

# **BERRIEN BASS BUSTERS**

(Revision 3/13/2017)  
Constitution and By-Laws  
Of

**Berrien Bass Busters**  
Founded

April 9, 1979

## **Article I. Name and Purpose**

### Section 1. Name

This club shall be known as Berrien Bass Busters

### Section 2. Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our State Conservation Department our organization 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 attention to his crime. To improve our skills 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 of this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other club embracing the principles and purposes of Bass competitive bass fishing.

## **Article II Membership**

### Section 1. Number of Members

The club shall begin with at least six (6) members but not more than ten (10) *charter* members. The total general membership shall not be restricted.

### Section 2. Requirement for Membership

To become a member, a person shall:

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) Be at least sixteen (16) years if age.
- (c) All prospective new members shall have read acknowledge compliance with this booklet, the BBB Constitution and Bylaws and the BBB Tournament Rules. No prospective membership vote shall commence without this acknowledgement.
- (d) Prospective new member is required to attend a meeting of the general membership for an interview and evaluation.
- (e) During a regular meeting of the general membership of BBB, the Executive Board shall lead any discussion of a new prospective member. If there is a sponsor present, then this responsibility may be delegated as appropriate by the President.
- (f) The recommendation of any prospective member shall be by a motion on the floor that carries and shall be voted on by the General Membership. This vote may be by secret ballot and affirmation must be by at least seventy-five (75) percent of the members present.
- (g) The prospective new member shall be notified of his/her acceptance or rejection by the club President.

### Section 3. Membership Dues

- (a) The membership dues shall be set by the General Membership annually.
- (b) Dues shall be based on a year beginning December 1 and ending November 30 and shall not be prorated.
- (c) Annual dues shall be due in full at the first Spring meeting prior to the first tournament of the year
- (d) Delinquent members shall lose all club privileges at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- (e) Officers are exempt from paying membership dues.

### Section 4. Non-Profit Status

- (a) In the event that Berrien Bass Busters dissolves all assets, real and personal property will revert to the local government.
- (b) Berrien Bass Busters will remain forever as a non-profit organization.

### Section 5. Boat Ownership

- (a) Boat ownership shall not be a requirement for membership. The ratio of boat ownership (BO) members to non-boat owner (N-BO) members should not fall below three (1) BO members to two (1) N-BO members. Any excess of N-BO members shall be addressed in the Tournament Rules.

### Section 6. Youth Membership

Persons under the age of sixteen (16) years shall be granted Youth Membership in BBB upon payment of membership dues shall be the same as all other general members as set by an annual vote of the general membership.

- (a) Youth members must be sponsored by an adult member in good standing.
- (b) Youth membership status of the Berrien Bass Busters shall remain in effect until he/she reaches the age of Eighteen (18) years, whereupon their status will automatically be changed to adult membership.
- (c) Youth members shall be entitled to all club privileges as allowed by state law prior to reaching age eighteen (18).
- (d) All youth must have the permission from his/her adult sponsor AND his/her tentative boater/non-boater as defined in the Tournament Rules.

## Article III. OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY

### Section 1. Officers and their duties

The officers of the club shall consist of:

- (a) President: Preside over all meeting and direct all official business. Appoint and direct all committee functions. Be an ex-officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.
- (b) Vice-President: Act as Program Chairman, assist the President in his/her duties and preside in the absence of the President.
- (c) Secretary: Maintain accurate minutes of all meetings and report at each meeting.
- (d) Treasurer: Collect and disburse all monies authorized by the membership. Keep accurate records for permanent files and report at each meeting.

### Section 2. Elections

- (a) The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting of the general membership during the month of November. Election shall be by simple majority of the members present. Election for each office shall be held separately and in the orders listed in Article III, Section 1 of these bylaws.
- (b) Nominations for office shall be held at the first regular meeting of the general membership in October of each year.

### Section 3. Eligibility of Vote

Each member is entitled to one vote only. Proxy votes are prohibited

### Section 4. Term of Office

The term of office for all offices is one (1) year, which shall begin on December 1 and end on the last day of November or until the successor assumes office.

### Section 5. Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held immediately to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

### Section 6. Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible to hold office a member must:

- (a) Have been a member in good standing for at least six (6) months.
- (b) Have attended at least three-quarters (3/4) of the club meetings and at least three-quarters (3/4) of the club functions.
- (c) Have shown an active interest in all clubs functions.

### Section 7. Club Suspension

The BBB purpose is to be a family oriented recreational organization to promote bass fishing, fishing conservation, youth participation and community service. Members who compromise the ethical foundation of the club may be suspended. Suspension may be by the Executive Board or by Tournament Director effective immediately at the time of declaration. Conditions that may warrant member suspension include but not limited to the following::

- (a) Public drunkenness or intoxicated behavior during any club sponsored event.
- (b) Violence of any nature directed towards a club member for any reason.
- (c) Immoral or unethical behavior that reflects negatively on BBB or any BBB sanctioned events.
- (d) Cheating or other unsportsmanlike conduct
- (e) Criminal activity while associated with any BBB sanctioned event.
- (f) Theft or damage of property or similar irresponsible behavior

## Article IV. METHOD OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### Section 1. Amending the Constitution and By-laws

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the general membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, with the following restrictions:

- (a) the proposed amendment has been provided to the complete general membership in advance of the meeting.
- (b) the change does not create a conflict with the Tournament Rules or the BBB general publication
- (c) if there are any conflicts created as defined in (b) above, the affected documents must also be included in the prior notification of change to the general membership (part (a) above) and all affected documents approved at the same meeting.

## Article V. REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. A member shall be dropped from the membership roll for any of the following:

- (a) Failure to pay dues.
- (b) Any action which reflects dishonor or disgrace on the club or members.
- (c) Removal of membership must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership present.
- (d) A written proposal or as motioned on the floor that carries to expel a member must be made at a regular meeting of the general membership.
- (e) Any member subject to expulsion under Section 1, sub-section (a), (b) or (c) of this Article, shall have the right to appeal such expulsion to the Membership Committee within thirty (30) days of the date of the meeting at which his/her expulsion is proposed. If said member fails to request a hearing within this thirty (30) day period his/her right to a hearing shall be automatically revoked.
- (f) At the next regular meeting of the general membership the Membership Committee shall make a recommendation to either accept or reject the proposal to expel. The general membership shall then vote on the recommendation of the Membership Committee. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership present shall be required.

Section 2. Exclusion From Sub-Section (c) above

Sub-section (c) of Section 1 of Article V does not apply to members in good standing prior to October 1, 1980. This section cannot be amended.

## Article VII. MEETINGS

### Section 1. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held once a month at a designated place and time agreed on by the general membership.

### Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called if approved by the President, Secretary and one general member provided:

- (a) Proper notice given to all members at least five (5) days prior to the date of the proposed special meeting. Prior notice must specify the date and subject of the special meeting.
- (b) No other subject may be discussed or acted on at a special meeting.

## Article VIII. COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Make-up of Committees

Committees shall consist of not less than four members in good standing.

### Section 2. Function of Committee

#### (a) Membership Committee

- (1) Interview and evaluate all prospective members.
- (2) Report committee recommendations to general membership.
- (3) Recommend any changes in membership requirement.

#### (b) Social Activity Committee

- (1) Organize inter-club social activities.
- (2) Oversee and direct all club social activities.
- (3) Co-ordinate all inter-club social activities.

## TOURNAMENT RULES

Revised 2019-12-09

1. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director and/or the assistant tournament director. Any member who has a disagreement with a decision of the tournament director may appeal said decision to the club's Executive Board. Appeals made more than thirty (30) minutes after completion of the weigh-in will not be considered.

2. Participation shall be open to any member of BBB in good standing. Family member guests will be allowed under the following conditions. No other guest will be allowed.

- Must be a family member of a Berrien Bass Busters member in good standing.
- All Berrien Bass Busters members must be able to fish, with no more than (2) persons per boat, prior to including a family member guest.
- Family member must have a valid fishing license.
- All Berrien Bass Busters rules to apply to Family Member guest
- Family member guest will only be allowed to fish as a guest for only (1) tournament in a fishing season.
- Family member's fish will count for Big Bass for a monetary winnings of any kind. However, a family member guest's fish can be totaled or weighed as a courtesy.

3. The members at the November meeting will pick tournament lakes. Tournament dates will be selected by the appointed committee and presented at the December meeting.

4. Tournament Fees/Paybacks.

The cost of participation in each tournament for both a boater and a non-boater shall be \$25.00 (See additional fees and penalties below). \$5.00 of every entry fee is reserved for Big Bass for the tournament. The remaining Payback will be for each respective place as follows:

1st 50%

2nd 30%

3rd 20%

5. Tournament partners will be drawn at a general meeting prior to the tournament date. Anyone entering the tournament after the draw may be assessed a \$10.00 late fee. All fishermen **must** pay or commit to pay their tournament fee prior to the tournament draw. There will be no exceptions. All tournament fees are non-refundable. If a participant is a no-show, their tournament money will not be refunded. If the no-show is a non-boater, he/she will still owe the boater the non-boater fee and it must be paid prior to the next tournament. If the no-show is a boater, he may be liable for the non-boater fees if not paired at the ramp by the Tournament Director. ALL NO-SHOW FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO FISHING ANY FUTURE TOURNAMENT. Emergency conditions are not normally considered a no-show. In such cases proper notification must be made to the Tournament Director or Executive Board and boater prior to the tournament start time and in as advance notice as is practical. Tournament pairing in emergent conditions, carryover of fees and no-show status are effected at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director and the decisions are considered final.

6. Any member who wishes to be included in a tournament draw, but cannot attend the tournament draw, **must** contact either the tournament director, a member in attendance of the meeting or the club President to have their name included in the draw. It is always the absent members responsibility to make sure their tournament fee will be paid before the draw.

7. No two (2) chapter members shall fish together in more than one (1) tournament per year, except when necessary due to the lack of available combinations.

8. There shall be two (2) fishermen in each boat in every tournament, with the following exceptions.

A. If the draw produces a boater without a partner.

B. If a boater's partner is unable to participate, doesn't show up in time for the tournament take-off or must leave during a tournament.

C. If a boater/boater for a (2) consecutive day tournament is drawn, they can decide to fish by themselves.

D. For a non-boater, in the event his boater breaks down during a tournament with acceptance of another participating boater AND non-boater three (3) persons are allowed to complete the tournament.

E. For cases where more boaters exist than non-boaters, boaters may decide to fish as a non-boater and be paired.

9. Tournament Drawings

Boaters and non-boaters are paired by draw until all names are drawn. In the event there are more non-boaters than boaters, the remaining non-boaters are in standby status until; 1) Tournament Director can identify an available boater to fish, or 2) a paired non-boater decides not to fish. All pairings done in this manner are at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. If the boater/non-boater is a youth, both the youth sponsor and the respective boater/non-boater shall agree to the pairing or names are

redrawn/reassigned at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.. Persons entering a tournament draw as a “non-boater” will be requested to pay their partner (the boater) a fee to help defray the boat and towing expenses. This fee will be \$30 and cover one half of the launch fees.

#### 10. Legal Fish

Largemouth or smallmouth: minimum size is determined by the states DNR. Undersized fish shall be grounds for loss of that undersize fish plus a one (1) pound penalty. Each participant shall be allowed a courtesy bump of one or more fish before weigh-in. Courtesy bump is with the “Golden Rule”. Each participant is responsible for measuring their own fish before turning fish into the tournament director.

#### 11. Weighing Fish

##### Paper Tournament Weighin Procedure

This type of BBB tournament was devised because of Michigan's closed bass season. Utilizing this type of tournament is to eliminate live well usage, alleviate stress in the fish and simplify the weigh-in.

Each boater is required to have a scale that weighs in pounds and ounces. Prior to each tournament each scale will be checked with the club's one pound weight. Any deviation should be entered in the scale tare area of the weigh sheet.

Upon landing each keeper, weigh it, release it, write the weight down on the weigh sheet and circle L for largemouth or S for smallmouth.

At the end of the tournament total your weight (up to five fish) and write the total on the appropriate line and then turn the weigh sheet into the weigh master. If more than five fish are caught circle the five fish that you are counting.

Anyone fishing a BBB tournament alone is required to have a witness of weighing and releasing their fish. This will not be a requirement before opening day in Michigan.

##### After Fishing Tournament Weighin Procedure

This type of tournament would be used when the club wants or needs a weighin after fishing a tournament.

After loading your boat onto the trailer, everyone should try and park in a common area. Then go to the weighin area and receive two different bags. Put the black mesh bag into the clear plastic bag and then put enough water, or more, to have the fish survive the following: When removing fish from the livewell place them in the black mesh bag. Then carry the fish to the weighin site and pull the black mesh bag out and hand it to the weigh master. The weigh master will shake the excess water from the fish and bag. Then the weigh master will roll up the fish in the bag and weigh them. When finished, open the bag and allow the contestant to select their (one) big bass. Put the big bass back in the bag put it back in the water bag. Take the fish to the fished water and release them in a respectful manner. After dumping the water shake excess water from each bag and return them to the weigh masters.

#### 12. Scoring

Scoring is determined by one point per ounce of fish weighed in. There will be a 6 ounce penalty for each dead fish. Fish placed in overboard live nets or on stringers will be classified as dead fish.

Ten (10) tournament points shall be awarded for each meeting attended.

Ten (10) points shall be awarded for each chapter tournament attended.

Ten (10) tournament points shall be awarded for each non-boater abandoned by the no-show boater.

Social events shall not be considered as club functions.

Each member, if participating, will select 1 fish to be weighed for Big Bass.

#### 13. Tackle and Equipment

With the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc., only artificial lures may be used. Only one spinning, spincast or casting rod and reel shall be used at any one time Flipping rods are considered as casting rods. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use. All bass shall be caught live in a conventional sporting manner.

#### 14. Check-in Time and Location;

Check-in time shall be from ½ hour before the start of the event determined at the previous general membership meeting prior to the tournament. Check-in location shall be a predetermined launching site. The tournament director's watch shall be the official time. All watches should be synchronized to the director's watch. Late arrival at the tournament site is strongly discouraged. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, violators will be penalized by losing one (1) tournament attendance point and an 8-ounce penalty. All participants must be at the check-in point at a time designated by the tournament director. A party who is a late show, will be required to check in with the Tournament Director in a manner required by the Tournament Director prior to beginning to fish. Participants must leave and return to the check-in point by boat. Participants must remain in the boat at all times, except emergency and personal sanitary needs.

A one (1) pound penalty will be assessed for each minute late to weigh-in up to fifteen (15) minutes. After fifteen (15) minutes the entire catch is disqualified. However, the member's attendance point will not be lost. In the event of a breakdown, with permission of the Tournament Director, tournament participants may arrive late with no penalty. Should any questions arise

regarding this rule, the Tournament Director and if requested, the Executive Board in attendance, will provide any interpretation or clarification. All decisions made by the Tournament Director are final. All fish will be released immediately after weigh-in in the nearest body of water.

#### 15. Anchoring

Fishing within fifty (50) yards of another competitor's boat that is anchored down (which includes power poles) and trolling motor up, is not allowed without permission from the first boat in the area. If you let one competitor fish within fifty (50) yards of your boat, you must let all competitors fish that area. The new Minnkota anchoring system should be included. When using "Spot Lock" you are required to notify anyone within the required distance.

#### 16. Safety

General boat safety shall be practiced at all times.

See "Guide to Safe Boating in Michigan"

All participants **SHALL** wear a U.S. Coastguard approved personal floatation device (PFD) connected to an auto-shut off apparatus when the combustion engine is in operation.

#### 17. Disqualification

Any infraction of State Fishing Laws, BBB rules or tournament rules shall mean disqualification. All boats must be inspected by the tournament director or assistant tournament director prior to take off.

Chumming will result in immediate disqualification.

#### 18. Minimum Tournament Boat Requirements:

- Length - Fourteen (14) feet.
- Electric trolling motor.
- Aerated livewell.
- Kill switch for combustion motor.

19. These rules generally follow the rules of the Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, with some minor alterations and deletions.

#### 20. Alternative Lakes

At the beginning of the season, during the selection of lakes, 3 or more predetermined lakes are to be chosen by the club to be used throughout the tournament trail for the year.

1. If none of the predetermined alternate lakes selected during the beginning of the season provide a suitable option for the clubs purposes, a specific alternate lake may be chosen at the regularly scheduled club meeting by a majority vote of the general membership on the day of pairing for that specific tournament.
  - a. A proxy vote may be counted provided the voting member will fish the tournament date in question.
  - b. A proxy vote member may be held liable for the upcoming tournament fees in the unlikely event of a convenient change of intent to participate.
  - c. A proxy vote must contact the Tournament Director or Executive Club member prior to the vote.

#### 21. Alternative Lakes Use:

1. A predetermined alternate lake selection may be invoked in such cases that warrant a change which may include safety concerns, inclement weather or other tournament conflicts.
  - a. In emergent conditions, the Tournament Director may invoke the selection of a predetermined alternate lake provided all tournament participants have been contacted a minimum of 2 days prior to the tournament date and without undue financial hardship on any participant (such as pre-fishing expenses, hotel fees, etc.).
  - b. The tournament Participants may pre-coordinate the need by unanimous vote of the boater participants, and invoke an alternate lake selection at any time prior to the start time of the specific tournament.
  - c. In all cases, any change in the club tournament trail to fish an alternate lake must be approved by the Executive Board.
2. An alternate lake may be properly motioned, with a second and the motion must carry at the preceding lake selection general meeting.
  - a. Only those members who intend to fish on the alternate lake motioned may vote.
  - b. Only a 4 to 1 (80%) majority vote will change the selection of a tournament trail lake.
  - c. By rule, tournament trail changes made by proper motion that carries with vote do not require Executive Board approval.



**The consumption or public display of any alcoholic beverage may result in immediate suspension by the Tournament Director and can result in removal of BBB membership.**

### **FINAL STANDINGS RULES**

1. A portion of the membership fees will be retained annually to cover miscellaneous expenses for club business and to cover the costs of trophies. An agreed upon sum will be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet to the top three (3) places on the following basis;

First Place\*\*\*\*\* 50% of the remaining membership fees collected for end of year awards.

Second Place\*\*\*\*\* 30% of the remaining membership fees collected for end of year awards.

Third Place\*\*\*\*\* 20% of the remaining membership fees collected for end of year awards.

2. Miscellaneous expenses for club business the costs of trophies will be approved at a previous general membership meeting in the Treasury Report.

**REMEMBER.....ALWAYS CHECK THE RULES OF EACH TOURNAMENT YOU ENTER**

**DO NOT KILL YOUR CATCH**

Good Luck to all participants and remember to **SHOW GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL TIMES!!!**

**GOOD FISHING**