

SAN DIEGO BASSMASTERS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amended 10/7/14

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The Chapter shall be called the **SAN DIEGO BASSMASTERS** of San Diego, California.

Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate 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 and to demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas, to promote and encourage youth fishing, and share our love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1: Numbers of Members

Total chapter membership shall be limited to 50 members with the following exceptions only:

- A) Definitions: A "family unit" is defined as immediate family members residing at the same address, one of which is a current regular member. A "family member" is a member who joins the club under the provisions of Article II, Section 1 (B).
- B) If a member of a "family unit" wishes to join the chapter, the only requirement for membership shall be that they express an interest in joining, pay their initiation fees, dues, insurance, and the regular member in the family unit is in good standing. Family members shall not be counted in determining the fifty-member limit. Family members are afforded all rights and privileges of membership.
- C) Lifetime members, Honorary members, At-Large members, and Inactive members shall not be counted in the fifty-member limit.
- D) Reinstatement (see Article II, Section 8) shall be permitted, even though the fifty-member limit is in effect.

Section 2: Membership Dues

- A) The membership dues shall be paid monthly in an amount determined by the Board and approved by a majority of all voting members. An annual insurance premium shall be paid prior to the member being allowed to fish tournaments.
- B) If, after three consecutive meetings a member has not paid their dues, they will not be eligible to participate in that month's tournament. The member will still be able to participate in non-tournament activities and vote on Club matters.
- C) If the member brings their status to current by paying the three months back dues no less than seven calendar days prior to a tournament or at the meeting prior to a tournament if the meeting is less than seven calendar days before the tournament, he/she will be allowed to compete, but will forfeit the two tournament participation points since the member was not eligible to sign up for that tournament at the previous meeting. The member must bring current all dues by the end of the fourth general meeting to maintain membership status.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES (Continued)

Section 3: Requirements for Membership

All members of San Diego Bassmasters must be a current member of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and belong to the State Chapter Federation.

To become a Chapter member, a person shall either qualify as a Family Member (see Article II, Section 1, B) or:

- A. Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- B. The prospective member's application, accompanied by an initiation fee equal to one month's dues and the first month's dues, will then be reviewed by the Board who will vote to submit the application for approval by the general membership. In the event the application is not approved, these monies will be refunded.
- C. A prospective member will be assigned a fishing partner from the general membership, after the first meeting they attend, who will fish with him or her prior to the next monthly meeting. The member will report to the Board on the desirability of the prospective member.
- D. Upon approval by the Board after receiving the pre-fishing report, the prospective member will then be tournament pre-fished while participating in the next possible club tournament.
- E. The casting of two negative votes, either by the Board members during evaluation, or by vote of the general membership will disapprove the application
- F. Upon approval by the general membership, full membership status and membership credentials shall be presented.
- G. Applicants must be eighteen years of age with one exception: any member of the San Diego Bassmasters may sponsor a son or daughter for membership when they reach the age of fifteen. The sponsoring parent will be responsible for the behavior and finances of his or her issue. Article II, Section I (B) will cover all other requirements.
- H. A prospective member who has been refused membership must wait for a minimum of one year before reapplying.

Section 4: Member At Large

In the event a member in good standing moves outside of San Diego County, he or she may apply for member at large status. Such application must be in writing and will be automatically approved. Article III, Section I (A) of the By-laws is waived for members at large. Member at large status may be maintained only as long as the member remains outside of San Diego County. The application for member at large status and the application to return to regular member status must be made within ninety days of the member's move. A member at large shall not be entitled to vote, and is not counted in the fifty-member limit. A member at large may participate in competitive events, as long as he or she meets the criteria a regular member must meet (e.g. insurance), but does not receive year-end points.

Section 5: Honorary Memberships

The President and duly elected officers shall grant an individual an honorary membership upon approval of the general membership. The honorary member shall be a non-chapter member who is recognized for his or her contributions and/or service to The San Diego Bassmasters and the sport of bass fishing. Honorary members pay no dues, and will receive notices of special events, but may not compete in tournaments, may not vote, and are not counted in the fifty-member limit.

Section 6: Lifetime Members

Upon approval by the general membership, the board may confer upon a member an Lifetime Membership as a token for outstanding service and fellowship. A Lifetime Member pays no dues, but is able to participate in club activities and vote, as long as he or she is a member of B.A.S.S. The club will pay Chapter Federation dues or insurance fees out of the treasury for those Lifetime Members. A Lifetime Member is not counted in the fifty-member limit.

Section 7: Inactive Member

- A. In the event of personal difficulty, a member may petition in writing to the board to become an Inactive member. After review of the petition, the board may grant a leave of absence to that member for a period not to exceed twelve months, provided dues are current at time of request.
- B. An Inactive member is not required to pay monthly dues and is not eligible to vote in club matters or participate in club tournaments and is not counted in the fifty-member limit.

Section 8: Reinstatement of Membership

This section shall not affect the status of any member whose membership has been terminated by the club for any reason (see Article III)

- A. Members in an inactive or at large status may be reinstated to full membership by:
 - 1) Payment of the initiation fee, one month's dues and insurance.
 - 2) Approval by a simple majority of members at a General Meeting.
- B. Members who have voluntarily resigned their membership while in good standing or At-Large members, may, if within three years, be reinstated to full membership by:
 - 1) Payment of the initiation fee and one month's dues and insurance.
 - 2) Attend one meeting prior to reinstatement.
 - 3) Approval by and majority of Board Members.
 - 4) Approval by a simple majority of members at a General Meeting.
- C. Members who have voluntarily resigned their membership while in good standing or At-Large members may, if more than three years have elapsed. be reinstated to full membership by:
 - 1) Payment of the initiation fee, one month's dues and insurance.
 - 2) Attends first meeting and is pre-fished by an active member.
 - 3) Attends second meeting and is placed in the draw to be tournament pre-fished.
 - 4) Approval by a majority of Board Members.
 - 5) Attends third meeting and approval by two thirds of members at a general meeting.

ARTICLE III: REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Removal for Non-payment of Dues

It is the member's responsibility to keep dues current. A member will be dropped from the Club after non-payment of dues for four consecutive meetings. To regain active status, within one year of being dropped, any member dropped for non-payment of dues must pay all dues in arrears at the time membership ceased; pay the initiation fee, and the next month's dues. After one year has elapsed since being dropped, all membership rights are terminated, and the person must apply for membership as in Article II, Section 3.

Section 2: Removal for Cause

A member shall be removed from membership if he or she commits any action which would reflect dishonor or disgrace on this chapter. Persons are recommended for removal by the Board and are removed by a simple majority vote of those present at a general meeting. Member so removed lose all privileges and may not re-apply for membership until one year has passed since their removal. The person must apply for membership as in Article II, Section 3.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY

Section 1: Officers and Their Duties

All officers shall fulfill the duties of their office to the best of their abilities, and they shall participate in club functions to the fullest extent possible. All officers shall keep other members of the Board and the membership apprised of developments in the areas they are responsible for. All officers shall maintain a record of their activities pursuant to their office both digitally and with hard copies, to be passed on to their successor. All officers shall submit a monthly article to be published in the newsletter.

- A) **President:** Presides over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoints and directs all committee functions. Supervises all club functions.
- B) **Vice President:** Assists the President in his or her duties and presides in his or her absence. Arrange for monthly programs, if applicable or as the meeting schedule permits.
- C) **Tournament Director:** Oversees tournament events and scheduling. Advises any member if they have lost eligibility to fish next tournament. Assures fairness and honesty in competition. Updates tournament rules. Ensures that the club abides by local, state and national rules and regulations concerning tournaments.
- D) **Treasurer:** Maintains accurate financial records and reports status at each meeting. Prepares an annual budget. Advises Tournament Director and Membership Director if a member is in jeopardy of not fishing **the** next tournament or losing

membership status.

- E) **Secretary:** Maintains accurate minutes of all General, Board, and Special meetings and handles official correspondence. Keeps hard and digital copies of all minutes and correspondence.
- F) **Membership Director:** Introduces new members and guests. Provides new member profile for next newsletter. Maintains accurate membership records. Assures all members meet the requirements for membership. Advises a member of impending loss of membership status.
- G) **Newsletter Editor:** Compiles, copies, and distributes monthly newsletter. Maintains archives of back issues digitally and with hard copies.

Section 2: Elections

The election of officers shall be held annually at the last regular meeting of the calendar year. Final election shall be by a simple majority of members present. Election of each officer shall be held separately in order listed in Article IV, Section 1

Section 3: Eligibility to Vote

Each Regular, Lifetime, or Family member in good standing is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY

Section 4: Term of office

The term of office is for one calendar year or until a successor assumes office.

Section 5: Vacancies

In the event an office becomes vacant, an election shall be held to fill the unexpired term.

Section 6: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an elected office, a member must have been a member for one year and shown an active interest in chapter functions.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY (continued)

Section 7: Board of Directors

The seven elected members shall constitute the Board of Directors, herein known as the Board. The function of the Board shall be to conduct the business of the club under the guidelines of the constitution and by-laws and shall serve as the administrative and policy making body of this chapter.

ARTICLE V: METHOD OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1: Amending the Constitution and By-Laws

The constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote, and published in the newsletter.

Each time the Constitution is amended after due process, the person doing the actual physical change must also change the "Amended Date" at the head of the form and identify themselves as the person recording the change. That person must then make hard copies to be distributed at the next regular meeting. A chronological list of all changes shall be maintained on last page of By-laws with a brief description of change.

ARTICLE VI: HONORS AND AWARDS

Section 1: Bassmaster of the Year

The club may honor a member that has clearly exceeded his or her role as part of the club by bestowal of the highest honor the club confers, that of Bassmaster of the Year. This honor signifies that this individual has consistently dedicated his or her time and talents and has freely given service significantly above and beyond that required by his or her office or station to the betterment of the San Diego Bassmasters. Nomination ballots for Bassmaster of the Year will be presented to the membership at the November General Meeting. These forms will state the above requirements and ask for written nominations. The Board will review the ballots and without discussion, vote by secret ballot for one person. The President and the last elected Bassmaster of the Year will review the Board's ballots. At least three votes are required for election of Bassmaster of the Year, and if two members each receive three votes, two Bassmasters of the Year shall be named. The award will be bestowed upon the individual at the annual awards banquet or other suitable venue.

Section 2: Bassmaster Scholarship

The San Diego Bassmasters shall establish a fund to award an annual scholarship towards expenses at an accredited college or university. This award will honor the person who was instrumental in establishing the scholarship, Darryl Crippen, and will be called the San Diego Bassmasters Darryl Crippen Scholarship. Persons eligible for this scholarship must be a member or close relative of a member (Le. spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, grandchild, niece, or nephew). The amount set aside for the scholarship each year shall be determined by a vote of the membership and based on recommendations from the Club Treasurer. The amount for the scholarship awarded shall be at least \$100 and not more than \$500 per year. A Scholarship Committee to select the person to be awarded the scholarship will consist of a Chairman, appointed by the President in January for a term of one year. The Scholarship Committee will include four other members who will serve for one year, two of which must be elected by the General Membership. The Scholarship Committee shall determine the method of selecting the winner of the scholarship, and their selection of a recipient is final. In the event a suitable candidate is not found, the Scholarship Committee may elect not to award the scholarship. The award will be bestowed upon the individual at the annual awards banquet or other suitable venue.

Section 3: Sportsman of the Year

The club may honor a member that exemplifies a high standard of sportsmanship. This award will be given to an individual who has shown, by his or her actions, some or all of the following: the willingness to give aid to others, protect and enhance the environment, treat others fairly, maintains self-control when dealing with others, and has respect for club rules and governmental regulations and his fellow fishermen. Nominations shall be made to the Board, and the Board will discuss the nominations and vote on the nominees no later than the November Board meeting. A two-thirds majority of the Board is required to be award this honor. The award will be bestowed upon the individual at the annual awards banquet or other suitable venue.

Revisions:

10/7/14 Reconciliation of 2008-2012 Constitution & By-Laws Ron Overman and committee