

MEN OF HONOR BASS CLUB
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Revised January 7, 2012

ARTICLE 1 – NAME:

Article 1-Section 1

The name of this organization shall be Men of Honor Bass Club. This organization shall be self-supporting and a non-profit organization.

Article 1-Section 2

The official address of the Men of Honor Bass Club will be the address of the club president.

Article 1-Section 3

Annual dues are not refundable.

ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE:

Article 2-Section 1

The club was formed to allow members the opportunity to fish competitive without joining the Missouri Federation or fish competitive as a member of the Missouri Federation.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP:

Article 3-Section 1

Any person wishing to become a member of Men of Honor Bass Club must be at least 14 years of age and sponsored by a current member. A \$25.00 annual membership fee for those members electing not to join the Federation will be assessed. A \$60.00 annual membership fee for those members electing to join the Federation will be assessed. All club membership fees are due to the Treasurer one week prior to the first tournament.

Article 3-Section 2

All members of Men of Honor Bass Club who elect to fish the federation will maintain 100% membership in B.A.S.S. and are personally responsible for this payment. Each calendar year B.A.S.S. National Federation dues and Missouri B.A.S.S. Federation State dues will be extracted from those members' dues that elect to fish the federation.

Article 3-Section 3

Men of Honor Bass Club member who elect to fish the federation will participate in Missouri B.A.S.S. Federation events which are mandatory attendance is required.

Article 3-Section 4

Members must be 16 years of age, and must be able to meet all financial responsibilities of the organization. This applies to federation members only.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS:

Article 4-Section 1

Elections for president and vice-president will be held at each annual meeting. The president and vice-president will not serve more than four consecutive fishing seasons.

Article 4-Section 2

The president shall be responsible for seeing that all club rules and by-laws are carried out and obeyed to ensure stability of the Men of Honor Bass Club. A strong governing board made up of the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and tournament director, herein known, as the Cabinet will assist the president. This Cabinet will decide on the termination, disciplinary action, or dismissal of any member in violation of a club law or rule. The majority vote of the Cabinet will stand. The president will not serve a term more than four consecutive fishing seasons.

Article 4-Section 3

The vice-president shall maintain order and keep all gossip, rumors, and unneeded conversation out of the meetings. The Cabinet, however, shall have the power to impeach any member or any office holder within the

organization. If more than 50% of the club membership disagrees with any decision made by the Cabinet, the membership of the club will become involved in the voting process to resolve the dispute. The vice-president shall be responsible for carrying out the functions of the club in the event the president is absent. The vice-president and the president shall be the only persons who can call an emergency meeting of the Cabinet. The vice-president shall have the same power as the president in the event the president is not present. The vice-president will not serve a term more than four consecutive fishing seasons.

Article 4-Section 4

The secretary/information officer will be responsible for all minutes of the meetings, notifications, newsletters, and the maintenance of all club records. In the event the secretary/information officer is absent, the club treasurer shall be required to handle both positions on a temporary basis. The secretary/information officer can summon any club member, as needed, to assist him on any project that is beneficial to the Men of Honor Bass Club. The secretary shall maintain regular liaison between the chapter and the B.A.S.S. National Federation and the Missouri State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation.

Article 4-Section 5

An honest and accurate member who possesses skills in math and basic accounting must fill the office of the treasurer. Even though Men of Honor Bass Club is a non-for-profit, self-supporting organization, it is essential that no mistakes be made with the moneys of the organization. The treasurer's duties will consist of handling all club moneys, giving the treasury report at all club meetings, and maintaining a history of all expenditures. The treasurer may draft the secretary whenever he feels his workload necessitates assistance. Under no circumstance will the treasurer take it upon himself to lend any club money or cause any act that puts any lien or debt on the club's money without approval of the Men of Honor Bass Club membership. Any violation of this rule will result in dismissal from this position and permanent dismissal from the club. The treasurer will have the books available at all functions for inspections by any club member.

Article 4-Section 6

The tournament director shall be responsible for securing all club permits and checking accommodations. He shall be responsible for starting and finishing times at all club tournament locations, maintaining a record of

pounds of fish caught, maintaining a record of all points achieved by each member, and maintaining a tournament board which will be brought to all club meetings so all members will know their progress from tournament to tournament. The director will ensure that all tournaments are run fairly and that there is no cheating on any of the outings by the Men of Honor Bass Club. The tournament director has the final word on any disputes in regard to tournaments. However, under extreme circumstances, he can request the assistance of the vice-president on any matter in which he encounters difficulties. It is the tournament director's responsibility to insure that he or a capable representative attends all federation meetings.

Article 4-Section 7

The assistant tournament director will assume all duties of the director and be in charge of the tournament committee when the director is absent.

ARTICLE 5 – RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Article 5-Section 1

If any member chooses to settle any dispute while out with the club with his fist rather than his head, regardless of whether the matter is club-related or personal, the member initiating the incident will be terminated and can never join the club again. This is mandatory and inflexible.

Article 5-Section 2

A member will not have in his boat, or on his person, or consume any intoxicating beverages while in a club tournament, nor will a member consume intoxicants to the point where he embarrasses the club or its members on any other club outings. No drug substance is permitted during club functions. This will result in automatic dismissal. Any member found to be using illegal drugs or abusing legally prescribed drugs will be automatically dismissed from Men of Honor Bass Club.

Article 5-Section 3

If any member suffers a serious injury due to horseplay, excessive intoxication, or gross negligence, the member will be referred to the Cabinet for possible termination by a ballot voting procedure.

ARTICLE 6 – TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Article 6-Section 1

INSURANCE: Liability insurance is required of all contestants utilizing their boats in a Men of Honor tournament. A minimum of \$100,000 boat liability insurance is required. Proof of insurance must be provided to the tournament director prior to a member fishing their first club tournament as a boater.

Article 6-Section 2

SAFETY: Safe boating will be observed at all times. During competition each contestant is required to wear a chest type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation. All boats to include rentals must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. The tournament director, or a person on the tournament committee, will determine the blast-off time and area before each tournament. The tournament director or a person on the tournament committee has the right to delay or cancel the start of a tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the tournament competitors.

Article 6-Section 3

SPORTSMANSHIP: All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conversation. Drunkenness will be cause for immediate disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed in the boats during the tournament hours. Conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety and sportsmanship are grounds for disqualification.

Article 6-Section 4

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS: All bass must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Only Black Bass, Kentucky Bass, and Smallmouth Bass that meet the state length regulation for the lake fished will be counted. All fish must be caught on a rod and reel.

Article 6-Section 5

LIVE WELL CHECKS: The tournament committee will check all live-wells, life jackets, kill switches, and lights before blast-off. All boats will be in the

water 15 minutes prior to the start of the tournament with their live-wells checked by the tournament director or his assistant.

Article 6-Section 6

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: All Lakes shall be classified as open and unlimited practice is authorized.

Article 6-Section 7

SCORING: Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant's catch during the tournament. At no time shall a contestant possess more than the tournament limit. Fish will be measured with their mouth closed and tail pinched. Contestants must declare their largest fish. Fish presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed length limit, will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each non-legal bass presented. Dead fish will be penalized an additional 8 ounces per fish. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. The tournament committee will not perform courtesy measurement of fish presented at the official weigh-in site.

The following scoring techniques will be use:

All tournaments will be fished using the buddy system; this will not preclude someone from fishing alone. It is almost impossible to develop a set of rules that will achieve agreement from everyone, we have elected to adopt the following rules which makes it possible for a fisherman who fish alone to remain competitive to win the club tournament.

CASE 1: A team is fishing a tournament and both are fishing the club as non-federation members and the lake limit per person is 5 fish. This team may cull their fish and weight in only 5 fish to be used to determine if they won the tournament.

CASE 2: A team is fishing a tournament and one member is fishing the club as non-federation member and the other member is fishing as a federation member and the lake limit per person is 5 fish. This team must keep their fish separated in a divided live-well. The federation member must weigh his fish first for federation points. The team may then cull their fish and weigh in only 5 fish to determine if they won the tournament.

CASE 3: A team is fishing a tournament and both are fishing the club as Federation members and the lake limit per person is 5 fish. This team must keep their fish separated in a divided live well. This team will first weigh their fish individually for their federation points, and then they will select their 5 best fish and place them in a separate bag to determine if they have won the club tournament.

BIG BASS: Big Bass for the tournament is a team award and based solely on the weight of each team big fish. Only one big bass per boat will be allowed. It is the team responsibility to decide which fish the team selects for big bass. The tournament director will not perform a courtesy measurement to assist in deciding the team big bass. Once a bass is presented to the tournament director for the big bass award, this weight is final. Fish presented for Big Bass **must be alive.**

POINT SYSTEM for Anglers Fishing the Federation: The club will form a 10-man team to represent the club at the Missouri Federation. The team will be determined by using the standing point system list. The team will be formed after the last club tournament held in August. The top five (5) anglers will be the boaters and the second five (5) anglers will be the non-boaters who will represent the club at the Missouri Federation state tournament. If an angler finishes in the top five (5) and elects to fish the tournament as a non-boater, he will automatically move to the sixth position and the team will be adjusted from that point. (Example: If John finishes in one of the first five places and he does not have a boat available to use at the federation, then he becomes a non-boater and part of the second 5 anglers. The angler with the most points in the second 5 places with a boat will become part of the top 5 anglers). If no angler in the second five places has a boat available then the next highest boater from the point standing list will become part of the team. This rule is required because the Missouri Federation requires all clubs to submit at least five boaters for their tournament.

The point system is as follows:

1 st Place Federation Member	100 points
2 nd Place Federation Member	98 points
3 rd Place Federation Member	96 points
4 th Place Federation Member	94 points
5 th Place Federation Member	92 points

Each subsequent finisher after 5th will be reduced 2 points based on their finish position if fish are caught. Federation member participating in a tournament but fails to catch fish will be awarded 50 participation points. A Federation member not participating in a tournament will receive zero points for that tournament. The Federation member's two lowest scores will be dropped for the determination of the State team. The club classic and end of year bonus tournament will not be used to determine the Club Federation State Team.

Article 6-Section 8

LIVE FISH: Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell.

Article 6-Section 9

FISHING LOCATION: No contestant may fish within 50 yards of another contestant on the lake. No fishing is allowed in restricted areas. A member may not block passage of a cove when there is enough distance beyond.

Article 6-Section 10

TIES: The tournament committee will resolve all ties. Big Bass will break string ties and heavy stringer will break Big Bass ties.

Article 6-Section 11

BOAT ASSIGNMENT FOR TOURNAMENT: Since we do not have a monthly meeting boat take-off number will be based on when the treasurer receives your check or payment for the tournament. The entry payment for each tournament is \$40 per boat. It is the angler's responsibility to ensure the treasurer receives your payment no later than Wednesday prior to a tournament. If unable to make payment prior to Wednesday, notification of participation must be made either by phone or e-mail to the treasurer or tournament director. If the angler does not make the appropriate contacts prior to showing up at the tournament, a \$10.00 late fee will be applied. Cash only will be accepted at the ramp. Unless prior arrangements have been made, the tournament director, or his designee, will stop accepting entry fees 30 minutes prior to the tournament. The last boat in the launch order is required to call the launch sequence.

Article 6-Section 12

WINNING PAY OUTS: 90% of all the \$40 entry fees will be paid to contestant winners at each tournament. The remaining 10% to include late fees will be held and paid during the Club Classic. The following payout schedule will apply:

- 1 – Big Bass per event.
- 1 – 9 entrants, we will pay 2 places.
- 10 – 15 entrants, we will pay 3 places.
- 16 plus entrants, we will pay 4 places.

METHOD OF PAYMENT: The club treasurer will mail winning payout checks, no later than Tuesday following a tournament, to the contestant winners.

Article 6-Section 13

PROTESTS: All protest must be submitted in writing to a member of the Tournament Committee not later than thirty minutes after check-in. All protests should be as descriptive as possible and signed. Once a protest is filed the tournament committee will meet and adjudicate the protest and the tournament committee decision is final.

Article 6-Section 14

LATE PENALTY: Contestants who do not turn in their tag at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized at one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will be disqualified.

Article 6-Section 15

GUESTS: A member may invite a guest to fish a tournament. The guest must be at least 14 years of age. The guest and the club member must occupy the same boat. Members may only invite 1 guest per tournament and an individual may fish as a guest only once per fishing season. Guides and or professional fishermen may not fish as a guest.

Article 6-Section 16

CLUB STATE TEAM RULES: The Missouri Federation has established The following rules for participation in their Federation Tournament [Championship]:

- Missouri Federation chapters/clubs may fish the tournament by invitation only, and open to clubs/members in good standing of the Missouri B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation as of the April Board of Directors Meeting. Any Chapter/Club wishing to participate after that date is at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Missouri B.A.S.S.
- Each chapter must enter a four (4), six (6), eight (8) or ten (10) man team.
- The size of the team will not exceed 80% of the total federation club membership.

To adhere to the above Missouri Federation rules for their Tournament [Championship] only Men of Honor Federation members as of the Missouri Federation Board of Directors Meeting are eligible to fish this tournament. Waivers will be requested for members who become a Missouri Federation member after the April deadline; however, the decision to allow a new member to participate in this tournament will be strictly a Missouri Federation decision and not the Men of Honor Bass Club.

Men of Honor Bass Club will utilize the fishing year federation points after the August tournament to determine which members will represent the club as a boater or non-boater. (NOTE: Please review Article 6-Section 7 of the By-Laws for an explanation on how Men of Honor Bass Club awards points.) Depending on the number of Men of Honor member eligible to fish the Missouri Federation tournament, the club will field a four (4), six (6), eight (8) or ten (10) man team and the size of the team will not exceed 80% of the total Men of Honor Club Federation membership.

ARTICLE 7 – END OF SEASON FISH-OFF TOURNAMENT RULES:

All of the club rules for its regular tournament apply for the End of Season Fish-Off and include the following rules:

- Only eligible club members can fish the End of Season Fish-Off tournament. To be eligible to fish the End of Season Fish-Off tournament, members must fish at least four regular season tournaments.
- There is a \$40 per boat entry fee to fish the End of Season Fish-Off tournament.
- The payoff for this tournament will be based upon the number of participants.
- The entry fee for this tournament must be paid prior to the tournament; late entry fees will not be accepted at the dock.
- Guests will not be allowed to fish this tournament.