

NORTH TAMPA BASS 2025 CLUB BYLAWS

Section 1. Officers and Executive Committee

- A. President: Presides over all meetings and directs all official business. Maintains club website. Appoints and directs all committee functions. Assists other officers in their duties, as required.
- B. Vice President: Assumes all responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. Assists other officers in their duties, as required.
- C. Sponsorship Ambassador: Chairs the Sponsorship Committee and works efforts to obtain sponsors for the club and maintains the sponsor discount codes list, website links for sponsors and soliciting for new sponsors. Keeps club members informed on sponsors offers.
- D. Treasurer: Maintains club account, responsible for all club funds, collects all fees, responsible for tournament pay-outs and maintains accurate reports on the club account. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.
- E. Tournament Director (TD): Directs all matters pertaining to Club tournaments. Including: the start of the regular tournaments, tournament weigh-ins, tournament exemptions (passes these out at the meeting prior to a tournament), maintains tournament records, attendance records, and report results and standings to the members at meetings. The tournament director has final call on violations and disqualifications. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.
- F. Weigh Master: Assists the TD during tournament weigh-ins. Assists other officers in their duties, as required.
- G. Social Media Director: Manages the social media pages (Facebook) in all matters pertaining to posting of tournaments and/or announcements. Assists other officers in their duties, as required.
- H. Photographer: Takes photos at tournaments and tournament weigh-in. Provides photos to the President and Social Media Director for publication. Assists other officers in their duties, as required.
- I. Executive Committee: Consists of the Club Officers and is the governing body for these By-Laws.

Section 2. Elections

- A. The election of Club Officers will be held annually at the regular meeting during the month of October. Elections will be by a simple majority of the members present at the meeting. The election of each Officer will be held separately, in order listed above. The new Officers will take office on the first meeting of the new tournament year.

Section 3. Meetings

- A. Regular meetings will be held on the third Tuesday @ 7:30 PM of every month at such place designated by the Club Officers. Club members receive 5 points for attendance at each tournament meeting. 5 points can also be awarded if declaration of participation in the next tournament is made before the associated meeting. No meeting points awarded if declaration of participation occurs after boat numbers are drawn for the tournament. A maximum of 50 points can be awarded for the year.
- B. During club meetings a 50/50 raffle will be held. Additionally, club members may participate in a \$10 raffle. Winner will receive the #1 berth at the following tournament. This is not transferrable and must be used at the tournament following the raffle drawing or it becomes Void. This option is not available during Two-Day events as the reversal of order takes precedence.

Section 4. Membership and Dues

- ~~A.~~ Membership: Team format.
- B. Dues: Dues for membership will be \$25.00 per person, per year, in advance. No refunds.
- C. Voting: All new members must be voted on prior to acceptance into NTBC by the executive committee.

Section 5. Removal from Membership

- A. Removal from membership must be by a majority Executive Committee vote. Removal from Club membership may be for the following: 1) Any unsportsmanlike conduct; 2) not sharing expenses with their boater (gas, hotel, etc.); 3) Illegal/illicit activities that reflect poorly on North Tampa Bass Club.

Section 6. Tournaments

- A. Safety: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament participants. Each participant is required to abide by all of the applicable laws of the state of Florida. USCG approved life preservers will be worn by all participants any time a boat is on plane or traveling at more than 5 mph. No participant shall ride in an elevated seat while the boat is on plane.
- B. Tournament Schedule: Eight regular season tournaments; January through November (except July and August – which will be Big Bass tournaments). March will have a two-day tournament and November will have a two-day end of year Classic. All tournaments will normally be held on the last Saturday of every month. If a tournament or meeting falls on or near a holiday or a local sanctioned event or other conflict deemed reasonable by the majority of directors, the event may be reset by the Executive Committee at any time.
- C. Tournament Fees: **Tournament entry fee is \$80 total per boat**; \$70.00 for the tournament and \$10.00 big bass pot. This total is regardless of whether or not a boat is a single fisherman or has a partner. July and August Big Bass tournaments will be \$20 per fisherman. Payout will go to the individual who caught the fish. Payout for Big Bass tournaments will be 80% of proceeds. If a member cannot attend the meeting and desires to fish in the tournament, they must notify a club officer prior to the meeting. Payments must be paid before takeoff.
- D. Distance between Boats: No NTBC boater shall fish within 100 ft (generally defined as 2 casts distance) of another NTBC boater/angler without verbal permission of the boater (first to arrive). Respect and good sportsmanship are appropriate at all NTBC events. When in doubt, err on the side of distance.
- E. Failure to Participate: To receive a refund for your tournament entry fee, members must contact a club officer prior to the tournament launch; otherwise, they forfeit their entry fee.
- F. Leaving a Tournament: If a participant must leave the tournament waters early, that participant must communicate his departure prior to departing.
- G. Black Bass Only: Only largemouth black bass will be weighed in.
- H. Possession limit: The limit will be five fish per day, or governed by the state laws of the body of water that is being fished. If in possession of more than five fish the member will forfeit his largest two fish at the weigh-in. Two-day tournaments may exercise a variation known as “Roll the Dice”. Boats can weigh-in a total of 10 fish over a two day period. Number of fish brought in each day is up to the anglers, not to exceed 10 total fish for the two days.

- I. Minimum length: Minimum length will be 14" unless dictated by state law for that body of water OR exemption cards are used. Length will be measured from the closed mouth of the longest point of the tip of the tail on a "golden ruler". Failure to meet the minimum length will result in the loss of the largest and shortest fish.
- J. Courtesy Checks: One fish may receive a courtesy check if requested to the TD prior to putting the fish in the weigh in bucket. Courtesy checks will not be granted for dead fish.
- K. Penalties for dead fish: 1st dead fish – 4 oz., 2nd dead fish – 10 oz., 3rd dead fish – 18 oz., 4th dead fish – 28 oz., 5th dead fish – 40 oz. The TD will determine dead fish. Penalty will be deducted from the total weight. Big bass cannot be a dead fish. All live fish will be released after weigh-in, and all dead fish will be removed from the lake.
- L. Launch/Weigh-In Time: Tournaments will last from safe daylight until 3:00 p.m. The TD will determine "safe daylight." June tournaments will last from safe daylight until 2:00 p.m. Big Bass tournaments in July and August will weigh in at 11:00. Weigh-in times may be changed by a majority vote prior to launch. Contestants may pull their boats out of the water prior to weigh-in as long as it doesn't interfere or delay weigh-in. Contestants who choose to pull their boats out prior to weigh-in will NOT wrap their boats in preparation for departure prior to weighing in their fish.
- M. Pre-fishing: Pre-fishing the tournament lake is permitted up to 12:00 midnight of the Friday preceding the tournament date. The lake will be off limits to all members and guests fishing the tournament from 12:00 a.m. Saturday. A violation of this rule may result in dismissal from the Club.
- N. Bait: Only artificial bait may be used with conventional casting, spinning, fly, or flipping rods. Only one rod may be in use at any time by each contestant.
- O. Trolling: Trolling is not permitted with primary boat motor (gas).
- P. Alcohol: No alcoholic beverages will be consumed during tournament hours (from the time you arrive at the ramp till the time everyone has weighed in their fish). Violation of this rule will be disqualification from the tournament.
- Q. Safety: Life jackets must be worn when on plane. Also, a kill switch must be connected to the driver while on plane, if the boat is equipped with one.
- R. Late Arrivals: If you are going to be late to a tournament you must contact another club officer prior to blast-off to inform them of your planned participation. If you have not paid for the tournament prior to a late arrival, you cannot fish the tournament.
- S. Start Location: All members must blast-off from the same location as directed by the TD.
- T. Start Sequence: Starting order for boats will be drawn at the meeting. Before safe light, all boats must meet at a designated spot on the water as determined by the TD. The TD will then determine safe light and the start of the tournament. The last boater drawn will release the boats with safe minimum frequency.

- U. Late for Weigh-in: Contestants who are not at official weigh-in site at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of ten ounces per minute to be deducted from their total weight. Any contestant who is more than 15 min late shall lose all credit for the catch for the day unless the lateness is due to breakdown that was called into an Executive Officer, as determined by the TD.
- V. Communication: During tournament hours, competitors cannot use a CB radio, VHF radio, cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Use of cell phone applications is permitted. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency.
- W. Insurance and Liability: The club shall assume no responsibility or liability for injuries, damage, or theft of personal property during any club function. The club will not pay for insurance covering any individual member, as this is a not-for-profit club.
- X. Rule Violations/Protest: Any rule violation or protest must be disclosed to the TD prior to the weigh-in, who will in turn, notify the Executive Committee for a final decision. All decisions made by the TD or committee members are final. A complete tournament is defined as the awarding of places and payouts.
- Y. Tiebreakers: Total weight tie: 1st tie breaker is determined by the most fish. If both boats have the same #fish and the same weight, winner will be determined by biggest fish.

Section 7. Tournament Lake and Official Site

- A. Lake Selection: The annual schedule and lake selection will be made by the Executive Committee prior to the first meeting of the year (January). The club membership will vote on the annual schedule and lake selection at the January meeting. A “backup” set of lakes will be identified at the January meeting by members of the club committee. Backup lakes serve as a viable option should the primary lake become impaired as determined by the executive committee (damaged ramp, environmental conditions, low water, etc.).
- B. Classic Lake Selection: Classic selection will be made as far in advance as possible to allow enough time for lodging reservations.
- C. Restrictions: No one body of water will be fished more than twice in a tournament year or any two consecutive months. This rule does not apply to the back-up waters.
- D. Launch Sites/Boundaries: Launch sites and imposed water boundaries (entire chain or specific lake) will be decided on during the meeting preceding the tournament.

Section 8. Pairing

- A. North Tampa Bass Club (NTBC) will no longer accept unpaired Co-Anglers.
- B. North Tampa Bass Club follows a Team trail format. Boaters are authorized to fish with a partner, or fish alone. If a boater does not have their designated teammate, they may utilize an alternate. See Section 9.

Section 9. Guest/Alternates

- A. If a boater does not have his/her designated co-angler for a given tournament, that boater will be allowed to bring a committee approved guest/alternate as his partner. The guests name is to be given and entry fee paid prior to launch of that tournament. The same guest cannot fish more than twice.
- ~~B.~~ Team trail boats may have 1 (one) alternate per year. That alternate must pay all club fees and abide by NTBC bylaws. An alternate may only fish 2 (two) tournaments per season and may not fish the classic nor are they eligible to receive any end of year bonuses, i.e., Team of the Year or Big Bass of the Year.

Section 10. Scoring and Tournament Pay Back

- A. Pay Back: 75% of all tournament entry fees will be available for pay back.
- B. Point Standings: Annual point standings will be determined by points earned at tournaments plus points per meeting attended. Tournament points will be 50 points for first place, then 3 points less per place after first. Participation points will be 5 points less than the last participant who caught a fish. Meeting points may also be awarded if a committee member is notified of an anglers intent to participate in that weekends tournament prior to the Legacy Co Angler draw during the meeting.
- C. Number of Places: Payouts will be based on attached pay out chart.

Section 11. Awards

- A. Team Boat, Draw Boat of the Year Awards: Annual point standings winners will receive a monetary award at the December Classic or meeting. The value of the monetary award will be determined based on the number of total anglers for that year.
- B. Big Bass of the Year pot: Members who wish to participate in the Big Bass of the Year Pot will pay \$10 at time of paying your annual membership dues. The member who

catches the largest bass of the year will receive 100% of the money in the pot at the December Classic or meeting.

- C. Only Active Members Receive Awards: To receive a club award you must be an active Team member and be in good standings.

Section 12. Annual Classic

- A. An annual classic tournament shall be held each year in November as a two day tournament. All current members who have fished at least six tournaments during the tournament year are eligible to fish the no-fee classic. Members that have not met the six tournament requirements may buy into the Classic. The cost will be \$35 per tournament that brings them to the minimum of six. These fees are to be paid to the Treasurer no later than the October meeting. Optional Big Bass pots are \$5.00 per day. Classic payouts will be the balance of the Clubs funds after all debts have been cleared. Balance of funds will be distributed based on total weight of fish caught divided by cash available to determine fish per pound shares. Each team catching fish will receive shares based on weight of their fish rounded to the nearest pound. The Club Treasurer will maintain \$100 to carry over to the next year.

Section 13. Changes to the ByLaws

- A. Bylaws may only be changed by the Executive Committee. Members will send suggested changes to the Executive Committee and they will determine if it is in the best interest of the club.