

THE WOODLANDS BASS CLUB

Approved **BY-LAWS and RULES**

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Article I. **MISSION STATEMENT**

Section 1.01 **Mission Statement**

Our Mission Statement

An organization established for the purpose of promoting the sport of bass fishing through education, competition, and service to the community. The Club will strive to maintain a high standard of sportsmanship and conservation. We will abide by the laws established by our state of Texas and those of the states in which we may visit.

Article II. **NAME AND ABOUT**

Section 2.01 **Name**

- A. The name of this **Club** shall be **The Woodlands Bass Club** or referred to as **TWBC** and or **Club**.
- B. **TWBC** will be operated as a not for profit organization in the State of Texas. The **Club** shall own no real estate or other property other than that required to operate the **Club** in a normal manner.
- C. **TWBC** will be operated by the executive committee, and in accordance with the "by-laws", as set forth in this document.

Section 2.02 **Club Logo** (AMD Apr-2015)

- A. Logo- The Woodlands Bass Club insignia shall be displayed below to represent the **Club**: (AMD Apr-2015)



Section 2.03 **Membership**

- A. Membership shall be open to any person who voluntarily expresses a genuine interest in membership. The person shall promote, encourage, and support the mission statement of the **Club**.
- B. Membership shall be open to any person regardless of gender, race, class, economic status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, and cultural and religious backgrounds.
- C. A New Member applicant will be any person that has not yet been a member of the **Club** and will be voted on and must carry a simple majority of the **Club's** approval vote. Upon payment of dues, he or she shall become a member.
- D. The term of membership is one year beginning on the first day of January and ending the last day of December.

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- E. The renewal of membership will be available to current members and former members that are or were in good standing with the **Club** at the end of their last year as a member. To become eligible for a new term of membership for the upcoming or current year, they will only have to pay the required dues for the new term year. (AMD Mar-2014)
- F. A member of TWBC must be at least 18 years of age and any child, applying for membership under the age of 18 must have their parent/guardian present with them during all club activities.
- G. Children or Minors under the age of 18 years old are eligible for membership, but they must be sponsored by their legal guardian.
- H. If the **Club** agrees to participate at any time with a recognizable affiliation organization other than the **TWBC**, it is mandatory that ALL members are current in that affiliation membership and abide by its rules. Refer to Article 7.
- I. The membership of **TWBC** recognizes that boating and fishing can be hazardous activities. Each member agrees individually to assume all risks of damage to his person and /or property which might occur.
- J. A member that does not support, represent, or have the best interest of **TWBC** in mind, can be removed by the Executive Committee.

Section 2.04 **Dues and Fees**

- A. Membership dues, as determined by simple majority vote of the membership, are due at the first regular meeting of each year or may be made in monthly payments at each monthly Club meeting. Members joining during the year will have their Club dues pro-rated by the month they join.
- B. Membership dues and fees:
 - (1) **TWBC** annual **Club** dues –\$120.
 - (2) In addition to the annual dues, first time members are required to purchase a Club hat at \$12 each and Club shirt of \$25 each.
 - (3) As a special incentive, annual dues paid in advance and in full prior to January 31 are discounted to \$110.
 - (4) Dues and fees are non-refundable.
- C. Monies collected by the **Club** shall be deposited in a bank approved by the Executive Committee.
- D. Any member that is paying their dues in monthly payments each month shall agree to be current monthly with their payment status and to be considered in good standing, current, or active membership.
- E. If any member falls behind two (2) consecutive months or more in payment of dues, he/she is not eligible to participate in any Club activity. He/she falls over five (5) months or more behind in paying payment of dues, their membership will be terminated, unless the Executive Committee, by simple majority vote, waives this rule for an individual.
- F. If a former member wants to renew his/her membership in the **Club** during the current year, because the membership was terminated due to being five (5) months or more behind in monthly payment of dues, he/she is required to pay all past monthly dues in full and must reapply as a new member, voted on with approval from the membership by simple majority to be eligible for Club privileges for that remaining year.

Article III. **CLUB MEETINGS**

Section 3.01 **Meetings**

- A. Club meetings will be generally be held on the 3rd Monday of the Month, at an agreed upon location and time, unless otherwise noted.
- B. In the Months of November and December, the **Club** meetings will be held the 1st Monday of the Month.

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- C. These dates may be changed by the Executive Committee under special circumstances.
- D. Each Club meeting shall be directed by the Executive Committee.

Article IV. **OFFICERS, DUTIES, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY**

Section 4.01 **Officers – Executive Committee**

- A. The duly elective officers of this organization (also known as the Executive Committee) shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Tournament Director.

Section 4.02 **Elections for Office**

- A. Nominations for the upcoming year will be held at the November regular monthly meeting.
- B. The election of officers to the Executive Committee shall be held at the December meeting by secret ballot. Actual positions of Executive Committee shall be voted by the **Club** and verified by the current Executive Committee.
- C. Each member is limited to one vote. Election will be by a simple majority of members, with proxy voting allowed.
- D. The term of office is one year beginning on the first day of January and ending the last day of December.

Section 4.03 **Vacancies**

- A. Any member of the Executive Committee, who does not fulfill the duties of his position, shall be relieved of his office by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. For any member of the Executive Committee who resigns, an election for replacement will take place at the next regular meeting.
- B. In the event that an office becomes vacant or relieved,
 - (1) Nominations will be submitted by the board, to the **Club**, and the election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.
 - (2) The remaining term of the office runs through the last day in December for the year.

Section 4.04 **Eligibility**

- A. To be eligible for an office, a member must have been an active member for a period of at least six months.

Section 4.05 **Duties of the officers**

- A. President
 - (1) To chair all **Club** and board meetings.
 - (2) To call special board meetings as deemed necessary.
 - (3) Assist any board member as deemed necessary.
 - (4) Breaking any tie votes.
 - (5) Prepare monthly "Newsletter", or any other means of media used for communication with the club, containing informative Club news and happenings.
 - (6) To meet & welcome new members & guests at each meeting and answer all questions about the **Club** and its activities.
 - (7) Work with the **Club** affiliated directors as required if the **Club** is engaged in such involvement.
- B. Vice President
 - (1) Keep all rule changes up to date in the **Club** By- Laws.

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- (2) Assume the duties of the President in his absence.
- (3) Assist any board member as deemed necessary.
- (4) Preside over all meetings in the absence of the President.
- (5) Serve as chairman of all special committees
- (6) Promote the membership in the **Club**.
- (7) Assist the President with Meetings and welcoming new members & guests.

C. Treasurer

- (1) To collect all dues.
- (2) Notify members of delinquent dues.
- (3) Shall maintain and report each month deposits and dispersal of funds.
- (4) Handle sales of Club hats.
- (5) Maintain a current mailing list of all Club members.
- (6) Provide the members access to said books if required.
- (7) Answer all questions regarding the **Club** initiation fees and monthly dues.
- (8) No expenditure can be made from the Club treasury of over \$100 without approval of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
- (9) Assist any board member as deemed necessary.

D. Tournament Director

- (1) To chair the Tournament Committee.
- (2) Responsible for development of Tournament Format (i.e., Develop the annual Weight or Point System for use beginning in January and as approved by the general membership). The Tournament Format will be available and effective in January of each year and will be the Format used for the calendar year unless otherwise changed by the general membership. The Tournament Director is also charged with keeping records of all tournaments results and reporting them to the Club.
- (3) To securing and present all trophies/awards at the **Club's** monthly meeting; if applicable.
- (4) Responsible for keeping records of all tournaments results and report them to the **Club**.
- (5) Responsible for possession of scales at weigh-ins and direct all fish weigh-in activities.
- (6) Assist any board member as deemed necessary.
- (7) The Tournament Director has the authority to designate members to assist him at weigh-ins.

Article V. **RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

Section 5.01 **Procedure For Rule Change**

- A. Any proposed changes in these "By-Laws" will be presented in writing to the President and discussed at the same or next monthly meeting by the President. The proposed by-law changes will be read, discussed, and voted on at the next meeting, with proxy voting allowed. A one-third (33 1/3%) majority of current membership will be necessary to pass the proposed changes.

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- B. These By-Laws provide guidance as guidelines for operating the Club and may be suspended by 1/3 majority vote of the members for allowing optional trial periods for new methods or processes for the benefit of the Club. Any methods/processes adopted as good for the Club may be added to the By-Laws as a proposed change (refer to "A" above).

Article VI. **REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

Section 6.01 **Reasons For Removal**

- A. A member shall be dropped from the Club roll for any of the following reasons:
- (1) A. Failure to pay dues as defined by Section 2.04.
 - (2) B. Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace to the **Club**.
- B. Should a problem arise with a member, the board will investigate and resolute the problem.
- C. A hearing will be granted upon the request of the individual involved, with continuing membership contingent upon a unanimous approval of the board.
- D. It will be the purpose of the **Club** to strive for a full, active membership. If a member becomes inactive or removed, the membership fees will not be returned or refunded.

Article VII. **AFFILIATION**

Section 7.01 **Club Affiliation**

- A. If the **Club** desires to affiliate with an additional organization along with the **TWBC**, vote may be held and required. The desire to add an affiliation will be discussed at a meeting and /or published to the club. A ballot will also be used for the purpose of voting at the following monthly meeting. Proxy votes will be allowed, and a two-thirds simple majority will be required.
- B. Once an affiliation has been approved, the **Club** and each member will be required to follow those rules of the affiliation including but not limited to dues, fees, regulations, attendance, etc. Members not in compliance with the affiliation will be released from the Club.

Article VIII. **AWARDS**

Section 8.01 **Annual Awards**

- A. Only members in good standing may have their weight/points applied toward Club standings or be eligible to receive trophies and or awards.
- B. The annual awards will be presented to qualify members within the first quarter following the end of the award calendar year at a club meeting or special banquet decided and agreed by the membership.
- C. The "**Angler of the Year**" award will be presented to the Club member amassing the greatest number of weight/points in all **Club** tournaments in the calendar year. The "Angler of the Year" shall be awarded a trophy, and/or plaque.
- D. The "**Big Bass of the Year**" award will be presented to the Club member catching the largest bass of the year from any tournament during the year and shall be awarded a trophy, and/or plaque.
- E. The "**Biggest One-Day Stringer**" award will be presented to the Club member catching the heaviest one-day stringer during the year and shall be awarded a trophy, and/or plaque.

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G. The **"Most Improved Angler of the Year"**, which will be voted on at the January of the following year meeting with proxy voting allowed, is awarded to the Club member with the best skill improvement / "Good of the Club" contributions during the year and shall be awarded a trophy and/or plaque. Consideration of this award might include factors such as:

- (1) Regular attendance at monthly meetings.
- (2) Regular participation in monthly Club tournaments.
- (3) Comparison of individual previous and current year tournament results.
- (4) Assistance with Community events (i.e. Kid fish events, boat show assistance).
- (5) Member recruitment.
- (6) Overall contributions to the "good of the Club" (meeting input, tournament assistance, member assistance, etc.).
- (7) Any other observations that might be considered important.

Article IX. **TOURNAMENT TYPES**

Section 9.01 **Standard Tournaments**

- A. Standard tournaments shall be conducted at any lake that uses the Statewide Regulations. Fish will be acquired 14 inches in length or greater and maintaining their game alive in an operable live well in the boat of which it was caught from.
- B. Each Member shall keep their fish separate and bring them to the weigh-in at the required time for each tournament. After weigh-in, each fish must be returned to the body of water in which it was caught in as directed by the tournament director.

Section 9.02 **Paper Tournaments**

- A. Paper Tournaments are allowed when voted on and passed for specified tournaments.
- B. Fish are marked on a board provided by the **Club**. At weigh-in, each mark is measured with a yardstick converting inches to pounds. Listed below is the conversion formula for the average fish weight per inch for Texas lakes for the tournaments.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 Length-weight Conversion Table for Texas Reservoirs
 Lengths are in inches and weights are in pounds Fraction of length Eighths of an inch
 (Example 19-3/4" fish, Length=19 then align to 3/4 across=4.49-pound fish)

Length (Inch)	0	1/8	1/4	3/8	1/2	5/8	3/4	7/8
10	0.48	0.5	0.52	0.54	0.56	0.58	0.61	0.63
11	0.66	0.68	0.71	0.73	0.76	0.79	0.81	0.84
12	0.87	0.9	0.93	0.97	1	1.03	1.07	1.1
13	1.14	1.17	1.21	1.25	1.29	1.32	1.37	1.41
14	1.45	1.49	1.54	1.58	1.63	1.67	1.72	1.77
15	1.82	1.87	1.92	1.97	2.02	2.08	2.13	2.19
16	2.25	2.31	2.36	2.42	2.49	2.55	2.61	2.68
17	2.74	2.81	2.88	2.95	3.02	3.09	3.16	3.23
18	3.31	3.39	3.46	3.54	3.62	3.7	3.78	3.87
19	3.95	4.04	4.13	4.22	4.31	4.4	4.49	4.58
20	4.68	4.78	4.87	4.97	5.08	5.18	5.28	5.39
21	5.49	5.6	5.71	5.82	5.94	6.05	6.17	6.28
22	6.4	6.52	6.64	6.77	6.89	7.02	7.15	7.28
23	7.41	7.54	7.68	7.81	7.95	8.09	8.23	8.38
24	8.52	8.67	8.82	8.97	9.12	9.27	9.43	9.59
25	9.75	9.91	10.07	10.23	10.4	10.57	10.74	10.91
26	11.09	11.26	11.44	11.62	11.8	11.99	12.17	12.36
27	12.55	12.74	12.94	13.13	13.33	13.53	13.73	13.94
28	14.15	14.35	14.56	14.78	14.99	15.21	15.43	15.65
29	15.87	16.1	16.33	16.56	16.79	17.03	17.26	17.50

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(3178 fish were used to compute this table) Texas statewide Species: largemouth bass

C. Any lake that has Texas State "Exceptions to Statewide Harvest Regulations" will be conducted as a paper (AKA Board) tournament.

D. CALCULATING BIG BASS OF THE YEAR ENTRY AT A PAPER/Board TOURNAMENT

The method of calculation is as follows: All measurements to be in pounds (lbs)

1. The Angler's Big Bass Poundage measured to 1/100th of a pound with the angler's on-boat scale shall be given to the Tournament Director at weigh-in. The Scale used by the angler to weigh the fish presented for "Big Bass of the Year" recognition, will be given to the tournament director to "calibrate" the fish's official weight.

2. The Angler will bring the on-boat scale used to weigh their Big Bass entry to the Tournament Director at the time of weigh-in. The tournament director will then use angler's on-boat poundage scale to weigh the Club Reference Weight to determine any scale measured variance and record that measurement. The resulting variance measurement will be applied to the Angler's Big Bass Weight Value to determine the Big Bass recordable weight. The calculation used shall be as follows:

3. The difference (Plus or Minus) between the Club Reference Weight (5 lbs) and the Anglers on-boat scale poundage of the Club Reference Weight will be added or subtracted from the anglers reported fish weight to calculate the official Club Big Bass of the Year recognition poundage of that fish. Example Follows.

Example

- a. Angler's Big Bass Weight = 7 Lbs,
- b. Club Reference Weight = 5 Lbs
- c. Anglers on-boat scale poundage of the Club Reference Weight = 4.00 Lbs
- d. Weight Scale Difference = **+1.00 Lb**
- e. Official Weight for Annual Big Bass of the Year Recognition = 8 Lbs

Or

- a. Angler's Big Bass Weight = 7 Lbs,
- b. Club Reference Weight = 5 Lbs
- c. Anglers on-boat scale poundage of the Club Reference Weight = 6 Lbs
- d. Weight Scale Difference = **-1.00**
- e. Official Weight for Annual Big Bass Competition = 6 Lbs

Section 9.03 **Classic Tournament**

- A. A special committee consisting of the club's Vice President, Tournament Director and the most recent Angler of the Year is formed for the "Classic Tournament. The special committee will pick the lake, type of tournament, tournament hours, entry fee, any Club Classic prize money contribution and pay-out distribution. Each current Club Members participating in the tournament will be required to pay the entry fee to be eligible to participate. All entry fee money (100%) collected along with any other prize monies added will be distributed as prize money to the participants in accordance with the committee's "pay-out distribution."
- B. \$2.00 of each member's monthly dues will be placed into an account designated for the Annual Classic Tournament. The funds in this account are to be used as prize money to be awarded to the winners of the tournament. These funds plus 100% of any Classic Tournament entry fees collected will be distributed back to at least one half of the participants in the tournament. The Tournament Committee will decide how these funds will be divided (i.e. 15 participants pay either 7 or 8 places and the amounts paid to each place.). (AMD Dec-2012)
- C. To be eligible for the Classic Tournament, a member has to have been a member since July, participated in two tournaments, weighed in at least one bass, and be in good standing with the Club as of December 31st of the year that he/she qualifies, then they will be qualified to fish as a contestant in the tournament. All contestants are required to pay any required tournament entry fees. (CC Jan-2014 1.1 re-inserted)
- D. Members must be current, in good standing and active on the contact list to be eligible to participate in the Classic Tournament. Those who have left the Club for any reason prior to the Classic Tournament are not eligible to participate.

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Article X. **TOURNAMENTS GUIDELINES AND RULE BOOK**

Section 10.01 **General Tournament Rules**

- A. Lake selection shall be voted on a monthly basis up to three months prior to that tournament. The **Club's** normal monthly tournament will be the weekend after the monthly meeting of each month. All members present (no proxy votes) at each month's Monday meeting will vote on:
 - (1) Lake or combination of Lakes
 - (2) Ramp locations
 - (3) One- or Two-Day Event
 - (4) Start time, Check-in or End Time for each day
 - (5) Tournament Type and Game Requirements
- B. The tournament schedule shall not be changed, except at the Tournament Director's discretion for safety. The **Club** assumes no monthly tournament expenses for members.
- C. Club selection of lake or combination of lakes may be deviated from (non-safety reasons) if, and only if, a 100% unanimous vote of all Club members present including any Club member who is planning to attend the second day, votes to change the tournament lake. (AMD – Oct 2015)
- D. Each Tournament contestant or participate shall consist of:
 - Boaters - Members who own fishing boats and plan to use them in the Club tournaments.
 - Non-Boaters - Members who do not own fishing boats or use their own boat in a tournament.
- E. All contestants are expected to make their own arrangements for meals, lodging, travel, and boat expenses.
- F. It is customary that the non-boater should pay half of the boater's cost per day to the boater for operating expenses. Certain cases may require pairs to work out other arrangements. Such costs include, but not limited to, ramp fees, boat fuel, and travel fuel.
- G. To be eligible to participate in a tournament, a member has to be in good standing and current with dues as of the last meeting before the start time of the tournament.
- H. All tournaments of **TWBC** shall be catch-and release format. **TWBC** encourages a "catch & release" program for all purposes. This will assure that the sport of bass fishing will be preserved for ourselves as well as for future generations.
- I. Each Boat shall consist of two members or a member and a guest who pair together under mutual agreement. There is no limit to the number of tournaments a pair can fish together other than draw tournaments. Both members and guest must have signed the waiver of liability to compete. Guests are allowed to fish three times a year without dues, but weight/point amounts don't begin to accrue until dues are paid effective from that month forward. Retroactive accumulation of weights for guests are not permitted.
- J. State, Federal, local game laws, and the Club rules will be obeyed at all times.
- K. Lake rules pertaining to restricted areas as marked will always be observed.
- L. Each member and or participant shall have a valid Fishing license as required by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Section 10.02 **Game Requirements**

- A. Only largemouth, Kentucky spotted, Guadalupe, or smallmouth bass may be weighed.
- B. Generally, for the Club Standard harvesting requirement, each participant shall weigh-in only the largest five fish weights caught for each tournament day and each fish must be a minimal 14 inches in length or greater to be considered a legal catch.

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- C. All Tournaments (Standard, Paper, Draw, and Classic) types shall adhere to these qualifications and standards at all tournament events, unless the **Club** votes differently for each tournament when the lake is voted on.

Section 10.03 Participation & Eligibility

- A. Participation in the Club Monthly Tournament is for members in good standing.
- B. A Club member may fish in a tournament with an invited guest. Any member may also fish alone, unless it is a Club approved draw tournament. However, it is encouraged to provide all members a ride.
- C. Any participant in a Club Monthly Tournament may not be on the tournament lake with a guide from that lake within two weeks prior to the tournament.

Section 10.04 Tackle, Equipment, & Methods

- A. All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner with a fishing rod and fishing reel on artificial lures only. No trolling with the combustion engine or snagging of fish is permitted.
- B. Electric Trolling motor may be used for boat positioning only.
- C. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rind.
- D. Only one fishing rod and reel may be used at one time.
- E. Nets will be allowed to land a fish that is hooked by fishing rod and reel.
- F. Any mechanical device such as depth finder, thermometer, oxygen meter, etc, may be used unless it is a violation of Texas fishing laws.
- G. All fishing shall be from a boat. Fishing from a beached or docked boat is prohibited.
- H. Members may not pool their catches. Each participant shall keep his fish separate to facilitate individual weight scoring.
- I. Culling is permitted. Should a member already have in his possession a legal limit of Keeper fish and then catch another fish of keeper size which is larger than the smallest fish in his live-well, he can return the smaller fish to the lake and put the larger fish in his live-well. No dead fish can be culled. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of that tournament.

Section 10.05 Boat & Motor

- A. All boats and motors must meet all U.S. coast Guard and Texas Water Safety Standards. No motors shall exceed the BIA name plate rating for that boat.
- B. All boats must have a working kill switch unless the boat was not originally equipped and an adequate aerated and working live well.

Section 10.06 Safety

- C. A U.S. Coast Guard Approved chest type life preservers must be worn and fully fastened by all boat members at all times when the combustion engine is in operation and the kill switch must be attached to the operator unless the boat was not originally equipped.
- D. Engine kill switch lanyard shall be attached to the driver of the boat any time the main engine is running, and the propeller is engaged. (This is required by Texas Boating Law).

Section 10.07 Official Check-In

- A. The Tournament Director shall maintain a tournament check-in book. All members and or participants fishing the tournament should communicate with, as a minimum, the tournament director, as to their tournament plans and attendance status. The intent of this rule is to have the Club be aware of members in attendance and prevent a boat and anglers in trouble from being left on the lake.

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- B. At weigh-in time the member will present all Keeper fish in his possession. The Tournament Director will weigh the fish presented to him and will record the number and weight of those fish.
- C. All participants are to be checked in or be inside the "no wake buoy zone" by weigh-in time. Penalties or disqualification will be administered for contestants reporting in late, without exception.
- D. It is the Tournament Director's responsibility to accurately & consistently measure and weigh each fish brought to the weigh-in. The **Club** will use a standard measuring stick for all tournaments. All fish will be measured by accepted method, i.e. mouth closed, tail pinched, & flat on the board.
- E. The Tournament Director will see to it that all fish are handled with care and are returned to the lake in the best possible condition.
- F. Officers of the **Club** will assist the Tournament Director as requested. Any member or members that are designated by the Tournament Director will assist him by handling the weight in process.

Section 10.08 **Club Scoring**

- A. Scoring for all Club Monthly Tournaments will be in pounds to the hundredth place. All fish will be measured by the accepted method of Texas Department of Wildlife, i.e. mouth closed, pushed tight against the check stick, tail pinched, & flat on the board or stick. Tournament scoring and standings will be determined by heaviest weight or converted to a point value awarded in accordance with the approved Club matrix.
- B. The Scoring will begin on the first day of the January tournament and ending the last day of the December tournament.
- C. Yearly totals will be based on the accumulated weight or point total for each member's eleven (11) best Monthly Tournaments. Weights will be totaled in pounds to the nearest hundredth of a pound. Points will be totaled as recorded in whole numbers.

Section 10.09 **Trailing**

- A. Contestants may launch from anywhere on tournament waters, and trailer or come by water to the designated weigh-in. Members must directly notify and gain the approval from the tournament director the ramp location where he or she will launch and their itinerary intentions. Official check-in rules apply regardless of launch location.

Section 10.10 **Tournament Pots**

- A. The Tournament pots are an option, a separate activity from the **Club**, for each member at the Monthly Tournaments. Club members may elect prior to January to "OPT IN" or "OPT OUT" for the year and all new members will be afforded the opportunity to choose at their first Club Tournament. Pot fees are paid if a member is fishing (regardless of full or partial participation) the tournament. No fee is paid if the member is not at the tournament. At weigh-in a predetermined mutually agreed entry fee is collected from all entrants who "opted" to get into the pot. The pot will be paid out in accordance with the Tournament Pot Pay-out Matrix.
- B. The Tournament Director may develop the Tournament Pot Rules for use prior to each new year and as agreed upon by majority of the Club membership. The Rules will be in effect January through December unless suspended by the Club.
- D. The tournament pot is open to all current members of the **Club**. Guests are not permitted to participate in the Tournament Pot.

Section 10.11 **Sportsmanship**

- A. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport fishing will be disqualified and shall forfeit their tournament weight. This will be brought by tournament director to the Executive Committee for action if necessary.
- B. No fishing shall be permitted within casting distance of another member's boat, unless invited by the first party there.

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Section 10.12 Rule Infractions

- A. Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for disqualifications and forfeiture of weight for tournament infractions.

Section 10.13 Rule Changes

- A. The following rules shall remain unchanged throughout the events, but the tournament director shall have the right to make changes for safety considerations. All decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters.

Section 10.14 Emergency/Leave Early

- A. If a contestant or team wishes to leave the lake prior to weigh-in, that contestant MUST notify the tournament director or a tournament committee member, leave a note of their safety/well-being at the designated check-in area, or notify another tournament contestant that will be present at the weigh-in. This is a safety requirement we all must adhere to.

Section 10.15 Protests

- A. Any member who feels that any other member has violated the By-Laws or tournament rules shall present their protest to the President or Tournament Director within 15 minutes after the weigh-in. If the member is dissatisfied with the decision of the President or Tournament Director, then the Executive Committee will meet to decide what action is deemed necessary. Their decision will be final.
- B. The Tournament Director is the final arbitrator of disputes at tournaments.

Section 10.16 Penalties

- A. Dead Fish: 0.50-pound penalty for each dead fish weighed in. Dead fish is defined as not likely to live and is up to the tournament director's discretion.
- B. Illegal Fish: Fish presented at weigh-in, which is an illegal fish (Length, species, etc.) by the State of Texas and or of the Club rules, for the tournament waters, shall be penalized 1 pound per illegal fish and those illegal fish shall not be weighed in with the remaining legal fish weighed in minus a 1 pound deduction per illegal fish. A Secondary Courtesy check of any measurements, by another volunteered member, may be requested by tournament director to verify and validate length. Another measuring device may also be used to compare the results; however, the Tournament Director will determine all final conclusions.
- C. Tardiness: A penalty of 1 pound per each 5 minutes will accrue up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, no weight will be allowed. You must be in eyesight of the tournament director at the boat launch or wherever the weigh-in is, within the boundaries of the Marina or inside the "no wake buoy" zone.

Section 10.17 Special Situations

- A. Special circumstances may arise which require three to a boat. These will be allowed only with tournament director approval prior to the beginning of the tournament and with no protests filed.

Record of Amendments

Amended Feb-2012, V12.0

Amended Dec-2012, V12.1

Amended Jan-2014, V12.1.1

Amended Mar-2014, V12.1.2

Amended Mar-2015, V12.1.3

Amended Apr-2015, V12.1.4

Amended Oct-2015, V12.1.5

Amended Nov-2015, V12.1.6

Amended Jan-2017, V12.1.7

Amended Jun-2024, V13.1

AMD=Amendment

Ver13.1

