CHAPTER CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

**"TEAM BASS"**

CHAPTER NAME

DAVISON MICHIGAN 48423

CITY STATE ZIP

**ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose**

**Section 1: Name**
This chapter shall be called the "Team Bass" club of Davison, Michigan, In the event of the dissolution of this club all assets will revert to the Michigan B.A.S.S. Federation Youth Project Fund.

**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. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his or her crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing, and a love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters embracing the principles and purpose of Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society

**ARTICLE 11 - Membership**

**Section 1: Number of Members**
The chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six chapter members.

**Section 2: Requirements for Membership**
To become a chapter member, a person shall:
(a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership
(b) Be a member of B.A.S.S. (See ARTICLE VI for affiliation requirements.)
(c) Be recommended by two members at a regular monthly meeting.
(d) Be voted on by membership. Votes must be unanimous.
(e) Be 16 years of age. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation

**Section 3: Membership Dues**
The membership dues shall be $125.00 annually, initially payable upon being voted into the chapter, $15.00 of which shall be for National Federation dues, and $ 100.00 of which shall be for chapter dues. (See ARTICLE VI, Section I for state affiliation requirements.)

**Section 4: Meetings of Members**
The membership shall hold regular meetings at pre-established times.

**ARTICLE III - Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility**

**Section 1: Officers and their Duties**
The officers of the chapter shall consist of:
(a) PRESIDENT: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be ex officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions
(b) VICE PRESIDENT: Act as program chairman, assist the President in his duties and preside in the absence of the President.
(c) SECRETARY: Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the chapter President. Maintain regular liaison between the chapter and the B.A. S. S. Chapter Federation and the B.A. S. S. National Federation. Produce and edit a monthly club newsletter.
(d) TREASURER: Collect and disburse all moneys. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each regular meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the Chapter Board of Directors. The chapter may vote that the treasurer and any other officer handling chapter funds must be bonded.
(e) TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN: Take charge and run all tournament functions.

(f) SERGEANT AT ARMS: Maintain order at all club functions (meetings, tournaments, etc.) and assist Tournament Chairman.
(g) PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR: Maintain ties with sponsors, agencies, publications, and the general public.

**Section 2: Elections**
The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of December. Election shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in ARTICLE III, Section 1.

 **Section 3: Eligibility to Vote**
Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

**Section 4: Term of Office**
The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on January 1st, and end on the last meeting day of December, or until the successor assumes office. Original slate of officers shall serve until the last meeting of the following December.

**Section 5: Vacancies**
In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the unexplored term of the individual vacating the office. National B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

**Section 6: Eligibility for Holding Office**
To be eligible for an office a member must:
(a) Have attended at least 75% of the chapter meetings and 75% of chapter functions during a 12 month period.
(b) Has been a member for six months. (Six month's requirement waived during first 12 months of chapter's existence.)
(c) Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.

**ARTICLE IV - Standing Committees**

All standing committees will serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The term of the committee members will coincide with that of the President. Each committee shall elect a chairman.

  (a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors will consist of seven (7) members: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, SERGEANT AT ARMS, one (1) TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN, and the PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR.

(1) The President will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
(2) The Secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
(3) The board will decide all protests and rule on all violations of the tournament rules and by-laws of the chapter appropriately receive.
(4.) The board will develop agendas for the monthly meetings.

(b) YOUTH COMMITTEE: The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and implement a Chapter Youth Project: to introduce young people to the goals of B.A.S.S., to give them a basis for respect of our national heritage, and an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of fishing.

(c) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change: to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state, and federal anti- pollution laws, statutes, regulations and ordinances and to take action where appropriate. To undertake informational and educational programs to bring public awareness to threats to our environment and to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.

(d) TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR COMMITTEE: The purpose of the Tournament Director Committee shall be to plan, organize, and operate all chapter tournaments. The Tournament Director will draft tournament rules which will then be approved by the general membership. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules and investigate all protests concerning tournaments and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE V - Removal of Membership**

Section 1: Removal of Membership A member shall be dropped from membership enrollment for the following:
(a) Failure to pay dues.
(b) Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter and/or B.A.S.S.
(c) Failure to attend 50% of the chapter meetings and 50% of chapter functions during a 12 month period.
(d) Disqualification for any reason from participating in B.A.S.S. sponsored events including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol.

**ARTICLE VI - Affiliation**

Section 1: Requirements for Affiliation
(a) Approval of chapter charter of B.A. S. S.
(b) Update B.A. S. S. with a chapter membership roster once each year upon receipt of current B.A.S.S. roster at year's end.
(c) Maintain 100% B.A.S.S. membership.
(d) Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur. (See ARTICLE 11, Section 3 for dues requirements.)
(e) Must affiliate with State Federation and support its conservation and youth group programs. Any additional requirements that the State Federation establishes for chapters, such as membership, number of members, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary in order for the chapter to participate in the State Federation qualifying tournaments, and any other Federation sponsored tournaments or events.

**ARTICLE VII - Method of Amending the By-laws**

**Section 1: Amending the By-laws**
The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present, providing written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

**ARTICLE VIII – State Fish Off (Championship Tournament)**

Affiliation with B.A.S.S. gives club members eligibility to enter the State Championship Tournament (State Fish Off). It is a goal of this club to field a team each year to represent Team Bass, and to support that team as fully as possible.

**Section 1: Communication**

“State Fish Off” shall be an agenda item at every Team Bass meeting. Discussion may include rules, location, team makeup, funding, etc.

**Section 2: Eligibility and Team Position**

All members of Team Bass are eligible to enter the State Fish Off. Team Position will be determined by final points standings from the previous year. New members who did not fish the previous year will be at the bottom of this list for the current year. If more than one new member, results from 1st tournament of the current calendar year shall be used.

**Section 3: Location of Event and Practice**

When practical, Team Bass will schedule a tournament at the State Fish Off location prior to the event. This practice has been a long standing tradition to help the team.

**Section 4: Funding**

Funds will be set aside each year before or at the April meeting for use by the Club State Team. Each member that is entering the State Fish Off as a boater or co-angler shall receive equal funds, providing they are eligible. Funds shall be given before or on the State Fish Off weekend, divided equally between the eligible members to a maximum of (X) members. Members shall be paid in order of Team Position until max is reached.

**Section 5: Eligibility for Funding**

To be eligible to receive funds from Team Bass for the State Fish Off, certain conditions and expectations must first be met. It is expected that a team member shall attend and support all club fundraising events (Trout Pond, Club Open), but at a minimum a member shall attend at least (1) fundraising event. Also, a member must attend and fish (3) club tournaments and participate fully in the draw for those events.

**Section 6: Boater, Rider and Marshall Designations**

B.A.S.S. has mandated that a Pro/Am format shall be used. Club members may choose to enter the tournament as a Boater (Pro), Co-angler (Amateur), or to participate as a Marshall. The Club is required to bring at least (1) Co-angler or Marshall for every Boater. Club members that wish to participate as a Co-angler or Marshall shall be assigned (credited) towards Boaters by order of Team Position. Any member that recruits a Marshall from outside the club shall receive credit for that Marshall and be eligible to be a Boater, regardless of Team Position.

**Section 7: Prize Money**

All prize money shall be divided equally among the team that attended the State Fish Off, with the exception of Big Bass money which is an individual prize. Payment will be divided as soon as practicable, no later than the next club meeting. If prizes are not monetary, the team that attended the Fish Off will determine how to proceed with splitting or donating the prize.

**Team Bass Tournament Rules**

**I. ELIGIBILITY**
1. Must be an active member of the chapter (unless an invitational).
2. Must pay entry fee before deadline.
3. No refunds of tournament fees.

**II. REGISTRATION**
1.  Check-in time will be one hour before tournament start. See late registration penalty under "Points".
2.  Check-in after the tournament will be in blast-off order. Everyone must check in. Each contestant must sign his/her weigh-in slip and their partner's weigh- in slip even if the contestant has no fish.
3.  Tournament director shall collect a $30 rider fee during the morning check-in period, and give each boater with a partner $30.

**III. SPORTSMANSHIP**
1.  Courtesy and safety must be practiced at all times.
2. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted during the tournament (in the boat or otherwise).
3.  A contestant may not leave the lake during a tournament, unless there is an emergency. In the case of an emergency, the contestant and their partner must notify another member.
4.  A reasonable distance must be maintained between boats while fishing.
5.  Failure to comply with the above rules may result in tournament disqualification.
6.  Each contestant will have equal time in control of the boat. The boat owner has first choice.
7.  No fishing while being towed.
8.  Contestant must keep fish in live well until their turn to approach the weigh-in table (in blast-off order).
9.  Team Bass frowns upon keeping bass after the weigh-in. However, the largest fish may be kept for mounting purposes without penalty.
10. Because boaters are receiving a rider's fee, they are expected to have a full tank of gas at the start of the tournament.

**IV. TACKLE**
1. Artificial lures only.
2. You may use only one rod at a time.
3. No trolling is permitted.
4. No stringers or fly-casting is permitted.

  **V. FISH CONDITION**
1.  Largemouth and smallmouth bass only.
2.  Fish must be state legal size (14 inches) with mouth closed. If a short fish is weighed in, the contestant will lose the illegal fish plus their largest fish.
3.  Limits will consist of 5 fish for each contestant. If over the limit the tournament director will release the largest fish first until the contestant is at the limit.
4.  Fish must be free of debris and in a presentable condition. Tournament director will determine penalties for fish not in a presentable condition.
5.  No fish will be handled by anyone other than the tournament director and the contestant at weigh-in.

**VI. POINTS**
1.  Tournament winner will be determined by total weight. All ties will be broken by length of the largest fish. If there is a tie on the length of the largest fish, the length of the next largest fish will break the tie and so on.

2. First place will receive 50 points.

3. Each subsequent place that has caught fish will receive one point less.

4. Each contestant that does not catch fish will be awarded 10 points less than the last contestant that caught fish will.

5. No-shows will receive 10 points less than then contestants who caught no fish.

6. Late registration will result in subtraction of one point (for every 5 minute increment that the contestant is late) from their year-to-date point total.

7. Dead fish will result in a penalty of ½ pound or 8 oz. which aligns with B.A.S.S.

**Example:**

Place Weight Points

1 10.5 50

2 8.2 49

3 6.8 48

4 0 38

5 0 38

no-show 28

**VII. SAFETY**
1. No one will fish without the safety equipment required by state law.
2. Tournament may be canceled because of inclement weather conditions. Only the tournament director can cancel a tournament.
3. All tournaments will be considered legal at the halfway point.
4. Life jackets MUST be worn and fastened while the main engine is running.

**VIII. COMPLAINTS**
1. All complaints or rule violations must be brought to the attention of the tournament director before your weigh-in slip is signed.

**VIIII. BOAT EQUIPMENT.**
1. Live wells and kill switch must be in operating condition at the time of blast- off.
2.  Boats must have working boat lights or a flashlight.
3.  Boat must be at least 12 feet in length (no canoes).
4.  Complete first aid kit must be on boat.
5.  Boat must have horn or whistle.
6.  Any boat over 16 feet must have a throwable life preserver.
7.  All boats must have a charged fire extinguisher.

**X. MISCELLANEOUS**
1.  Tournament lakes must have sufficient acreage for amount of boats participating in the tournament.
2.  Tournament lakes do not have to have a boat rental.
3.  Tournament lakes must have a public or private access suitable to accommodate all boats in the tournament.
4.  Contestants are not to fish together more than once per year, unless necessary.
5.  All Michigan boating and fishing regulations must be followed.

**NO MEMBERS WILL BE LEFT ON SHORE!!!**

**ALL MEMBERS WILL FISH!**

**GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING!**

**Revision History**

Spring 2013 – Amended Tournament Rules article 6 – Points. Changed dead fish penalty to ½ pound to align with B.A.S.S. tournaments (State Fish Off and beyond).

Fall 2015 / Spring 2016 – Added State Fish off language Article 8.

Spring 2016 – Amended the Tournament Rules article 6 – Points. Removed the weight added to place points, to reflect what had been in place for the previous 2-3 years. Weight is still added to points to be placed on the plaque for the end of year points trophy only, as a record to maintain tradition, but has no bearing on the results for points champion.