

# **Bass Club of Fort Worth 2024 CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I CLUB NAME**

This organization shall be registered as The Bass Club of Fort Worth.

## **ARTICLE II DISCLAIMER**

The Bass Club of Fort Worth assumes no responsibility for Club Members, their actions, or accidents.

## **ARTICLE III PURPOSE**

The purpose of this non-profit organization shall be:

- a. To maintain a high standard of true sportsmanship among its members and fellow sportsman.
- b. To promote a social relationship and a friendly atmosphere.
- c. To sponsor fishing tournaments, to provide an atmosphere of friendly competition.
- d. To promote fishing as a source of recreation.
- e. To promote conservation of our natural resources in every respect.

## **ARTICLE IV COLORS**

The club colors shall be silver and black, with other colors for accent.

## **ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: An unlimited membership shall consist of all members who have completed a current membership application and paid their membership dues.

Section 2: Membership Type Definitions

- a. Single – Individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- b. Family – Individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age or older and their immediate family which would include spouse, and children or grandchildren under eighteen (18) years of age. Any others, such as nephews, nieces, etc., will be subject to approval by the executive board.

Section 3: All membership applications are subject to review by the executive board, and the executive board retains the right of acceptance or refusal of any application.

- a. Once an application has been accepted, a member may be deprived of their membership by action of the Executive Board for a violation of club ethics, unsportsmanlike conduct, or club rules. The Executive Board reserves the right to require member(s) to take a polygraph test at the club's expense. The member will have an opportunity to appear before the Board in their behalf before this action is final.
- b. The expelled member shall have the right to appeal the action of the Board at the next regular meeting. The appeal shall be voted on by secret ballot and a majority vote shall carry or defeat the executive action.

Section 4: Members who participate in special club activities such as: Casting Kids events, Boat/Tackle Shows, Committees, Special Projects, Officers, (etc.) will be eligible for a special drawing at the Awards Banquet for prizes and/or awards given by the Club. Each day of active participation will count as one (1) entry into the drawing.

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## **ARTICLE VI OFFICERS**

- Section 1: The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary / Recorder, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Directors (2), Membership Director, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster, Immediate Past President, up to ten (10) Board Members-At-Large, and all Lifetime members as Board Members Emeritus. The above officers shall constitute the Executive Board.
- Section 2:
- a. Each officer shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. The President shall appoint an officer committee in September to begin recruiting possible officer candidates for nomination in November. The officers shall be elected by majority ballot of the Members in good standing who are present at the regular December meeting.
  - b. Candidates for the office of President must have served as an Officer of the Club for a minimum of one (1) year.
  - c. If no candidate for an office receives a majority vote, the two (2) candidates with the most number of votes shall be in a run-off at the December meeting.
  - d. The date, time, and place of the regular December meeting, shall be announced by mail or email to all eligible members.
  - e. All voting for Club officers shall be accomplished by Secret Ballot.
  - f. A majority ballot as defined in Robert's Rules of Order and this Constitution is fifty percent (50%) plus one (1).
- Section 3: When one (1) or more vacancies occur in elective offices, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- Section 4: New Officers shall be installed at the January meeting and assume their duties at that time.

## **ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- Section 1: The management of the club is vested in the Executive Board during the time the club is not in session. The Executive Board shall have and exercise all powers granted to the club by the Constitution or By-laws, except that it shall have no power to alter, rescind, or nullify any part or provisions of such Constitution or by-laws. The Executive Board may impeach an elected officer of his or her duties for just cause. Such impeached Officer shall have the right to appeal the action of the Board at the next regular meeting of the club. The appeal shall be voted on by Secret Ballot and fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the votes present at the meeting shall determine the outcome of the appeal.
- Section 2: The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees, and be an ex-officio member of all committees or as otherwise provided in the Constitution. He/She will be in charge of updating and maintaining the master copy of the Constitution and Fishing Rules, and annually appoint three (3) lifetime members to have the BCFW website login and password information for safekeeping. He/She will be responsible for other duties spelled out in the constitution.
- Section 3: The Vice-President shall gather the information gained by all committees appointed by the President and make detailed reports with reference to their findings. He/She will keep a list of all volunteers for the Annual Banquet drawing. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President assumes the Presidents duties. The Vice-President will be in charge of setting up programs and speakers for club meetings.
- Section 4: The Secretary/Recorder shall keep the minutes of all club meetings, including the Executive Board meetings and record them in an adequate secretarial book. The Secretary/Recorder shall handle all correspondence except for tournament related activities.

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- Section 5: The Treasurer shall collect all of the money due the club, deposit the club's funds in the club's account and pay all authorized debts of the club. The Treasurer shall render monthly reports to the club. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited by a committee of three (3) appointed by the incoming President at the annual election. The audit should be completed by the February club meeting and a report given at this time. Tournament funds shall be deposited into the club's bank account before the next club meeting.
- Section 6: The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain a roster of all members and guests present at each meeting. This is to be given to the tournament director for the purpose of crediting points awarded for club attendance. It will be the responsibility of each club member to ensure that he/she has signed/checked the attendance roster. The Sergeant at Arms duties shall also include assisting in any way needed at all meetings of the club, returning order to the meeting when needed, and obtaining door prizes and raffle prizes and conducting these drawings at the meeting.
- Section 7: The Tournament Director or assistant shall be in charge of weigh-in, tournament records, Big Bass Pot, and presentation of all awards at the meetings. They shall also be responsible for selecting tournament headquarters and collecting all fees dealing with the tournament. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for appointing and delegating the duties of any and all assistants. All small fish of each contestant will be measured. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for ensuring all members have received their contact information for the purpose of communicating via text before, during, and after tournaments.
- Section 8: The Membership Directors duties shall be to collect membership applications and dues, He/She will prepare a Club Roster, and provide all new members with copies of the Club Roster, Constitution, and Fishing Rules. He/She will call all new and inactive members to remind them of the meetings and the tournaments for a period of ninety (90) days.
- Section 9: The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for sending out a monthly newsletter prior to the meeting. (When possible, the newsletter will be sent to the member's e-mail address. If an e-mail address is not available, it will be mailed to the member's home address.)
- Section 10: The Webmaster will maintain and update the club website (<http://www.bcfw.org>). Tournament results and the Newsletter will be updated on a monthly basis. Emergency notices about Tournament changes will be posted as soon as possible.
- Section 11: The Board Members At Large duties shall be to be available to assist the Board in any way necessary, to give input, and assist in the running of the committees.
- Section 12: All members of the Executive Board shall be required to attend at least ten (10) monthly meetings, ten (10) board meetings and at least seven (7) monthly tournaments. If the above requirements are not met, he/she shall appear before the Executive Board to show just cause for absence. If just cause is not determined, he or she shall resign from office.
- Section 13: The President becomes a member of the Executive Board for one year following his/her term of office. The Past President serves as a voice of experience and expertise.
- Section 14: All Lifetime Members are voting members of the Executive Board Emiratis, serving as voices of experience and expertise.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

#### **DUES**

- Section 1:
- a. Memberships are valid January 1 through December 31.
  - b. Membership dues: Twenty-five dollars (\$25) per single and thirty dollars (\$30) per family. Membership dues reductions occur August 1 - fifty percent (50%) and October 1 - seventy-five percent (75%).

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- c. A five dollar (\$5) surcharge will be collected, with every membership dues, for the exclusive use of the Benevolent Fund. Life memberships are not excluded from this surcharge.

## **Article IX BENEVOLENT FUND**

### Section 1:

- a. This money is used to purchase flowers or make other appropriate donations when a member or his/her immediate family is sick or deceased. Immediate family includes husband, wife, and children only. Family members, other than immediate, may be remembered with a card.
- b. The executive board will control the expenditures of this fund.
- c. In December, any unused money in this fund will be applied to the classic tournament payout.

## **ARTICLE X MEETINGS**

- Section 1: The regular monthly meetings will be held on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Thursday of each month.
- Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board with twenty-four (24) hours' notice to all members in good standing.
- Section 3: The members present at any regular meeting or special meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 4: A majority of members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum, and its meetings shall be held the week after the tournament. The time and day to be determined by the Board at the first (1<sup>st</sup>) of the year.
- Section 5: The annual election of officers shall be held at the regular monthly meeting in December of each year.
- Section 6: Each member will be awarded a ten (10) point bonus to their yearly points total for each meeting attended. It will be the responsibility of each club member to ensure that he/she has signed/checked the attendance roster.

## **ARTICLE XI TOURNAMENTS**

- Section 1: The tournament lakes will be decided one (1) month in advance, at the regular monthly meeting, by the club members. If feasible, eleven (11) of the tournaments will be held. All tournaments will be one (1) day only, on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Saturday following the regular Club meeting, unless inclement weather or other club functions (special tournaments) dictate changes. In the event of a change in the tournament date or place, an attempt must be made by the Executive Board to inform all members not present at time of change as soon as possible by phone, e-mail, or newsletter. In case of cancellation of winning Tournament Lake for any reason, the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place lake shall be used. At each meeting, the First (1<sup>st</sup>) and Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) places shall be announced so everyone will know the backup lake.
- Section 2: Weight will be accumulated in pounds and hundredths. A points system will be used to determine standings within the club. Tournament points will be awarded with one-hundred (100) points for First (1<sup>st</sup>), ninety-nine (99) for Second (2<sup>nd</sup>), etc. All contestants not weighing fish shall receive fifteen (15) points less than last place stringer. A member paying an entry fee, but not fishing the tournament will be awarded the same amount of points as someone who fished the tournament but did not weigh a fish. A total points list and weight list will be available at each meeting showing the Big Bass of the month, Big Bass of the year, and total weight for the year. The Total weight program each year will run from January 1, to December 31, inclusive, but will exclude the Classic and any special or prestige tournaments.

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- Section 3: Any club participation in a prestige tournament, participants shall be determined by selecting the top eligible members on the points standing at the end of the club year prior to the competition. When a Top Six (6) are invited to fish in a special tournament and our club tournament falls on the same weekend, the club may vote to move the club tournament date so the Top Six (6) may have the opportunity to fish the special tournament.
- Section 4: Any lake may only be fished twice in the calendar year, except for the Classic tournament.
- Section 5: Money awards will be given out at the monthly club meeting following the tournament. In the event that a minor (consisting of any member under the age of eighteen (18) years old), places in any club tournament the money shall be awarded to a parent or guardian to preserve the amateur standing of said minor.
- Section 6: There will be a fish-off Classic involving those persons who finish the regular tournament year in the top twenty (20) places, and those persons who pay entry fees monthly for seven (7) or more tournaments during the same year, and unless otherwise qualified the top four (4) ladies of the Ladies Top Ten (10) will be eligible to compete in the Classic. When possible, this tournament will be held the first (1<sup>st</sup>) weekend in December. The club will allocate additional money and or prizes for the Classic tournament.
- a. The classic tournament lake shall be decided by a majority vote of those eligible members present at the November meeting.
  - b. The Classic lake will be off limits from the time of vote till time of tournament.
  - c. The weight accumulated during the Classic Tournament shall not be added to the current year's total weight nor will points be awarded.
  - d. There shall be a mandatory entry fee and Big Bass Pot of ten dollars (\$10) each in addition to the Clubs addition of prize money. The Classic contestants will be divided into three (3) divisions by their total point standing.
    - Division 1: top one third (1/3) of Classic anglers by point standing.
    - Division 2: middle one third (1/3) of Classic anglers by point standing.
    - Division 3: bottom one third (1/3) of Classic anglers by point standing.The top Classic finisher in each Division will win a rod or reel provided by the Club in addition to any winnings earned. Ties will be broken by the big bass, if this results in a tie, by a flip of a coin. If no fish are weighed in a division a drawing will be held for the prize.
  - e. The Classic Tournament shall pay ten (10) places as follows:

First = 20%	Fourth = 10.5%	Seventh = 7%
Second = 16%	Fifth = 9%	Eighth & Ninth = 6%
Third = 12.5%	Sixth = 8%	Tenth = 5%

The Big Bass Pot shall pay three (3) places as follows:
    - First = 50%
    - Second = 30%
    - Third = 20%
- Section 7: All regular club tournament entry fees and big bass fees for the Tournament Director will be paid by the Bass Club of Fort Worth.
- Section 8: Final yearly point standings and Classic Divisions will be based on all tournaments fished plus bonus points accumulated.

## **ARTICLE XII AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

- Section 1: The Bass Club of Fort Worth (BCFW) will monthly recognize the top three (3) anglers in the club tournament. The recognition will be elective, for the entirety of the membership year, based on a member's selection of the "Monthly Recognition" option when submitting the annual Membership Form. If opted in, the first (1<sup>st</sup>) time an angler finishes in the top three (3) they will receive a plaque with their name and year and an engraved plate with the tournament date, lake and stringer weight to hang from the plaque. Subsequent top three (3) tournament finishes will be awarded the engraved plate only

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- Section 2: The Bass Club of Fort Worth (BCFW) will annually recognize fishing achievements in the following categories:
- Angler of the Year (Men/Women)
  - Top Six\* (6)
  - Big Bass (Men/Women)
  - Heavy Stringer (Men/Women)
  - Classic Champion
- Angler of the year and Top Six\* (6) awards will be based on the final yearly point standings, and will be presented at the annual awards banquet.
- \* If club membership is one-hundred (100) or above, on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, Top Ten (10) awards will be given.
- Section 3: Individual and Corporate Contributions. The BCFW may choose to honor individuals that, through tenure, achievements, or contributions warrant special recognition. The club may also choose to honor companies or organizations that help sponsor the club and its endeavors. The executive board will present these special awards to the membership for approval.
- Section 4: The John Ball Award. The BCFW recognized members who have made exceptional contributions to the club. This award is named in honor of John Ball, the club's first (1<sup>st</sup>) lifetime member. The following guidelines govern this selection:
- Candidate will be a member of the club for a minimum of three (3) years.
  - Candidate will have a history of contributions to the club that goes above and beyond normal member functions.
  - Candidate will be selected by past recipients of the award who are current club members in good standing.
  - When a candidate is selected, the award is presented at the annual awards banquet.
  - This is not necessarily an annual award.

## **ARTICLE XIII ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Roberts Rules of Order (Revised) shall be the standard order of procedure for all club meetings.

## **ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENT OF REPEAL**

- Section 1: The club may be dissolved upon a vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the members in good standing present at the club meeting held following notification by mail to all members in good standing of such proposed action.
- Section 2: Upon dissolution, all remaining club assets shall be given to a charity selected by the members in good standing present at the meeting.
- Section 3: An annual review of the Constitution and Fishing rules shall be made by a committee appointed by the President in August. Members who would like to propose amendments or rule changes must submit such proposals to the rules committee in writing at the annual September club meeting. All proposals will be published in the October newsletter presented for approval or rejection by the membership at the regular November meeting. All results shall be final and the approved amendments or appeals shall become effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Passage will consist of approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present. If deemed necessary by the Executive Board, amendments or rule changes that warrant special and immediate consideration can be brought before the club at any regular club meeting.

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## **Article XV Fundraising**

- Section 1: The club may elect to hold raffles for the purpose of fundraising. The fundraising proceeds may be designated for use of the general operating fund, or will directly benefit a pre-determined charitable cause. The conduct of the raffle shall be held under the following guidelines...
- a. The method of the draw must allow each ticket in the drawing a random and equal chance of being drawn
  - b. If possible, the physical drawing of the winning ticket(s) will be held in public, in full view of the participants.
  - c. If a public drawing is not possible, the winning ticket(s) will be physically drawn in full view of at least four (4) members of the club. Those four (4) members must agree that the drawing was random, or the drawing will be declared invalid and will be re-drawn in view of four (4) different club members.
  - d. The Treasurer will report the full financial results of the fundraising effort to the club.

## **ARTICLE XVI EFFECTIVE DATE**

This constitution shall be effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, adopted December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.