

South Lanier Bassmasters Constitution and Bylaws

Amended Jan/2019

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ARTICLE X – **NOTES

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The name of the bass fishing club shall be South Lanier Bassmasters.

Section 2: Affiliation

The club shall hold affiliation with B.A.S.S.®.

Section 3: Requirements for Affiliation

- A. Approval of Club charter by B.A.S.S..
- B. Update B.A.S.S. with Club membership roster once each year. Annual update cycle begins each year on Nov. 1.
- C. Names and addresses of new members joining the Club during the year must be submitted online 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 the state Nation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the state establishes for Clubs, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the Club to participate in the state qualifying tournament(s) and any other Nation-sponsored tournaments or events.

Section 4: Purpose

The purpose of the South Lanier Bassmasters is to improve the bass angling skills of its members through the exchange of techniques and ideas, to foster sportsmanship, to contribute to the conservation of natural resources, and to embrace the principles of the B.A.S.S.®. The South Lanier Bassmasters are and will continue to be a member of the B.A.S.S.®.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Number of Members

The Club shall begin with and maintain at least six members. The club shall cap its membership at a maximum of 30 members. If the membership cap has been reached, potential members may sign up on a waiting list for available membership slots. Active members are defined as members who are current in club dues.

Section 2: Requirements for Membership

Members must be in good standing in B.A.S.S.®.

Potential members shall fish three club tournaments. At least two tournaments shall be fished as a co-angler. If possible, the third tournament shall be fished as a boater with a member co-angler. Two regular club meetings must be attended. Then, the club shall vote on the membership after at least two reports from current members.

Upon a motion to accept a prospective member into the club, a unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the prospective member is required.

Upon approval, a new member shall pay a onetime initiation fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The new member has the option to pay \$4.00 per month retroactive to January of the year they join the club, to be eligible for the End of Year (EOY) pots.

Section 3: Membership Dues

Monthly dues shall be twenty dollars (\$25.00) payable by or before each monthly meeting and not later than the start of the monthly tournament in order to be eligible to fish in that

month's tournament.

ARTICLE III - MEETINGS AND TOURNAMENTS

Section 1: Regular Meetings

The regular meeting of the club for the transaction of ordinary business and tournament drawings shall be on the first Sunday of each month, unless said date falls on a holiday, in which case the meeting will be held the third Sunday of the month or as adopted by the Lake Selection committee each December. Any change in the regular meeting date shall be approved by the Board of Directors, and notice given to all members of said change. Our normal meeting time will be 6:00 PM.

Section 2: Special Meetings

The Board of Directors may call a special meeting of the club at any time with notice being given to all members at least two days prior to the meeting.

Section 3: Tournaments

A. There shall be one tournament scheduled per month.

B. A minimum of eight (8) tournaments per year will be held on Lake Lanier, unless the "Lake Selection Committee" would present Lake Allatoona as an alternate local lake to one (1) of the eight (8). The club shall have the opportunity to vote for approval, if Allatoona is proposed.

C. At Least two (2) tournaments per year will be two-day tournaments to be held on Saturday and Sunday.

D. A maximum of two tournament s per year may be night tournaments, determined by the board of directors, and should be held on Saturday night with the actual weigh-in allowed to be after midnight (Sunday morning). These tournaments should encompass hours of daylight and darkness.

E. With the exception of the two-day tournaments and any night tournaments, all other tournaments shall be held on Sunday.

F. The annual selection of tournament dates, times and lakes shall be made by a Lake Selection Committee consisting of the board of directors or club members from the general membership selected and appointed by the club President. The annual tournament schedule will be determined prior to the regular December club meeting for the upcoming year and presented to the club membership at the December meeting.

G. The board of directors has the latitude to change dates or locations if safety concerns are present due to hazardous conditions. This change will require consensus of the board. Time must be available to notify all members of the change in dates or locations.

H. Any member may propose an alternate tournament site (lake) to the annual schedule. Such motion to be made not less than three months prior to that tournament date and must be approved by a majority of members present for the proposed change to be made.

I. Any member may propose an alternate tournament date to the annual schedule. Such motion to be made not less than three months prior to that tournament date and must be approved by unanimous vote of the members present at such meeting.

J. Drawings for partners for all tournaments shall be conducted at the regular meeting immediately preceding the tournament date unless it is deemed more appropriate and suitable to do so at a special meeting. The drawings will be conducted by the Tournament Director.

K. Members electing to be "boaters" will be paired with "co-anglers" insuring those members who wish to fish will be drawn with partners. In the event that more members select to be "boaters" than "co-anglers", the excess "boaters" without partners will have the choice of pairing up with another "boater" or they may elect to fish alone in their own boat and assume all risks associated by fishing by them selves.

L. Members who fish as "co-anglers" shall offer to split expenses with their partner. Guidelines for this are to be thirty (\$30.00) dollars for a 1-day or fifty (\$50.00) dollars for a 2-day tournament. On away tournaments partners should try to ride together and split

vehicle gas expenses.

M. There will be 3 “Team Tournaments “ per year, with at least 2 on Lake Lanier. The “away” tournament shall be determined by the Lake Selection committee, and approved by club. Any “cash prizes” will be split amongst team members, but each team member shall receive equal points as per finish.

Section 4: Point Standings Calculation

A. Points shall be calculated according to the following formula.

- 1 point for fishing a tournament
- 2 points for attending a meeting
- 10 points for helping with youth event or conservation project
- 1 point for each pound of fish

Ex: A member catches a fish that weighs 2 pounds 4 ounces, he gets 2.25 points

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of the Board of Directors shall be to carry out the policies of the club and define policy whenever such issues are not described and detailed within the club's Constitution and Bylaws as well as any other responsibilities and duties assigned it with the approval of the overall membership by a majority vote.

Section 2: Membership of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of five members who shall be elected from among all members in good standing, such election to be held in November of each year in order for the new directors to review the upcoming schedule. The five members receiving the most votes for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Tournament Director will be elected directors. In the case of a tie vote for a director's position, there will be a runoff between/among the respective candidates for the position. All voting for elections will be by secret ballot.

Section 3: Responsibilities

President: shall preside over all meetings of the club, serve as chairman of the Board of Directors and set the agendas for all meetings.

Vice President: shall assist the president in his duties and preside over all meetings in the absence of the president. The vice president shall also assist the tournament director/weigh master in the tournament weigh-ins including the recording of each participant's tournament weight.

Secretary: shall conduct all official correspondence of the club to include preparation of and forwarding of all necessary reports to the B.A.S.S.® Nation and any necessary local, state or federal agencies. He shall also keep a true record of all meetings and maintain such meeting minutes and other records of the club and prepare the monthly standings of the membership relative to the points totals for all members. He may, at his discretion, provide a monthly newsletter to the membership.

Treasurer: shall have charge of all funds of the club and place the same in a commercial bank approved by the Board of Directors. He shall collect all dues on a regular basis and keep accurate record of all transactions, presenting a report to the membership at each regular meeting. A detailed financial report shall be maintained and shall be audited by the Board of Directors at least once per year.

Tournament Director: shall select the launch and weigh-in sites for each tournament and the tournament hours, and shall conduct the drawing of partners. He shall also act as weigh master with the assistance of the vice president. It will be his responsibility to measure the shortest fish brought to the weigh in for each contestant. It will be the duty of the Tournament Director to generate and submit the monthly tournament creel census to B.A.S.S.® Nation. <http://georgiabassnation.com/creelcensusreport/>

Section 4: Term of Office

The term office for all directors shall be from January 1 through December 31 of the following year of their election.

Section 5: Eligibility to Vote

Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote. EMAIL votes to an officer will be accepted and must be received by 5:30pm the day of the meeting. Proxy votes are not permitted.

Section 6: Vacancies

In the event a vacancy should occur during the tournament year, of the Board of Directors, a special election will be held to fill the unexpired term of the director. The Board of Directors will then determine the office each director will hold for the remaining term of office.

ARTICLE V - FINANCES AND SPENDING

Section 1: Funding/Revenue

The club shall operate from funds derived from membership dues and, if necessary, fund raising activities.

Section 2: Authorized Expenditures

The treasurer is authorized to issue checks for all normal, usual and customary expenses as approved by the Board of Directors and/or club membership.

Section 3: Top Six

The club has the option to field a team, consisting of the top 6 members as they finished in the previous year-end club standings, or their alternates to attend the B.A.S.S.® Nation Top 6 tournament. This Top 6 team will represent South Lanier Bassmasters in the B.A.S.S.® Nation tournament event. All expenses, including tournament entry fees, will be split equally by the participants if a team is fielded, unless the general membership decides to support and fund a portion of the team's expenses.

ARTICLE VI - REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Basis for Removal of Membership

- A. A member may be removed from the membership roll by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting for any of the reasons listed below:
- B. Failure to pay monthly dues for a period of three consecutive months.
- C. Failure to maintain membership in Bass Nation.
- D. Any action that reflects dishonor or disgrace upon the club, it's members, or Bass Nation guidelines of conduct
- E. Any blatant act of un-sportsmanlike conduct.
- F. Any member being brought up for removal shall be notified prior to the meeting and allowed to present his defense before the vote is conducted.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Section 1: Method of Amending

- A. Rule changes concerning safety may be addressed at any time during the year.
- B. Members may propose changes to the club by-laws at the club's November business meeting.

For clarity, members should bring written proposals to distribute to club members.

- C. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VIII - TOURNAMENT RULES, PENALTIES AND PAY OUT

Section 1: Tournament Rules

- A. No alcoholic beverages may be present or consumed during tournament hours.
- B. Life vests must be worn at any time the combustion engine is running.
- C. All boats must have an emergency kill switch attached to driver.
- D. No area is off limits except those posted by DNR or lake managers.
- E. Fishing must be done from boat only.
- F. Only artificial lures may be used, no live bait, trolling, or snagging.
- G. There is a maximum of five fish per angler, none less than the lake size limit.
- H. Each boat must possess an adequate live well with functional water aeration system.
- I. Culling must be done on the water when the daily limit is reached and no culling allowed at scales, at the docks or boat ramp.
- J. The Tournament Director or Vice President will measure shortest fish of all contestants.
- K. All persons are expected to practice safe boating and courtesy to others.
- L. Recklessness or poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated and are grounds to be disqualified for the tournament.
- M. One Month Rule will be in effect. No member may fish with the same partner 2 consecutive tournaments, unless previous tournament was the TEAM format.
- N. Tournament Director must be notified of your cancellation to fish an event by 7:00 PM on the Thursday night, prior to the tournament.

Section 2: Penalties

- A. **Late arrival:** At weigh-in 1 pound per minute, up to 15 minutes. Over 15 minutes, angler/anglers will be disqualified. In the event of an actual mechanical failure or an emergency situation, the victimized angler/anglers, along with Towing Boat occupants, will not be penalized if they arrive up to 15 minutes late for weigh-in. Over 15 minutes late all late anglers will be disqualified.
- B. **Short Fish:** Any person weighing in a fish shorter than lake size limit will be penalized the weight of the short fish plus 1 additional pound off total weight. Double-check your fish before bringing them to the scales.
- C. **Dead Fish:** weighed in -4 ounce penalty per dead fish.
- D. **Late cancellation of your ability to fish or a no show:** will constitute a 25 points deduction from your yearly total.

Section 3: Pay Out

Tournament pay-out is based on performance in that tournament. At any time during the year payout amounts may be adjusted with a vote of the majority of the board members for the purpose of supporting SLBM financial solvency. Such vote must occur in a monthly meeting before the affected tournament and shall be announced to all members present.

First Place earns \$120

Second Place earns \$75

Third Place earns \$50

Big Fish earns \$75

Top Co-Angler placing out of the top three places earns \$45

ARTICLE IX – ANNUAL AWARDS AND AWARD FUNDING

Section 1: Awards

A. Heaviest One-Day Catch of the Year

South Lanier Bassmasters will present an award, annually, to the angler with the heaviest, one day catch weighed in during our monthly tournaments.

B. Big Bass of the Year

South Lanier Bassmasters will present an award, annually, for the largest bass caught in a club tournament during the year, regardless of species (black bass, spotted bass).

C. Angler of the Year

South Lanier Bassmasters will present an award, annually, for the Angler of the Year (AOY). This award is based on the total number of points accumulated during the tournament year (meeting attendance points, tournament/event participation points and fish weight points).

D. Co-Angler of the Year

South Lanier Bassmasters will present an award, annually, for the Co-Angler of the year. Co-Anglers must fish at least 8 club tournaments in the year to be eligible for this award.

Section 2: Funding

Award Funding

Funding for the AOY pot, Biggest Bass of the Year pot, Heaviest One-Day Catch of the Year pot and Co-Angler of the Year will be as follows: Each month, four dollars (\$4.00) from all active member dues will be deposited into these four pots. The funds will continue to accrue during the calendar year at the rate of \$4.00 per member, per month.

These awards will be paid at the first club meeting after our tournament year or at the club's banquet as Determined by the President. The members winning the awards will be determined after the last tournament results are finalized from our yearly tournament schedule and will be for the entire amount accrued in the pot. These awards will be divided equally among the four categories.

ARTICLE X – **NOTES

****Notes**

Any member, who joins the club during the current year, will have the opportunity to pay their monthly four dollars (\$4.00) EOY fee retroactive back to the proceeding January. If a member elects not to pay his retroactive monthly EOY fee he will not be eligible to be awarded the cumulative, annual, pot. That member will only be awarded the amount cumulated in the pot during the period of time he has been contributing to the fund.

To be eligible for one of the four End of the Year cash awards, (Big Bass Award, Angler of the Year, Heaviest One-Day Catch or Co Angler of the Year) members who have joined the club after January may pay into these pots retroactively \$4 for each month back to the first of the year. This must be done before a member can win one of these awards. (For example, a member who joins in August and catches a very large fish can't decide after catching the fish to pay back in the pot for January through July. It must be done prior to the tournament in which the catch was made.)