



**Constitution and By-Laws**  
(last modified February 2011)

***Preamble***

*We, being a group of men convinced of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and grateful to our Creator for His gift of lakes and fish and wishing to share the same with our fellow Christians, have formed a club. We have set forth this Constitution and By-Laws to govern its affairs.*

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**Article I. NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1.01 Name**

- (a) The name of this club shall be the TARRANT CHRISTIAN BASS CLUB (T.C.B.C.).

**Section 1.02 Purpose**

- (a) The purpose of this club is to promote:
- (i) *Christian fellowship.*
  - (ii) *A consistent witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - (iii) *Responsible stewardship of God's gifts.*
  - (iv) *An opportunity for participation as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the Texas State B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.*

**Article II. ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

**Section 2.01 Membership**

- (a) Membership shall be open to any man who professes to be a Christian and who lives in the Tarrant County area. A sponsoring member will be responsible for the new member knowing all club rules before he requests membership into the Tarrant Christian Bass Club. A new member application will be voted on and must carry 2/3 of the club's vote. Upon payment of dues he shall become a member.
- (b) The membership of the Tarrant Christian Bass Club shall consist of:
- (i) *Riggers - Members who own fishing boats and plan to use them in club tournaments.*
  - (ii) *Non Riggers - Members who do not own fishing boats.*
- (c) The percentage ratio of active members will be at least 60% riggers and no more than 40% non-riggers. After the non-rigger limit has been reached, applications will still be taken and members received on a first come, first serve basis.
- (d) The membership of Tarrant Christian Bass Club recognizes that boating and fishing can be hazardous activities. Each member agrees individually to assume all risks of damage to his person and /or property which might occur.
- (e) Tarrant Christian Bass Club shall maintain 100% B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Membership.

**Section 2.02 Dues**

- (a) Membership dues, as determined by majority vote of the membership, are due at the December Awards Banquet. Members joining during the year will have their club dues pro-rated.
- (b) Membership dues are \$120 excluding, B.A.S.S. Annual dues (except where Lifetime or extended membership in B.A.S.S. can be verified). Dues include:
- (i) *\$30 for National Federation Nation Dues*





(ii) \$20 for Texas State Federation Nation Dues

(iii) \$70 for TCBC Dues.

*In addition to covering miscellaneous club expenses, dues are used to cover the tournament award plaques and tabs, which roughly equate to six dollars per tournament per person.*

(c) Any child attaining the age of 16 shall be required to pay dues.

## **Article III. CLUB MEETINGS AND TOURNAMENTS**

### **Section 3.01**

(a) Club meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Tournaments will be on the following Saturday. These dates may be changed by the Executive Committee under special circumstances.

### **Section 3.02**

(a) Club meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Christian principles.

### **Section 3.03**

(a) The consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or mind-altering substances (except medication prescribed under a doctor's care that will not impair the operation of a boat) is prohibited at all Tarrant Christian Bass Club functions, and functions at which membership is representing Tarrant Christian Bass Club.

## **Article IV. OFFICERS, DUTIES, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 4.01 Officers**

- (a) The officers of this organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Club Chaplain, Public Relations Director, Youth Director, and Conservation Director.
- (b) All officers shall also serve as directors, members of the board, and tournament committee members. The Tournament Director shall be in charge of the tournament committee. One officer shall serve as the liaison between TCBC and the B.A.S.S. National Federation Nation and the Texas State B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.
- (c) The Board of Directors will meet monthly, as deemed necessary.

### **Section 4.02 Elections**

- (a) Nominations will be held at the November regular monthly meeting.
- (b) The election of officers shall be held at the annual December Awards Banquet by secret ballot. Elections shall be by a simple majority of members present. Election for each office shall be held separately in the order listed in Section 4.01(a).
- (c) Each membership is limited to one vote.
- (d) The term of office is one year, beginning on the first day of January and ending the last day of December.

### **Section 4.03 Vacancies**

- (a) In the event that an office becomes vacant,
- (i) *nominations will be submitted by the board, to the club, and the election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.*
- (ii) *National B.A.S.S. headquarters will be notified immediately of any change affecting the officers.*

### **Section 4.04 Eligibility**





- (a) To be eligible for an office, a member must have been an active member for a period of six months.

#### **Section 4.05 Duties of the officers:**

- (a) President
- (i) To chair all club and board meetings*
  - (ii) To call special board meetings as deemed necessary*
  - (iii) Assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins*
  - (iv) Assist any board member as deemed necessary*
- (b) Vice President
- (i) To provide the entertainment at club meetings*
  - (ii) Assume the duties of the President in his absence*
  - (iii) Assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins*
  - (iv) Assist any board member as deemed necessary*
  - (v) Responsible for securing all door prizes*
- (c) Secretary
- (i) To keep written records of all club activities*
  - (ii) To keep attendance records of all meetings and tournaments*
  - (iii) Be responsible for writing a monthly newsletter informing membership of all club activities and making it available to each member*
  - (iv) To maintain up-to-date mailing lists*
  - (v) Keep all rule changes up-to-date in club By-Laws*
  - (vi) To assist the Treasurer in collecting dues and keeping a correct record of such transactions*
  - (vii) To assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins*
  - (viii) To assist any board member as deemed necessary*
- (d) Treasurer
- (i) To collect all dues and provide Secretary with correct records of such transactions*
  - (ii) Assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins*
  - (iii) Assist any board member as deemed necessary.*
- (e) Tournament Director
- (i) To chair the Tournament Committee*
  - (ii) To direct all weigh-in activities*
  - (iii) To present all trophies and awards at the club's monthly meeting*
  - (iv) Responsible for keeping records of all tournament results and giving information to Secretary and Treasurer*
  - (v) Responsible for presenting lakes to the club to set the tournament schedule*
  - (vi) Responsible for scales at weigh-ins*
  - (vii) Responsible for securing all trophies and awards*
  - (viii) Assist any board member as deemed necessary*
- (f) Club Chaplain
- (i) To lead all club prayer before and at the end of the closing of all club meetings.*
  - (ii) To lead closing prayer at the end of all club tournaments*
- (g) Public Relations Director
- (i) To officially represent the Tarrant Christian Bass Club in matters of member recruitment and any other public relations matters deemed necessary by the President*
  - (ii) To assist the Vice President in entertainment needs of the club when needed.*
  - (iii) Assist any board member as deemed necessary*
- (h) Youth Director
- (i) To direct all youth and children activities*





- (ii) *Work with the State and Regional Federation Nation Youth Directors.*
  - (iii) *To assist the Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins.*
  - (iv) *To assist any board member as deemed necessary.*
- (i) Conservation Director
    - (i) *To officially represent the Tarrant Christian Bass Club in matters of conservation*
    - (ii) *To direct all conservation activities.*
    - (iii) *Work with the State and Regional Federation Nation Conservation Directors.*
    - (iv) *To assist the Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins.*
    - (v) *To assist any board member as deemed necessary.*

## **Article V. RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 5.01 Procedure for rule change**

- (a) The suggested change must be submitted in writing to the board prior to the regular board meeting.
- (b) The board will decide on the practicality of the suggested change, with the best interest of the club in mind.
- (c) If the board decides favorably on the change, it will be taken to the floor for discussion at the next regular meeting.
- (d) The suggested change will be brought to vote at the meeting following the discussion of said change, providing written notice of the proposed change has been presented to the membership in the monthly newsletter.
- (e) Any rule changes must carry by 2/3 vote of members present.

## **Article VI. TOURNAMENT RULES AND AWARDS**

### **Section 6.01 Tournament Awards**

- (a) There shall be no club funds used toward cash awards at any Tarrant Christian Bass Club tournament.
- (b) Tournament awards shall consist of appropriately engraved trophies or plaques.
- (c) Awards shall be presented for each tournament based on aggregate weight of fish caught by properly constituted teams. These awards shall be issued at the regular monthly meeting after each tournament.
- (d) First, Second, and Third awards shall be presented for tournament participation of up to twenty members. For twenty-one to thirty members fishing, a fourth place award will be issued. For thirty-one to forty, a fifth place award will be issued.
- (e) Only bass three pounds and over will receive a "Big Bass of the Tournament" award.

### **Section 6.02 Annual Awards**

- (a) Membership Awards
  - (i) *Awards will be presented to the "Top Six". They are the top six club members amassing the greatest total points (as defined in Tournament Rulebook Article IX.15) in the calendar year prior to the annual awards banquet with two (2) throw-aways. For example in a year in which eleven (11) monthly tournaments are held, the best nine (9) tournaments from each participant would be included in the total points for the year. The "Top Six" will be eligible to represent TCBC at the Texas State B.A.S.S. Federation Nation State Championship. With the first three being Boaters and the last three being Non-Boaters.*
  - (ii) *The status of the top six will be acknowledged by appropriately embroidered patches, trophies, or plaques.*
  - (iii) *The Club "Championship" (Angler of the Year) award will be presented to the club member amassing the greatest number of points in club tournaments in the calendar year prior to the December Awards Banquet with no throw-aways.*





- (iv) *The "Backseater of the Year" award will be presented to the club member amassing the greatest number of points in club tournaments as a non-rigger in the calendar year prior to the December Awards Banquet with no throw-aways. He will be disqualified for the award if he has fished as a "rigger" in any club tournament.*
- (v) *The "Big Bass of the Year" award will be presented to the club member catching the largest bass over three pounds during a club tournament in the public waters of the State of Texas in the calendar year prior to the December Awards Banquet.*
- (vi) *The "T.C.B.C. Sportsman Award" will be presented at the annual banquet to the club member receiving the most votes cast in a secret ballot at the November meeting. The results of the balloting will be known only to the President and President-Elect until the presentation of the award.*

### **Section 6.03 Tournament Guidelines**

- (a) See [Tournament Handbook for Rules and Guidelines](#).

## **Article VII. REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 7.01**

- (a) A member shall be dropped from the club roll for any of the following reasons:
  - (i) *Failure to pay dues.*
  - (ii) *Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace to the Club.*
    - 1) Should a problem arise involving item "B" above, the board will investigate the problem.
    - 2) A hearing will be granted upon the request of the individual involved, with continuing membership contingent upon a unanimous approval of the board. Such individual, if removed, will receive a refund of their annual dues.
  - (iii) *It will be the purpose of the Club to strive for a full, active membership. Upon a full membership, an inactive member may be removed from the club's roll at any time; membership fees will not be returned.*

## **Article VIII. AFFILIATION**

### **Section 8.01**

- (a) Requirements for Affiliation with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society Federation Nation:
  - (i) *Approval of Chapter Charter by B.A.S.S.;*
  - (ii) *Update B.A.S.S. with a chapter membership roster once each year;*
  - (iii) *Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur;*
  - (iv) *Maintain 100% B.A.S.S. membership;*
  - (v) *Maintain a minimum of six (6) members;*
  - (vi) *Must affiliate with Texas State Federation Nation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the Texas State Federation Nation establishes for chapters, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the chapter to participate in the State Federation Nation qualifying tournament(s), and any other Federation Nation-sponsored tournaments or events.*





## Article IX.

### Tournament Rulebook (last modified February 2011)

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- 1) Rules Changes: The following rules shall remain unchanged throughout the events, but the tournament committee shall have the right to make changes for safety considerations. All decisions of the tournament committee are final in all matters.
- 2) Participation & Eligibility: Anyone who is a member in good standing with TCBC. A club member may fish in a tournament with an invited guest or alone providing that no member of the club wishing to fish will be prevented from fishing. If a non-member/guest fishes in a contest, he is not required to pay the six-dollar fee to fish described in Section 2.02(b)(iii). He may only fish one tournament per year as a guest, unless said person is a family member. If a non-member places in a contest, he is given two options:
  - a) *Join the club and receive normal award and points.*
  - b) *Not join the club, lose the award and points (but get the recognition), and allow the next in-line club member to get the award. All team totals still stand, but only the club member receives an award.*
- 3) Alcoholic Beverages: The consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or mind-altering substances (except medication prescribed under a doctor's care that will not impair the operation of a boat) is prohibited at all Tarrant Christian Bass Club functions, and all other functions at which membership is representing Tarrant Christian Bass Club.
- 4) Sportsmanship: Any contestants who displays poor sportsmanship, violates the rules or any federal, state or local laws, or bring unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing, will be disqualified and shall forfeit points
- 5) Boat & Motor: All boats and motors must meet all U.S. coast Guard and State regulations. No motors shall exceed the BIA rating for that boat. All boats must have a working kill switch and an adequate aerated livewell.
- 6) Safety: A U.S. Coast Guard Approved chest type life preservers must be worn and fully fastened by all boats members at all times that the combustion engine is in operation and the kill switch must be attached to the operator.
- 7) Emergency/Leave Early: If a contestant wishes to leave the lake prior to weigh-in, that contestant MUST notify the tournament director or a tournament committee member, leave a note at the designated check-in area, or notify another tournament contestant that will be present at the weigh-in in order to receive points for the tournament. This is a safety requirement we all should adhere to.
- 8) Tackle & Equipment: All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner on artificial lures. No trolling with the combustion engine or snagging of fish are permitted. Trolling motor may be used for boat positioning only. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rind. Only one rod may be used at one time. A Cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. Only rods shorter than 8 feet in length may be used. The use of electronic tracking equipment is not allowed at any time. Nets will be allowed.
- 9) Protests: All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director or any tournament committee member within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.





- 10) Teams: Teams will consist of two members selected at the regular club meetings or paired by the Tournament Director. Members will receive their official tournament team number at the meeting. If not present at the meeting it is the member's responsibility to contact and receive a number from the Tournament Director no later than the Thursday before the tournament. Only contestants receiving an official tournament team number will receive points for said tournament. Team selection will be done in such a manner that the same two people will not ordinarily fish together in a tournament in the same calendar year. However, the over-riding rule is fellowship and at the discretion of the Tournament Director such pairings may from time to time be necessary and will not disqualify the team so paired. It is incumbent on each member to notify the Tournament Director if they cannot fish in a tournament after having been selected; if the member is a rigger it is also their responsibility (with assistance of the Tournament Director) to find their partnered non-rigger a ride. A rigger member of a team consisting of two club members established by the Tournament Director may compete alone if circumstances prevent his partner from competing.
- 11) Lake Selection: Lake selection, time of tournament, and time and place of weigh-in will be decided at the monthly meeting with the Tournament Director presiding over this portion of the meeting. Special circumstances may arise where it is necessary for the Tournament Director to change any of the above.
- 12) Officials: All contestants are required to cooperate with all requests from all tournament committee members on and off the water.
- 13) Official Check-in: Contestants may launch from anywhere on tournament waters, and trailer or come by water to the designated weigh-in.
- 14) Tournament Guidelines
  - a) *All tournaments of Tarrant Christian Bass Club shall be catch-and release format. Tarrant Christian Bass Club declares itself a catch-and-release club for all purposes except for trophy fish.*
  - b) *Tournament fees (Section 2.02(b)(iii)) shall be included in club dues.*
  - c) *No club sponsored tournament will take place on Sunday.*
  - d) *State, Federal and local game laws will be obeyed at all times.*
  - e) *Lake rules pertaining to restricted areas as marked will always be observed.*
  - f) *Only largemouth, Kentucky spotted, or smallmouth bass may be weighed.*
  - g) *A Club Limit is considered to be five fish of the black bass family per person per weigh-in. Teams may not pool their catches. The Club Limit can be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director.*
  - h) *Each participant shall keep his fish separate to facilitate point scoring*
  - i) *When a bass is caught it is to be measured immediately using the current measuring method prescribed by law (The Gator Grip Golden Rule Weightmaster will be the official tournament measuring board). Once its length has been determined:*





- i) Any fish, which can be legally kept according to the current laws of the State of Texas for that particular lake will be retained in a live-well and presented to the Tournament Director to be weighed. Such a fish will be referred to as a "Keeper" fish. All other fish are to be immediately returned to the lake.
  - ii) After a fish has been released, if its length is 10 inches or longer then it is recorded in its appropriate category on the Tarrant Christian Bass Club tournament slip. Such a fish will be referred to as a "Paper" fish.
  - iii) Culling is permitted. Should a member already have in his possession a legal limit of Keeper fish and then catch another fish of keeper size which is larger than the smallest fish in his live-well, he can return the smaller fish to the lake and put the larger fish in his live-well. The smaller (or culled) fish will then be recorded in its' appropriate Paper category.
  - j) At weigh-in time the member will present all Keeper fish in his possession and his Tarrant Christian Bass Club tournament slip to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will weigh the fish presented to him and record the number and weight of those fish. Should the number of fish presented for weigh-in be less than a Club limit then the Tournament Director will, starting with the heaviest category, add the weight of any Paper fish caught to an angler's total weight until either a Club limit of fish is reached or the three heaviest Paper fish are accounted for. The resulting weight and count will be recorded as that angler's tournament total.
  - k) Should a member present a Keeper fish whose paper weight exceeds its actual weight, the actual weight will be used for his tournament results.
  - l) Paper fish is a concept we have adopted to both allow for a fairer weigh-in, especially for tournaments on lakes with special slots or creel limits. Regardless of what the Club limit is for a tournament AT NO TIME should any member have in his possession an illegal fish according to Federal, State or Local game laws in effect at the time of the tournament.
  - m) The Tarrant Christian Bass Club approved jersey should be worn during tournaments and at the weigh-in. The purchase of club jersey is encouraged but not mandatory for participation in club tournaments. The club jersey is mandatory for members to represent the club in team competitions against other clubs.
  - n) If a team has keeper fish to weigh; one member of each team must be present at the weigh-in to qualify their team's catch. If a team has only paper fish to weigh and must leave a tournament early it is their responsibility to get their tournament results slip to the Tournament Director.
  - o) Non-riggers will be required to pay half of the rigger's cost per day to the rigger for operating expenses (\$20 is suggested). Certain cases may require pairs to work out other arrangements.
  - p) The Club President is the final arbiter of disputes at tournaments.
- 15) Scoring:
- a) One point will be awarded for each pound of bass caught during a regular club tournament.
  - b) Points will be awarded according to place finished in a regular club tournament. The point system for place finished will be as follows:
    - i) 1st Heavy Stringer 40 pts;
    - ii) 2nd Heavy Stringer 39 pts;
    - iii) 3rd Heavy Stringer 38 pts;
    - iv) 4th Heavy Stringer 37 pts;
    - v) 5th Heavy Stringer 36 pts;
    - vi) 6th Heavy Stringer 35 pts ... and so on until the final place is awarded.
  - c) If an angler does not catch a fish he will receive 15 points less than the lowest finishing stringer. Example: If Bob has the lightest weight stringer and finishes in 14th place he would receive his weight plus 27 points.
  - d) All remaining participating anglers would receive 12 points.
  - e) Five points are awarded for each regular club meeting attended.
  - f) Though points are tallied and maintained as the year progresses, for final year-end standings, each participant is allowed two (2) throw aways.





16) Penalties:

- a) *Dead Fish: 0.25lb penalty for each dead fish weighted in.*
- b) *Illegal Fish: Bass presented at weigh-in, which is an illegal fish by the State of Texas laws for the tournament waters, shall accrue penalty of the big fish for that day. (Courtesy check is allowed).*
- c) *Tardiness: There shall be a 5-minute grace period after the Tournament Director calls time by his watch. After the grace period a penalty of 1 pound per minute will accrue up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes (20 minute after called time) no weight will be allowed, contestant will receive his "no fish points".*

17) Off Limits: There will be no off limits period.

