**BASS CLUB of NORTH TEXAS**

**BY-LAWS**

**Rev. Nov 2023-2024**

**BCNT 2023-2024Officers**

President : Joey Bryant

Tournament Director: Todd Stanton/Wayne Christian

Secretary: Steve Sullivan

Treasurer: Mike Wood

**BY-LAWS**

**Article 1 – ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1 – Name**

The name of the organization shall be the ‘Bass Club of North Texas’

**Section 2 – Objective**

The objectives of the Bass Club of North Texas shall be: To meet regularly and discuss the various aspects of bass fishing; to help fishermen become more skilled in fishing through organized competition and collaboration; to make fishing more enjoyable through fellowship; and to make fishing a more productive sport through active participation in ecological conservation and sportsmanship. This club shall be a non-profit organization and shall not undertake the support or endorsement of any individual or organization for commercial purposes.

**Section 3 – Meetings**

The regular meeting of this organization shall be held monthly at such time and place as the membership shall designate and for the conduct of the Club’s regular business until changed by the membership. The meeting time shall be at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each calendar month at a place to be announced to each member with sufficient prior notice to be reasonable. The elected Officers may call special meetings at any time.

**Section 4 - Order of Business**

The order of business for each membership meeting of the Bass Club of North Texas shall be as follows:

I - President calls the meeting to order.

II - Reports of Officers, including Secretary, Treasurer, and Tournament Director’s report.

III - Special Announcements (guest speakers, area tournament news, and other relevant items of interest)

IV - New Business (new members, suggestions, questions, etc.)

V - Old Business (review of pending issues from prior Club meeting)

VI - Raffle & Door prizes

VII - Golden Shaft – The current “custodian” of the Golden Shaft will present the award to the member of their choosing at the next club meeting following their award.

VIII – Non-boater assistance

IX - Close

**Section 5 – Membership**

1. Membership in the Bass Club of North Texas shall be open to any person who is in good standing in the community.
2. Membership shall start upon payment of dues and with approval by the membership at a regular monthly meeting.
3. Prospective members will be required to fill out an application for membership at one of the regular Club meetings at which time. All memberships are subject to approval by the general membership.
4. Membership in the Bass Club of North Texas is contingent upon full payment of the required dues in an amount established by the membership. Until changed by a majority vote of the membership, dues shall be $25.00 per individual and $35.00 per family per Club year. Dues shall be non-refundable.
5. New members will not be accepted at the ramp on tournament day except for the 1st two tournaments of each year (November/December) if either or both tournaments are scheduled prior to the same monthly meeting date. Unless you have been a prior member and subject to Section C. above you MUST notify an Officer you intend to join at the tournament at least one day prior to the tournament.
6. Family membership shall be for spouses and children under 18 years of age.
7. Membership in the Club entitles each individual or family member one vote in the business of the Club.
8. Upon appropriate recommendation by the elected Officers and ratification by the membership, a Club member may be removed from the Club for any action which would reflect dishonor or disgrace upon the BCNT or any of its members.
9. Honorary membership in this Club will be bestowed upon any person by the general vote of the eligible membership during any meeting of the Club.
10. Honorary members shall have all the rights and privileges afforded to any member except in the voting on the Club’s business.
11. The Club shall limit one honorary membership per Club year.

**Section 6 – Voting**

Each eligible voting member of the Bass Club of North Texas shall be entitled to one vote on each matter of business which may be presented at any Club meeting.

Voting in elections of Officers shall be by either written or verbal ballot.

In all other matters, voting will be by voice or show of hands. A simple majority shall be required

for approval of any issue before the Club membership unless otherwise specified in these by-laws. Votes shall not be cumulative or by proxy.

The October o meeting is the only month members may make motions to amend the Club’s by-laws to be put into full effect in the calendar year. Voting on any proposed changes will be voted at the October meeting.

**Section 7 - Club Year**

The Club ‘Tournament’ year shall be designated as the period from November 1st thru September 31st. The point system will run in conjunction with the Club tournament year.

**Article 2 – OFFICERS**

**Section 1 – Board**

The Officers of the Bass Club of North Texas shall include the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tournament Director.

**Section 2 – Term**

All Officers of the Club shall be elected annually at the October meeting by the voting membership as specified by the by-laws. The Officers shall hold office for the term of one year or until their successors are duly elected and appointed.

Eligibility to hold any elected position as an Officer requires one (1) years of good standing membership in the Club. Eligibility to hold the position of President requires at least one (1) year service in some other BCNT Officer capacity.

**Section 3 – President**

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the membership and to see that the Club carries out all directives and resolutions. The President may be a member of any appointed committee. He shall likewise perform all such duties as may properly and ordinarily relate to his office.

**Section 4 – Secretary**

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep current record of all business meetings of the membership and keep a record of all memberships, certify voter eligibility, and perform all such duties as may properly and ordinarily relate to such office.

**Section 5 – Treasurer**

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep a complete statement and account of all disbursements made by him of Club assets. He shall render a statement of condition of the finances of the Club at each regular monthly meeting and at such other times of his term of office. He shall keep for the Club correct books of accounts of all its business transactions and such books as may be required, including an account of such sundry possessions of the Club as patches, decals, apparel, and other tangible property, and shall have custody of such property.

**Section 6 – Board Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at any time and may be called upon by request of any two Officers. The Board may request the attendance of any Officer, special committee member, or other member at their meetings.

**Section 7 – Vacancy**

The Officers shall fill any vacancy in any office without undue delay at the regular meeting or at a meeting especially called for that purpose. In the case of prolonged absence of three consecutive meetings of any Officer of the Club, or any reason the Officers deem sufficient, the Board may delegate the duties of such office to any other Officer for the duration of that term.

**Article 3 – TOURNAMENTS**

**Section 1 - Tournament Director**

1. It shall be the duty of the Tournament Director to:
2. Implement the provisions of these by-laws, which pertain to the planning, and conducting of the Club’s tournaments.
3. Act as the presiding tournament official and may act as a judge or delegate that responsibility. Submit a written report of the results after each tournament and maintain the cumulative tournament record and point standings.
4. Perform all other duties as may properly and ordinarily relate to such-office and as may be delegated to him by the Officers.
5. Designate launch site, fishing start, fishing stop, weigh-in times, and secure / distribute payout of tournament awards at the next regularly scheduled Club meeting.

**Section 2 - Tournaments**

1. Eligible participants may fish individually or as a team. Regular tournament entry fee regardless of whether you fish as an individual or as part of a team shall be $30 per person (includes $5 big bass pot which is mandatory).
2. Junior Anglers – under 16 years old – tournament entry fee for junior anglers is $5, junior anglers are not eligible to win any money at the tournament. If the junior angler wants to be eligible for money winnings they must pay the full entry fee.
3. Two Day March Tournament – Entry Fee is $35 per person.
4. Classic entry fees are $35 per person. $30 of the entry fee for the top 6 six anglers is paid from club funds.
5. **If you are fishing as a team you must declare so to the tournament director at registration.** You may also fish as 2 individuals in the same boat if you wish. If you do not declare as a team at registration entrants will be considered as individuals. Once you declare as a team at registration you may not change to individual. Tournament weigh-in limit is 3 fish for anyone fishing as an individual. If you are fishing as a team the team may only weigh in 3 fish total (not 3 fish per person). All fish must be brought to the scale in a bag with sufficient water.
6. The regular Club tournaments will be held once a month following the Club’s monthly meeting (November and December tournament may be prior to monthly meeting). Except for the March regular tournament and the Classic tournament the Club shall vote on each lake at the monthly meeting prior to the tournament month (November tournament voted in October, December tournament voted in November and so on).
7. **If you have not paid the tournament entry fee at the meeting you may pay at the ramp at least 15 minutes prior to take off time or 30 minutes prior to start fishing time (whichever is earliest). The Tournament Director will not accept entry fees PRIOR to the tournament after that time.**

**If your entry fee has not been paid prior to take-off or start fish time you must pay the entry fee before you can weigh in your fish. The designated in-line time for weigh-in still applies.**

1. If you have not paid the tournament entry fee prior to the tournament date or at the launch ramp and you will be arriving late (after Tournament Director has left the launch site) you must notify an officer by phone, text or email that you are fishing the tournament**. It is the members responsibility to obtain the necessary contact information from an officer. If you do not notify an officer before 10:00 AM on tournament day you will not be allowed to weigh in any fish and you will not receive any points for the tournament.** After check in at the launch ramp or after notification of late arrival the tournament fee of $30 per person ($35 for March 2 day tournament and Classic tournament) is due regardless that you weigh in fish or are present at weigh in. Any member that has not paid a required entry fee prior to the start of the next tournament will not be allowed to enter the tournament unless both entry fees are paid prior to launch and no points will be awarded for either tournament.
2. The March tournament shall be a two day cumulative weight tournament (Saturday and Sunday) to be held one day on Lake Bob Sandlin and one day on Lake Cypress Springs unless lake conditions prohibit.
3. An end-of-year ‘Classic’ tournament will be held in the month of October and will be a 2 day cumulative weight tournament (Saturday and Sunday) to be held one day on Lake Bob Sandlin and one day on Lake Cypress Springs unless lake conditions prohibit.
4. ‘Classic’ qualification requires the participation in or payment of at least five (5) monthly tournaments in the same year. A member in good standing may purchase up to three (3) missed tournaments at the price of $30 per person. In order to purchase the additional tournaments you must be a member in good standing and have actually participated in at least two (2) tournaments during the year. The club may vote to waive the two (2) tournament requirement on a case by case basis for long standing club members. The ‘purchased tournament’ funds will go towards the ‘Classic’ prize fund.
5. Top Six finalist’s entry fees (except for $5 day 1 big bass fee) for the ‘Classic’ will be waived and paid by monies from the treasury as accumulated from the previous Club’s tournament dues from that same year.
6. Only BCNT members are allowed to compete in the ‘Classic’ tournament.
7. All BCNT tournament by-laws apply to the Classic.

**Section 3 - Payout**

1. Payout schedules for regular tournaments, the 2 day March tournament and the Classic are below. All payouts are at the next regular club meeting after the tournament.
	* Regular Payout Schedule based on $30 total entry (tournament and $5 to big bass)
		+ Tournament Payout Prize Fund = $20.00
		+ Tournament Big Bass = $5.00
		+ General Fund = $4.00
		+ Angler of the Year = $1.00
	* Entries = 1-7 1st = 100%
	* Entries = 8 – 14 1st = 70%, 2nd = 30%
	* Entries = 15 – 21 1st = 55%, 2nd = 30%, 3rd = 15%
	* Entries = 22 – 28 1st = 45%, 2nd = 27%, 3rd = 17%, 4th = 11%
	* Entries = 29 – 35 1st = 40%, 2nd = 25%, 3rd = 14%, 4th = 12%, 5th = 9%
	* Entries = 36 – 42 1st = 38%, 2nd = 22%, 3rd = 13%, 4th = 11%, 5th = 9%, 6th = 7%
	* Big Bass Entries (Regular Tournaments) =
		+ Regardless of entries 1=100%,
	* 2 Day March Tournament – Based on $35 entry fee. Same as regular tournament except $5 is paid for big bass of day 1 and $5 is paid for big bass of the tournament. If big bass of day 1 is largest bass of the tournament it will also win big bass of the tournament.
	* Classic Payout Schedule – Based on $35 entry fee.
		+ Regardless of the number of entries the payout shall be 4 places as follows
			- 1st = 40%, 2nd = 30%, 3rd = 20%, 4th = 10%
			- Big Bass Day 1 = $5 entry fee from each participant including top 6 – paid out at next club meeting.
			- Big Bass of tournament – Based on total number of entries (including top 6) paid at next club meeting. If big bass on day 1 is largest bass of the tournament it will also win big bass of the tournament.
	* The total fund for Classic payout is equal to the funds left over after all expenses of the club are paid ie web page, plaques, Angler of the year and top 6 awards and leaving a $50 - $100 balance in the account at the 1st of each new tournament year. The entry fees for the Classic (not including the top 6 fees) will be included in the next year’s Classic payout.

Payout is done at the meeting following the tournament. Any payout must be claimed by the 2nd meeting after the tournament. You must either claim in person or make arrangement for another member or someone to pick up the winnings at the meeting. If it has not been claimed by the 2nd meeting after the tournament it will be returned to the club treasury and included in the classic payout. **Payouts will not be mailed**.

1. **Ties (Payout)** – In the event of a tie the money for the tied place will be added to the money for the next place and divided equally. As an example – if the tie is for 2nd place, the money for 2nd place will be added to the money for 3rd place and the amount will be divided equally. If there is a tie for big bass the big bass money will be divided between the anglers catching the fish. If the tie is for the last paid place the money will be divided equally between the tied participants.

**Section 4 – Awards**

1. Monthly Awards – Awards to be presented for each tournament shall be determined by the membership approved payout schedule prior to the tournament. All prizes will be awarded at the meeting following the tournament. Big Bass payout is limited to one (1) Big Bass per person.
2. Annual Awards
	1. Top Six – The Top Six Anglers, based on end-of-year point standings as defined in Article 3, Section 6, will be recognized with awards to be determined by the Officers.
	2. Angler of the Year – The individual member with the highest end-of-year point standing as defined in Article 3, Section 6 will be recognized with a monetary award equal to the amount in the Angler of the Year fund as of September. The award will be paid at the regular scheduled October meeting.

**Section 5 - Safety & Conduct**

Each member participating in a meeting or a Club tournament shall conduct himself in a safe, courteous, and sportsman-like manner. These provisions shall be treated in the same manner as disputes as provided for in the by-laws in Article 3, Section 6,

**Section 6 - Eligibility to Participate**

1. Any member in good standing of the Bass Club of North Texas may fish in any tournament upon payment of the proper entry fee and submission of a signed liability release form.
2. BCNT members may fish another tournament (Media, BLT, Bass Champs, etc) being held concurrently on same day/lake as the monthly BCNT tournament. Weigh-in logistics and communication are the sole responsibility of the participant and subject to approval by the Tournament Director.
3. A non-member may fish in one (1) tournament per calendar year as a guest of a BCNT member in good standing. This same non-member may not fish as a guest with another member in the same Club tournament year without first paying an annual membership fee ($25 or $35).
4. Non-members must fish in the same boat with the inviting member of the Club
5. Guests must pay the proper entry fee in order to participate in any BCNT tournament.
6. A BCNT member may fish with an unlimited number of different guests per year as long as they meet all ‘eligibility to participate’ requirements
7. A guest who has fished with a member in good standing, and later becomes a member in that same Club tournament year shall accrue points for the previous tournament(s) they fished as a guest.

**Section 7 - Tournament Rules**

The following general rules apply to all regular Club tournaments: All Federal, State, and Local laws, as well as TP&W (Texas Parks & Wildlife) rules and regulations must be observed. Any violations of the rules by an individual or team will be subject to penalty or disqualification by the tournament committee.

1. The tournament will be held on the second Saturday following the monthly Club meeting. Exceptions will apply when holidays fall on that weekend, in which case the meeting and the tournament will be re-scheduled appropriately.
2. All bass must be of legal length, measured with the mouth closed and tail squeezed / fanned to produce maximum length. Minimum length for Spotted/Kentucky bass on all lakes will be 10” unless state law specifies a minimum length longer than 10”. Minimum length for Smallmouth bass on all lakes will be 14” unless state law specifies a length longer than 14”. Minimum length for Largemouth bass and Spotted/Kentucky bass on “Slot or Special Limit” lakes such as Lake Fork and Grapevine will be 10” unless state law specifies a length longer than 10”. Except on Slot Limit lakes minimum length for Largemouth bass shall be 14” unless state law specifies a length longer than 14”. Any tournament participant may request a ‘courtesy measure’ PRIOR to presenting their fish for weigh-in to avoid a short fish penalty. **Note: If a game warden is at weigh-in they do not give courtesy checks so any close fish are at your risk.**
3. The measurement of a fish or whether a fish is dead or alive for weigh in will be determined solely by the tournament director and assistant tournament director at weigh-in.
4. Once a participant’s fish have been placed into the Tournament Director’s official weigh bag the weight as called by the Tournament Director is final and not subject to any re-weigh of any kind.
5. Any fish not of legal or eligible length at the time of weigh in will not be weighed and the fisherman will be assessed a one (1.0) pound penalty per short fish .
6. There will be a half-pound (.50) penalty for each and every dead fish brought to the weigh-in.
7. Fishing is allowed from boats only. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to access any fishing waters, to land a fish, make the boat more accessible to fishing waters, or locate bass.
8. All occupants of the boat must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while their boat is ‘on plane’.
9. If equipped, ‘kill switches’ must be attached to the driver while their boat is ‘on plane’.
10. Boats will be allowed to trailer to another boat ramp on the designated lake. Any boat not putting in at the designated weigh in site must send an Officer a time stamped picture of their open live well before starting the tournament.
11. Any contestant leaving the tournament early is encouraged to notify another participating member.
12. All fish must be caught on artificial baits by casting.
13. Each Contestant may use only one rod/reel at any one time.
14. No trolling with the big motor is allowed.
15. Contestants must be in the weigh-in line by tournament cut-off time or their fish weight will not be weighed, points will still be awarded for their participation the same as if they weighed 0 fish.
16. Heaviest stringer will decide a tie on big bass
17. Largest bass on stringer will decide a tie on heavy stringer
18. All protests should be submitted to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the last fish weighed in. Tournament Rules Sections 7.C. and 7.D. above are not subject to protest.
19. The available Officers will arbitrate tournament protests.
20. The contestant making the protest and the contestant in question will remain at the tournament site until the Tournament Director and attending Officers have reached a decision.
21. The Officers will determine the merit of the protest and the Tournament Director shall have seven (7) days from the completion date of the tournament to verify the eligibility of all participants. Any participant(s) found ineligible during that period, will be automatically disqualified, and the final cash payouts and points awarded will be reallocated to reflect the change(s) in the tournament results.
22. Once a decision is made, the matter is closed and will be given no further consideration.
23. LAUNCH, START fishing, and WEIGH-IN times will be designated by the Tournament Director and announced at the Club meeting prior to the tournament or by email prior to the tournament.
24. The Tournament Director may alter LAUNCH, START, and WEIGH-IN times if conditions present a potential safety hazard to the participants.
25. In the event that a member pays an entry fee and fails to fish that tournament, the member may elect to take the lowest points for that tournament or carry the entry fee over to a future tournament in the same calendar year.
26. There is no ‘off limits’ period assigned to any Club tournament except in the case of the Classic which has an off limits starting at 6 PM on the Sunday prior to the tournament weekend through 11:59 PM on the Thursday prior to the tournament weekend. The Friday prior to the tournament weekend shall be a practice day.
27. **Points** – Individual points will be awarded as follows:
28. Heaviest stringer 100 pts
29. Descending points awarded to according to weight…………...99, 98, 97, etc.
30. If you are fishing any tournament as a team the points for each team member shall be the same based on the team weight. As an example if the “team” finishes in 2nd place each team member shall receive 99 points and so on.
31. If you fish the tournament and weight no fish - 5 points less than the last place participant weighing fish.
32. The individual weighing in 1st place Big Bass will be awarded an additional 4 points.
33. Points for attending the monthly Club Meeting is 4 points. Meeting points will be awarded for up to 9 meetings with a maximum 36 annual points for Club Meetings. This allows for a member to miss one meeting without affecting the members annual points total.
34. The two lowest point Tournaments for each member will be dropped at the end of the year to determine Angler of the Year and the Top Six finalists. Tournaments which the angler did not fish and did not pay the entry fee will receive (0) points. (0) point tournaments will not be dropped. Anglers that pay the entry fee but do not fish the tournament will be awarded the same points as any angler that did not weigh in fish in the tournament if the angler has provided the tournament notice and paid the entry fee by the deadline in Article 3, Section 2, sub F above.
35. **Ties (Points) -** In the event of a tie for heavy string, points will be awarded to all participants in the tie based on the highest place points. As an example for a tie for second place all participants in the tie will receive 2nd place points. If there is a tie for big bass the 4 big bass points will be awarded to both tied participants.

**Section 8 - Memorial Tournament**

The Officers of the Bass Club of North Texas may designate any scheduled tournament as a Memorial Tournament. This tournament will honor individual(s) who have been associated with the Bass Club of North Texas and who have recently deceased. The tournament name will be kept as part of the official records in the yearly handbook, and shall be listed under the heading entitled Memorial Tournament.