



BYLAWS OF THE
HARTSELLE BASSMASTERS
BASS CLUB ADOPTED JANUARY 12, 1995 Amended December 5, 2011

The following are the BYLAWS of the HARTSELLE BASSMASTERS bass club adopted on the twelfth day of January, 1995 and amended on the fourth day of October, 2010 and will stand as passed by the membership unless such bylaws are amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

ARTICLE I - 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 crime. To improve our skill as bass anglers through 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.

ARTICLE II - Membership Section 1: Number of Members

The chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six members.

Section 2: Requirement for Membership

To become a chapter member, a person shall:

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) Be recommended by two members at a regular monthly meeting.
- (c) Be voted on by membership. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation must be by at least 75% of the membership.
- (d) Be at least 16 years of age.
- (e) A prospective member must attend two (2) club functions prior to being voted on for membership. A club function being either a fish-off or meeting. (April, 2004 amendment)

Section 3: Membership Dues

The membership dues shall be \$30.00 annually, initially payable upon being voted into the chapter, and not later than the second meeting of the new club year (December meeting) for existing members.

Section 4: Meetings of Members

The membership shall hold regularly scheduled meetings the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Mr. Henry's restaurant in Hartselle.

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/Treasurer: Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the chapter president. Collect and disburse all money. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each regular meeting. Prepare an annual audit review by the Chapter Board of Directors. The chapter may vote that the treasurer and any other officer handling chapter funds must be bonded.
- (d) Tournament Director: The tournament director shall preside over all club fish-offs, including start/stop times and weigh-ins.

Section 2: Elections

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of *October*. Elections 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 of 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 *November 1*, and end on the last meeting day of *October*, or until the successor assumes office.

Section 5: Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

Section 6: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- (a) Have been a member for six months. (Six months' requirement waived during first 12 months of chapter existence.)
- (b) Have attended at least 75% of the chapter meetings and 75% of chapter functions during a 12-month period.

(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 terms 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 five (5) members: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Tournament Director, and one (1) member elected at large by majority vote of the members present at the November regular meeting.

(1) The president will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.

(2) The secretary/treasurer will record the minutes of these meetings.

(3) The board will decide all protests and rule on all violations of the tournament rules and bylaws of the chapter when appropriately received.

(4) The board will develop agendas for the monthly meetings.

(b) **Tournament Committee:** The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all chapter tournaments. The tournament committee will draft tournament rules which must 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.

The following tournament rules shall be followed:

(1) Creel and Size limit - The creel limit will be 3 fish per person/6 fish per boat* (Amended November 1, 2010). Size limit will be 12 inches unless otherwise posted, then the legal size limit for the lake being fished is applicable.

- *A person fishing a club fish-off alone will be allowed to weigh in the boat limit but only the individual limit will be counted for club points. · **Size limit for Smith Lake will be anything not in the slot - under 13in. or over 15in. (Smith Lake slot limit amended 2005)**

(2) Legal Tackle and Methods - Fishing will be done with artificial bait and rod and reel only, no trolling and no live bait.

(3) Safety - Boats shall be operated in a safe manner. Life vests must be worn while big motor is being operated above idle speed. NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL PERMITTED.

(4) Late Penalty - A late penalty of 1 lb. per minute will be assessed to late boats.

(5) Dead Fish Penalty - A penalty of 4oz. will be assessed for each dead fish weighed in.

(6) Point System - Angler of the Year points will be awarded as follows:

(a) 25 points for meeting & fish-off attendance.*

(b) Fish-off points will be awarded on a 100-point system based upon weight in respect to the winners weight, ie 1st place wt (100%) = 100 pts, 2nd, 3rd, etc. place = based on % of 1st place weight. (Ex. 1st place has 12lbs. = 100 pts, 2nd place has 9 lbs = 75 pts. {9 = 75% of 12}). (December 2002 amendment)

(c) Angler of the Year awards – 1st Place - \$100, 2nd Place - \$75, 3rd Place \$50

* A member prevented from attending a meeting because of work or family obligations will be awarded meeting points if he attends the fish-off and calls the president or sec/treas before the meeting.

(7) **Big Fish Awards** - Plaques/Trophies will be given at the end of the year for biggest largemouth, smallmouth, and spot caught during club fish-offs.

(8) Non-members may fish no more than two (2) club fish-offs in a calendar year without joining the club.

(9) **Entry Fee - Entry fees for the regular monthly fish-offs will be \$30.00 broken down as follows: (Less than 8 boats) \$18.00 per boat - 1st place, \$12.00 per boat - 2nd place. (8 boats or more) \$15.00 per boat - 1st place, \$10.00 per boat- 2nd place, \$5.00 per boat - 3rd place. The "Big Fish" pot of \$5.00 per boat will be optional and separate from the entry fee. Also, there will be \$5.00 per person collected at each fish-off which will go into the "Classic" pot. EXAMPLE: 2 person boat with Big Fish pot - \$30 entry + \$5 Big Fish + \$10 Classic pot = \$45.00. 1 person boat, no big fish pot - \$30 entry + \$5.00 Classic pot = \$35.00. (Amended October 3, 2011)**

***See Appendix "A" for scheduled payout for any number of boats up to 20. In the event that a fish-off results in a tie between two boats, the money for those places will be added together and divided evenly between the two winning boats.**

(10) Registration for tournaments at the ramp will start one-hour before the planned start time for the tournament with boat numbers being assigned in the order of registration for the tournament. All participants are requested to be registered 30 minutes prior to takeoff, with all boats in the water 15 minutes prior to takeoff. Boat number one will start the tournament by leaving at the designated start time followed by all other boats per the boat number assigned at registration. For members that are late for registration and takeoff, they must contact an officer of the club within one hour after the official start time to participate in the tournament and must pay entry fees before leaving the lake for the day. (December 2011 amendment)

(11) A boater may fish with anybody in the club as many times as he desires as long as he takes his turn at carrying any non-boaters without a partner. (May 1996 amendment)

(12) No boat may have more than 12 (twelve) fish in the livewells at any one time. Culling should take place on the water in order to reduce fish mortality. Any boat that does not observe this rule will have their day's catch disqualified. (March 1997 amendment)

(13) The club will not fish the same lake two (2) consecutive times during the club year and no more than three (3) times total.

(14) End of Year Classic – The Tournament season will begin in November and extend through the next October culminating in a year-end Classic to be held at a lake decided by drawing at the September meeting. Lakes eligible for the drawing will be those lakes that have been fished during the current tournament season. In order to qualify for the classic a member or team must fish at least 6 regular fish-offs during the year. Any member or team that fishes at least 6 but less than 10 regular fish-offs during the year will be required to pay an additional five dollars (\$5) per event for every fish-off less than 10 they participated in, ie. if a member/team fishes 7 events and qualifies for the Classic, they will pay an additional \$15 for the three fish-offs not attended. This will insure that each member/team has the same amount of money in the Classic pot. AOY points will not be awarded for the Classic. **(September 1, 2008 amendment)**

ARTICLE V - Removal of Membership Section 1: Removal of Membership

A member shall be dropped from the membership roll for the following:

- (a) Failure to pay dues by the 2nd club meeting of the year.*

* New members must pay dues by 2nd meeting after being accepted into the club.

- (b) Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter.

- (c) Failure to attend *25% of the chapter fish-offs during a 12-month period.

- (d) A member may not vote on fish-off location, date or time if he is not going to attend said fish-off. (January, 2002 amendment)

ARTICLE VI - Method of Amending the

Bylaws Section 1: Amending the

Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

Appendix – A

Hartselle Bassmasters Fish-off Payout for \$30 entry fee not including Big Fish or Classic Money

No. of Boats	1st	2nd	3rd
1	30		
2	36	24	
3	54	36	
4	72	48	
5	90	60	
6	108	72	
7	126	84	
8	120	80	40
9	135	90	45
10	150	100	50
11	165	110	55
12	180	120	60
13	195	130	65
14	210	140	70
15	225	150	75
16	240	160	80
17	255	170	85
18	270	180	90
19	285	190	95
20	300	200	100

1-7 Payout	18	12	
8 + Payout	15	10	5