

# NORTH TAMPA BASS CLUB BY-LAWS

## **1 Section 1. - Officers and Executive Committee**

A. President: Presides over all meetings and directs all official business. Maintains the club website. Appoints and directs all committee functions. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. Executive Committee: Consists of the Club Officers and is the governing body for these By-Laws.

**Section 2. - Elections:** The election of Club Officers will be held annually at the regular meeting during the month of November. 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 first meeting of the new tournament year.

**Section 3. - Meetings:** Regular meetings will be held on the third Tuesday @ 7:30 PM of every month at such place designated by the Club Officers. There are no meetings in July and August. 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 partner drawing. No meeting points awarded if declaration of participation occurs after partners are drawn for the tournament. A maximum of 50 points can be awarded for the year.

## **Section 4. - Membership and Dues**

A. Dues: Dues for membership will be \$25.00 per year, in advance. No refunds.

B. Boater/Co-Angler Ratio: The club will attempt to maintain a Ratio of 1 to 1 for boat owners to co-anglers. Club may go over this ratio to accommodate for co-anglers that don't always participate. Pairing will be based on seniority in the club.

**Section 5. - Removal from Membership:** Removal from membership must be by a majority Executive Committee vote. Removal from Club membership may be for the following: 1) Any un-sportsmanlike conduct; 2) Multiple missed events that member said they would attend (i.e., signing up for a tournament and being a no-show); 3) Not sharing expenses with their boater (gas, hotel, etc.).

## **Section 6. - Tournaments**

A. Tournament Schedule: Nine regular season tournaments: January through November (except July and August). March will have a two-day tournament and December 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.

B. Tournament Fees: Tournament entry fee is \$35.00 each. A \$5.00 big bass pot, per day, is optional. If a member cannot attend the meeting and desires to fish in the tournament, he must notify a club officer prior to the meeting. Payments must be paid before takeoff.

C. Failure to Participate: If a member and/or member's guest fails to participate after being drawn NORTH TAMPA BASS CLUB BY-LAWS 2 out, that member will be considered a "NO SHOW" for the tournament. 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.

D. Leaving a Tournament: 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 co-angler desires to continue to fish, the boater must make arrangements to put that co-angler into another boat to continue the tournament or provide some other way for the co-angler to continue the tournament. Fish caught, by departing team, may be weighed-in by another team.

E. Black Bass Only: Only largemouth black bass will be weighed in.

F. 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.

G. 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 rule". Failure to meet the minimum length will result in the loss of the largest and short fish.

H. 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.

I. 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.

J. 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. Weigh-in times may be changed by a majority vote prior to launch. Contestants will not pull their boats out of the water prior to weigh-in unless they arrive early enough to weigh-in at assigned time.

K. 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.

L. 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.

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

N. 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.

O. 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.

P. 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 their planned participation.

Q. Start Location: All members must blast-off from the same location as directed by the Tournament Director (TD).

R. Start Sequence: Starting order for boats will be drawn at the meeting. Before safe light, all boats NORTH TAMPA BASS CLUB BY-LAWS 3 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.

S. 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 the total weight. 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 that was called into an Executive Officer, as determined by the Tournament Director.

T. 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.

U. 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.

V: 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.

## **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.

B. Classic Lake Selection: Classic selection will be made at the November meeting 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- Partners**

A. Partner Pairing: All co-anglers (except spouses and under-aged children who must fish with their spouse or parent/guardian) will be drawn at random to be placed with a boater at the meeting prior to the tournament. The same co-angler will not fish with the same boater more than twice during a season. After all partners are paired; the remaining boaters may fish alone or may pair up to form a team.

B. Not Enough Boaters: If there are more co-anglers than available boaters, then the co-anglers will be prioritized based upon seniority in the club. If two or more co-anglers have the same seniority, a coin toss will determine who will fish that tournament.

C. Co-Angler Fees: All non-boaters will pay at least \$20.00 per day to the boater they are fishing with to defer the operating expenses for the tournament. Payment will be made before the conclusion of the tournament. Failure to pay will result in forfeit of points for that tournament and suspension from the club until payment is made.

**Section 9 - Guest**: If there are sufficient boats for all non-boater members the member will be allowed to bring a guest 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. Section 10- Scoring and Tournament Pay Back NORTH TAMPA BASS CLUB BY-LAWS 4

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 less point per place for participants catching fish. Participation points will be 5 points less than the last participant who caught a fish.

C. Number of Places: The pay back places (75% of 100% collected) will depend on the number of participants. First (60%) and Second (40%) place will be paid for 1-5 teams. First (50%) and Second (30%) and Third (20%) place will be paid for 6 or more teams. See attached Payout chart.

## **Section 11- Awards**

A. Angler and Co-Angler of the Year Awards: Annual point standings winners (angler and coangler) will receive cash awards of \$150 at the December Classic or meeting.

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 membership dues. The member who catches the largest bass of the year will receive all 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 member and be in good standings.

**Section 12 - Annual Classic:** An annual classic tournament shall be held each year in December 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 November meeting. Optional Big Bass pots are \$5.00 per day. Pairings will be made at the November 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 to the nearest pound. The Club Treasury will maintain \$100 to carry over to the next year.

**Section 13 - Changes to the By-Laws:** By-Laws 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