

BERRIEN BASS BUSTERS

(Revision 3/21/2022)

Constitution and By-Laws

Of

Berrien Bass Busters

Founded April 9, 1979

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name

The club will be known as "Berrien Bass Busters."

Section 2. Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our organization's moral and political support and encouragement to fishing-focused conservation efforts, both local and within Michigan. 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 is not restricted.

Section 2. Requirement for Membership

To become a member, a person will:

- (a) Voluntarily express interest in membership.
- (b) Be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- (c) All prospective new members must read and acknowledge compliance with the Berrien Bass Busters Constitution and Bylaws and the Berrien Bass Busters Tournament Rules. No prospective membership vote may commence without this acknowledgement.
- (d) The 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 the Berrien Bass Busters, the Executive Board will 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 to accept a prospective member will be by a motion on the floor that carries and will be voted on by the general membership. This vote may be by secret ballot and approval must be by at least seventy-five (75) percent of the members present.
- (g) The prospective new member will be notified of his/her acceptance or rejection by the club President.

Section 3. Membership Dues

- (a) The membership dues will be set by the General Membership annually at the January general meeting.
- (b) Dues will be based on a year beginning January 1 and ending December 31 and will not be prorated.
- (c) Annual dues are due in full at the first Spring meeting prior to the first tournament of the year.
- (d) Delinquent members will 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

Boat ownership is not a requirement for membership. The ratio of boat owner (BO) members to non-boat owner (N-BO) members should not fall below three (3) BO members to two (2) N-BO members. Any excess of N-BO members is addressed in the Tournament Rules.

Section 6. Youth Membership

Persons under the age of sixteen (16) years may be granted Youth Membership in Berrien Bass Busters upon payment of membership dues. Youth membership dues will be 50% of general membership dues. Youth members have the same rights and privileges 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 will 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 are entitled to all club privileges as allowed by state law prior to reaching age eighteen (18).

- (d) In order to fish in any club-sponsored tournaments, all youth must have the permission from his/her adult sponsor and his/her tentative boater/non-boater as defined in the Tournament Rules.

Section 7. Suspension of Membership

The Berrien Bass Busters is 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 the Tournament Director effective immediately at the time of declaration. Conditions that may warrant member suspension include, but are 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 Berrien Bass Busters or any club sanctioned events.
- (d) Cheating or other unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (e) Criminal activity while associated with any Berrien Bass Busters sanctioned event.
- (f) Theft or damage of property or similar irresponsible behavior.

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 publish the minutes to the general membership by email at least fourteen (14) days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Provide a proposed meeting agenda to the general membership by email at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- (d) **Treasurer:** Collect and disburse all monies authorized by the membership. Keep accurate records for permanent files and publish a report of the current status of club funds by email to the general membership at least seven (7) days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Section 2. Elections

- (a) The election of officers will be held annually at a regular meeting of the general membership during the month of November. Election will be by simple

majority of the members present. Election for each office will be held separately and in the order listed in Article III, Section 1 of these bylaws.

- (b) Nominations for office will be made 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 begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 or until the successor assumes office.

Section 5. Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations will be made 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 club functions.

Section 7. Appointed Positions and Duties.

The following positions are appointed by the President. The appointed member must accept the appointment.

- (a) **Tournament Director:** The Tournament Director is responsible for enforcing all Tournament Rules, setting tournament start and finish times, setting tournament start location(s), and overseeing all aspects of conducting club sponsored fishing tournament events.
- (b) **Assistant Tournament Director:** The Assistant Tournament Director is responsible for assisting the Tournament Director as needed and performing the Tournament Director's duties when he/she is unavailable or unable to perform the duties.
- (c) **Weighmaster:** The Weighmaster is responsible for receiving all tournament weights from all participants, by whichever method is selected by the Weighmaster, for all paper/electronic tournaments.
- (d) **Safety Director:** The Safety Director will present safety related topics at each monthly meeting, when appropriate, during the "Safety Minute" portion of the meeting. These topics may include health and safety, boating safety regulations or tips, or safety information regarding upcoming bodies of water, such as low water level dangers, hazardous areas, no-wake zones, etc.

- (e) **Technology Director:** The Technology Director will be responsible for maintaining the Club website, in cooperation with the Secretary.

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 Berrien Bass Busters' 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 from Membership

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

- (a) Failure to pay dues after 28 days notice from the Treasurer of past-due status.
- (b) Any action which reflects dishonor or disgrace on the club or members.
- (c) Removal from membership must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership present.
- (d) A written proposal or a motion 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 the expulsion to the Membership Committee within thirty (30) days of the date of the meeting at which his/her expulsion is proposed. If the member fails to request a hearing within this thirty (30) day period his/her right to a hearing is waived.
- (f) At the next regular meeting of the general membership, the Membership Committee will make a recommendation to either accept or reject the proposal to expel. The general membership will then vote on the recommendation of the Membership Committee. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership present is required to expel a member.

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 VI. Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

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

Section 2. Meeting Procedures

- (a) Meetings will be conducted in the order set forth in the proposed agenda sent by the Secretary.
- (b) Approval of the prior month's minutes and treasury report will be by a simple voice vote at the start of the meeting. The minutes and treasurer's report will not be read at each meeting.
- (c) Any items for discussion and voting will be handled in the following manner:
 - a. The proposal will be read by the Secretary or explained by the member making the proposal.
 - b. The members will discuss the proposal and any alternative proposals on the same subject.
 - c. At the President's discretion regarding conclusion of the discussion, he/she will ask for a motion on the proposal. Any member may move to accept or reject the proposal.
 - d. Any other member may then second the pending motion.
 - e. Upon a second on the motion, the President will call for a vote on the motion and declare the result after the vote. Voting may be by voice, paper, or hand indication.

Section 3. Special Meetings

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

- (a) Proper notice is 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 VII. Committees

Section 1. Make-up of Committees

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

Section 2. Function of Committees

- (a) Membership Committee
 - a. Interview and evaluate all prospective members.
 - b. Report committee recommendations to the general membership.
 - c. Recommend any changes in membership requirements.
- (b) Social Activity Committee
 - a. Organize club social activities.
 - b. Oversee and direct all club social activities.
 - c. Coordinate all club social activities.
- (c) Tournament Committee.

- a. Prepare a proposed schedule for the upcoming tournament dates prior to the December meeting and present it to the Club Officers prior to the meeting for consideration and approval.