

Four Seasons Bass Club By-laws

Ratified : February 9, 2011 (See page 9 for details.)

Article I Name

Sec. 1 - The name of the club shall be The Four Seasons Bass Club.

Sec. 2 - The CLUB is a non-profit, non-partisan, unincorporated group.

Article II Objective

Sec. 1 - The objective of this club is to develop its members to be competitive bass anglers, stressing structure fishing, seasonal patterns, migration patterns, weather, and water conditions.

Article III Admission of New Members

Sec. 1 - The Club shall have a preferred optimum of twenty-two (22) members. However, more members may be added at any time. Approval for additional membership is subject to a club vote at the time of the application submittal.

Sec. 2 - An applicant for membership shall meet the following minimum requirements.

- a.) Proposed members must be eighteen (18) years of age or older with exception to persons sixteen (16) through eighteen (18) years of age may be considered with written permission from their parent or legal guardian who is a club member in good standing.
- b.) Proposed member must be sponsored by a club member.
- c.) Proposed member must have fished with their sponsor or a club member.
- d.) Proposed member must submit an application.
- e.) Proposed member must attend at least one meeting at which time the application will be read.
- f.) If the proposed member has not fulfilled section 2 - Item c. prior to the first tournament, their name will be put into the draw, however they will not be fishing for points, or cash. Nor shall they be required to pay an entry fee. All rider fees will still be applicable. The proposed new member will be voted on at the end of the tournament.
- g.) Three (3) "no votes" are required to prevent admission into the CLUB.
- h.) New members must pay a \$25.00 initiation fee due within sixty (60) days of admission in to the club. If a member quits and is voted back into the club, the club will also vote whether or not that member is responsible for a \$25.00 initiation fee to be paid prior to the next tournament.

Article IV Officers

Sec. 1 - The officers of the club must be members for at least six months. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President/Tournament Director, Secretary / Treasurer, Program Director, and Federation Director.

Sec. 2 - Each officer shall serve one year and may be re-elected.

Sec. 3 - Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of President, the membership shall, at the next meeting elect a member for that office. The candidate for the vacant office of President must have served as a prior officer, but not necessarily that of the office of President. The newly elected President shall hold this office for the remainder of the prior Presidents term. Vacancies in any of the other remaining offices will be handled in the same manner as that of the President with one exception. The candidate for the vacant office is not required to have previously held an office.

Article V Duties of the Officers

- Sec. 1 - The President shall preside over all meetings and is the official representative of the club. This officer may appoint one or more members to represent the club. The president shall have such power and authority as ordinarily pertains to said office, as well as such other assigned and deemed by the membership.
- Sec. 2 - The Vice President / Tournament Director assumes the duties and responsibilities of the President in their absence. This officer shall preside over all tournament proceedings up to and including interpretation of tournament rules. All decisions are final.
- Sec. 3 - The Secretary / Treasurer shall be responsible for the safe keeping and preparation of all records and correspondence pertinent to the club. This officer has custody of all club funds and shall see that an accurate accounting of all the financial transactions of the club are made.
- Sec. 4 - The Program Director shall appoint all committees and their chairman, and also oversee all committees. They will also assist the Tournament Director at the tournaments.
- Sec. 5 - The Federation Director will handle any and all state and national federation affairs, attend required meetings, and update the club as to the agenda of all federation news.

Article VI Meetings

- Sec. 1 - Regular meetings of the club will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.
- Sec. 2 - Special meetings may be called by the President or by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership upon application to the President.
- Sec. 3 - The regular meetings of the club shall be conducted at such a time and place as shall be determined by the President or three quarters (3/4) of the membership. Special meetings shall be conducted at such time and place as determined by the President or members calling the meeting.
- Sec. 4 - Notice of all meetings shall be made either in person, by telephone, or by written notice by the person or persons calling the meeting.
- Sec. 5 - A simple majority of the members at any scheduled or special meeting of the club or its committees shall constitute a quorum. A quorum being 2/3.
- Sec. 6 - The suggested order of business at regular meetings shall be:
- a.) Roll Call.
 - b.) The reading and approval of minutes taken from prior meeting.
 - c.) Treasurers report.
 - d.) Old Business.
 - e.) New Business.
 - f.) Evenings program (if applicable).
 - g.) Adjournment.

Sec. 7 - The November meeting each year will be designated for the free election of officers for the upcoming year.

Sec. 8 - A member will receive **25 points** for attending club meetings. These awarded points **will not effect** their Top 8 total points status, but they **will effect** their Mr. Bass total points status. Attending club meetings is mandatory for the awarding of attendance points. However, If a member can not attend a club meeting, we will allow **two** excused absences per year which will still result in the issuance of 25 points for attendance. Any other absences within the same year will be considered **unexcused** and **no points** will be awarded.

Article VII Regulations on Boats

Sec. 1 - All boats used in club tournaments must meet the following requirements:

- a.) Boats must be at least 14 feet in length.
- b.) A minimum of a 25 horsepower engine.
- c.) A fish locator.
- d.) A trolling motor.
- e.) An aerated live well.
- f.) A working kill switch.
- g.) A bilge pump.
- h.) A charged fire extinguisher.

Article VIII Tournament Rules

Sec. 1 - All tournaments will be held at a pre-assigned place and time.

- a.) Any club member that arrives to the start of a scheduled tournament late, must assume the responsibility of reporting to any club officer for a livewell check and any other checks required before starting to fish. Failure to do so will result in automatic disqualification!!!
- b.) At the end of all tournaments boats must be back at pre-assigned place and time. Penalties will be issued for all infractions as follows:
 1. A one pound per minute penalty will be imposed up to ten minutes. At which time (over ten minutes) loss of all fish weight and points will be applied.
 2. The only exception to this rule is in the case of a boat break down, or extreme safety issues, etc. as deemed serious enough by the Tournament Director who's decision is final.
- c.) All boats are to be prepared for spot checks per Article 7 at Tournament Director's discretion. At which time Tournament Director will start the tournament.
- d.) **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are allowed in boats during tournament hours.
- e.) Club members who want to participate in tournaments **must attend** the club meeting prior to the scheduled club tournament and be prepared to pay their entry fees at the meeting. Any member who attends the meeting, enters the drawing for a partner, and pays their entry fees and then fails to attend the tournament will forfeit their paid entry fees and **may not** "roll-over" the paid entry fee toward the next event. However, if a member has an issue with attending a tournament and gives a minimum 48 hours prior notice to the T.D., that member will be allowed to "roll-over" their paid entry fees to the next club tournament. **"Communication & Respect" are always appreciated!**
 1. An exception to this rule may be allowed if the member contacts the President or Vice President/T.D. about their intentions prior to the club meeting and makes arrangements for the payment of entry fees to be paid on their behalf.

Sec. 2 - Safety during tournaments.

- a.) ALL tournament competitors must wear their life jacket whenever the gas engine is running.
- b.) Any members under the age of 18 years are not permitted to run the gas engine, but may run the trolling motor with the consent of the boat owner.
- c.) The Tournament Director has the power to delay the start time of all tournaments due to adverse weather, etc.
- d.) The kill switch **must be attached** to the driver of the boat whenever the gas engine is running.

Sec. 3 - Miscellaneous Rules.

- a.) Competitors may only use one rod at a time.
- b.) Live bait is not allowed.
- c.) The non-boater has the opportunity to run the trolling motor and fish his choice of water for at least half of the allotted tournament time. However, the boater maintains ultimate control over the boat, and therefore will decide as to where they will allow their boat to go or not go in the case of saving life or property.
 - 1. If the non-boater feels like he or she is not being treated fairly by their boater partner with equal amounts of time on the trolling motor, he or she may file a protest with the "Board of Directors" following the tournament hours. If the "Board" rules in favor of the non-boater, the penalty shall be the total loss of weight of the boater. The "Boards" decision is final.
- d.) A lake may not be fished more than two years in a row, with exception to the classic.
- e.) Upon take off in a "no-wake zone" or during a designated "no-wake time period", no-wake means "no-pass". It will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to determine what "No-Wake Zones" (if any) exist on each tournament body of water and communicate that information to all competitors prior to take-off .
- f.) Leaving the boat during the tournament is not permitted to get additional equipment etc. However, one may leave the boat to go to the bathroom, push boat off, etc., and both competitors must stay in view of each other (within reason).
- g.) If anyone wishes to bring a guest to the Classic the host member will be responsible for their guest's expenses (\$50.00).
- h.) In the event of any no-shows; the absent boater or non-boater shall pay the present members boat fees.
- i.) If a club member will be absent from a meeting where partners will be drawn for an upcoming tournament, it is the responsibility of that club member to contact the tournament director prior to the meeting to put his/her name in the draw.
- j.) If it becomes necessary to change the lake and/or time of a tournament we may do so. A tournament date may be changed up until the time when the Tournament Director has obtained the appropriate DNR ramp permits required for the bodies of water we have scheduled to fish. However, once the permits have been secured, there will not be any tournament date changes allowed, with the exception for Federation related events.
- k.) The classic is to be held at the end of the season, after the regular tournament schedule. **Members who attend at least fifty-percent (50%) of all club functions during the current tournament season will "qualify" for the "Classic Tournament Exemption". This means that if the club decides to pay for any or all of the Classic Tournament expenses (minus tournament entry fees), then a member who meets this requirement would be eligible to take advantage of this benefit. However, any club member who fails to meet this requirement would still be welcome at the Classic Tournament, but at their own expense. (Note: This exemption is discretionary and based on the club's financial status).**

- l.) A random drawing will be held prior to each scheduled tournament to determine the starting order and partner pairings. Each member will have the choice of being entered into the drawing as either a "boater" or a "non-boater". If there is an unequal amount of boaters to non-boaters, the draw will proceed as follows: After the last non-boater is drawn, the next boater drawn will be a boater. Then, the next boater drawn will become the previously drawn boater's non-boater partner. This procedure will continue until all boaters have been paired up.
- m.) The hiring of a "**professional guide**" by members of the club prior to a scheduled club tournament, will now be permitted any time up until a period of one (1) week prior to said tournament. After that, the member is subject to disqualification by the T.D.
- n.) All fish will be weighed **without** a bag.
- o.) Fish creel size and limit will be dictated by state laws.
- p.) Fish are to be measured with mouth closed and tail pinched. Every effort will be made to get the fish to measure.

Sec. 4 - Points & Payoffs.

a.) Points Accumulation and Penalties for "MR. BASS" Honor:

1. Place points will be awarded based on a theoretical number determined by the club membership to be **25**; where 1st place = 25 points, 2nd place = 24 points, 3rd place = 23 points, etc. A member must weigh a fish to receive any points.
2. Weight points are accumulated at **1 point** per ounce.
3. There will be **5 points** added for a bass weighing **3 lbs. or more**
4. Plus, you'll receive **50 points** for tournament participation. These awarded points **will not effect** your Top 8 total points status, but they **will effect** your Mr. Bass total points status. Attending club tournaments is mandatory for the awarding of tournament participation points. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
5. There will be a **4 ounce** penalty for each dead fish, subtracted from total weight.

b.) Points Accumulation for "TOP 8" Honors:

1. Place points will be awarded based on a theoretical number determined by the club membership to be **25**; where 1st place = 25 points, 2nd place = 24 points, 3rd place = 23 points, etc. A member must weigh a fish to receive any points.

c.) Procedure for Breaking Ties

1. Total weight.
2. Big Bass weight (it is your responsibility to ask for weighing of your big bass).
3. Unbreakable ties will be added together then divided by two, both points and cash.

EXAMPLE: If there is a tie for 1st place and both fisherman have one fish weighing 2 pounds, and there are twenty fisherman, the twenty-five points of first will be added to the twenty-four points for second totaling 49 points with each contestant receiving 24.5 points. The prize money for first and second place will also be added together and divided by two.

d.) Largest Bass Qualifications.

1. In order for a fish to qualify as "largest bass", the fish must be the heaviest fish of all, as weighed on the club's official scale. **No minimum weight required.**
2. If there are not any fish weighed, then the total amount of money in the pot will "roll-over" to the next scheduled tournament. This procedure will continue from one tournament to the next until a fish is weighed. If there are no fish weighed at the last tournament of the year, then all money in the pot will be donated to the club's treasury. It will be the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to monitor the status of this pot and report to the members each time it rolls over.

e.) Pay-Out Schedule.

1. **\$20.00** per person entry fee.
2. Big Bass receives the number of paid entries multiplied by **\$4.00**.
3. First place receives the number of paid entries multiplied by **\$4.00**.
4. Second place receives the number of paid entries multiplied by **\$2.00**.
5. The remaining **\$10.00** from each **\$20.00** entry fee will go into the club's treasury. (Note: This procedure assumes that at least four members weigh fish. However, if there are less than four members weighing fish, then the member or members that do weigh fish will receive the appropriate amount of place money **only**. The money remaining from the unpaid place positions will go back into the club's treasury.

Sec. 5 - Bodies of Water.

- a.) Their **will not** be a night tournament required any more. However, we will continue to have at least one river tournament on the club schedule each year. By the club's definition, a "***reservoir***" will be considered as a river in order to meet the requirement of this by-law.

Article IX Michigan Bass Federation Nation State Finals Tournament

Sec. 1 - Michigan Bass Federation Nation "State Tournament" Qualifications.

- a.) Entry fee is **\$100.00** and is to be paid by any member attempting to qualify for the Michigan State Team no later than June 1 each year.
- b.) The State Finals Tournament is typically held each July over a two day period (Friday and Saturday, with Sunday an optional back-up day). There is a mandatory meeting with a free dinner on the Thursday night before the tournaments first day.
- c.) The top 8 club tournaments will be used for the point calculations for the state's TOP 8 contenders.
- d.) The date for beginning the accumulation of points each year for TOP 8 and MR. BASS awards will be at the first scheduled club meeting in **January**. The date for ending the accumulation of points for these awards each year will be **November 30**.

Article X Removal of Members

Sec. 1 - Mandatory Expulsion Requirements

- a.) A member may be expelled from the club for non-payment of dues by the first scheduled club tournament and/or for lack of participation in at least 50% of all club activities.

- b.) In the event a member is in danger of not meeting one or both of these requirements, the member will be notified by mail before being officially removed from the club roster as a member "**not in good standing**".

Sec. 2 - Voting Expulsion

- a.) Unsportsman like conduct, in pursuant of a complaint by any club member to the Tournament Director, and then brought to the Board of Directors to determine the validity of the complaint and decide whether or not it warrants a vote by the body.
- b.) A two-thirds vote of attending club members at a meeting is required for expulsion.
- c.) Any member who receives a two-thirds vote of expulsion will be informed by letter from the President.

Article XI Michigan Bass Federation Nation (M.B.F.N.)

- Sec. 1 - The Four Seasons Bass Club shall maintain 100% B.A.S.S. membership. This is a mandatory requirement in order to receive full insurance benefits through the National Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society.
- Sec. 2 - It shall be the responsibility of the Four Seasons Bass Club to complete and submit an updated Michigan Bass Federation Nation roster after the election of officers at the November meeting each year for submission before the **December Presidents Meeting**.
- Sec. 3 - The Four Seasons Bass Club by acclamation, shall support the Michigan Bass Federation Nation conservation and youth programs.

Article XII Dues

- Sec. 1 - A \$25.00 One Time Only Initiation fee to be paid by all new members.
- Sec. 2 - An \$18.00 annual club dues to be paid by all members prior to the first scheduled club tournament each year.
- Sec. 3 - Michigan Bass Federation Nation annual dues to be paid by all members **no later than the November** club meeting each year in the amount set forth by the M.B.F.N. (Currently \$25.00)
- Sec. 4 - National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation annual dues to be paid by all members **no later than December 15** each year in the amount set forth by the National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation. (Currently \$30.00)

Article XIII Amendments

- Sec. 1 - These by-laws may be amended, supplemented, or repealed at any off season meetings (between November and March ONLY) by a two-thirds vote. At no other time shall changes be made to the Four Seasons Bass Club by-laws .

Amendments List:

- February 9, 1999 - Added Article III, Section 2, Paragraph h. (D. Ledford)
- February 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph j. (D. Ledford)
- February 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph k. (D. Ledford)
- February 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph d. (D. Ledford)
- February 9, 1999 - Revised Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph a. (D. Ledford)
- February 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph l. (D. Ledford)
 - March 9, 1999 - Revised Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph e. (R. Bauer)
 - March 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 1, Paragraph d. (R. Bauer)
 - March 9, 1999 - Revised Article IV, Section 3 (R. Bauer)
 - May 23, 1999 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph a. (R. Bauer)
 - May 23, 1999 - Revised Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph j. (R. Bauer)
 - May 23, 1999 - Added Article VI, Section 8. (R. Bauer)
 - May 23, 1999 - Revised Article VI, Section 2. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 1999 - Added Article IX, Section 1, Paragraph d. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 1999 - Revised Article VI, Section 8. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 1999 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph a, Item 4. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 2, Paragraph d. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 1999 - Added Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph m. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 1999 - Revised Article IV, Section 3. (R. Bauer)
 - January 11, 2000 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph a, Item 3. (R. Bauer)
 - January 11, 2000 - Deleted Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph g. (R. Bauer)
 - January 11, 2000 - Revised Article VI, Section 8. (R. Bauer)
 - January 11, 2000 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph a, Item 4. (R. Bauer)
 - January 11, 2000 - Revised Article XII, Section 3. (R. Bauer)
 - January 11, 2000 - Added Article XII, Section 4. (R. Bauer)
- February 8, 2000 - Revised Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph j. (R. Bauer)
 - March 14, 2000 - Revised Article III, Section 1. (R. Bauer)
 - March 14, 2000 - Revised Article VI, Section 8. (R. Bauer)
 - March 14, 2000 - Revised Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph b. (R. Bauer)
- February 13, 2001 - Revised Article XI, Section 1. (R. Bauer)
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article VI, Section 1 (R. Bauer)
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph j. (R. Bauer)
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph c, Items 3 & 4. (R. Bauer)
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph a. (R. Bauer)
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article IX, Section 1, Paragraph a & c. (R. Bauer)
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article XI, Section 2. (R. Bauer).
- January 14, 2002 - Revised Article XII, Section 2,3, & 4. (R. Bauer)
- January 13, 2003 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph b. (R. Bauer)
- January 13, 2003 - Added Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph c. (R. Bauer)
- January 13, 2003 - Added Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph m. (R. Bauer)
- January 13, 2003 - Added Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph c. (R. Bauer)
- January 13, 2003 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph a, Item 1. (R. Bauer)
- January 13, 2003 - Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph a, Item 5. (R. Bauer)
- January 12, 2005 - Revised Article VI, Section 1. (R. Bauer)
- February 9, 2005 – Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph e. (R. Bauer)
- November 9, 2005 – Revised Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph a. (R. Bauer)
- December 1, 2005 – Revised Article XII, Section 4 (R. Bauer)
- January 10, 2007 – Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph d. (R. Bauer)
- January 10, 2007 – Revised Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph e. (R. Bauer)
- January 10, 2007 – Revised Article IX, Section 1 (R. Bauer)
- January 10, 2007 – Deleted Article IX, Section 2. (R. Bauer)
- January 10, 2007 – Revised Article XI, Section 2 & 3. (R. Bauer)
- January 10, 2007 – Revised Article XII, Section 3. (R. Bauer)

Amendments List (con't):

- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article IX (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article IX, Sec. 1 (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article IX, Sec. 1, Paragraph a. (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article IX, Sec. 1, Paragraph b. (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article XI (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article XI, Sec. 2 (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article XI, Sec. 3 (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article XII, Sec. 3 (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article XII, Sec. 3 (R. Bauer)
- November 11, 2009 – Revised Article XII, Sec. 4 (R. Bauer)
- May 12, 2010 – Revised Article VI, Sec. 8 (R. Bauer)
- June 9, 2010 – Revised Article VIII, Sec. 3, Paragraph c. (R. Bauer)
- July 14, 2010 – Added Article VIII, Sec. 1, Paragraph e. (R. Bauer)
- February 9, 2011 - Revised Article VIII, Sec. 4, Paragraph e. (R. Bauer)
- February 9, 2011 - Revised Article VIII, Sec. 3, Paragraph k. (R. Bauer)