

North Tampa Bass Club (NTBC)

2017 By-Laws

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Section 1. – Officers and Executive Committee

President

Presides over all meetings and directs all official business. Appoints and directs all committee functions. Assists other officers in their duties, as required.

Vice President

Assumes all responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. 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. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.

Club Secretary

Maintains accurate minutes of all business and meetings. Produces the club's monthly newsletter and ensures it is posted to the club website. Maintains the club roster. Responsible for all public relations and publicity. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.

Treasurer

Maintains club bank account, responsible for all club funds, collects all fees, responsible for tournament pay-outs and maintains accurate reports on the club account. The Treasurer also purchases all club plaques and plates. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.

Tournament Director

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.

Youth Director

Assists in meetings and tournaments for the Tampa Bay Junior Bass Club. Encourage member of NTBC to support the youth bass club. Assist other officers in duties, as required.

Executive Committee

Acts with the best interest of the Club in mind. Consists of the sitting Club Officers and is the governing body for these By-Laws. A two thirds majority vote within the Executive Committee shall be sufficient for passing changes to the By-Laws. In the event of a vacant officer position the Executive Committee may appoint a willing replacement without a club vote.

Elections

The election of Club Officers will be held annually at the regular meeting during the month of September. Elections will be by a simple majority of the members present at that meeting. The election of each Officer will be held separately, in order listed above. The new Officers will take office on the Close of the final meeting of tournament year. New officers will attend the Executive Committee Meetings to discuss lake selection and schedule for the following year. Electing officers in September allows for a clean transition of duties to the incoming officers. Section 2. Meetings

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General Club Meetings:

Regular meetings will be held every month at such place designated by the Executive Committee. There are no General Club Meetings in the month of December. Club members receive 5 points for each meeting attendance for a maximum of 50 points (one missed meeting allowed). Meeting points count for as much as a 1st place tournament victory, and have a large impact on AOY standings. All members are strongly encouraged to attend every meeting.

Executive Committee Meetings:

The executive committee will meet as needed throughout the year to discuss club business and ensure the club is moving in a positive direction. During Executive Committee Meetings the group will discuss By-Law changes and vote to enact them as needed. The Executive Committee may choose to pole the general membership for popular opinion. However, by-law changes are ultimately the decision of the Executive Committee.

Section 2 Changes to By-Laws

By-Laws may only be changed by two thirds majority vote within the Executive Committee. Members may send suggested changes to the Executive Committee who will determine if it is in the best interest of the club. The Executive Committee may poll the club for opinions. However, all decisions shall be ultimately up to the Executive Committee.

Section 3 Membership and Dues:

Annual Dues

Annual Dues for membership will be \$25.00 per year, in advance. Dues are to be paid at the first meeting you attend for the year. No voting privileges are granted to persons whom have not paid their dues. Any potential members who are attempting to modify the outcome of a vote prior to paying their annual dues will be asked to leave the meeting. Once paid **No** refunds will be given for Dues or Annual Big Bass pot.

Boater/Non-boater Ratio:

Non-Boaters are welcome to join the club. See [Parings](#) for more details.

Conditions of Membership:

All members are expected to be respectful and courteous to one another. Boaters and Non-Boaters should respect each other's equipment and offer assistance in organization/cleanup after Tournaments; this extends to Scales and Weigh-in site cleanup as well.

Formal complaints

Formal complaints may be levied by any member. For a complaint to be formal it must meet the following criteria.

- The complaint must be voiced to a Club Officer in the presence of the accused
- The complaint must be deemed actionable by the Executive Committee

Accrual of 3 formal complaints within a year will qualify a member Removal from the Club. Complaints may be levied for many reasons.

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Examples:

1. Any un-sportsmanlike conduct
2. Blatant disrespect of another person's equipment

Section 4 – Tournaments

Schedule:

Ten regular season tournaments, and a Two Day end of year Classic will be scheduled by the Sitting Executive Committee and Incoming Officers. A second Two Day tournament may be scheduled during the year as long as it is at least 2 months prior to the Classic. The Meeting and Tournament schedule should be consistent throughout the year. If a tournament or meeting falls on or near a holiday or a local B.A.S.S. event or other conflict deemed reasonable by the Executive Committee, the event may be rescheduled by the Executive Committee at any meeting. The Executive Committee may pole the general membership for opinions on Lake selection and dates. However, the Scheduled published by the Executive Committee will be considered final.

Lakes and Official Weigh-in Sites

Lake Selection:

The annual schedule and lake selection will be finalized by the Executive Committee prior to the first meeting of the year (January). The club membership will discuss the annual schedule and lake selection at the January meeting and petition for any desired changes. Any changes to the schedule will be decided by the Executive Committee considering permit availability.

Repeat 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.

Launch Sites/Boundaries:

Launch sites and imposed water boundaries (entire chain or specific lake) will be decided on during the meeting preceding the tournament.

Official Weigh-in Sites

Official weigh-in sites will be determined by the Tournament Director. They will usually be in the nearest available shade by the launch ramp. Each tournament participant is responsible for knowing the location of the Weigh-in site.

Pairings

Partner Pairing:

All non-boaters (except minor children who must fish with their parent/guardian) will be drawn at random to be placed with a boater at the meeting prior to the tournament. Female spouses may choose to fish with their husbands if they wish.

Excepting minor children and female spouses choosing to fish with their husbands; the same boater/non-boater pair will not fish together more than twice during a season unless the non-boater has

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already fished with all available boaters twice. This extends to the Classic. After all partners are paired; the remaining boaters may fish alone or may pair up to form a team.

You may announce participation after pairings have occurred. Boaters are allowed late announcement twice per tournament year. Non-Boaters entering the tournament after partner drawing has occurred will be paired randomly amongst the available boats. Boaters entering the tournament after partner drawing has Occurred will be paired randomly with an available non-boater. If no non-boater is available, the boater will fish alone.

Insufficient Boaters:

If there are more non-boaters than available boats, then the non-boaters will be prioritized by seniority based on consecutive months/years as a member in the club. If two or more non-boaters have the same seniority, a coin toss will determine who will fish that tournament.

Non-Boater Fees:

All non-boaters will pay at least \$20.00 per day to the boater they are fishing with to offset the operating expenses for the tournament. Payment should be made before loading your equipment into the boat.

It is a non-boater responsibility to offer the payment. A boater may choose to waive this payment at their own discretion. But all non-boaters should arrive prepared to pay and make offer.

Failure to pay will result in forfeit of points for that tournament and suspension from the club until payment is made. Repeated Failures to pay will result in ejection from the club.

Guests:

If there are sufficient boats for all non-boater members; any member will be allowed to bring a guest. Guests will be paired only with empty boats.

Guests are not required to pay Annual Dues. The same person cannot be a guest multiple times in a tournament year.

Scoring and Pay Back

Pay Back:

75% of all tournament entry fees will be available for pay back. The remaining monies collected are banked for the Angler of the Year and end of year classic payouts.

Point Standings:

Annual point standings will be determined by points earned at tournaments plus meeting points earned. Tournament points will be 50 points for first place then 3 less point per place for participants catching fish. Participation points for fishless anglers will be 5 points less than the last participant who caught a fish. One tournament (lowest points) will be dropped to determine final standings.

Number of Places:

The pay back will be top three places. When 6 or more boats are participating The payout will be based on 50%, 30%, and 20% of 75% of the fees collected.

When 5 or Fewer boats are participating, the payout scheduled will be 60% and 40% of 75% of the fees collected.

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We will reduce to paying only 1st place if fewer than 4 teams are participating.

Big Bass of the tournament

Members who wish to participate in the Big Bass pot will pay \$5 at time of paying your tournament fees. The member who catches the largest bass of the tournament will receive all the money in the pot. Big bass must weigh more than 2.5 lbs. or the monies will roll over to the next pot.

In the event monies roll over from the last tournament of the year, they will be payed to the Classic big bass pot. Day one of the classic will still require at least 2.5 lbs. for Big Bass pot payout. No minimum size will be imparted on the Day 2 Classic big bass pot.

Annual Awards

Angler and Co-Angler of the Year Awards:

Annual point standings winners (angler and co-angler 1st place) will receive cash awards of \$150 at the November meeting. These awards may be prorated if insufficient funds are available at the end of the year.

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 membership dues. The member who catches the largest bass of the year will receive all the money in the pot at the November meeting. Big bass of the year must weigh more than 4lbs. or the monies will roll over to the next year's pot.

Tournament Rules

Rule #1: Don't be a Jerk

This one is pretty self-explanatory. Behave in a kind and courteous manner on and off the water at all club functions. We are all here to have fun and being a jerk will ruin that for everyone.

Rule #2 Tournament Fees:

Tournament entry fee is \$35.00 per person. A \$5.00 big bass pot, per day, is optional. Payments will be accepted at the Meetings or the day of the tournament (Prior to Launch) at the ramp. The Treasurer or designee will accept payments.

Rule #3 Late Arrival:

If you are going to be late to a tournament you must contact another club member prior to blast-off to inform them of their planned participation.

If you did not pay prior to the tournament and arrive at the ramp after the Treasurer or designee closes payments, you must contact the Treasurer or other member of the Executive committee upon your arrival to be allowed admittance to weigh-in. Unpaid arrivals after 8:30 AM will not be permitted to Weigh-in and will be considered a "NO SHOW".

Anglers are allowed late arrival at no more than 2 tournaments per year. Further late arrivals will result in being considered a "NO SHOW".

Rule #4 NO SHOWS

If a member and/or member's guest fails to participate after being drawn out, that member will be considered a "NO SHOW" for the tournament. NO SHOWs are not entitled to receive a refund for any

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fees paid. If you contact a club officer prior to the day of the tournament and make arrangements with your partner you may request a refund. Otherwise all fees are forfeit.

Every “NO SHOW” is automatically considered a formal complaint.

Non-boaters who were paired with a “NO SHOW” boater, may pair with any other boater who does not already have a Co-Angler. In the event a Non-Boater does not have a boater to pair with they may choose to fish the tournament from the bank or receive a refund.

Rule #5 Leaving a Tournament Early:

If a participant must leave the tournament waters early, that participant must communicate his departure prior to departing. If the participant is a boater and his paired non-boater desires to continue to fish, the boater must make arrangements to put that non-boater into another boat to continue the tournament or provide some other way for the non-boater to continue the tournament. Fish caught, by departing team, may be weighed-in by another team.

Rule #6 Fish to be weighed:

Species

Largemouth, Redeye, Suwannee, Shoal, and Spotted bass may be weighed. All fish to be weighed must exceed 12 inches in length.

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.

Minimum length:

Minimum length will be 12 inches 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 rule”. Failure to meet the minimum length will result in the loss of the largest and short fish.

Courtesy Checks:

One fish may receive a courtesy check if requested to the Tournament Director prior to putting the fish in the weigh in bucket. Courtesy checks will not be granted for dead fish.

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 Tournament Director will determine dead fish. Penalty for each fish will be deducted from the total weight. A total of 100 oz. or 6.25 lbs may be deducted for 5 dead fish. Big bass prize will not be awarded for a dead fish. All live fish will be released after weigh-in, and all dead fish will be removed from the lake.

Rule #7 Launch/Weigh-In Time:

Tournaments will typically last from safe daylight until 3:00 p.m. The Tournament Director will determine “safe daylight”. Start and end times of tournaments will be determined by the Tournament

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Director when applying for permits. Contestants should weigh fish prior to pulling their boats out of the water unless they arrive early enough to do so without delaying the weigh-in.

Late for Weigh-In:

Contestants who are not within site from the official weigh-in site at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of ten ounces per minute to be deducted from the total weight. Official Weigh-in site is determined by the Tournament Director at each lake. Any contestant who is more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for the catch for the day unless the lateness is due to breakdown, as determined by the Tournament Director.

If a breakdown which will cause failure to arrive at weigh-in on time occurs the team experiencing the breakdown conditions must notify the Tournament directory or other Executive Team member prior to weigh-in time. If another club team is assisting with the breakdown repair/tow their tardiness may be forgiven as well at the Tournament directors discretion.

Rule #8 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, to the start time of the tournament. A violation of this rule may result in dismissal from the Club.

Rule #9 Bait:

Only artificial bait may be used with conventional casting, spinning, fly, or flipping rods. Only one rod may be in use at anytime by each contestant.

Rule #10 Trolling:

Trolling is not permitted with primary boat motor (gas).

Rule #11 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. Repeat violators will be dismissed from the club.

Rule #12 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.

Rule #13 Start Location:

All members must blast-off from within shouting distance from the blast off location determined by the Tournament Director.

Rule #14 Start Sequence:

Starting order for boats will be drawn at the meeting as observed by the club members. Late Draws will be added to the end of the launch order. Before safe light, all boats must meet at a designated spot on the water as determined by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will then determine safe light and the start of the tournament. The last boater drawn will release the boats with safe minimum frequency.

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Rule # 15 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 so long as they do allow for or provide live updates (Excluding Weather). Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency.

Rule #16 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.

Rule #17 Rule Violations/Protest:

Any rule violation or protest must be disclosed at the weigh-in and will be ruled on by the Executive Committee. No protest will be granted after the tournament. Rules Violations are separate from formal complaints, but should also be made in the presence of a Club Officer and the accused. Rules violations may result in, Deduction of weight, Forfeit of Prize Monies, Ejection from Tournament, Suspension, or even immediate dismissal from the club depending on severity. The all actions against rules violators are at the discretion of Executive Committee.

Section 5 Annual Classic:

An annual classic tournament shall be held at the end of each season 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 Pre-classic meeting. Optional Big Bass pots are \$5.00 per day. Pairings will be made at the October meeting. Classic payouts will be the balance of the Club's 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 up to the nearest pound. The Club Treasury will maintain \$100 to carry over to the next year.