constitution and By-Laws of The Bass Club.