

**SAN DIEGO BASSMASTERS**  
**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**AMENDED DECEMBER 2, 2003**

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1: Name**

The Chapter shall be called the SAN DIEGO BASSMASTERS of San Diego, California.

**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 and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas, to promote and encourage youth fishing, and share our love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

**Section 1: Numbers of Members**

Total chapter membership shall be limited to 50 members with the following exceptions only:

- A) Definitions: A "family unit" is defined as immediate family members residing at the same address, one of which is a current regular member. A "family member" is a member who joins the club under the provisions of Article II, Section 1 (b) below.
- B) If a member of a "family unit" wishes to join the chapter, the only requirement for membership shall be that they express an interest in joining, pay their initiation fees and dues, and the regular member in the family unit is in good standing. Family members shall not be counted in determining the 50-member limit. Family members are afforded all rights and privileges of membership.
- C) Lifetime members. Honorary members. At Large, and Inactive members shall not be counted in the 50-member limit.
- D) Reinstatement (see Article II, Section 8) shall be permitted even though the 50-member limit is in effect.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES (Continued)**

### **Section 2: Membership Dues**

The membership dues shall be paid monthly in an amount determined by the Board and approved by a majority of all voting members. An annual insurance premium must also be paid.

### **Section 3: Requirements for Membership**

All members of San Diego Bassmasters must be a current member of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and belong to the State Chapter Federation.

To become a Chapter member, a person shall either qualify as a Family Member [see Article II, Section 1, B) above] or:

- A) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- B) The prospective member's application, accompanied by a initiation fee and the first month's dues, will then be reviewed by the Board who will vote to submit the application for approval by the general membership. In the event the application is not approved, these monies will be refunded.
- C) A prospective member will be assigned a fishing partner from the general membership, after the first meeting they attend, who will fish with him or her prior to the next monthly meeting. The member will report to the Board on the desirability of the prospective member.
- D) Upon approval by the Board after receiving the pre-fishing report, the prospective member will then be tournament pre-fished while participating in the next possible club tournament.
- E) The casting of two negative votes, either by the Board members during evaluation, or by vote of the general membership will disapprove the application.
- F) Upon approval by the general membership, full membership status and membership credentials shall be presented.
- G) Applicants must be 18 years of age with one exception: any member of the San Diego Bassmasters may sponsor a son or daughter for membership when they reach the age of 15. The sponsoring parent will be responsible for the behavior and finances of his or her issue. Article II, Section I (b) will cover all other requirements.
- E) A prospective member who has been refused membership must wait for a minimum of one year before reapplying.

### **Section 4: Member At Large**

In the event a member in good standing moves outside of San Diego County, he or she may apply for member at large status. Such application must be in writing and will be automatically approved. Members at large are required to pay \$10.00 annual dues. Article III, Section I (A) of the By-laws is waived for members at large. Member at large status may be maintained only as long as the member remains outside of San Diego County. The application for member at large status and the application to return to regular member status must be made within 90 days of the member's move. A member at large shall not be entitled to vote, and is not counted in the 50 member limit. A member at large may participate in competitive events, as long as he or she meets the criteria a regular member must meet (e.g. insurance), but does not receive year-end points.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES (Continued)**

### **Section 5: Honorary Memberships**

The President and duly elected officers shall grant an individual an honorary membership upon approval of the general membership. The honorary member shall be a non-chapter member who is recognized for his or her contributions and/or service to The San Diego Bassmasters and the sport of bass fishing. Honorary members pay no dues and receive complimentary newsletters and notices of special events, but may not compete in tournaments and is not counted in the 50-member limit.

### **Section 6: Lifetime Members**

Upon approval by the general membership, the board may confer upon a member an Honorary Lifetime Membership as a token for outstanding service and fellowship. A Lifetime Member pays no dues, but is able to participate in club activities and vote, as long as he or she is a member of B.A.S.S. The club will pay Chapter Federation dues or insurance fees out of the treasury for those Lifetime Members. A Lifetime Member is not counted in the 50-member limit.

### **Section 7: Inactive Member**

A) In the event of personal difficulty, a member may petition in writing to the board to become an inactive member. After review of the petition, the board may grant a leave of absence to that member for a period not to exceed 12 months, provided dues are current at time of request.

### **Section 8: Reinstatement of Membership**

This section shall not affect the status of any member whose membership has been terminated by the club for any reason (see Article III). Members in an inactive or at-large status, may be reinstated to full membership by:

- Payment of the initiation fee and one month's dues.
- Approval by a simple majority of members at a General Meeting.

Members who have voluntarily resigned their membership while in good standing may, if within three years of resigning, be reinstated to full membership by:

- Payment of the initiation fee and one month's dues.
- Approval by a simple majority of members at a General Meeting.

Members who have voluntarily resigned their membership while in good standing may, if more than three years have relapsed since resigning, be reinstated to full membership by:

- Payment of the initiation fee and one month's dues.
- Approval by a majority of Board Members.
- Approval by two thirds of members at a General Meeting.

If, after three consecutive meetings a member has not paid their dues, they will not be eligible to participate in that month's tournament. The member will still be able to participate in non-tournament activities and vote on Club matters.

Remedy: If the member brings their status to current by paying the three months back dues no less than 7 calendar days prior to the tournament, he/she will be allowed to compete, but will forfeit the (2) tournament participation points since the member was not eligible to sign up for that tournament at the previous meeting. The member must bring current all dues by the end of the fourth general meeting to maintain membership status.

## **ARTICLE III: REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

### **Removal from membership shall occur for the following reasons:**

- A) It is the member's responsibility to keep dues current. A member will be dropped from the Club after non-payment of dues for four consecutive meetings. To regain active status, within one year of being dropped, any member dropped for non-payment of dues must pay all dues in arrears at the time membership ceased, pay the initiation fee and the next month's dues. After one year has elapsed since being dropped, all membership rights are terminated and the person must apply for membership as in Article II, Section 3 above.
- B) Any action, which would reflect dishonor or disgrace on this chapter. Persons are recommended for removal by the Board and are removed by a simple majority vote of those present at a general meeting. Member so removed lose all privileges and may not re-apply for membership until one year has passed since their removal. The person must apply for membership as in Article II, Section 3 above.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 1: Officers and Their Duties**

All officers shall fulfill the duties of their office to the best of their abilities, and they shall participate in club functions to the fullest extent possible. All officers shall keep other members of the Board and the membership apprised of developments in the areas they are responsible for. Their duties include, but are not limited to:

- A) President: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoints and directs all committee functions. Supervises all club functions.
- B) Vice President: Assists the President in his or her duties and presides in his or her absence. Arrange for monthly programs, if applicable or meeting schedule permits.
- C) Tournament Director: Oversees tournament events and scheduling. Advises any member if they have lost eligibility to fish next tournament. Assures fairness and honesty in competition. Updates tournament rules.
- D) Treasurer: Maintains accurate financial records and reports status at each meeting. Prepares an annual budget. Advises Tournament Director and Membership Director if a member is in jeopardy of not fishing next tournament or losing membership status.
- E) Secretary: Maintains accurate minutes of all meetings. Handles official correspondence.
- F) Membership Director: Introduces new members and guests. Provides new member profile for next newsletter. Maintains accurate membership records. Assures all members meet the requirements for membership. Advises a member of impending loss of membership status.
- G) Newsletter Editor: Compiles, copies, and distributes monthly newsletter. Maintains archives of back issues.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY (Continued)**

### **Section 2: Elections**

The election of officers shall be held annually at the last regular meeting of the calendar year. Final election shall be by a simple majority of members present. Election of each officer shall be held separately in order listed in Article IV, Section 1.

### **Section 3: Eligibility to Vote**

Each regular or family member in good standing is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

### **Section 4: Term of office**

The term of office is for one calendar year or until a successor assumes office.

### **Section 5: Vacancies**

In the event an office becomes vacant, an election shall be held to fill the unexpired term.

### **Section 6: Eligibility for Holding Office**

To be eligible for an elected office, a member must have been a member for one year and shown an active interest in chapter functions.

### **Section 7: Board of Directors**

The seven elected members shall constitute the Board of Directors, herein known as the Board. The function of the Board shall be to conduct the business of the club under the guidelines of the constitution and by-laws and shall serve as the administrative and policy making body of this chapter.

## **ARTICLE V: METHOD OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

### **Section 1: Amending the Constitution and By-Laws**

The constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote, and published in the newsletter.

## **ARTICLE VI: HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Section 1: Bassmaster of the Year**

The club may honor a member that has clearly exceeded his or her role as part of the club by bestowal of the highest honor the club confers, that of Bassmaster of the Year. This honor signifies that this individual has consistently dedicated his or her time and talents and has freely given service significantly above and beyond that required by his or her office or station to the betterment of the San Diego Bassmasters. Nomination ballots for Bassmaster of the Year will be presented to the membership at the November General Meeting. These forms will state the above requirements and ask for written nominations. The Board will review the ballots and without discussion, vote by secret ballot for one person. The President and the last elected Bassmaster of the Year will review the Board's ballots. At least three votes are required for election of Bassmaster of the Year, and if two members each receive three votes, two Bassmasters of the Year shall be named. The award will be bestowed upon the individual at the annual awards banquet or other suitable venue.

### **Section 2: Bassmaster Scholarship**

The San Diego Bassmasters shall establish a fund to award an annual scholarship towards expenses at an accredited college or university. Persons eligible for this scholarship must be a member or close relative of a member (i.e. spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, grandchild, niece, or nephew). The amount set aside for the scholarship each year shall be determined by a vote of the membership and based on recommendations from the Club Treasurer. The amount for the scholarship awarded shall be at least \$100 and not more than \$500 per year. A Scholarship Committee to select the person to be awarded the scholarship will consist of a Chairman, appointed by the President in January for a term of one year. The Scholarship Committee will include four other members who will serve for one year, two of which must be elected by the General Membership. The Scholarship Committee shall determine the method of selecting the winner of the scholarship, and their selection of a recipient is final. In the event a suitable candidate is not found, the Scholarship Committee may elect not to award the scholarship.