

BY LAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1: NAME

This chapter shall be called the St. Joe Valley Bass Masters / Hawg Hustlers of South Bend, Indiana (NO. 445).

SECTION 2: 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 or her crime. To improve our skill as bass anglers through a fellowship or 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 federation embracing the principles and purpose of the national bass organization.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: MEMBERS

Membership in the club shall consist of 1) tournament members, and 2) associate members. All new members in the club will initially be considered an associate member.

SECTION 2: REQUIREMENTS FOR TOURNAMENT MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) Be a member in good standing of the national bass organization.
- (c) Be recommended by two tournament members at a regular monthly meeting.
- (d) The prospective member must have fished with two members before applying for tournament membership, and the members vouch for him and give testimony of the prospective member's bass fishing progress and sportsmanship. Or he will draw from the membership two names, either of whom shall grant a fishing date with the prospective member prior to the next monthly meeting. At the next meeting the tournament member must give testimony of the prospective member's bass fishing progress and sportsmanship. Alternatively each person may be handled on a case by case basis and may result in a person being voted in based on the recommendation of a member or the experience of a member knowing that person.
- (e) Be voted on by membership. Affirmation must be two thirds of membership present.
- (f) Full membership shall then be awarded and membership credentials presented.

SECTION 3: REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) An associate member shall have no voting rights in the club.
- (c) An associate member may apply for tournament membership when the requirements of article II, section 2 are fulfilled. The associate member must contact a member of the executive board for approval. Upon approval the tournament members will vote to accept or reject a member.

- (d) Associate members may fish in club tournaments. Their fish will be weighed at the tournament, but will not count towards any official club standings. When the associate member becomes a tournament member the results of the two immediately preceding tournaments fished will be counted toward the club standing.

SECTION 4: AGE OF MEMBERS

- (a) Minimum age for membership shall be as follows:
 - 1) tournament members –15 (with written parental consent) the member must turn 16 before the Top 8 tournament in order to participate.
 - 2) associate members – 15 (with written parental consent)
- (b) All minors (under the age of 18) shall present a signed form by parents or guardian releasing the St. Joe Valley Bass Masters and its members from any liability for said minor.

SECTION 5: MEMBERSHIP DUES

- (a) Membership dues shall be recommended by the executive board, subject to approval of two thirds of the membership present.
- (b) All dues shall be payable annually at the December club meeting for the upcoming year.

ARTICLE III - REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBER

SECTION 1: REINSTATEMENT

- (a) All past dues and bills must be paid.
- (b) A unanimous vote by membership present.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

THE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER SHALL CONSIST OF;

- (a) **PRESIDENT:** presides over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and direct all committee functions. Supervise all club functions.
- (b) **VICE PRESIDENT AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** acts as program chairman, assist the president in his duties and preside in the absence of the president and plan and run the tournaments.
- (c) **SECRETARY;** maintains accurate minutes of all meetings and report via e-mail. Maintain regular liaison between chapter and the national bass organization headquarters and state federation headquarters.
- (d) **TREASURER;** maintains accurate financial records, collects and disperses funds as required, and report at each meeting.

SECTION 2: ELECTIONS

The nomination of officers is begun at the regular October meeting with closing of nominations and the election held annually at a regular November meeting. Election shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in the order listed in Article IV, Section 1.

SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY OF VOTE

Each tournament member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted. Officers are permitted to both nominate and vote in all elections.

SECTION 4: TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on December 1st. Original slate of officers shall serve from election to December 1st.

SECTION 5: VACANCIES

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nomination shall be asked and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office. The national bass organization headquarters should be notified immediately of the change in any officers.

SECTION 6: ELIGIBILITY FOR HOLDING OFFICE

To be eligible for an office a member must;

- (a) Have been a member for at least 1 year.
- (b) Have attended at least 3/4 of the chapter meetings and work all of both (Youth Tournament & Smoker) of the chapter functions.
- (c) Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.
- (d) Be a tournament member.

ARTICLE V - METHOD OF AMENDING THE BY LAWS

SECTION 1: AMENDING THE BY LAWS

The Bi-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two thirds 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.

ARTICLE VI - REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

A member MAY be dropped from the membership role for the following;

- (a) Failure to pay dues according to ARTICLE II SECTION 5: MEMBERSHIP DUES
- (b) Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter.
- (c) Failure to attend 50% of the chapter meetings 50% of chapter functions during a 12-month period, or miss 3 consecutive meetings.

ARTICLE VII - AFFILIATION

SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS FOR AFFILIATION

(a) A chapter must maintain 100% membership in the national bass organization and submit a membership roster to the national bass organization headquarters every 12 months by Jan 1st. This roster must include names and complete addresses of chapter tournament members.

(b) Applications for affiliation must meet the approval of the applicable state federation.

We, the officers, do hereby endorse the above by-laws and the continuance of this chapter on this day of 1/6/2011.

John Law, President

Randy Forszt, Vice President / Tournament Director

Diana Bauer, Treasurer

Terry Frick, Secretary

Revised: 1/6/2011