

**BASTROP COUNTY BASS CLUB
BASTROP, TEXAS
CONSTITUTION AMENDED 11-2008**

ARTICLE I - NAME, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION I - Name: This organization shall be referred to as The Bastrop County Bass Club.

SECTION II - Goals and Objectives: The goals of this organization are to create a tight-knit group of bass anglers who, as members of this club, promote sportsmanship, camaraderie, and conservation. This goal can be achieved by meeting on a regular basis to discuss club business, holding regular monthly tournaments, hosting family functions, and hosting functions to benefit needy organizations or individuals.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I - Eligibility: Anyone who is 18 years of age or older is eligible to become a member. Persons under the age of 18 must have their parents or legal guardian sign a letter of release in order to be eligible for membership. In order to be eligible to fish in a "Top-Eight" event, a member must complete two of the following:
Participate in the Annual Benefit Tournament "Covert Open".
Participate in a club sponsored charity event.
Participate in club fundraising event.

SECTION II - Membership: Anyone wishing to become a member must receive a majority vote of the members present at the monthly meeting or at the ramp of a club tournament.

SECTION III - Monthly Meeting: Regular monthly meetings will be held at 7:30 P.M. on the 4th Thursday of each month at the First National Bank located at HWY 71 and Hasler Blvd. in Bastrop.

SECTION IV - Dues: As of September 1, the fiscal year will begin and the annual dues are \$32.00 per year.

SECTION V – Affiliation Fees: The BCBC club is affiliated with the Texas Association of Bass Clubs (TABC) and pays each members fee to join TABC.

SECTION VI - Family Members: Spouses of members in good standing will be considered as members in full standing and will not be required to pay annual dues. Children of members in good standing are also considered as members and may participate in all club functions except voting up to their 18th birthday. Upon reaching the age of 18, the child will be required to pay annual dues.

SECTION VII – Guests: Members may (up to twice per year) fish with a non-member guest. Normal tournament fees (\$40 / Team) and awards will apply. Guest stringer weight will count towards that tournament only and will not count towards "Top-Eight" weight.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

SECTION I - Officers: The officers of The Bastrop County Bass Club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of all officers and four directors. Note: Directors preferably will be members representing various geographical areas represented by club membership.

SECTION II - Duties of the President: The President shall preside at all meetings, prepare meeting agendas, and appoint committees if needed. Term of office: one year, optional re-election.

SECTION III - Duties of Vice President: The Vice President shall advise with and assist the President, other officers, and committees in all matters. Also, the Vice President shall assume all duties of the President in his or her absence. Term of office: one year, optional re-election.

SECTION IV - Duties of Secretary: The Secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of regular monthly meeting and meetings of the Board of Directors. Also, the Secretary shall maintain an up to date list of members, record tournament statistics, and monthly big bass weights. Term of office: one year, optional re-election.

SECTION V - Duties of Treasure: The Treasurer shall collect annual dues and other moneys paid to the club and disburse funds as directed by the President. The Treasurer shall keep accurate financial records and financial reports at each monthly meeting. Term of office: one year, optional re-election

SECTION VI - Duties of Directors: Directors shall attend all special meetings called by the President to assist the other Board of Directors members with the decision-making process. They shall represent the club in their respective area in a professional and courteous manner and assist the Reporter with publicity concerning club functions and events. Directors shall be appointed each year by the newly elected President.

SECTION VII - Election of Officers: The election for all positions shall be held during the last regular monthly meeting of the fiscal year. Nominees for each position shall be selected by secret ballot by the members in attendance of this meeting. The nominee receiving the majority of votes will be declared the winner.

SECTION VII - Vacancies in Office: In the event an office becomes vacant, an election will be held at the next regular monthly meeting to fill the position for the remainder of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE IV – ENTRY FEES AND AWARDS:

- The entry fee for all regular monthly tournaments shall be \$20.00 per member. Of this amount \$2.50 will go into the pot for big bass of the tournament. On two day tournaments an additional \$2.50 shall be included to the entry fee and there will be a big bass pot for each day. No carry-overs. \$1.00 will be deducted and deposited in the club's account; the balance will be offered as payback for places in the tournament. All unclaimed moneys at tournaments shall be deposited into the club's account for future use.
- If a member fails to pay his entry fee for a tournament for whatever reason, the member has until the next meeting to pay the President or Treasure. Failure to do so will result in lost membership for the remainder of the year.
- The number of places to be awarded at regular monthly tournaments will be determined

by the number of teams in the tournament:

• 1-5 Teams	• 1 Place	• 100% Payback
• 6 or more teams	• 3 Places	• 50%-30%-20% Payback

(There will be a big bass pot at all tournaments.)

- In the event of a tie, the places will be split equally between the members involved in the tie` A tie for big bass will also be split equally between all involved in the tie.
- "Angler of the Year" shall be awarded to the member who records the most pounds of bass caught in regular monthly tournaments for the fiscal year.
- The member who catches the 'Big Bass of the Year" during the regular monthly tournaments of the fiscal year, will be awarded.
- The member who catches "The Heaviest Stringer of the Year" during the regular monthly tournaments of the fiscal year will be awarded.
- The "Top-Eight" anglers will be determined by individual weight recorded at regular monthly tournaments for the fiscal year plus weight for attending monthly club meetings (0.5 lb / meeting). The entry fee for the TABC Top-Eight tournament and lodging expenses will be paid by the club.

ARTICLE IV – MONTHLY BIG BASS CONTEST:

- Entry fee shall be \$2.00 per month. This fee must be paid to an Officer before each month of competition begins or when your membership begins.
- The bass must weigh a minimum of four (4) pounds to be eligible.
- In the interest of keeping big bass alive, it is no longer necessary to use a certified scale when weighing these fish. Any scale may be used as long as there is another witness to verify the weight of the big bass ... another team member, game warden etc. Weight of the club scales is also accepted.
- In order to be eligible, the bass must have been caught out of public waters that are navigable by boat.

ARTICLE V - AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

SECTION I - Method of Amending: Occasionally, the Constitution or By-laws of The Bastrop County Bass Club may need altering or adjusting to better suit the needs of the membership. Amendments to the Constitution or By-laws must be submitted in writing to the club President no later than the 10th regular monthly meeting of the fiscal year. These amendments will be introduced and discussed at the 10th regular monthly meeting and voted on at the 11th regular monthly meeting of the fiscal year. Amendments will be approved if they receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present, and will become effective at the start of the next fiscal year on September 1.

ARTICLE VI – TOURNAMENT RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. At the start of a tournament, teams shall not leave the ramp area where they launch more than 10 minutes prior to the stated start time for the tournament.
2. There shall be no more than two (2) members fishing from the same boat in regular monthly tournaments.
3. It is recommended that each member wear a life vest while the gasoline engine is in use. There shall be no penalty for failure to do so.
4. Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork rind baits and scent sprays or solutions.
5. Only one (1) rod and reel shall be in use at any time.
6. Trolling with the gasoline engine shall not be permitted.
7. Nets shall be allowed for landing fish.
8. All bass must be caught on the date or dates of the tournament during specified tournament hours.
9. All bass of questionable length brought to weigh-in shall be measured by the Tournament Director or their Assistant on the club measuring board.
10. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and good conduct are required at all Bastrop County Bass Club functions.
11. Team members shall keep fish separate; tag or mark them in some way so that individual weights can be established. Failure to do so will result in neither member receiving individual weight for that tournament.
12. A member, who has fished with a professional guide on the tournament lake seven (7) days or less before the date of the tournament, is not eligible to compete.
13. A member, who guides professionally on the monthly tournament lake, will not be eligible to compete in that tournament. (Note: Guide refers to someone who earns more than 25% of their annual income by guiding)
14. If a member must leave a tournament prior to weigh-in time, he or she may leave their fish with their partner to have them weighed. If both team members must leave a tournament prior to weigh-in they will be allowed to leave their fish with another member to have them weighed. In either of these cases, rule number 10 must be complied with. In addition, any fish left with another member or members must be accompanied by a written permission slip, stating the number of fish left and reason for leaving. This slip shall be signed by the member or members leaving the fish.
15. Members participating in club tournaments shall pay tournament entry fees prior to the tournament start.
16. A member may fish alone, but may claim only one half (1/2) of the prize money unless the member elected to pay the full team entry fee. A member fishing alone must declare, upon registration, prior to the tournament, single member entry or full team entry. Children who are under the age of 12 can fish for free in a monthly tournament. Their fish will not count unless an entry fee is paid for that child prior to the tournament.
17. All fishing must be done from a boat registered with Texas Parks & Wildlife or other state.
18. The weigh-in shall begin promptly at the specified time. Teams must be "in view from the ramp" at Tournament end time and will have 10 minutes to be in the weigh-in line.
19. Live release is mandatory at all tournaments except for fish shorter than 14 inches on slot limit lakes. Fish may be retained for a club function if voted on by a majority present at tournament.
20. Bass caught on slot lakes must measure under or over the specified slot size. The minimum length shall be 12 inches.

21. One trophy fish per member, per tournament may be kept to be mounted.
22. There will be no fishing on a monthly tournament lake eight (8) hours prior to that monthly tournament.
23. The bag limit shall be five (5) bass per day, per member, unless Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations specify otherwise.
24. In tournaments that are held over parts of two days, for example night tournaments, only one limit of bass (5) per member may be weighed.
25. At each regular monthly meeting, the President shall appoint a Tournament Director who conducts weigh-in and tournament rule enforcement. He or she may choose one or more members to assist with these duties.
26. All tournaments shall be held on public waters. There shall be 12 monthly tournaments per year, none of which will be roadrunner tournaments.
27. Monthly tournaments cannot be held more than two (2) times on the same lake during the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII – PENALTIES:

1. During all Bastrop County Bass Club tournaments, all federal, state, and local laws shall be observed. Willful violation of a law during a tournament shall result in the disqualification of that member for that tournament and possible termination of club membership.
2. Flagrant violation of any tournament rule during a tournament shall result in the disqualification of that member for that tournament and disqualifies them for any of the annual awards.
3. The tournament director has the authority to disqualify any team not in the weigh-in line 10 minutes after weigh-in time or not in view of the Ramp at weigh-in time. Time displayed on a working Cell Phone is considered valid.
4. The tournament director has the authority to disqualify any fish not meeting appropriate length requirements.
5. Total stringer weight will be penalized 0.5 lb for each dead fish brought to weigh-in. If a dead fish is a candidate for the tournament "Big Bass" or the monthly "Big Bass" pot the penalty shall apply to that fish.