**LITTLE CREEK BASS ANGLERS**

**OF VIRGINIA**

**2023**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

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| PRESIDENT                             VICE-PRESIDENT                             SECRETARY                             TREASURER                             TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR | BRIAN GUCKERT  CHRIS PIKE  CHRIS PIKE  AMY SCHWARTZ  DENNIS COOK |

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**I. CONSTITUTION**

**Article 1. NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1. Name.**

**This Chapter shall be called LITTLE CREEK BASS ANGLERS OF VIRGINIA.**

**Section 2. Purpose.**

**To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport; to offer our State Conservation Department organized moral and political support and encouragement; to promote full adherence to all conservation standards; to detect any polluter and call public and political attention to his crime; to improve our skills as bass anglers through fellowship, a love for the sport and friendly exchange of expert catching techniques and ideas; to function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters.**

**Article 2. METHOD OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**Section 1. Amendments.**

**The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended only during the month of January at a regularly held Chapter meeting. Amendments will be decided by a majority vote of the members present. Administrative or typographic errors may be corrected at any time. Region 7, B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation), and B.A.S.S. regulation changes, which affect the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws, are included under "Administrative Changes".**

**Section 2. Procedures.**

**In writing, submit the proposed changes to the Chapter President and Chapter Secretary on or before the first meeting in December, clearly indicate to what article and section the amendment refers and include a short discussion of why the change is desired.**

**Article 3. CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTIONS**

**Section 1. Elections.**

**Nominations for new officers will be determined by the Nominating Committee as outlined in Article 7, Section 2.4 and presented to the Chapter annually at the last meeting in November of each year. Elections shall be by a majority vote at the first meeting in December. Elections for each office shall be held in the order listed in Article 4.**

**Section 2. Eligibility to Vote.**

**Each member present during a regular business meeting will be entitled to one vote. Members absent will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot for the election of officers for the following year.**

**Section 3. Term of Office.**

**The term of office is one year, which shall begin on February 1 and will end on January 31 or until the successor assumes office.**

**Section 4. Vacancies.**

**In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be solicited and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating office. In the case of the President, the Vice-President will assume the office and the office vacated by the Vice-President will be filled.**

**Section 5. Eligibility to Hold Office.**

**Must be a paid, active member.**

**Article 4. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

**Section 1. President.**

**Presides over meetings and all committees as necessary to conduct the business of the Chapter.**

**Section 2. Vice-President.**

**Acts as programs chairman, assists the President in his duties and presides in the absence of the President.**

**Section 3. Secretary.**

**Maintains/reports accurate minutes of all meetings. Maintains regular liaison between the Chapter and Region 7, B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation), and B.A.S.S.**

**Section 4. Treasurer.**

**Maintains accurate financial records for the Chapter and each Chapter member. Collects funds at each Chapter event where required, pays established payout fees, and deposits/disburses funds from the Chapter's treasury. Provides a complete financial report at each meeting. Reports the current amount in the Chapter Classic Pot as part of the financial report. Maintains a permanent list of former members who resigned from the club owing dues, etc. and the amount owed.**

**Section 5. Tournament Director.**

**Supervises the Tournament Committee in performing their duties as specified in Constitution Article 7, Section 2.1. Determines order of finish for each tournament and maintains records of each tournament and year to date standings. Provides oversight for overall safety at each tournament as described in By-Laws Article 1.**

**Article 5. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Requirements for Membership.**

**Chapter membership will be governed by the following requirements:**

**A. The membership shall be unlimited, except that at no time will a prospective non-boater be introduced for membership when his election to the Chapter would cause the boater/non-boater ratio to exceed 50/50 minus 2 (i.e., there will always be 2 more boaters than non-boaters in the Chapter).**

**B. Express a genuine interest in the Chapter.**

**C. Hold a current membership in B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation), and B.A.S.S. or agree to become a member within thirty (30) days of acceptance in the Chapter.**

**D. Each member shall be required to participate in at least one (1) of the regular scheduled Region Seven events each year. Fishing at least one Region Seven tournament or working one of several youth events scheduled throughout the year can fulfill this requirement. Failure to meet this requirement will result in loss of eligibility to fish Mr. Bass and Chapter Team, if otherwise qualified.**

**E. A prospective member will:**

**1. Attend minimum of two Chapter functions, one (1) of which may be tournament fishing as a guest. Prior to being voted on by the membership, a prospective member must have fished at least once (fun fishing or tournament fishing acceptable) with an active member of the chapter.**

**2. Submit a membership application and initial dues equal to the membership dues cited in Section 3, Membership Dues, Paragraph A. or C., as applicable, to his sponsor (sponsor defined as active club member introducing applicant to the Chapter). The sponsor will present the application before the Chapter at the next meeting for acceptance. If accepted, the initial dues amount will be turned over to the Treasurer. If not accepted, the initial dues amount will be returned to the applicant.**

**3. Persons who were previous members of the Chapter shall pay all dues accrued during their previous membership that were left unpaid.**

**F. Honorary Member. Honorary membership may be granted to prior chapter members 65 years of age or older who would have been a chapter member for a period of no less than 15 years and/or served as a chapter officer during their membership and left the chapter in good standings. Nomination of honorary membership may be made by any current chapter member and voted on by chapter members during a regularly scheduled meeting.**

**1. Honorary members will not be required to retain membership in TBF (or BN) and will not be required to pay monthly chapter dues or other recurring assessments.**

**2. Honorary members will be entitled to attend chapter meetings and functions as a non-voting member.**

**3. Honorary members will not be entitled to participate in Region events or state qualifying tournaments.**

**4. Honorary members may participate in chapter tournaments as a boater (NOT required to be paired with a non-boater member) or as a non-boater if space is available with a boater member. A $10.00 assessment will be paid by the honorary member for tournament participation in order to be entitled to monetary awards for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place finish as dictated by these by-laws. In addition, trophies will be awarded to honorary members for a 1st place finish in a chapter tournament.**

**5. Honorary members will not be entitled to participate in the chapter Big Bass Lotto.**

**6. Honorary members will be eligible to fish the chapter Club Classic as long as the club classic yearly assessment ($36.00) is paid prior to participation.**

**Section 2. Acceptance.**

**Approval of a membership application will be decided by a majority vote of the Chapter members present. Membership applications will be voted on only during regularly scheduled Chapter meetings.**

**Section 3. Membership Dues.**

**Dues will be assessed according to the following:**

**A. Twenty-five dollars payable at the first meeting of each month. The Treasurer will set the sum of three dollars per person per month aside in a special pot for the Chapter Classic Tournament. In addition, State Federation dues and B.A.S.S. Nation (BN) dues will be payable at the first Chapter meeting in December. These dues will be paid before a member's name will be added to the State Federation and BN rosters. Upon acceptance to the Chapter, new members are required to pay an initial fee equal to the sum of current Chapter, State Federation, and BN dues, except as outlined in Paragraph C. below.**

**B. There will be no refund to a member who elects to resign or dissolve his affiliation with the Chapter.**

**C. A person who joins the Chapter after 01 October will not be required to pay the initial fee for that calendar year. He will be required to become a member of State Federation and BN within 60 days of acceptance, and will be required to pay $25.00 monthly club dues.**

**D. A member who is on leave of absence will be required to pay monthly dues of $3.00 for the duration of his leave of absence. This $3.00 will go directly to the Classic Pot and will count towards the member’s classic fee requirement for that year. Members on Leave of Absence are required to pay State Federation and BN dues.**

**E. Members who pay the club with a check that is not honored by their bank, “regardless of reason”, shall be required to reimburse the club in cash for the amount of the check and pay an additional $20.00 service fee.**

**Section 4. Leave of Absence.**

**Leaves of absence will be granted subject to the following:**

**A. A member will notify the Chapter Officers verbally or in writing when leaving the area for an extended period of time (i.e., military deployment, temporary job relocation, etc.) or due to a legitimate hardship. Members on leave of absence will be ineligible for participation in Chapter tournaments. A leave of absence is not intended for those desiring to fish selected tournaments and avoid the payment of full month’s dues between them. Chapter Officers will determine the validity of the leave of absence request and make a final decision on granting or denial.**

**B. A leave of absence will commence at the beginning of the first month following the request to be placed on leave of absence status, unless the request is submitted prior to the second regularly scheduled meeting of the month in which the request is submitted. In that case, the leave of absence will commence at the beginning of the month in which the request is submitted. If a member requests that the leave of absence start the following month (to fish a tournament, etc.), the member will be required to pay a full month's membership dues. Leave of absence will terminate the first full month the member is removed from the leave of absence status. If a member wants his leave of absence terminated earlier (to fish a tournament, etc,); the member will be required to pay a full month's membership dues.**

**C. A member carried in a leave of absence status is considered an active member with all rights and privileges; however, they will not be considered in determining a quorum.**

**Section 5. Removal of Membership.**

**A member of the Chapter may be removed from the Chapter roster by a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled Chapter meeting (secret ballot) for any of the following reasons:**

**A. Failure to pay membership dues.**

**B. Any action which reflects dishonor on this Chapter.**

**C. Failure to pay tournament fair share as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 2, Section 2, Paragraph G.**

**Article 6. AFFILIATION**

**Section 1. B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society)**

**This Chapter will maintain a 100% membership in B.A.S.S.**

**Section 2. B.A.S.S. Nation**

**This Chapter will maintain a 100% membership in B.A.S.S. Nation**

**Section 3. B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation).**

**This Chapter will maintain a 100% membership in the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation).**

**Section 4. Chapter Roster.**

**The Chapter Secretary will submit a current Chapter membership roster to B.A.S.S. Nation and B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation), at least every six months or as otherwise directed by those organizations. This roster will include names, complete addresses, membership numbers, and other pertinent data as required (telephone numbers, etc.). In addition, roster changes will be reported to the Region Seven Director as those changes occur and a full update shall be submitted not later than Jan 31st and June 30th of each calendar year.**

**Section 5. Chapter Agent.**

**Shall be the Chapter President or, in his absence, as designated by him. He will attend Region/State Federation meetings as appropriate and report the results to the Chapter membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.**

**Article 7. MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Meetings.**

**Chapter meetings will be held in accordance with the following:**

**A. Regular meetings will be held at 7:00 PM on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the NAS Oceana Natural Resources Center, Oceana Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA. Changes to location and/or date and time will be provided to Chapter members as occurring.**

**B. Special meetings shall be held as required to conduct Chapter business of an urgent or unusual nature that cannot be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting.**

**C. Roll call will be held by the Chapter Secretary at each scheduled meeting.**

**D. The minimum number of members required at a regular meeting which will constitute a quorum is one-third (1/3) of the active membership, of which at least one member must be a Chapter officer.**

**E. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages may be consumed during official business meetings.**

**F. The President, at the last meeting of the year, shall appoint an Audit Committee to audit the Treasurer's books prior to the second meeting of the New Year. This committee shall consist of the incoming Treasurer and two other members. The outgoing Treasurer, unless re-elected to the Treasurer position for the new year, will not be a member of this committee, but will be present. If such re-election is the case, another Officer of the Chapter will participate in the three-member audit.**

**Section 2. Committees.**

**In addition to other committees appointed by the President to conduct the affairs of the Chapter, the following standing committees shall be appointed by the President to function during his term of office:**

**2.1 Tournament Committee. The Tournament Director, having been elected under the provisions of Constitution Article 3, will be the chairman of this committee. Three additional members will be appointed by the President for the purpose of:**

**A. Establishing a list of tournament dates/sites.**

**B. Act as tournament officials at each Chapter tournament. In this capacity, they will assist the Tournament Director in inspecting boats for safety (which is at the discretion of the Tournament Director for any Chapter Tournament or may have been previously announced by the Tournament Director), supervising the blastoff, the weighing-in and the recording of weights.**

**C. Assist the Tournament Director in providing a tournament report, including individual results and year to date standings at the meeting subsequent to each tournament as required.**

**2.2 Conservation/Special Projects Committees. Shall consist of a chairman and one additional member (if required/desired by the appointed Chairman) appointed by the President who will:**

**A. Periodically suggest projects and conservation recommendations to the Chapter.**

**B. Attend meetings of other interest groups, volunteering the assistance of the Chapter where needed.**

**2.3 Awards Committee. Shall consist of a Chairman and additional members (as required/desired by the appointed Chairman) appointed by the president who will:**

**A. Arrange and coordinate end of year awards as stipulated in By-Laws, Article 3, Sections 1 and 2.**

**B. Arrange and coordinate annual end of season banquet. Banquet should be held in January in lieu of second meeting of the month.**

**2.4 Nominating Committee. Shall consist of an individual appointed by the president no later than the first meeting in October. The Nominating Committee will:**

**A. Contact all members to determine who will be willing to serve as a Chapter officer during the following year, and in which position(s) they would be willing to serve. Coordinate with the Chapter Secretary and Treasurer to determine the eligibility of potential candidates to hold office.**

**B. At the last meeting in November, present to the membership the slate of candidates.**

**C. Coordinate with and assist the Chapter Secretary in preparation of ballots.**

**D. Perform other election-related duties as deemed necessary by the Chapter President.**

**Article 8. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Purpose**

**The purpose of youth membership is to allow a club member to fish as many sanctioned club tournaments as they wish with a youth angler and to introduce young anglers to tournament fishing.**

**Section 2. Youth Member Definition**

**A youth member will be defined as any individual under the age of sixteen.**

**2.1 Youth Requirements. Youth members must be a BASS member but will not be required to pay club, state or national dues. Youth members will not be required to pay monthly club dues.**

**A. Once a youth member reaches the age of sixteen they must become regular club members to continue fishing sanctioned club tournaments. If the individual does not become a regular club member they may continue to fish as a guest and will comply with Article 2 Section 2 C of the By-Laws.**

**B. Youth members will fish against other youth members. Youth members will not be eligible for monetary prizes, side pots excluded. Year-end trophies will be awarded to youth members if treasury funds permit.**

**C. Youth members will not be permitted to operate the boat using the gas motor but will be allowed to utilize the trolling motor.**

**Section 3. Sponsor Definition**

**Sponsor will be defined as any paying club member sponsoring a youth member; sponsor will be solely responsible for the youth member. The sponsor will accompany the youth member at all club functions.**

**3.1 Tournament Draws for Youth Member and Sponsor. The sponsor will enter the tournament draw solely to determine the blast-off order.**

**A. If a sponsor is fishing a tournament without the youth member than the sponsor must enter the normal draw.**

**B. The sponsor and youth member will be subject to all club rules and regulations not discussed in this section.**

**II. BY-LAWS**

**Article 1. BOATING SAFETY**

**Section 1. Coast Guard Requirements.**

**All boats must meet minimum Coast Guard requirements in the state in which the Chapter is fishing.**

**Section 2. Kill Switch Device.**

**Boats with engines of forty (40) horsepower or greater must have a kill switch device. This Kill Switch should be checked prior to each tournament by the boat operator and may be randomly checked by the Tournament Director or member of the Tournament Committee at any time before blast-off at each official tournament site.  The kill switch must be connected to the operator whenever the engine is engaged during tournament hours (as defined in By-Laws Article 2, Section 1, Para C).**

**Section 3. Floatation Device.**

**During tournament hours (as defined in By-Laws Article 2, Section 1, Para C), all fishermen in the boat must have a Coast Guard approved life jacket on/worn anytime the gasoline engine is engaged.**

**Section 4. Alcoholic Beverages.**

**No alcoholic beverages will be consumed prior to or during tournament hours on the scheduled tournament day.**

**Section 5. Horsepower Rating.**

**The maximum horsepower permitted for use in a Chapter tournament will not exceed the maximum horsepower rating on the label installed by the manufacturer of the boat.**

**Section 6. Liability Insurance.**

**All boat owners that are members of Little Creek Bass Anglers must have no less than $300,000.00 Liability Insurance on their boat. In order to use their boat for Little Creek Bass Anglers’ events, proof of insurance must be provided to Little Creek Bass Anglers President in the form of a copy of the effective policy. Penalty for not having boat insurance; member must fish as a non-boater until insurance is procured and proof provided to Little Creek Bass Anglers President.**

**Section 7. Boat Seaworthiness.**

**All boats used in Chapter Tournaments must be of size capable of SAFELY supporting two (2) adults, their fishing gear and related equipment. Each boat shall have aerated livewells capable of supporting two (2) limits of fish. Determination of SAFELY supporting two (2) adults shall be at the discretion of Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee; under the coordination and supervision of the Chapter President, their decision shall be final.**

**Section 8. Navigation Lights.**

**Navigation lights must be displayed and in use in the following conditions: when away from the dock between sunset and sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility such as fog and heavy rain as prescribed by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, (DGIF) Chapter 4, Navigation Lights.**

**Section 9. Compliance Mandatory.**

**Failure to comply with Sections 1 through 8 above constitutes grounds for disqualification.**

**Section 10. Site Conditions.**

**Should dangerous conditions exist at the tournament site, a majority of the boat owners will decide if the tournament should be fished or moved to an alternate site. Should dangerous conditions be predicted (example: Hurricane prediction) at the tournament site, the official board of elected officers and the tournament committee shall collectively decide if the tournament should be fished; cancelled and later re-scheduled; or moved to an alternate site. They shall make reasonable effort to notify the membership of their decision shortly after such a determination is made.**

**Article 2. TOURNAMENT RULES**

**Section 1. Tournament Sites/Dates.**

**The Tournament Schedule will be determined by the Tournament Committee at the beginning of the year, but no later than 28 February, and approved by a majority vote of eligible Chapter members. The approved Tournament Schedule will not be changed, except under the provisions of By-Laws Article 1, Section 10.**

**A. No body of water will be fished more than three times a year (This restriction does not apply to the Chapter Classic Tournament). The site of the Chapter Classic Tournament will be determined by majority vote (of those intending to fish the tournament) at the last regularly scheduled Chapter meeting prior to the tournament.**

**B. Weigh in time is that time that competitors must be at the designated ramp location, which is declared by the Tournament Director before blast off (not within sight of the ramp), or be liable for the penalty described in By-Laws Section 13 Penalties, paragraph 13.2, Late for Weigh-in.**

**C. Tournament Hours will be defined as the period of time on tournament day between blast off and weigh-in (check-in) time.**

**Section 2. Tournaments.**

**Will be individual type. They will be conducted as follows:**

**A. The Chapter will fish a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) regular tournaments between the 1st of March and the 31st of October within the calendar year, exact number dependent upon availability of open dates and the desires of the membership when voting on the final tournament schedule for the given calendar year. Additionally, the Chapter will fish a Chapter Classic Tournament following the completion of the regular tournament schedule as defined in Section 1 above and it will be scheduled based on availability of open dates and the desires of the membership when voting on the final tournament schedule for the given calendar year, but never later than the first full weekend of November.**

**B. Pairings are to be determined at the meeting before the tournament using the draw method. If at all possible, Non-boaters shall not be paired with the same boater partner more than two (2) times during the same tournament year. All boaters who do not gain a non-boater through the draw will have their choice whether to fish alone or with another boater. In the event a member does not attend the meeting or make his intentions known per the above, he may fish the subject tournament only after paying all Chapter dues up to and including the current month and a $20.00 late penalty. These fees shall be paid prior to the tournament payout earned by the individual. (Note: This late fee (100%) will go directly into the Classic Pot).**

**Boaters who participated in the draw as a committed boater and draw a non-boater, but subsequently decide not to use their boat, will be paired as a non-boater starting at the end of the blast off order.  The non-boater originally paired with the boater, will have 1st option of pairing with a boater of his choice who did not draw a non-boater for that tournament.**

**C. Guests of members may fish Chapter Tournaments with the exception of the Chapter Classic, subject to availability of boats and payment of a $20.00 guest entry fee (All guest must pay, no one fishes a tournament without paying). This $20.00 guest entry fee will be split 50/50 between the General Treasury Fund and the Classic Pot (i.e.: $10.00 to each fund). Members who wish to fish with their guests must advise the Tournament Director before the draw begins. (Note: for the purpose of these by-law’s a guest is defined as a friend or family member residing outside the local tidewater area or someone who lives locally, to include friends and family, desiring to fish for the purpose of determining whether they are potential club members or not. All other guests must go directly into the draw. All members desiring to fish will be accommodated before guests will be permitted to fish. In general, every guest must fish with a member as his/her partner. WHEN A MEMBER DECLARES HE IS FISHING WITH A GUEST HE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE $20.00 GUEST FEE, EVEN IF LATER HIS GUEST FAILS TO SHOW OR CHANGES HIS MIND. Payment of this fee can be avoided if the member is later paired with another club member (boater or non-boater) i.e. does not fish alone.**

**Members may pre-declare a guest only three (3) times in a tournament year.  Boater members may still register a guest after a tournament draw if he/she did not gain a partner in the draw (all guest fees still apply).  A boater member who is not in the draw for a given tournament shall not be allowed to bring a guest and fish with said guest for that particular tournament.**

**D. Once the draw for a given tournament is done, pairings will not be changed, except in an emergency (breakdown of boat or tow vehicle, last minute change in work assignment, family emergency, etc.), and only if approved by the Tournament Director.**

**E. "Classic" eligibility is limited to those members who are current on Chapter dues and have been an active Chapter member for at least 60 days prior to the scheduled tournament date. Those members who have been active Chapter members for at least 60 days, but have not belonged to the Chapter for the entire year shall be required to pay an entry fee/dues equal to the amount that a member who has been a dues ($3.00 per month towards classic pot) paying member for the preceding twelve (12) months (i.e.: a total not to exceed $36.00). In short every member participating in the Classic must have contributed the same amount to the classic pot.**

**F. If a tournament is to be held for two consecutive days, partners will be the same for both days.**

**G. Non-boat owners will share equally with the boat owner the expenses for tow-vehicle gasoline, boat gasoline/oil, and ramp fees. In the event a non-boat owner fails to show up for the tournament, he will be responsible for his share of the expenses incurred by the boat owner unless his partner is paired with another contestant.**

**H. Region Seven tournaments are NOT considered regular Chapter tournaments. Regular Chapter tournaments will NOT be held in conjunction with a Region Seven Tournament. Chapter members' participation is highly encouraged.**

**I. No Chapter member will be allowed to participate in a Chapter or Region Seven Tournament if he is in a Leave of Absence status or owes dues in an amount equal to or greater than one month's dues.**

**J. From the Monday prior to the scheduled tournament date for the Classic, or from the day the site is voted on (whichever is later), those waters and adjacent waters that are within boating range are off-limits until blast-off the morning of the Classic. This shall include pleasure boat riding as well.**

**K. Boaters who did not participate in the draw for a tournament, but who wish to fish the tournament, will be added to the end of the blast-off order. Non-boaters who did not participate in the draw for a tournament, but who wish to fish the tournament, will be paired with boaters who do not have partners, starting at the end of the blast-off order. If possible, boaters and non-boaters who did not participate in the draw, but elect to fish the tournament, will not fish together.**

**L. Interpretation. Boating Safety and Tournament Rules (By-Laws Articles 1 and 2, respectively) are subject to interpretation only by the Tournament Committee under the coordination and supervision of the Chapter President. The Tournament Committee's decision shall be final on all matters of interpretation.**

**M. Protests. Participants who suspect that the tournament rules have been violated may protest to the tournament committee at any time during the tournament or within 15 minutes after arrival at the tournament site, followed by a written protest within 30 minutes after the scales have closed. The Tournament Committee, under the coordination and supervision of the Chapter President shall decide upon protest. The Tournament Committee's decision shall be final on all matters of protest.**

**N. Communications. During tournament competition days, a competitor may not use a cellular phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency, or to conduct normal business with family and friends. Violators will be disqualified for that day’s competition.**

**Section 3. Fish Limits.**

**Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass must be at least twelve (12) inches in length or longer as required by state law, except if holding a tournament on a lake that has a slot limit; the slot limit will be enforced. Fish length will be as determined by measurement on the official "Golden Rule" held by the Tournament Committee and as observed by the weigh-in official. No one may weigh in more than five fish.**

**Section 4. Live Bait.**

**No live bait may be used during a Chapter tournament.**

**Section 5. Fishing Tackle**

**Only conventional bait casting and spinning tackle with rods 8 feet or less may be used in Chapter Tournaments (i.e.: no fly rods).**

**Section 6. Chapter Tournament Records.**

**Only fish caught during a Little Creek Bass Anglers tournament will be placed in the Chapter tournament records.**

**Section 7. Livewells.**

**All boats must be equipped with an aerated livewell that must be operational. Livewells should be checked prior to each tournament by the boat operator and may be randomly checked by the Tournament Director for proper operation and to ensure they are empty of fish at any time before blast-off at each official tournament site.**

**Section 8. Tournament Prizes.**

**When the dues paying membership is 19 members or less; Tournament prizes will consist of $150.00 for a one (1) day tournament and $200.00 for a two (2) day tournament. Payout will be disbursed in a flat payout to the top three places as follows:**

**1 Day**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLACE** | | **AMOUNT** | |
| 1st |  | | $75.00 |
| 2nd |  | | $50.00 |
| 3rd |  | | $25.00 |

**2 Day**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLACE** | | **AMOUNT** | |
| 1st |  | | $100.00 |
| 2nd |  | | $65.00 |
| 3rd |  | | $35.00 |

**When the dues paying membership is 20 members or greater; Tournament prizes will consist of $200.00 for a one (1) day tournament and $250.00 for a two (2) day tournament. Payout will be disbursed in a flat payout to the top three places as follows:**

**1 Day**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLACE** | | **AMOUNT** | |
| 1st |  | | $100.00 |
| 2nd |  | | $65.00 |
| 3rd |  | | $35.00 |

**2 Day**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLACE** | | **AMOUNT** | |
| 1st |  | | $125.00 |
| 2nd |  | | $80.00 |
| 3rd |  | | $45.00 |

**Payout for the Chapter Classic will be determined and distributed as follows:**

**A. Determine the total value of the "Pot". During the meeting preceding the "Classic", the total value of the "Classic" pot can be increased by a majority vote of Chapter members.**

**B. The "Classic" pot will be awarded in the following manner:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PLACE** | **% OF**  **TOTAL POT** |
| 1st | 30 |
| 2nd | 25 |
| 3rd | 20 |
| 4th | 15 |
| 5th | 10 |

**Section 9. Weigh-in Officials.**

**Will be the Tournament Committee. The committee will maintain the official weight scale, stand and records. The committee is responsible for the accurate entry of each member's weight in the official tournament records.**

**Section 10. Live Fish Release.**

**The Tournament Committee will release all live fish, with the exception of trophy fish, after weigh-in.**

**Section 11. Scoring.**

**The winner and each placeholder will be determined by the total weight caught by each individual fishing the tournament.**

**EXAMPLE:**

**1st Place 10 lbs**

**2nd Place 9 lbs**

**3rd Place 8 lbs, etc. . . .,**

**A. In the event of a tie between two or more members stringers, the following criteria for awards will be used in the following order:**

**1. Biggest fish weight.**

**2. Number of fish.**

**B. All positions affected below the tie will be adjusted accordingly.**

**C. End-of-the-Year standings will be determined by total weight of fish caught by each member in all Chapter tournaments fished that year.**

**D. Ties for Mr. Bass and Chapter Team will be decided by the total combined weight for all regularly scheduled Chapter tournaments. In the unlikely event a tie should exist between two or more members, the following criteria will be used until the tie is broken in the following order:**

**1. Total number of fish caught for all regularly scheduled Chapter tournaments.**

**2. Biggest fish weight for all regularly scheduled Chapter tournaments.**

**3. Total number of regularly scheduled Chapter tournaments fished during the year.**

**Section 12. Problems During Tournaments Hours.**

**A. If, during tournament hours, a contestant has any problem, his stringer plus his partner's stringer can be weighed in by another contestant, provided the other contestant has a partner or one of the contestants having the problems accompanies the contestant who brings in the fish.**

**B. If a Chapter boater encounters boat or other problems that dictate leaving the designated launch site prior to weigh in, they shall make reasonable effort to inform another Chapter member fishing in the tournament of their predicament and intentions for leaving the tournament early. A cell phone call to a Chapter Official or tournament committee member is preferred, but a note on a windshield of a Chapter member’s vehicle would be appreciated to preclude a search for a lost fisherman.**

**Section 13. Penalties.**

**Penalties will be assessed before order of finish is determined for any Chapter Tournament. Penalties will be deducted from the total weight of the competitor's legal catch.**

**13.1 Late For Blast-Off.**

**Competitors who are not in the official blast-off point area at the appointed time shall be disqualified from fishing until they have personally checked in (presented their boat for livewell and safety inspection) with at least one of the 5 board members or at least one of the official tournament committee members. Failure to check-in as prescribed shall result in automatic disqualification from the tournament by the tournament director and tournament committee.**

**13.2 Late For Weigh-In.**

**Competitors who are not in the official check point area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound (16 ounces) per minute to be deducted from their legal weight for the day. Any competitor more than fifteen (15) minutes late (as determined by the tournament officials) shall lose all credit for that day's catch, unless extenuating circumstances exist as determined by the Tournament Committee.**

**13.3 Dead Fish.**

**A penalty of four (4) ounces for each dead fish will be assessed.**

**13.4 Short Fish or Fish That Violate Slot Limits.**

**Fish not meeting length requirements (either less than 12 inches long or falling "in the slot") will not be weighed. In addition, participants shall be penalized by the additional removal of the largest fish remaining in their possession. This procedure shall be applied to each fish that is in violation.**

**13.5 Creel Limits.**

**Any angler possessing more than the five fish legal limit, as established by Article 2, Section 3, Fish Limits, shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall not be allowed to weigh-in his catch. The member shall not be eligible for any lunker prize.**

**13.6 Fishing License.**

**All anglers must possess a valid fishing license for the body of water being fished, failure to do so shall result in disqualification from the tournament and his catch shall not be scored. The member shall not be eligible for any lunker prize. Proof of valid license for each state the Chapter is fishing must be provided to the Chapter President for tracking and verification during tournaments.**

**Article 3. AWARDS**

**Section 1. Trophies and Plaques.**

**The winner of each regular Chapter tournament will be awarded a plaque, in addition to the prize listed in Article 2, Section 8. Trophies will be awarded to the end-of-year finishers in first through sixth places, and to the overall Lunker winner. These awards are subject to the restrictions of Section 2, below.**

**Section 2. Award Selection and Cost.**

**The total amount to be spent on the end-of-the-year awards shall be decided by the Chapter membership during the month of October each year. The type of awards to be presented shall be determined by an Awards Committee, based on inputs from those who might receive such an award. This committee shall be appointed in the month of October each year.**

**Section 3. BN State Qualifier Tournaments**

**The top six fishermen of the previous year shall individually receive ½ (one half) of the entry fee and camp site/motel expense for 2 nights, and an additional $35 to defray tournament related expenses for entry into a qualifier tournament of their choice. In addition, the top two fishermen of the previous year shall individually receive ½ (one half) of the entry fee and camp site/motel expense for 2 nights, and an additional $35 to defray tournament related expenses for entry into a second qualifier tournament of their choice.**

**Section 4. Top Fisherman of the Year.**

**The top fisherman of the year will be awarded his Chapter dues (less Chapter Classic portion), B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia (State Federation) and BN dues, all regularly scheduled Chapter tournament fees, and the four (4) Region Seven tournament fees for the following year by the Chapter. Chapter Classic eligibility fees shall the responsibility of the individual and are due prior to the draw for the Chapter Classic.**

**END**

LITTLE CREEK BASS ANGLERS OF VIRGINIA

RECOMMENDED CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS CHANGE

Part.

Article:

Section:

Paragraph:

Current wording:

Recommended change:

Reason for change:

Submitted by: