



**CLEARWATER BASS CLUB
GENERAL RULES
APRIL 1, 2009 - MARCH 31, 2010**

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A. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership will be limited to forty (**40**) serious and dedicated fishermen, 51 % of whom must be boat owners.
2. Potential members must fish with two (**2**) different club members, one of which must be during a monthly tournament, and must attend two (**2**) club meetings. A vote for membership can occur during a second club meeting attended by the potential member. After a short talk and report by the two (**2**) members he fished with, a vote of acceptance will be taken. Three (**3**) dissenting votes by the members will deny membership. Club jackets can be bought anytime by the new member, but would be reimbursed only after (**24**) twenty-four months of membership in the club.
3. Members may request a leave of absence from the club. If approved by a majority of the members present, inactive status will be granted for a period of three (**3**) months or until the end of the fiscal year (March), whichever comes first.
4. To return to active status, the member must notify a club officer of his intentions before the draw of the upcoming tournament.
5. Any member who leaves the club for any reason may return at any time provided:
 - A. He left the club in good standing.
 - B. He is voted back into the club by the membership present.

NOTE: Inactive status: A member would retain all points earned for three (**3**) months or the end of the fiscal year (March). Other returning members would start over with zero (**0**) points.
6. A member may be removed from the club by a majority vote on a secret ballot by the members present at a meeting for any of the following reasons:
 - A. Failure to pay club dues.
 - B. Missing the combination of five (**5**) consecutive meetings and tournaments.
 - C. Any action bringing dishonor or disgrace upon the club.
 - D. Violating club rules, cheating or unsportsmanslike conduct.

B. DUES/FEES

1. Membership dues will be thirty dollars (**\$30.00**) per year, of which twelve dollars (**\$12.00**) will be used to help cover miscellaneous fees, and the other eighteen dollars (**\$18.00**) will be used to figure prorated dues for new members added after the beginning of the fiscal year at one dollar and fifty cents (**\$1.50**) per month.
2. New members will be assessed a one time initiation fee of ten dollars (**\$10.00**).

C. OFFICERS DUTIES

1. Officers for this club will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary-Treasurer, and the Tournament Director.
2. All officers but the Tournament Director will be nominated at the January meeting and voted on by the members present. The President will appoint the Tournament Director and all officers will be installed at the April meeting.
3. Members must have six (**6**) months of seniority with the club to be eligible for elected office.
4. Only current officers at the end of the fiscal year will receive a plaque of appreciation unless ten (**10**) months of service was rendered. An officer who must resign due to health or welfare reasons may receive a plaque of appreciation if so voted by a majority of the membership.
5. All protests, arguments, rule interpretations and such matters will be decided by the officers of the club. All other matters not covered will be determined by the membership.

6. The President shall appoint two (2) members other than the Treasurer to audit the financial records of the club at the end of the fiscal year.

D. RULE ADMINISTRATION

1. Adoption of rules will be presented in writing and discussed at the February meeting and be voted on at the March meeting.
2. Rules can be added at anytime the majority of the membership so votes. However, the existing rules or the spirit and intent of any rules not adopted in March should not be changed.

E. GENERAL RULES

1. Meetings will be held on the first (1st) Thursday of the month, and the club tournament will be fished on the third (3rd) Saturday of the month. Any cause for a change in the routine operation of the club, by the officers or by the membership, will require a one (1) month cooling off period. This means that the changes will be discussed at one monthly meeting and voted on at the next monthly meeting.

F. FEES

1. Tournament fees will be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per person per tournament fished, paid prior to the tournament. The Tournament fee will be credited towards the next tournament fished for any member who is unable to attend a tournament and has paid his entry fee. From each thirty dollar (\$30.00) entry fee of a tournament participant, five dollars (\$5.00) will be presented to the winner, three dollars (\$3.00) to the second place finisher and two dollars (\$2.00) to the third place finisher. Five dollars (\$5.00) will be reserved for the Classic Fund, and the remaining fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will go into the club treasury.
2. Entry fee for the next tournament will automatically be deducted from the first place finisher's winnings.
3. Passengers, including guests (referred to as non-boaters henceforth), will share the expense of the boat owner. The fee will be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per tournament for all tournament lakes **except Lake Tarpon**. The Non-Boater Fee for Lake Tarpon will be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per tournament.
4. The Big Bass pot will be taken up at the meeting when all other monies are payable. If a member is unable to fish the given tournament, his contribution to the Big Bass pot is rolled over to the next month.

G. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

1. The Tournament Director or his stand-in Tournament Director will announce the starting time, completion time, and the weigh-in time at the monthly meeting and again at the launch ramp.
2. Any matters pertaining to conducting of the tournament will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director or his appointed stand-in Tournament Director unless it pertains to a registered protest. Any protest will be decided by a majority vote of all officers present.

H. STARTING POSITIONS/PARTNERS

1. Partners will be paired by a draw at the meeting prior to a tournament.
2. No member or guest will be paired with the member or guest he was paired with the previous month.
3. If, during the draw, there are more boaters than non-boaters, the remaining boaters will have the opportunity to fish with the next open boater unless he declines. Once declining, an open boater cannot choose to pair with any other open boater. Open boaters who decline will be placed below the last paired boaters and will be the first to be used if another member has boat trouble and before any exemptions are recalled.

4. Special requests for exemptions from the draw must be submitted in writing prior to the start of the meeting the exemption is to be used for. Each member will be authorized two (2) exemptions per fiscal year.
5. Starting positions will be determined by order of the draw after the Angler of the Year has stated his choice of starting position.
6. Those that are exempt will follow the last boat out in the order that the exemption(s) was (were) received.
7. The Tournament Director will be included in the draw, will start the tournament, and depart in his starting position.
8. Angler of the Year from the previous season is awarded the choice of starting position for the following season.

I. LAKES

1. The lakes for the twelve (12) months will be determined in the following manner:
 - A. Lakes will be nominated for month's tournament at the meeting. NOTE: A member not present may have a lake nominated, but cannot be counted during the voting.
 - B. The person nominating a lake requiring reservations is responsible for contacting the Fish Camp, Ramp Authority, Etc. prior to the club meeting.
 - C. Members present may vote for as many of the nominated lakes as they want ~~to~~ the first time the voting takes place. The two (2) lakes with the most votes will then be voted on again with each member casting one (1) vote only for either of the two (2) lakes. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken first with the "1 vote only" rule.
 - D. The lake receiving the most votes will become the primary lake and the other will be the secondary lake.
2. All waters accessible by boat from the launch ramp at the tournament lake will be open to fishing (unless specified prior to the tournament).

J. FISHING EQUIPMENT

1. All fishing will be done from boats with either bait casting, spinning, or spincast reels. Rod length will not exceed seven and one half (7 1/2) feet from butt to tip.
2. No trolling or use of live bait.
3. No contestant will have more than one (1) line in the water at any one time.
4. A distance of fifty (50) yards between boats will be maintained "while fishing", unless permission of the other fisherman has been asked and granted.
5. Each member and guest must bring his or her own personal flotation device (PFD) and be worn during outboard motor operation while on plane. Seat cushions are not an acceptable substitute.
6. All boats will comply with the U.S. Coast Guard, state and local government regulations.
7. To be considered a boater, the member must have a bass boat.

K. WEIGH-IN

1. All regular season tournaments are to end no later than 3:00 PM. Place to be announced at the launch ramp.
2. Members and guests must be at the scales with their fish at weigh-in time.
3. Any member or guest whose name is called and is not there for said weighin time will be penalized one (1) pound from his total weight for up to 10 minutes late. If any member or guest is later than 10 minutes, they will be disqualified.

4. Special circumstances will be considered by the Tournament Director or the stand-in Tournament Director.
5. All protests will be made prior to the alleged violator's fish being weighed in (in any tournament) and only the person or persons seeing the alleged infraction can lodge a protest.
6. A maximum creel of five (5) largemouth bass can be weighed in at any tournament. Minimum length will be fourteen (14) inches as measured on a "Golden Rule" measurement board, and only one (1) of the fish can exceed twenty-two (22) inches will be allowed unless arrangements have been made to allow as many as five (5) fish over twenty-two (22) inches to be weighed. The Tournament Director or his stand-in Tournament Director will measure all fish. A penalty of four (4) ounces will be deducted from the total creel for each dead fish weighed in.
7. All live bass will be released after weigh-in.
8. It is illegal to cull dead keeper fish. Any penalty will be decided by a majority vote of all officers present.

L. AWARDS/POINTS

1. Points will be awarded for first (1st) place through twentieth (20th) place.
2. Two (2) attendance points will be awarded for each monthly meeting attended and each tournament fished.
3. "Angler of the Year" will be the member with the most points accumulated during the fiscal year.
4. In the event of a tie of total weight at any monthly tournament, total number of fish and then big fish, in that order will determine the tiebreaker. If there is still a tie, the points of the places in question will be totaled and divided by the number of contestants who are tied and each will receive that amount of points.
EXAMPLE: Two (2) members tie for fifth (5th) place with one (1) fish each weighing two (2) pounds even. Sixteen (16) points for fifth (5th) place and fifteen (15) points for sixth (6th) place are totaled and divided by the two (2) people who tied. $(15 + 16 = 31 \times 1/2 = 15.5 \text{ points.})$
- 4a. In the event of a tie of total points in any "Year-to-Date" tally, **Total Weight, Number of Fish** and then **Big Fish**, in that order will determine the tiebreaker. If there is still a tie, then the "tie" stands and any applicable award (i.e. "Angler of the Year") will result in a "shared award" with each member receiving individual plaques.
5. The club will pay one-half (1/2) the replica fee (not to exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for a bass weighing from eight (8) pounds to nine pounds fifteen ounces (9 lbs. 15 oz.). The club will pay the entire replica fee (not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for a fish weighing ten (10) pounds or larger. The club will pay seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for live release of a fish weighing between eight (8) and nine pounds fifteen ounces (9 lb. 15 oz.), and one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for live release of a fish weighing ten (10) pounds or larger. The release of the bass must be made at the weigh-in site or a place more suitable to the survivability of the fish and must be accompanied by the Tournament Director or the stand-in Tournament Director. The choice of the award will be at the discretion of the member catching the fish. Any member can claim only one (1) fish meeting the above-mentioned specifications per club-sanctioned tournament.
6. The club "Traveling Big Fish Plaque" will be awarded to the first person in each fiscal year to weigh-in a bass of five (5) pounds or larger. It will then "travel" to each person who catches a larger fish than the previous listed big bass. The trophy is the property of the Clearwater Bass Club, Inc.
7. A trophy will be given at the end of the fiscal year for the largest bass caught during the fiscal year.
8. Any member who finishes first (1st), second (2nd) or third (3rd) in a monthly tournament will be awarded a club plaque/plate. Once he has earned his first plaque (with twelve (12) plates on it), he must bring in a blank plate from his plaque or one dollar (\$1.00) to receive his next earned plate.

9. An individual trophy plaque will be given to any member who weighs in a bass over five (5) pounds or larger and is “Big Fish” of the tournament. This is in lieu of a plate for their plaque. All “Big Fish” of the day that are under five (5) pounds will be given a plate for their plaque and no individual trophy plaque.

M. CLASSIC

1. The top ten (10) fishermen at the end of the year will qualify to fish the “Classic”: Anyone in the top ten (10) who is unable to attend will be replaced by the next member in order of finish (**11th Place, 12th Place, 13th Place, etc**).
2. The club President will select the “Classic” site and will have the responsibility of running the tournament.
3. The “Classic” fund payback will be as follows:

A. First (1st) Place	50 %
B. Second (2nd) Place	30 %
C. Third (3rd) Place	20 %
TOTAL	100 %
4. The top ten (10) fisherman who qualify for the “Classic” will receive their plaque regardless of whether they attend the “Classic” or not. The ten (10) who fish the “Classic” will be eligible to receive the payback money.
5. A “Big Fish” plaque will be awarded for the largest fish over five (5) pounds for the “Classic” in lieu of a plate.
6. Second and third place will receive a plate for their club plaque.
7. To take into account “non-boater” Classic Contenders, prior to the Classic tournament, all Classic Contender boaters will place their names to be drawn. Separately, all Classic Contender non-boaters will place their names to be drawn. From a separate draw, non-boaters will be paired with boaters for the 1st day of the Classic. From the remaining boaters not drawn for the 1st day, a 2nd drawing will be held to pair non-boaters with the remaining boaters for the 2nd day of the Classic.

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