

VENTURA COUNTY BASS CLUB

BY-LAWS

Revised: October 12, 2016
Adopted: August 12, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I	NAME AND PURPOSE	<u>4</u>
1.	NAME	<u>4</u>
2.	PURPOSE	<u>4</u>
ARTICLE II	SCHEDULED FUNCTIONS	<u>4</u>
1.	MEETINGS	<u>4</u>
2.	TOURNAMENTS	<u>4</u>
3.	TURKEY SHOOTS	<u>4</u>
4.	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET	<u>4</u>
ARTICLE III	MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND IDENTIFICATION	<u>4</u>
1.	CLUB MEMBERSHIP	<u>4</u>
	A. MEMBERS	<u>4</u>
	B. PROBATIONARY MEMBERS & NON-BOATER/PROBATIONARY MEMBERS	<u>5</u>
2.	REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP	<u>5</u>
	A. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	<u>5</u>
	B. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	<u>6</u>
	C. SENIOR SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP	<u>6</u>
	1. ELIGIBILITY	<u>6</u>
	2. REINSTATEMENT	<u>7</u>
	3. GRANDFATHER CLAUSE	<u>7</u>
	D. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	<u>7</u>
3.	DUES	<u>8</u>
	A. RATES	<u>8</u>
	B. DELINQUENCY	<u>8</u>
	C. SPONSOR CREDITS	<u>8</u>
	D. REVIEW	<u>8</u>
ARTICLE IV	OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY	<u>8</u>
1.	OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES	<u>8</u>
	A. PRESIDENT	<u>8</u>
	B. VICE-PRESIDENT	<u>8</u>
	C. SECRETARY	<u>8</u>
	D. TREASURER	<u>9</u>
	E. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	<u>9</u>
	F. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	<u>9</u>
	G. WEIGH MASTER	<u>9</u>
	H. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR	<u>9</u>
	I. SOCIAL DIRECTOR	<u>10</u>
	J. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	<u>10</u>
	K. BOARD OF DIRECTORS	<u>10</u>
2.	ELECTIONS	<u>10</u>
	A. DATE	<u>10</u>

B. NOMINATING COMMITTEE	<u>10</u>
C. NOMINATIONS	<u>10</u>
D. QUORUM	<u>10</u>
3. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE	<u>10</u>
4. TERM OF OFFICE	<u>11</u>
5. VACANCIES	<u>11</u>
6. ELIGIBILITY FOR HOLDING OFFICE	<u>11</u>
7. MULTIPLE OFFICES.....	<u>11</u>
ARTICLE V AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS	<u>11</u>
1. AMENDMENT.....	<u>11</u>
2. REVIEW.....	<u>11</u>
ARTICLE VI REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP	<u>11</u>
1. REMOVAL	<u>11</u>
2. NOTIFICATION	<u>12</u>
3. VOTE	<u>12</u>
4. SUSPENSION	<u>12</u>
ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS	<u>12</u>
1. QUORUM	<u>12</u>
2. SECRET BALLOT	<u>12</u>
3. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER	<u>12</u>
4. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE	<u>12</u>

VENTURA COUNTY BASS CLUB

BY -LAWS

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

1. NAME: This club will be known as the Ventura County Bass Club.
2. PURPOSE: To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport: to offer our state conservation department moral and political support and encouragement; to report any polluter and call public attention to crime; to improve our skill as bass anglers through social and friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas; and to promote and encourage youth fishing.

ARTICLE II SCHEDULED FUNCTIONS

1. MEETINGS: The club will meet regularly (at least once monthly) at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors.
2. TOURNAMENTS: The club will conduct Bass Tournaments for members and guests. Rules and regulations for the governance of these tournaments shall be an integral part of these By-laws, however maintained separately and shall be subject to all requirements for change as are prescribed in Article V of these By-laws.
3. TURKEY SHOOT: Club Turkey Shoots (fishing tournament in which invited guests of the club and individual members may participate) may be conducted. The rules and regulations governing club tournaments will apply to Turkey Shoots except where noted therein. Guests must fish with a club member.
4. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET: An awards banquet will be held annually on a date approved by the Board of Directors. This function will serve as the vehicle for the presentation of honors and awards and for the installation of new officers for the forthcoming year. Attendance will be open to members and their invited guests. Regular Members receive two(2) tickets, Senior Social Members receive one(1) ticket.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND IDENTIFICATION

1. CLUB MEMBERSHIP:
 - A. MEMBERS: All members of the club must meet the requirements of membership (Article III.2.)

B. PROBATIONARY MEMBERS & NON-BOATER/PROBATIONARY MEMBERS:

1. In order to qualify for PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP in the club prospective members shall:
 - a. Attend a General Membership Meeting;
 - b. Submit an Application for Membership to the Membership Director with proof of boat liability insurance, if applicable;
 - c. Provide proof of B.A.S.S. membership;
 - d. Pay all required dues and fees.
2. Non-boater/probationary members shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total club membership.
3. Probationary members must obtain a fishable boat within the probationary period to meet the requirements for full club membership as set forth in Article III, Section 2, below. The probationary period shall be 12 months, but may be extended by the Board of Directors upon petition from the probationary member. Failure to obtain a fishable boat within the probationary period shall cause the automatic termination of probationary status. Probationary membership may be otherwise terminated upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
4. Probationary Members have no vested rights of membership and no voting privileges. Probationary members are required to pay dues and other costs on the same basis as the general membership.
5. In order to qualify for tournament participation points, probationary members must fish with a club member. Two probationary members fishing together shall not qualify for tournament point participation.

2. REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP:

A. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: In order to qualify for Regular Membership, a prospective member applicant must:

1. Voluntarily express an interest in becoming a member.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Satisfy the probationary membership requirements set forth in Article III, Section 1(B).

4. Attend at least 2 regular club meetings and fish at least 2 club tournaments with at least 2 different club members within 12 months.
 5. Receive an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a general membership meeting in support of applicant's petition for membership. Probationary members shall not be present when their application is submitted to the membership for a vote. Attendance incentive points shall be awarded to the prospective member for this meeting upon acceptance into the club in compliance with Article III, Section 2(C).
 6. Own a fishable boat. A fishable boat must meet Coast Guard safety requirements, and have an electric trolling motor and an aerated live well. Any dispute concerning the application of this definition shall be resolved by a vote of the Board of Directors.
 7. Annually submit verification of boat liability insurance to the club secretary.
 8. Maintain active membership in Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) or such other organization as directed by the club for the purpose of maintaining club liability insurance.
 9. In order to qualify for any honors or awards at the Annual Awards Banquet, members must participate in not less than 50% of club functions during the immediately preceding calendar year. The term "club functions" shall be defined as general membership meetings and tournaments.
- B. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Upon request, a member may be designated as "inactive" on the club roster for a period not to exceed 12 months. While on inactive status a member shall not vote on club affairs, attend club meetings, or participate in club activities. An inactive member may be restored to the active roster within 12 months upon request and remittance of dues for the current quarter. After 12 months on inactive status a member's name will be removed from the roster not to be reinstated except in compliance with Article III, Section 1(B) and Article III, Section 2(C).
- C. SENIOR SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP:
1. ELIGIBILITY. After five years of regular membership a member over the age of 55 years can submit a written request for social status for the approval of the Board of Directors. The Board shall evaluate each request and consider the best interests of the general membership and the requesting member's personal circumstances, including, without limitation, retirement, health, employment responsibilities and any other factors which the Board deems material. If approved, the Senior Social Member will be subject to the following requirements:

- a. The fifty percent (50%) participation requirement in club meetings and tournaments is waived. However, the member cannot participate in more than one-half the scheduled tournaments during any year as a Senior Social Member.
 - b. Dues and conservation fee assessments are one-half that of a Regular Member.
 - c. Senior Social Members do not have voting privileges.
 - d. Senior Social Members are disqualified from participation in the annual point standings; however, Senior Social Members will qualify for trophies for those tournaments in which they participate. Points for such tournaments will be awarded to regular members only, as though only regular members fished the tournament.
 - e. May enter Club Draw tournaments but cannot cause a Regular Member to be "odd man out".
 - f. Must maintain B.A.S.S. membership, as well as liability insurance and submit normal verification to the club secretary.
2. REINSTATEMENT: There is no limit as to how long one can be a Senior Social Member. However, the Senior Social Member may, at any time, request the Board's approval to return to regular membership status. Upon approval of the Board of Directors and remittance of full dues for the current quarter, the member shall be restored to full membership status.
 3. GRANDFATHER CLAUSE: Senior Social Member status extended prior to January 1, 2000, shall be unchanged by adoption of these By-Laws.
- D. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: The Associate Membership allows a member to be associated with a B.A.S.S. and/or FLW Affiliated Club (Ventura County Bass Club) without any of the rights or privileges of Regular Membership. Once approved by the Board and voted in by the Membership, the Associate Member will be subject to the following requirements:
1. Must maintain B.A.S.S. and/or FLW Membership.
 2. Dues for EACH organization (B.A.S.S. & FLW) are one-half that of Regular Member; B.A.S.S. Nation and/or FLW fees (National & State) are included.
 3. Associate Members do not have voting privileges.
 4. Associate Members are disqualified from participation in the annual points standings and tournament awards.

5. May attend Annual Awards Banquet by paying Guest fee.
-
3. DUES.
 - A. RATES. An initial fee in an amount set by the Board of Directors shall be paid upon submission of an application for membership inclusive of 3 months dues and B.A.S.S. liability insurance fees. The amount for quarterly and annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. The sum of \$2.00 per quarter from each member's dues shall be allocated to the annual Awards Banquet raffle prizes.
 - B. DELINQUENCY. Dues shall be paid in advance, at the first meeting of each quarter. Dues are delinquent if they are not paid by the second meeting of each quarter. Members delinquent in dues are disqualified from participation in club function(s) until the dues are paid current. No tournament or meeting points shall accrue to any Member during a period of delinquency. Upon request, the Board of Directors may grant hardship exceptions and waive or alter the foregoing sanctions upon consideration of the needs of the individual member and the best interests of the club.
 - C. SPONSOR CREDITS. Club members who bring a prospective member into the club automatically become that person's sponsor. The sponsor is responsible to: (1) obtain two tournament rides for the prospective member; (2) provide the applicant with membership forms; (3) introduce the applicant to the Board and to the Membership; and, (4) provide the new member with a copy of the Roster and By-laws. When the prospective member passes probation, sponsor will receive dues credit for one quarter for each person sponsored.
 - D. REVIEW. At least once per month, the Treasurer shall report to the Board of Directors the names of those delinquent in the payment of dues. Upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall issue a "Suspension Notice" to anyone delinquent in dues for 2 quarters.

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY

1. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.
 - A. PRESIDENT. The President will preside over all meetings and direct all club business. He will appoint committees and direct committee functions, and will supervise all club functions.
 - B. VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice President will assist the President in his duties, and preside in his absence. He will supervise all separate committees.

- C. SECRETARY. The Secretary will maintain accurate minutes of all regular meetings and of Board of Directors meetings as required.
- D. TREASURER. The Treasurer will maintain all financial records and report all financial matters to the general membership at the regular meetings. The Treasurer shall report membership dues standings and variances to the Board of Directors monthly.
- E. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. The Sergeant-at-Arms will maintain order with the club facility and maintain visitor control. He is also responsible for the collection of fees at tournaments from participants.
- F. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. The Tournament Director will be appointed by the President subject to a majority vote of the membership. The Tournament Director is responsible to:
1. Determine launch/weigh-in times;
 2. Determine weights and record them for standings;
 3. Determine place standings/points;
 4. Keep a permanent record of tournaments;
 5. Convene the Tournament Committee in the event of a protest.
- G. WEIGH MASTER. The Weigh Master will be appointed by the President subject to a majority vote of the membership. The Weigh Master is responsible to:
1. Maintain the club scales;
 2. Weigh all fish at club tournaments;
 3. Measure all questionable fish.
- H. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR. The Membership Director will be appointed by the President subject to a majority vote of the membership. The Membership Director and the two at-large members of the Board of Directors shall comprise the membership committee.
1. The Membership Director shall receive and maintain applications for membership throughout a prospective member's probation. Upon Acceptance for full membership, the Membership Director forwards the application to the club Secretary.
 2. The Membership Director collects required application fees and dues with the application and forwards all moneys to the Treasurer.

3. The Membership Committee reviews membership requirements, limitations, and duties with all applicants and answers questions for the applicants.
 4. The Membership Committee shall review all By-laws, Tournament Rules, Option Pools Rules, and the club roster with applicants.
 5. The Membership Director shall report to the Board of Directors on the status of all probationers and advise the Board when probationers are eligible for a vote of the membership.
 6. The Membership Committee shall notify probationary members when a vote will be taken on their application.
 7. The Membership Committee shall notify the applicant of the final membership vote as soon as possible.
 8. All appeals to a vote for membership shall be in writing submitted to the Membership Director within ten calendar days of notification to the applicant of the vote. All appeals submitted to the Membership Director shall be brought to the Board of Directors for final adjudication.
- I. SOCIAL DIRECTOR. The Social Director will be responsible for planning various social functions throughout the year.
- J. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT. The immediate past President serves as a voting board member until the next succeeding president takes office.
- K. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors will be comprised of the club officers as outlined above and one member elected by the general membership. The Board of Directors will function as the primary steering committee of the club.

2. ELECTIONS.

- A. DATE. The election of officers shall be held annually during the first regular meeting in October.
- B. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. A nominating committee will be appointed by the President at the meeting in August, and will be charged with defining the nominees for club officers for the coming year. The committee will submit the names of nominees to the membership during the meeting in September.
- C. NOMINATIONS. In addition to the nominating committee's recommendations, nominations from the floor will be accepted during the September meeting.
- D. QUORUM. In order to hold elections, a quorum must be present to vote.

3. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE. Each member is entitled to one vote. Absentee votes will be permitted. Probationary members and/or delinquent members shall not have voting privileges. Senior social members shall be ineligible to vote.
4. TERM OF OFFICE. The term of office is for one year beginning January 1 and ending on the last day of December. Officers will be installed at the annual awards banquet.
5. VACANCIES. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, nominations will be received and an election conducted at the first general meeting following the vacancy at which a quorum is present. The President may make such interim appointments as necessary to fill a vacancy on the Board pending the election of a new Board member.
6. ELIGIBILITY FOR HOLDING OFFICE. To be eligible for club office, members must meet the following qualification requirements: (a) Have been a member for six months; (b) dues must not be delinquent; and, (c) have attended at least one-half of all scheduled functions. Senior social members shall be ineligible to hold office.
7. MULTIPLE OFFICES. A member may not hold more than one office at a time.

ARTICLE V
AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

1. AMENDMENT. These By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting at which a quorum is present, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided notice of the proposed amendment was given at a general membership meeting at least one month before the vote. No written notice is required to amend the By-laws.
2. REVIEW. The Board of Directors will review the By-laws periodically and submit recommendations for changes to the general membership for approval or rejection.

ARTICLE VI
REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

1. REMOVAL. A member may be removed from the club for any of the following reasons:
 - A. Actions by the member that reflect negatively on the club and its members.
 - B. Intentional infractions of tournament or turkey shoot rules.
 - C. Delinquency in the payment of dues.

- D. Failure to maintain Article III membership requirements.
 - E. Be inactive for one year or more.
2. NOTIFICATION. Except as specified in Art. III(3)(D), a member subject to removal from membership shall be notified in writing of the reason(s) for such action by the Board of Directors. The notification shall be issued at least 2 weeks prior to any removal vote by the membership.
 3. VOTE. Removal from membership requires a two-thirds vote of the members present at a club meeting.
 4. SUSPENSION. Any member whose dues are delinquent for two consecutive quarters shall be suspended from the club roster and tournament standings and ineligible for participation in club tournaments and events. A member suspended from the roster under the terms of this enactment shall forfeit all points accrued during the period of delinquency. A member once suspended may be reinstated within 6 months of suspension, upon paying the dues current, including payment of accrued arrearage. Upon reinstatement, members shall be restored to the roster and point standings, however, no points shall be recorded for the period of delinquency or suspension.

ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS

1. QUORUM. A quorum is necessary in order to conduct official club business. A quorum shall be declared present when 50% of the active club members are in attendance at a club meeting.
2. SECRET BALLOT. Any member in good standing can call for a secret ballot on any motion.
3. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with these By-laws, and where the By-laws are silent Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall prevail.
4. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE. Shall consist of members of the Board of Directors who are physically present at the tournament.