**Mansfield Bassmasters**

2023 By-Laws

(revised December 2022)

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. Total general membership shall not exceed 50 members.

Section 2- Requirement for membership

To become a chapter member, a person shall:

1. Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
2. All members must be current members of B.A.S.S.
3. Be recommended by one member at a regular monthly meeting.
4. Acceptance shall be voted on by present members and affirmation must be unanimous.
5. Must be 16 years of age, or 15 if joining and fishing with a parent.
6. New potential member are not required to attend a meeting to join. Joining at the ramp will be permitted.
7. All members must be current members of The Texas Bass Federation Nation

Section 3- Membership Dues

The annual membership dues shall be $100.00 annually, payable upon being voted into the chapter. Annual club dues may be changed by a majority of members present at the regular December meeting.

Article 3- Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility

Section 1- Officers and their Duties

The officers of the chapter shall consist of:

1. President: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be an ex official member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.
2. Vice President: preside over meetings when president is not available. To assist President with functions, and committees where president has need. Be responsible for registration of Top 6 teams for the Federation Nation State Championship.
3. 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.
4. 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. )
5. Tournament Director: Tournament director will follow the guidelines for tournaments as per club rules, and make sure all rules and regulations are followed with each tournament. The Director will pick his or her assistant director.

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 and proxy votes. 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 permitted either by email or by signed letter. These letters or emails must be submitted to the club at beginning of meeting to be valid. Proxy votes are only eligible for rule changes at designated rule change meetings once per year.

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. President/Vice President/Treasurer will be elected offset years as Tournament Director/Assistant Tournament Director and Secretary.

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:

1. 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.

1. Board of Directors: The Board of Directors will consist of five (5) members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past-President.
   1. The president will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
   2. The secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
   3. The board will decide all protests/violations of Chapter by Laws. Authority to rule on protests/ violations of club tournament rules rest on the Tournament Director, unless the director is part of the dispute, or involved in a tie.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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:
   1. Draft any changes to established tournament rules.
   2. Present new rules, at each meeting and insure that new rules are made available to members before the next tournament.
   3. Update angler standings on a monthly basis.
   4. Direct and manage tournament weigh-ins.
   5. Enforce tournament rules, including changes, prior to each club tournament in a calendar year. These club approved rules remain valid and unchangeable for any club tournament in that calendar year, unless voted on and changed as per bylaws.
   6. With concurrence of club membership, establish number, type (i.e. Night, 2-day, etc.), and tentative dates of tournaments and Lakes 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.)
   7. Keep all tournament records
   8. Be the final authority for enforcing all tournament rules and deciding all tournament protests, Unless the Director is involved in the dispute or part of the tie, then the decision moves to the Board of Directors.  
       The assistant tournament director will assist the tournament director on tournaments and at weigh in and help with points computations. They may also take over the Tournament Directors duty’s at meetings and tournaments when tournament director cannot be present.

Article 5- Removal of Membership

Section 1- Removal of Membership

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

1. Failure to pay dues
2. Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter.
3. If caught cheating during any scheduled event either with our club, or any other fishing tournament, activity, or gathering, then that member will be removed from the club, with forfeiture of all monies, dues or donations..
4. 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

1. Approval of Chapter Charter by B.A.S.S.
2. Update B.A.S.S. with a Chapter membership roster once each year, immediately following election of Chapter Officers and Directors.
3. 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.
4. Maintain 80% B.A.S.S. membership
5. 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 be amended once per year at the December meeting, by a majority vote of general membership present and proxy votes. Written notice of proposed changes and tournament changes shall be posted on the web and made available for the general membership before the next tournament date. Written notice of proposed changes and tournament rule changes should be presented at the regular November club meeting, and voted on in the December meeting. Rule changes take effect immediately.

Article 7- Miscellaneous

Section 1- Awards

Sportsman of the year will be named Kenny Goodwin Sportsman of the year.

Heaviest Stringer award will be named Otis Farmer Heaviest Stringer of the year.

Section 2-Tournament

Club will fish 11 tournaments a year between the months of February and November with the exception of July and August which will be added to the spring (March-June).

Club will hold one team tournament per year

Club will hold one two day tournament (one tournament) per year

Club will hold one two day (two tournament) per year

Only 6 lakes per year can be duplicated from the previous year