



CLUB ESTALISHED IN 1991

TBF CLUB # 6274



BUTLER COUNTY BASSMASTERS

BY-LAWS AND COSTITUTIONS

(Revised Dec 5, 2017)

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1: NAME

- A. This charter shall be called the "Butler County Bassmasters".

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

- A. To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport.
- B. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support.
- C. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes, and to demand quality water standards.
- D. To detect and report all polluters, and demand that they be held accountable for their actions.
- E. To improve skills as bass anglers through fellowship, and friendly exchange of techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing and a love of this great sport.
- F. To function as an affective link with the other charters of the Ohio Bass Federation, embracing all the principles and purpose of the TBF/FLW.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: CHARTER SIZE RESTRICTIONS

- A. This chapter shall maintain no less than six (6) charter members as is required for affiliation by the Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW.
- B. This charter shall not exceed a maximum limit of twenty (20) members.

SECTION 2: CHARTER REQUIREMENTS AND APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Person(s) interested in joining the charter must attend a charter meeting and voluntarily express interest in joining the charter and is required to be at least sixteens (16) years of age.
- B. Person(s) must have 1 recommendation from an existing member of the charter whom is in good standing.
- C. Person(s) is required to fish as a guest in one charter tournament with another existing charter member, other than the member that recommended the person(s) for membership.
- D. After completing a charter tournament, the club will hear testimony from the member who fished with guest. After testimony is heard, all present charter members must reach a 100% vote for acceptance into the charter.
- E. Upon competition of vote, elected member will be advised that as member of the charter, all members are required to be members of the Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP DUES

- A. This charters' fiscal year shall begin January 1st and shall end December 31st of the same corresponding year. A yearly member ship due of \$95.00 is required to maintain membership to this charter.
- B. Membership dues shall be used in the following manner.
 - 1. \$50.00 for each members FLW\TBF Membership Fee

2. \$30.00 for each members Ohio Bass Federation Membership as required by the TBF/FLW
 3. \$15.00 for Charter Membership
- C. Payment of yearly dues shall be handled as follows.
1. As the Ohio Bass Federation, TBF/FLW renewal fee is paid in December for the upcoming year, no less than \$80.00 of the charter membership dues shall be paid later than the end of the December meeting of the preceding year.
 - Members who pay the minimum \$80.00 due, must pay the remaining \$15.00 for the upcoming season, or will be suspended from charter activities until the remaining dues are paid in full.
 - Failure to pay the minimum due of \$80.00 by the end of the December meeting will result in disqualify from the charter and will forfeit entry into the upcoming season regional tournament as a member of this charter.
 - Any member who is dismissed for payment failure will be required to reapply to charter and will require a vote of no less than 100% of voting members to be re-installed to member status.
 2. New members who join after the beginning of the year.
 - If member joining has come from another charter that was also a part of the Ohio Bass Federation, TBF/FLW. Then members' dues will be prorated based on the remaining tournaments in the charters existing season. In addition, the member will be asked to supply charter Secretary with his or her TBF/FLW member number so as to have member re-assigned to the Butler County Bassmasters charter.

ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND OFFICE ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1: OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PRESIDENT

1. Presides over all meetings, directs all official business, appoints and directs all committee functions and supervises all club activities.

B. VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Assists President in his duties. Presides in absence of President.

C. SECRETARY

1. Maintains accurate minutes of all meetings and maintains regular liaison with this charter, Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW. Officer also reports all new information to the members, and reports any and all bills to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

D. TREASURER

1. Maintains accurate financial records, gives cash flow reports at each meeting and handles all financial matters.
2. Collects Tournament Entry Fee's and disperses tournament payouts. If treasurer cannot be present for tournament, then role falls to the Tournament Director.

E. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

1. Responsible for overseeing and enforcing the rules as stipulated in the charters Tournament Format rules.
2. Will set times for tournaments, perform fish weigh-ins, and record tournament data.

3. In the event the tournament director cannot be present for a tournament, it will be his responsibility to find a member whom can perform his role at the preceding tournament and make certain that all materials required for tournament weigh-in and recording are provided to the member assuming his role for that tournament.
- F. MEDIA COORDINATOR
1. Will handle media relations for the charter and be responsible for maintaining and updating the charters website and or other media related material.
- G. YOUTH COORDINATOR
1. Responsible for planning and arranging club youth activities and completing necessary paper work as required for the Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW.
- H. ENVIROMENTAL CORDINATOR
1. Responsible for planning and arranging environmental activities and completing necessary paper work as required for the Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW.
- I. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
1. Shall consist of five (5) charter members based on club seniority and one (1) alternate. In the event that a member of the Grievance Committee is under investigation for a violation of the by-laws, then the alternate member shall take his place. The Grievance Committee is responsible for handling all complaints and violations of charters rules and regulations. A majority vote from the committee member's present is needed to issue changes or disciplinary actions including dismissal from the charter.
 2. GREIVANCE COMMITTEE 2018
 - Andy Tobe
 - Bob Farmer
 - Danny Schmitz Sr.
 - Ernie Shuler
 - Toney Barker
 3. ALTERNATE 2018
 - Tony Vieson

SECTION 2: TERMS OF OFFICE

- A. Term of all office shall be one (1) year and will begin January 1st and end Decembers 31st
- B. Should an office change in the middle of the year due to vacancy, the corresponding office will still be up for re-election with the other offices during the last meeting of the year.

SECTION 3: ELECTIONS

- A. During the final meeting of the year, nominations will be taken for each office in the order in which they are presented in Article 3, Section 1.
- B. Only members who are present at the meeting can nominate, be nominated, or cast a vote during the election process.
- C. Members that can be consider for any office must be in good standing within the charter and a member of the charter for at least six (6) months of more.
- D. Each members vote counts as one (1) vote and the candidate whom has the majority vote shall be elected to the corresponding office.
- E. Upon a change of office, the new officer shall assume all responsibilities of that office as of January 1st of the preceding year.

SECTION 4: VACANCIES

- A. In the event a vacancy in office should occur during the year, an election will be held at the next corresponding meeting. To which a new candidate will be nominated and voted on during that meeting by members present at the meeting. Though the election is outside the normal guide lines, the election shall still follow the rules as listed in Article 3, Section 3
- B. The elected candidate shall assume the responsibilities of that office at the end of that meeting and notification shall be sent to the Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW as to the change of office.

ARTICLE 4: AMENDING THE BY-LAWS AND/OR TOURNAMENT FORMAT

SECTION 1: PROCEDURE & GUIDELINES

- A. In order to call for a change or addition to the charter By-Laws or charter Tournament Format. A member whom has been a charter member for at least one (1) year must make a motion for a changer or addition to the By-Laws or Tournament Format.
- B. After a motion has been presented, it must be approved and seconded by charter members whom have been members for at least one (1) year or more and present at the meeting.
- C. The Secretary will then be responsible to notify all existing members who were not present at the meeting the details of the motion that was presented.
- D. The motion will them be voted on during the next charter meeting.
- E. Only charter members whom have been charter members for one (1) year or longer will be allowed to cast a vote.
- F. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote must be acquired for motion to carry.
- G. It will then be the Secretary's responsibility to make sure any members not present during the meeting are made aware of the amended changes to the By-Laws or Tournament Format and updating the By-Laws or Tournament Format documentation.

ARTICLE 5: CHARTER MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

SECTION 1: REASONS A CHARTER MEMBERS MEMBERSHIP CAN BE TERMINATED

- A. Failure to pay dues as outlined in Article 2, Section 3
- B. Conduct unbecoming as member of this charter that would bring dishonor to this charter, the Ohio Bass Federation, or TBF/FLW

ARTICLE 6: CHARTER AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1: THIS CHARTER MUST MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING

- A. All charter members must maintain membership with the Ohio Bass Federation as required by the TBF/FLW
- B. All charter members must maintain membership with the TBF/FLW
- C. Charter must present a current complete yearly roster to the TBF, Inc. headquarters, including names and address of all members.
- D. All Ohio Bass Federation and TBF/FLW dues must be paid in full by the last charter meeting in December of the preceding year.

ARTICLE 7: REIMBURSEMENT FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES

SECTION 1: TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

- A. There will be 1 designated vehicle for travel to the Columbus Winner Dinner results. Owner of designated vehicle will be reimburse \$20.00. No receipt required.

- B. There will be 1 designated vehicle for travel to the Dayton Region 5 meeting. Owner of designated vehicle will be reimburse \$10.00. No receipt required.

SECTION 2: CHARTER COMMUNITY AND ENVIROMENTAL EXPENSES

- A. Reimbursement for community and environmental expenses will be reimburse up to \$20.00. Any expenses greater than \$20.00 must be approved in advance by charter. Receipt for expenses required.

SECTION 3: PLAQUES, AWARDS, AND PATCHES

- A. Purchase of winner plaques, patches, or awards will be reimbursed by the club. Receipt will be required.

ARTICLE 8: CHARTER BENEFITS

SECTION 1: REWARDS

- A. Angler of the Year will be determined by the Angler who has the largest total weigh-in at the end of the season and will receive a plague with the Anglers name and title of Angler of the Year.
- B. Big Bass winner will be the Angler who caught the largest weigh-in bass for the entire season and will receive a plague with the Anglers name and title of Big Bass Winner.

SECTION 2: REGION 5 OHIO BASS FEDERATION REGIONALS

- A. As member(s) of this charter, the top performers from the previous season will be selected as a two (2) man team to represent this charter in the Ohio Bass Federation Regionals consisting of 1 boater and 1 non-boater. Top finishers have a chance for advancement to the Ohio Bass Federation State Qualifying Tournament.
 - 1. The number of two (2) man teams selected for regionals will be determined by the Ohio Bass Federation Region 5 rules, which may be determined by club size.
 - 2. The representing team(s) must be comprised of 1 boater and 1 non-boater for each team(s).

SECTION 3: OHIO BASS FEDERATION OHIO TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

- A. Qualification to participate in the Ohio Bass Federation Ohio Tournament of Champions based on standings from the previous year. This tournament is for advancement of two (2) individuals to a Northern Division State Champions Tournament.
 - 1. This tournament is by invitation by Ohio Bass Federation clubs only. Each club may send (1) one two (2) man team to this event.
 - 2. The team will consist of the top two (2) performs based on previous year standings. The top finisher will have the choice to participate as a boater or non-boater.

ARTICLE 9: BCB CLUB FISH OFF

SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT DETAILS

- A. The BCB CLUB FISH OFF shall be a two (2) day tournament and location will be selected during the first meeting of a new season.
- B. Points acquired during the BCB CLUB FISH OFF will also be counted for the regular season point standings.
- C. First, Second, and Third will be determine by the total weight caught for both days of the tournament.
- D. Big Bass Winner will also be selected by the largest bass caught during the entire two (2) day tournament. This bass will also be counted toward the seasons Big Bass competition.

SECTION 2: PARTICIPATION RULES

- A. Participants must be a full member of the club and have paid the complete dues for the season regardless of when the member joined the club.
- B. BCB CLUB FISH OFF entry fee shall be \$7.00 times the number of tournaments in the given season including the BCB CLUB FISH OFF.
- C. Normal tournament entry fee of \$30.00 the day of the tournament shall also apply.

SECTION 3: ENTRY FEE BREAKDOWN

- A. \$7.00 BCB CLUB FISH OFF Entry Fee
 - \$5.00 toward BCB CLUB FISH OFF Tournament Winner
 - \$2.00 toward BCB CLUB FISH OFF "BIG BASS" Winner
- B. \$30.00 Standard Tournament Entry Fee
 - \$10.00 will be applied to the charters general fund
 - \$10.00 will be added to the tournament purse
 - \$5.00 will go toward the 2nd place purse
 - \$2.00 will go toward the Angler of the Year
 - \$3.00 will go toward the "BIG BASS" purse

SECTION 4: PAYOUT

- A. 1st Place receives 100% of the BCB CLUB FISH OFF entry fee.
- B. 2nd Place receives the 2nd place purse plus 60% of the tournament purse.
- C. 3rd Place receives 40% of the tournament purse.
- D. "BIG BASS" Winner receives 100% of the Big Bass purse.

ARTICLE 9: FINAL NOTES

While these By-Laws and Constitutions are for use by the charter known as Butler County Bassmasters, all prevailing state laws and Ohio Bass Federation Tournament rules, By-Laws, and Constitutions not listed here still apply.

Members found in violation of any rules or laws will be disqualified from the tournament, and potentially removed from the charter (depending on the severity of the infraction a possible vote could be held to determine resulting discipline), and could be subject to prosecution under state law.

BUTLER COUNTY BASSMASTERS

2018 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Tournament Director and Backup will be expected to have a copy of the Tournament Format and Club Rules and By-Laws at all club related tournaments

ARTICLE 1: PARTICIPANTS

SECTION 1: MEMBERS AND GUEST(S)

- A. A member's number of fish caught, total fish weight, and Big Bass weight will be recorded at the end of each tournament. These values will be added to the season tournament chart and used to determine seasons Angler of the Year and Big Bass Winner.
- B. Guest who fish at charter tournaments will have their total fish caught, total fish weight, and Big Bass weight recorded, but will not be eligible to win the existing tournament or big bass competition. In addition, these totals will not be added to the season tournament chart unless guest expresses interest in becoming a member of this charter. Once accepted as member of the charter, the guest points will be recorded into the tournament season chart and applied toward there points for the Angler of The Year and Big Bass season standings.

ARTICLE 2: TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: APPROVED TACKLE

- A. Artificial Baits Only Including Electronic Baits
 - 1. Exceptions - Pork Strips and Rinds.
- B. Closed, Open, and Bait Casting Reels with fishing rods not exceeding the length of eight (8) feet from butt to tip.

SECTION 2: UNAPPROVED TACKLE

- A. Live Bait such as but not limited to Minnows, Worms, and Crickets.
- B. No CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) equipment is permitted during tournament hours
- C. No fish tagging or fish tag tracking equipment aloud during tournament hours.

ARTICLE 3: BOATER REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS TO FISH AS A BOATER

- A. Must have means to measure fish length including bump board and or ruler
- B. Must have a live well large enough to hold two (2) limits of bass.
 - 1. Use of stringers or baskets is prohibited
- C. Must maintain a minimum of \$300,000.00 liability boating insurance coverage and a copy of the insurance must be turned into the charters' Secretary to be kept on file. An updated copy is expected at the beginning of each season.
- D. Maximum horsepower rating of motor shall not exceed the BIR rating as listed on the boat.

ARTICLE 4: REQUIRED WATER SAFTEY AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: EQUIPMENT

- A. All Anglers, Boaters or Non-Boaters are required to have their own Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver.
 - 1. If a life preserver is forgotten, an Angler may borrow a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver from another Angler. If Angler is unable to come up with a Coast

Guard approved chest-type life preserver for tournament, then Angler will not be permitted to fish.

- B. Boaters must have Coast Guard safety equipment in boat as mandated by the state law of the lake or river being fished.

SECTION 2: WATER SAFETY

- A. All Anglers are required to have life vest on, strapped, snapped, and or zipped securely to one's self any time that boat motor is running and shall not be removed until the motor is turned off. Failure to comply will result in tournament disqualification.

ARTICLE 5: SCORING, CULLING, LIMITS, PENALTIES

SECTION 1: SCORING

- A. Scoring will be equal to the total weight of fish caught to the nearest 100th of a pound.
- B. Big Bass scoring is the weight of the fish you select to be weighed for Big Bass. You can only select 1 fish to be weighed.

SECTION 2: LIMITS AND SIZE

- A. Each tournament will have a max five (5) limit, unless the lake or river being fish has a different limit as mandated by the State that the lake or river presides in.
- B. The size of the fish a loud to be kept will also be mandated by State Law and may vary by lake, river, and state.
- C. The bass size and limit will be announced at the start of each tournament, so listen closely to avoid penalties at weigh-in.
- D. If more fish are brought in than the limit allows, then the largest fish will be released.

SECTION 3: CULLING

- A. During a tournament, competitors are permitted to release smaller fish in favor of larger fish, with the following exceptions.
 - 1. You are not permitted to cull a dead fish, being caught doing so will result in a penalty.
 - 2. The Lake or River being fished has a no cull restriction. If this is the case, the Tournament Director will announce this at the beginning of the tournament.

SECTION 4: PENALTIES

- A. (Beginning of tournament) Boaters who are not in the water at the official "blast off" site as designated by the tournament directors start time shall be penalized one (1) pound. A non-boater shall be exempt from this penalty, provided he is at the designated ramp by the time the tournament director has indicated to the boaters to put their boats in the water. In this case, he will be paired with a boater who does not have a non-boater. In this event, the tournament director will handle the pairing.
- B. Boaters who are late for "blast off", that wish to compete must complete the following in order for their weight (less the 1 lb. Penalty) to count:
 - 1. Contact the tournament director (via phone, or in person), and indicate their desire to compete (For safety reasons).
 - 2. Submit to a livewell check on the water with any club member prior to fishing.
- C. (End of competition) Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute for each one (1)

minute he or is late, to be deducted from the total weight of his or her catch. After ten (10) minutes the result will be total disqualification and loss of all standings for the day. The following exception will be made.

1. In the event of a breakdown, competitors can flag down another boat, transfer the fish to another boat and one person may take the fish to weigh-in or send word with another club member to keep from being charged with late penalties.
- D. In case a competitor(s) must leave from tournament early, the competitor(s) must notify the tournament director before hand, if possible or another competitor during the tournament or leave a written message on the tournament director's vehicle. If none of the above actions are taken, the competitor(s) may be disciplined.
- E. Any competitor who weighs-in a short fish will be deducted one (1) pound plus the weight of the short fish, from the competitor's total weigh-in.
 1. There will be no 1/8" grace area for measuring the length of a fish. (A courtesy board will be available. This must be done prior to the tournament director handling the fish.
- F. Any fish weighed in that is dead will still be counted toward the anglers' total fish weigh-in, but will be subject to a negative 4 ounce (1/4 lb/.25 Butler County Bassmasters scales) penalty for every dead fish weighed in.

SECTION 5: TIES

- A. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined in the following manner.
 1. The competitor who caught the most fish.
 2. The competitor with the largest fish.
 3. Flip of a coin.

SECTION 6: NO FISH BROUGHT TO SCALE

- A. In the event no fish are submitted for weigh-in, tournament fees collected for the tournament purse will be applied to the charters general fund.
- B. If there is no second place finisher due to no fish to weigh-in, then the tournament purse for the second place finisher will be applied to the charters general fund.
- C. If there is no "Big Bass" winner because there were no fish weighed, the fees collected for "Big Bass" will roll over to the next club tournament. Any person(s) who cannot fish the next tournament will receive a \$3.00 refund. In addition, any competitor who fishes the next tournament, but was not present for the previous tournament, will need to pay \$6.00 to be considered eligible for "Big Bass" purse instead of the usual \$3.00.

SECTION 7: TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

- A. Angler pairings will change with each tournament.
- B. Any boater or non-boater who wishes to participate in the upcoming tournament must send word to a member present at pairing meeting.
- C. There will be 2 bags containing tokens, 1 for boaters and 1 for non-boaters.
- D. Boaters will be selected first, and there start position will be set by the order they are picked.
- E. Non-boaters will be selected second and will be paired in the same order the boaters were picked and is required to get in touch with their assigned boater no later than 2 days prior to the scheduled tournament by 9:00PM EST.
- F. During the drawling process, if two (2) Anglers are paired together that were paired together at the previous tournament, then the non-boating Angler will be redrawn.

1. The exception to this rule will be the charters fish off. As this is a 2 day event, the pairing will count for 2 days.
 2. If boating and non-boating Anglers are both in the running for Angler of the Year during the final season tournament, the Anglers may request different pairings.
- G. Boaters must notify the Tournament Director if there is any reason they cannot make the tournament they committed to so a replacement boater can be found for the non-boater.

SECTION 6: ENTRY FEES

- A. The entry fee for each tournament shall be \$30.00 for members and \$28.00 for guest.
1. \$10.00 will be applied to the charters general fund
 2. \$10.00 will be added to the tournament purse
 3. \$5.00 will go to first place finisher
 4. \$2.00 will go to Angler of the Year (Guest do not contribute to Angler of the Year)
 5. \$3.00 will go to Big Bass Purse

SECTION 7: TOURNAMENT PAYOUTS

- A. Payout for completed tournaments will be as follows
1. 1st Place will earn 60% of the collected tournament purse
 2. 2nd Place will earn 40% of the collected tournament purse
 3. "Big Bass Winner" will earn 100% of the collected "Big Bass" purse.

SECTION 8: GENERAL RULES

- A. Competitor(s) may use one (1) fishing rod at a time.
1. Additional rods may be equipped with bait and ready for use.
- B. Fish must be caught a live and in a sporting manner.
- C. There must be a minimum of three (3) competitors to make a tournament official.
- D. At start of tournament, boats will be released in the order they were drawn.
- E. Use of CB Radio, VHF Marine Band Radio, a Cell Phone, or forms of communication to aid in locating fish during tournament hours is prohibited.
- F. If all competitors are present at tournament site who have acknowledged they will be at the tournament, the tournament director has the right to change the tournament site and or hours with the majority vote.
1. In the event of safety concerns or bad weather conditions, the tournament director has the final decision to cancel the tournament.

SECTION 9: CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Competitor(s) will conduct themselves in a professional manner before, during, and after the tournament. During club tournaments, the tournament director or back tournament director have final say on tournament related matters. Any other complaints, grievances, club by-law violation should be taken to and brought up during the next club meeting.
- B. Ludes comments or gestures before, during, and after the tournament will not be tolerated.
- C. Use of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.
- D. Any violation of the "CODE OF CONDUCT" can result in disciplinary action including but not limited to docking of points, tournament disqualification, and or termination of charter membership.