



BYLAWS OF THE  
**HARTSELLE BASSMASTERS**  
BASS CLUB ADOPTED JANUARY 12, 1995  
Amended November 7, 2005

The following are the BYLAWS of the HARTSELLE BASSMASTERS bass club adopted on the twelfth day of January, 1995 and amended on the second day of December, 2002 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. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the State B.A.S.S Chapter Federation embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

**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 a member of B.A.S.S.
- (c) Be recommended by two members at a regular monthly meeting.
- (d) Be voted on by membership. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation must be by at least 75% of the membership.
- (e) Be at least 16 years of age.
- (f) 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 \$35.00\* annually, initially payable upon being voted into the chapter, \$20.00\* of which shall be for National Federation dues and \$15.00 of which shall be for chapter dues. B.A.S.S. membership dues are also required at the current rate. (See ARTICLE VI, Section 1 for state affiliation requirements.) **\*Dec. 2005 amendment due to B.A.S.S. dues increase.**

### **Section 4: Meetings of Members**

The membership shall hold regularly scheduled meetings the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

## **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. Maintain regular liaison between the chapter and the B.A.S.S. National Federation and the state B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation. 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, and award prizes to winners.

### **Section 2: Elections**

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of November. 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 December 1, and end on the last meeting day of November, 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. National B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

## 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.
- (d) Maintain current B.A.S.S. membership.

## 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 December 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 5\* fish per person. 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 10 fish but only five 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 5pts. 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 1<sup>st</sup> place wt (100%) = 100 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. place = based on % of 1<sup>st</sup> place weight. (Ex. 1<sup>st</sup> place has 12lbs. = 100 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> place has 9 lbs = 75 pts. {9 = 75% of 12}). (December 2002 amendment)**
- (c) **Angler of the Year awards – 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50**

\* A member prevented from attending a meeting because of work will be awarded meeting points if he attends the fish-off.

- (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 **\$35.00** broken down as follows: (Less than 8 boats) **\$5.00 – Classic Pot**, \$5.00 - to club, \$5.00 - BF pot, \$13.00 - 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$7.00 - 2<sup>nd</sup> place. (8 boats or more) **\$5.00 – Classic Pot**, \$2.00 - to club, \$5.00 - BF pot, \$12.00 - 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$7.00 - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$4.00 - 3<sup>rd</sup> place. (Nov. 2005 amendment)
- (10) 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)
- (11) 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)
- (12) The club will not fish the same lake two (2) consecutive times during the club year and no more than three (3) times total.
- (13) **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 October 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 be awarded for the Classic just like regular fish-offs. (Nov. 2005 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 and/or B.A.S.S.
- (c) Failure to attend \*25% of the chapter fish-offs during a 12-month period.  
\*If the club schedules a fish-off on the same day as a State Federation tournament and a member fishes the Federation tournament, this will count toward his 25% attendance requirement.  
(January, 2002 amendment)
- (d) Disqualification for any reason from participating in B.A.S.S.-sponsored events including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol.
- (e) 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 - Affiliation**

### **Section 1: Requirements for Affiliation**

- (a) Approval of Chapter Charter by B.A.S.S.
- (b) Update B.A.S.S. with a chapter membership roster once each year upon receipt of current B.A.S.S. roster at year's end.
- (c) Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur. (See ARTICLE II Section 3 for dues' requirements.)
- (d) Maintain 100% B.A.S.S. membership.
- (e) Must affiliate with State Federation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the State Federation establishes for chapters, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the chapter to participate in the Federation qualifying tournament(s), and any other Federation-sponsored tournaments or events.

## **ARTICLE VII - 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.