

Mansfield Bassmasters

By-Laws-(2011 Revised)

Mansfield, Texas 76063

Article 1-Name and purpose

Section 1- Name

This chapter shall be called the Mansfield Bassmasters of Mansfield, Texas.

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 crime. To improve our skill as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass-catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing, and a love for this great recreation. The top three finishers of each club tournament must, at the next official club meeting, relate their fish catching pattern. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

Article 2- Membership

Section 1- Number of Members

The chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six charter members. During the chapter's first six months of existence, total general membership shall not exceed 50 members.

Section 2- Requirement for membership

To become a chapter member, a person shall:

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) All members must be current members of B.A.S.S.
- (c) Be recommended by one member at a regular monthly meeting.

- (d) Acceptance shall be voted on by present members and affirmation must be unanimous.
- (e) Must be 16 years of age, or 15 if joining and fishing with a parent.
- (f) New potential member must attend a meeting to join. Joining at the ramp will not be permitted.

Section 3- Membership Dues

The annual membership dues shall be \$25.00 annually, payable upon being voted into the chapter. Annual club dues may be changed by a majority of members present at the regular December club meeting. It is an additional \$50.00 to join the Federation Nation and Texas B.A.S.S.

Article 3- Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility

Section 1- Officers and their Duties

The officers of the chapter shall consist of:

- (a) President: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be an ex officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.
- (b) Secretary: Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the chapter president. Maintain regular liaison between the chapter and Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and the Texas B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation.
- (c) Treasurer: Collect and disburse all monies. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each regular meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the Chapter Board of Directors. The treasurer and at least one other elected officer must have official access to chapter funds (i.e. check writing authorization, etc.)

Section 2- Elections

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of December. Election shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in Article 3, section 1.

Section 3- Eligibility of Vote

Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

Section 4- Term of Office

The term of office is for two years, which shall begin on January 1, and end on the last meeting day of December of the second year or until the successor assumes office. Original slate of officers shall serve until the last meeting day of the following December.

Section 5- Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating and office. National B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

Section 6- Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- (a) Have been a member for one year.

Article 4- Standing Committees

All standing committees will serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The terms of the committee members will coincide with that of the president. Each board member may only represent one office listed above. If the total number of Board members is less than five (5), the club will elect additional members to fill the board to a total of five (5) at the regular December meeting.

- (a) Board of Directors: The Board of Directors will consist of five (5) members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past-President.
 - a. The president will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
 - b. The secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
 - c. The board will decide all protests/violations of Chapter by Laws. Authority to rule on protests/ violations of club tournament rules rest solely with the tournament director.
- (b) Youth Committee: The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and implement a Chapter Youth Project: to introduce young people to the goals of B.A.S.S.; to give them a basis for respect of our national heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and good sportsmanship, and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of fishing.
- (c) Conservation Committee: The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change; to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices ; to take political action to improve our environment; to take legal action where appropriate; to undertake international and educational programs to bring public awareness to threats to our environment; and to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.
- (d) Tournament Committee: The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize, and operate all chapter tournaments. The tournament committee shall consist of a tournament director and assistant tournament director, appointed annually at the

December meeting, by the newly elected president, and any aides enlisted by the Tournament director. The Tournament director will:

- a. Draft any changes to established tournament rules.
- b. Present new rules, at the January meeting
- c. Update angler standings on a monthly basis.
- d. Direct and manage tournament weigh-ins.
- e. Establish tournament rules, including changes, prior to the first club tournament in a calendar year. These club approved rules remain valid and unchangeable for any club tournament in that calendar year.
- f. With concurrence of club membership, establish number, type (i.e. Night, 2-day, etc.), and tentative dates of tournaments and present to the club for discussion and approval at the January meeting. Once established, tournament type and date may not be changed except by 100% approval of all club members. (Tournament start and end times may be changed by the tournament director in unusual circumstances.)
- g. Keep all tournament records
- h. Be the final authority for enforcing all tournament rules and deciding all tournament protests.

The assistant tournament director will assist the tournament director at weigh in and help with points computations.

Article 5- Removal of Membership

Section 1- Removal of Membership

A member shall be dropped from the membership role for the following:

- (a) Failure to pay dues
- (b) Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter
- (c) A member that is removed from the club for any reason will not be allowed to rejoin indefinitely.

Article 6- Affiliation

Section 1- Requirements for Affiliation

- (a) Approval of Chapter Charter by B.A.S.S.
- (b) Update B.A.S.S. with a Chapter membership roster once each year, immediately following election of Chapter Officers and Directors.
- (c) Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur. The necessary forms and included in the B.A.S.S. Chapter handbook.

- (d) Maintain 80% B.A.S.S. membership
- (e) Support state federation conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the state federation establishes for chapters, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc. would be necessary in order for the chapter to participate in the state federation qualifying tournaments, and any other federation sponsored tournaments or events.

Article 7- Method of amending the constitution

Section 1- Amending the Constitution and BY-LAWS

The Chapter BY LAWS may only be amended at the regular December club meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of general membership present. Written notice of proposed changes and tournament rules changes should be presented at the regular November club meeting. Approved changes will take effect on January 1 of the next tournament year.