

Tampa Bay Junior BASS® Club Bylaws



ARTICLE I: CLUB

Section 1: Name and Purpose

- A. **Name:** This Junior B.A.S.S. Club chapter is called the Tampa Bay Junior Bass Club.
- B. **Purpose:** The purpose of our club is to promote and encourage youth fishing through education of fishing techniques, ethics, sportsmanship, and conservation.

Section 2: Membership and Dues

- A. **Number of members:** This chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six members.
- B. **Requirements for membership:**
 - 1. Be between 11 to 18 years old. If member turns 19 during the season the member can complete the season.
 - 2. Be a member of the Florida BASS Nation (included in club membership dues).
 - 3. Be a member of B.A.S.S. (not included in club membership dues).
 - 4. Must attend 70% (7 out of 10) of the club meetings.
 - 5. Active members of the Tampa Bay Junior Bass Club cannot participate in any other youth bass club.
- C. **Dues:** Dues for membership will be \$200.00 per year, in advance. This includes BASS Nation State and National memberships dues.
- D. **Refunds:** No Refunds. Fees are not pro-rated.
- E. **Removal of membership:** Removal from membership must be determined by two-thirds vote of the board. Removal from Club membership may be for the following:
 - 1. Any un-sportsmanlike conduct or illegal activities.
 - 2. Failure to pay annual membership dues.
 - 3. Failure to attend 7 out of 10 of the club meetings.
 - 4. Failure to participate in a minimum 4 regular season tournaments.

Section 3: Meetings

- A. Regular meetings will be held monthly at a set time and date. There are no meetings in November or December. Members are required to sign in at the beginning of the meeting. The Youth Board of Directors will complete a roll call during the meeting. Club members receive 3 points for each

meeting attendance for a maximum of 30 points. One missed meeting is allowed without point penalty.

- B. Members are highly encouraged to attend the club meeting prior to each tournament. If member cannot attend meeting, member must speak with one of the adult directors and make arrangements for payment to be received by the meeting date. Failure to do so will make member ineligible to fish in the tournament.

Section 4: Officers and Youth Board of Directors

- A. **President:** Presides over all meetings, keeping order and pace, assigns educational presentations and directs all official business with the guidance of an adult Co-Director. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.
- B. **Vice President:** Assist the president and all other officers in their duties as required with the guidance of an adult Co-Director. Assume all responsibilities of the President in the President's absence.
- C. **Club Secretary:** Maintain accurate meeting minutes. Present previous meeting minutes at each meeting. Maintain website, correspondence, and mail, tournament results and points. Report tournament results and points at meeting. Assist other officers in their duties, as required, with the guidance of an adult Co-Director.
- D. **Treasurer:** The treasurer will be an adult Co-Director.
- E. **Tournament Director (TD):** Directs matters pertaining to club tournaments with the guidance of an adult Co-Director. This includes check-in, boat/angler assignment, determine and announce off limit areas, start of the tournament, tournament weigh-ins. The TD's co-angler will be assisting the TD as a Co-TD for that tournament. The tournament director, with the assistance of an adult director, has final call on violations and disqualifications. Assist other officers in their duties, as required.
- F. **Voting Members:** Consists of a minimum of three elected anglers who provide a vote representing the members.
- G. **Youth Board of Directors:** The governing body for the Club which consists of the four elected officers and the five elected voting members.

Section 5: Elections

The election of Club Officers will be held annually at the last meeting of the season. Elections will be by a simple majority of the members present at that meeting. The election of each Officer will be held separately, in order listed above. The new Officers will take office on the first meeting of the new tournament year.

ARTICLE II: TOURNAMENTS

Section 1: Scheduling

Lake Selection: The annual schedule and lake selection will be made by the Youth Board of Directors prior to the first meeting of the year (January).

Section 2: Tournament Fees

Tournament entry fee is \$40.00 per angler per tournament. Tournament entry fee must be received by the meeting prior to the tournament.

Section 3: Failure to Participate

If a member fails to participate in the tournament, that member will be considered a “NO SHOW” for the tournament. If the member had paid his entry fee for the tournament, the \$40 fee which secured his boater will be forfeited to cover boater’s expense. There will be no refund.

Section 4: Tournament Assignments

- A. Anglers will be drawn and paired at random to be placed with a boater. Drawing will occur at the meeting prior to the tournament.
- B. If an angler’s family member is a volunteer boater the angler may be placed with the boater if they desire.
- C. First time member can be paired with a friend for the first-time member’s first tournament.

Section 5: Tournament Rules

- A. **Sportsmanship:** It is expected that each angler practice good sportsmanship in all they do.
- B. **Safety:** Life jackets must be worn when the big motor is on.
- C. **Boat Assignment and Start Sequence:** Boat assignment/starting order for boats will be randomly drawn and available the morning of the tournament. The last boater drawn will release the boats with safe minimum frequency (call boat).
- D. **Launch Time:** The Adult Tournament Director will determine safe light and the start of the tournament.
- E. **Late Arrivals:** Everyone is expected to arrive on time to a tournament. If you are going to be late to a tournament, you must contact an Adult Director prior to designated arrival time to inform them of your planned participation.
- F. **Black Bass Only:** Only largemouth black bass will be weighed in.
- G. **Bait:** Only artificial bait may be used with conventional casting, spinning, fly, or flipping rods. No live bait permitted. Only one rod may be in use at any time by each angler.
- H. **Possession limit:** The weigh-in limit will be five fish per day per angler, or governed by the state laws of the body of water that is being fished.
- I. **Minimum length exemption:** Anglers must keep signed exemption paper with them at all times during tournament to be exempt from minimum length requirements.
- J. **Penalties for dead fish:** 0.25lb. penalty for each dead fish. The TD will determine dead fish. Penalty will be deducted from the total weight. Big bass cannot be a dead fish. All live fish will be released after weigh-in, and all dead fish will be removed from the lake. No culling of dead fish permitted.
- K. **Front of Boat Time:** Each angler is to be allowed equal time at the front of the boat.

- L. **Communication:** During tournament hours, competitors cannot use a cellular phone or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Use of cell phone applications is not permitted. Anglers are permitted to utilize cellular devices only in the event of an emergency or for a medical condition.
- M. **Weigh-In Time:** Weigh in will be at 1:00 p.m. unless communicated otherwise. There is a .25lb penalty for each minute angler is late to weigh-in. After 15 minutes angler will be disqualified.
- N. **Off limits:** All off limits areas will be designated by the youth TD at the final meeting prior to the tournament and prior to tournament launch.
- O. **Insurance and Liability:** The club shall assume no responsibility or liability for injuries, damage, or theft of personal property during any club function. The club will not pay for insurance covering any individual member, as this is a not-for-profit club.
- P. **Alcohol / drugs:** No alcoholic beverages / drugs will be present at any club event. Possession of alcohol / drugs will cause immediate removal from the club. This is a zero tolerance policy.
- Q. **Rule Violations:** All protests must be presented before the scales are closed. The Youth TD and Adult Director have final call on violations and disqualifications.
- R. **Weigh-in Bags:** Only bags provided by the club will be used for tournament weigh in.
- S. **Fishing License:** Any member 16 years old or older must provide a copy of their fishing license to the Adult TD. The valid fishing license and photo ID must be kept with them during the tournament.
- T. **Dress Code:** Club jerseys are to be worn during tournaments. If a member does not have a jersey, other appropriate fishing attire may be worn. Shirt and shorts/pants must be worn at all times during club events.

Section 6: Tournament Scoring

Tournament scoring will be based on individual tournament points per age group: Junior Division (11-14 yrs.) and Senior Division (15-18 yrs.) as of January 1st of the current year. Each Club member will remain in the age group that they started out the year in regardless of birthday.

- A. **First Place:** 50 points
- B. **Subsequent Placement of anglers who caught fish:** 2nd place will receive 3 less points than 1st place which equals 47 pts. Every place after 2nd place will receive 1 less point for each place, for example, 3rd place will receive 46 pts, 4th place will receive 45 pts, etc.
- C. **Participant Points:** for anglers who did not catch fish their points will be 5 points less than the last participant in their division who caught fish.

Section 7: Tournament Awards

- A. **1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Tournament Awards:** Determined by official weight at each tournament. These awards will be presented for each age group.
- B. **Big Bass Award:** To be received by the angler with the single fish of highest weight. This award will be presented for each age group.
- C. **Dink Award:** to be received by angler with the single fish of the smallest weight. This award will be presented for each age group.

Section 8: Classic Tournament

Each angler must participate in a minimum of 4 regular Club tournaments for the current season in order to qualify for the Club classic.

ARTICLE III: CLUB AWARDS

Section 1: Point Standings

Annual point standings will be determined by points earned at:

- A. Tournaments: 50 points possible per tournament; Points from one of the 6 tournaments will be dropped. This can be a missed tournament or a tournament the angler did not score as many points in.
- B. Meetings: 3 points per meeting.
- C. One meeting may be missed with no point penalty.

Section 2: Awards

- A. **1st and 2nd place Angler of the Year Awards:** Annual point standings winners will receive awards respectively to be presented at the end of the season. These awards will be presented for each age group.
- B. **Big Bass of the Year Award:** Will be presented at the end of the season. This award will be awarded for overall big bass for the entire club.

ARTICLE IV: BYLAWS

Section 1: Changes to Bylaws

Bylaws may only be changed by vote of the Youth Board of Directors. Any member who has a suggested change must submit it in writing to the Youth Board of Directors. The Youth Board of Directors will present suggestion at the next meeting for justification of change. Within 3 days the Youth Board of Directors will vote on proposal and notify club of results.

ARTICLE V: JUNIOR/HIGH SCHOOL FISHING DIVISION OF THE TAMPA BAY JUNIOR BASS CLUB

Section 1: Membership

- A. Angler must be a member of the Tampa Bay Junior Bass Club
 - 1. If angler is on the TBJBC waiting list or chooses not to be a full member then they may still fish high school series by joining TBJBC Junior/High School Fishing only.
 - i. Dues for the high school season are covered by the TBJBC dues. The high school season typically runs September through May.

- B. Angler must have a signed denial form from their high school which states their school has no bass fishing program.
- C. Angler must have a signed junior/high school BASS release form.
- D. Angler must pay \$30 National BASS dues and \$25 State dues. This is separate from the TBJBC dues.
- E. Angler must be a member of B.A.S.S.

Section 2: Tournaments

- A. Junior/High School angler team is responsible for securing their own boat captain for junior/high school tournaments. Boat captains must be approved by high school director.
- B. Team is responsible for covering all tournament related expenses including, but not limited to, boater fuel, lodging, etc.
- C. Angler team is responsible to register on the Florida BASS Nation website for the tournaments they participate in.
- D. If a junior/high school jersey is not provided by a sponsor, the angler will be required to purchase the current team jersey. This jersey is to be worn at minimum during junior/high school tournament weigh in.