

2019 SOUTH AUSTIN BASS CLUB BYLAWS

Founded: January 1981 Revised: January 2019

Purpose: To have a simple organization dedicated to the enjoyment of bass fishing, to learn different fishing techniques of lakes in Central Texas, and to compete for prize money in tournament fishing.

Rules:

1. Dues: Will be \$20.00 per year, renewable each January. (Note: Dues paid for new members joining the club in October will count for Dues Paid for the following Membership Year.)

2. Membership: A person must be 18 or older to join the club, except with a signed parental release.

3. Club will meet monthly on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. A monthly newsletter will be sent in an e-mail after the meeting to keep membership informed of club activities and tournaments.

4. Club Officers: Officers will consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Media Director and Weigh-In Chairman, All positions will be nominated at the November meeting, and voted on at the December meeting to serve a 1 year term. (Note: Weigh-In Chairman shall have two (2) assistants to help with weigh-ins.)

5. Club will fish Sunday tournaments only. (Exception: Two (2) Day tournaments and night tournaments.) *The club tries to follow a schedule of fishing on the 4th Sunday of each month.* Exceptions: A. Conflict with a Holiday or B. Conflict with other bass tournaments. If possible, changes will be posted near the start of the year.

6. Tournament Waters:

- A. Club will fish only lakes and rivers open to the public.
- B. Club may elect to fish any public water within a 150-mile radius of the club meeting place with the exception of a two (2)-day tournament.
- C. Club may elect to fish waters exceeding the 150-mile radius, but must make that tournament a two (2)-day (Sat. & Sun.) tournament.
- D. Tournament lakes will be chosen at the prior monthly meeting. Lakes will be nominated, discussed, and then voted on by members present. The top two (2) lakes will be re-voted. (Note: Should a roadrunner tournament be nominated, it will be voted on first.) *President has voting rights like other members; President will flip a coin for the tie for final outcome*
- E. Any lake may be fished only three (3) times during a tournament year.
- F. Tournament hours and weigh-in site/ramp will be voted on at the club meeting.
- G. Teams may launch at any legal ramp and trailer to weigh-in.

7. Changes and Special provisions in Lakes, times or weigh-in sites may be made by three (3) officers, if necessary, and officers will communicate those changes or special provisions to the members.

8. Cancellation of a tournament due to severe weather, etc., may be instituted by a decision of three (3) or more Officers. (Note: It will be the responsibility of the member to check with officers on possible cancellations. Officers phone numbers are listed on each newsletter.) Should severe weather occur shortly before tournament start--members should check at weigh-in site for a determination by the officers.

9. Tournament Fees:

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- A. Entry fee shall be \$20.00 per member, due no later than weigh-in. **No checks**, cash only. Fee is due if you fish at any time during the tournament.
- B. Breakdown of \$20.00 Entry Fee:
 - \$13.00 to the Tournament Pot/ First Place \$6.00, Second Place \$4.00, Third Place \$3.00
 - \$2.00 to the Tournament Big Bass Pot **OVER 5 lbs.**
 - \$3.00 will go towards Clubs Funds
 - \$2.00 Club Charity – Charity give back will be decided by a vote of club members present at the December club meeting.

Big Bass Pot is paid to the heaviest bass caught at the tournament **OVER 5 lbs.** (If fishing a Slot Limit Lake or a Paper Tournament and no bass is brought in over the slot limit, this pot will be carried over to the next tournament. **(Members only are eligible for Big Bass Award.)**)

- C. Teams/ Club Members fishing tournament waters, during tournament hours, will be responsible for entry fees whether you show up for weigh-in or not as you will be considered fishing the tournament.
- D. If you have an adult guest fishing in the boat they will be considered fishing the tournament and will pay the tournament fee. **A guest can fish up to two tournaments within the same calendar year without having to become an SABC member. After that, they will be required to pay the annual \$20 annual membership fee prior to fishing any more club tournaments within the same year.**
- E. If special provisions or requests are required by a member they must be brought up before the tournament and voted on and approved by at least three officers.

10. Tournament Rules:

- A. All Federal, State and local laws must be observed. Illegal acts may result in disqualification.
- B. Protests must be presented to a club officer within 30 minutes of the weigh-in.
- C. Team members must fish from the same boat. SABC rules do allow a third contestant in a boat during “Individual” type tournaments. **(A guest must fish with a paid member)**
- D. Only artificial baits may be used. (Exception – pork rind may be used.)
- E. Only legal-sized Black, Smallmouth, or Spotted Bass are eligible for weigh-in. (Exception -- Spotted/ Guadalupe Bass must be 12 inches in length.) Members are responsible for knowing individual lake rules.
- F. Fish must be measured on a flat board with a perpendicular end. Fish must be placed flat on the board, with mouth closed and jammed against perpendicular end. You may manipulate tail to determine maximum length. (Tip of tail must touch the line for 14 inches, etc.). Any fish at weigh-in short of legal limit makes team/individual subject to disqualification. If you are unsure of a fish’s measurement, ask a club officer to check the fish prior to presentation at weigh-in.
- G. Tournament Lake is off limits for Fishing 12 hours prior to tournament start time.
- H. **Dead Fish = ¼ lb will be deducted for each dead fish brought to scales.**
- I. There is a five (5) fish limit per person. Each person may weigh-in only those five fish that they caught. (No exchange of fish between team members!) Keep your fish separated or mark when caught. (Note: exceptions--(a) Two-day tournaments--5 fish per day, and/or (b) Local lake law allows less than five fish stringers.)
- J. No trolling with gas engine will be allowed.
- K. Weigh-ins will be held lakeside when possible for live release of fish.

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L. Weigh-ins:

1. Tournament anglers must be inside of the buoys, where weigh-in is to be held by the end time of the tournament. If an angler or a team is not at an idle speed, inside the buoys by the end time of the tournament they will be disqualified.
2. The weigh-in will begin 15min after the end time of the tournament. This time is for people to trailer their boats and for the weigh-in committee to get set up to receive fish. For fish care reasons please wait for scales to officially open before placing your fish in a weigh in bag.
3. Hard Luck Clause: If a Team experiences mechanical issues or any issues outside their power, they can call an Officer before the end of the Tournament for a grace period or assistance. The team's creel will be weighed in once they can get back to weigh – in site.

M. Fish should not be presented at weigh-in in a net! Fish must be presented in a water holding bag.

N. Any team or individual may be disqualified for a violation of rules or un-sportsman like conduct, by a vote of the club officers present.

O. Start time: You may not make your first cast until the designated start time.

P. Team may consist of 1 member, but he may weigh-in only five (5) fish--against the other teams with Ten (10) fish.

11. Pay Out: Moneys paid to winners will be based on total weight of combined stringers of both team members. Individual stringer weights are recorded to determine the points awarded for the year-end awards.

12. End of the year awards: Awards/Jackets/ Jerseys will be presented at year's end to:

- A. Angler of the year (based on point total).
- B. Big Bass of the Year (based on heaviest fish of all year's tournaments).
- C. Top Six Anglers (based on point totals). Each Angler receives \$150.00 towards a Jacket, Jersey *or cash payout*, but must have a receipt showing proof of purchase (*or cash payout*) and will present the receipt to the club treasurer for reimbursement.
- D. Award for "Heavy Stringer" (Best Five Fish Stringer) for the year.

(If an individual meets more than one award category, only one Jackets/ Jersey is given (example: Angler of The Year is one of Top Six.))

13. Point System: Total points will be 100 points per tournament being awarded in descending order: i.e., #1 will receive 100 points, #2 will receive 99 points, etc. At each tournament each angler will be ranked according to their individual stringer weight. Points are awarded based on individual weight. Tournament participants, who do not weigh in fish, will receive 2 points less than the last place participant that weighed in fish. Each contestant should identify his/her largest fish for consideration in Big Bass competition. Courtesy check is allowed if request is made before submission of creel for weigh-in.

Buy-In: Will be available to club members who cannot participate in the tournament. The buy-in points awarded will be 4 points less than the last place participant that weighed in fish. The buy-in will cost the same amount as the tournament entry fee. Buy-in requests must be made verbally to a club officer before the start of the tournament. Buy-in monies must be submitted to a club officer no later than following Friday. In the event that a member verbally agrees to buy-in and does not submit payment, they will not be allowed to participate in the following tournament and will forfeit their privilege to buy-in for the remainder of the year.

Ties: In case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used: (1) the individual with the most number of fish weighed in. (2) The individual with the largest single fish (3) If a tie still remains, the flip of a coin will determine the winner.

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14. Revision of Rules -- To revise or add rules, a proposal is made at a regular meeting, discussed; a motion is made and seconded. The motion will then be voted on at the meeting by the members that are present. If passed the rules will be revised and posted in the next newsletter.

15. Types of Tournaments -- The normal tournament format will be a "pick your own partner" type tournament and bring your fish to weigh-in, but variations may be nominated and approved at the monthly meetings.

A. **Slot limit lakes** -- only fish shorter or longer than the slot limit can be kept and brought to weigh-in. One (1) fish over the slot limit may be brought to weigh-in for Big Bass Award.

B. **Paper Tournament** - means measuring your fish's length, recording it on a chart, then releasing the fish. At the weigh-in, total stringer weight is determined from a length to weight conversion chart for your longest 5 fish. This allows us to count all size of fish caught at slot limit type lakes without bringing them to weigh-in. Our club provides paper charts when paper tournaments are fished.

NOTE 1: Actual weight will be used to determine the Big Bass, and the paper weight will be used for stringer weight and does not count for Heavy Sack of the year).

NOTE 2: Boater must have an accurate measuring board in the boat. Re: Bingham Chek-it-stik.

NOTE 3: Our club chart has ½" increments. Fish must be at least 12 inches to record on chart.

NOTE 4: Measure fish as described in Rule 10F. If a fish measures anywhere between the ½" mark you must record the shorter length. (If it almost touches 16"--it is not a 16" fish--it is a 15 ½ " fish!)

C. **Individual Paper Tournament:** You ride and fish with whoever you choose, but you're not fishing or weighing in as a team. He measures your fish, you measure his fish. Money is paid on an individual basis -- rather than a team.

D. **Paper Draw Tournament** -- all anglers travel to tournament in pairs (Boater and non-boater). At a meeting just prior to tournament, boaters and non-boaters will be paired by draw from a hat. You will weigh-in with your riding partner. (You will measure your fishing partner's fish and he will measure yours!)

E. **Draw Tournament:** All anglers travel to the tournament in pairs (Boater and non-boater). At a meeting just prior to the tournament, boaters and non-boaters will be paired by draw from a hat. They will fish and weigh-in as a team for that day.

Note 1: No one shall be forced to fish with anyone if reason is approved by officers.

Note 2: Younger than 14 years of age must fish with parent. Under 18, but older than 14 must have a parental release.

F. **Roadrunner Tournament:** Teams may fish any legal water (lake) they choose, but must be at a predetermined weigh-in site by the prescribed time, and must comply with any special rules for that lake -- i.e., Slot Limit Lakes, etc.