

# Bass Busters Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

## **BASS BUSTERS BYLAWS**

### **Article I – Name**

Sec. 1 This club shall be called the Santa Clara Bass Busters. (Referred to hereafter as the Club)

### **Article II – Purpose**

**Sec. 1** The Purpose of this club shall be to bring together at frequent intervals those who are interested in Black Bass fishing. To stimulate public awareness of fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to conservation coded and to demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. To detect and report a polluter and call public and/or political attention to this 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 fishing and a love for this great recreation.

### **Article III – Membership**

**Sec. 1** The membership of this club shall be composed of persons who are interested in furthering the purpose of the club and shall be held to a "code of integrity" to do what's right by the club and its' membership at all times.

- A. The membership of the club shall be composed of licensed angler, eighteen (18) years or older.
- B. A member of good standing shall be any person, elected to membership whose dues are paid. Only members of good standing shall be entitled to vote at meeting and fish tournaments.

**Sec. 2** To become a member, a person shall fulfill one of the following:

- A. Attend two regular club meetings. Compete in one Club Tournament fishing with a Club member. Agree to abide by the laws of the Club, all tournament rules, and all California Fish and Game regulations. Be voted on by the membership. Affirmation must be 2/3 of the members present and voting.
- B. In lieu of attending the club meetings fish in 2 consecutive tournaments with a Club member. Agree to abide by the laws of the Club, all tournament rules, and all California Fish and Game regulations. Be voted on by the membership. Affirmation must be 2/3 of the members present and voting. This option will be only available upon Board approval. Sec. 3 Honorary membership shall be granted upon 2/3 approval of the members present and voting.

**Sec. 4** Any member who voluntarily leaves the Club may be reinstated by paying any and all dues and

fees owed at the time of leaving, by paying the initiation fee, and being affirmed by 2/3 of the members present and voting.

**Sec. 5** A member shall be dropped from the membership roll for any of the following.

- A. Being in the arrears of dues for three (3) consecutive months.
- B. Any action which could reflect dishonor and disgrace on this Club, in the opinion of the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 6** If a member is dropped for failure to attend meetings and/or being in arrears of dues, he may be reinstated by paying back dues and being voted on by the membership. The vote must be 2/3 of the members present and voting.

**Sec. 7** Membership shall be limited to 65 members of good standing.

**Sec. 8** Duties and requirements of members:

1. Members shall not use profane language at meetings or functions of the Club.
2. Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed during the regular meetings.
3. No member shall belong to any other local bass-fishing club unless given exemption by the Board of Directors. The exemption must be requested in writing.
4. No member shall use the name of this Club to endorse any political candidate for public office or appointment.
5. Members shall keep this Club informed of any change of address. Failure to do so shall be no excuse for not receiving notices of any nature from the Club.
6. All members must be ecologically minded.

**Sec. 9** Life Membership:

- A. Selected members shall be voted in by a 2/3 vote of members present.
- B. Life members may participate in all activities paid by the Club.
- C. Life members are not required to belong to any other organization.
- D. A nomination must be submitted to the board of directors in writing.
- E. The board will review the nomination at the next board meeting.
- F. The board will present the nomination at the next general meeting for discussion.
- G. A closed ballot will be taken at the preceding general meeting.
- H. Guideline to be considered for a lifetime member 15 years of membership in good standing or at least 4 years of service as an officer of the club selected at least once as Sportsmen of the Year or Mr. Bass

#### **Article IV – Officers**

**Sec. 1** The officers of this Club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**Sec. 2** The term of office for all officers shall be one (1) year.

**Sec. 3** No officer shall hold more than one elected office at any one time.

**Sec. 4** The officers shall be nominated at the September meeting and elected at the October meeting. They shall be installed at the November meeting.

**Sec. 5** In the event the presidency becomes vacant, the vice-president shall preside for the remainder of that term. In the event any other office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the vacated office.

**Sec. 6** To be eligible for an office a member must:

A. Have been a member for at least six (6) months.

B. Have attended at least 2/3 of the Club meetings and 2/3 of the Club functions.

**Sec. 7** An officer shall be removed for cause (failure to adhere to these bylaws or to perform his duties) only by a vote of at least 2/3 of the membership. The cause shall be submitted to the officer in writing prior to vote.

#### **Article V – Board of Directors**

**Sec. 1** This Club shall have a Board of Directors, consisting of the current officers, the past president and two (2) members elected at large from the general membership.

**Sec. 2** The Board of Directors shall meet as directed by the president.

**Sec. 3** The Board of Directors shall decide Club issues and their decisions shall be final, subject to Section 4 below.

**Sec. 4** Any active member may request a vote on any decision of the Board of Directors. A board decision may be invalidated by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting.

#### **Article VI – Committees**

**Sec. 1** The President shall appoint any and all committees deemed necessary.

**Sec. 2** All standing committees, after appointment, shall be ratified by the Club at the next meeting.

**Sec. 3** All committees, except the tournament committee, shall select their own chairman. The Vice-President shall be chairman of the tournament committee.

**Sec. 4** All standing committees shall present an annual report at the December regular meeting.

**Sec. 5** All committees shall meet as often and whenever deemed necessary by their chairman.

**Sec. 6** The term of all committees shall expire in December.

**Sec. 7** The chairman of each committee shall report activities to the President.

### **Article VII – Meetings**

**Sec. 1** The Club shall meet at least once a month.

**Sec. 2** Special meetings shall be called when deemed necessary by the President.

**Sec. 3** Smoking is prohibited at regular meetings.

**Sec. 4** Meetings shall be run according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

### **Article VIII – Amendments/Resolutions**

**Sec. 1** Any proposed amendment of these bylaws shall be submitted in writing at any Regular Club meeting. Amendments shall become part of the bylaws only if approved by a 2/3 majority of the members present and voting at the next regular meeting.

**Sec. 2** Health Resolution: When a Bass Buster member contracts an illness that would require that member to have a more flexible fishing partner when fishing draw tournaments. The member will notify the board of their illness. The Secretary will duly note the members needs and the following will apply.

- A. The Club will allow that member to choose their partner and notify the board prior to the draw.
- B. At the draw that members name will be placed in the hat, (as to allow for fair & equal Blast off position) their partners name will be withheld until the members name is drawn.
- C. Both fishermen will have all privileges as allowed to any member (prizes, pints, money) and will abide by all other tournament’s rules.
- D. Members with an illness will need to inform the board of their status at least once a year.

### **Article IX – Quorum**

**Sec. 1** Twenty (20) percent of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **Article X – Leaves of Absence**

**Sec. 1** Any member will be granted a leave of absence from this Club upon written notice to the Secretary. Leaves of absence shall be limited to twelve (12) months.

## **Article XI – Duties of Officers**

**Sec. 1** The president shall preside at all meetings at which he is present, shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Club and shall serve as member ex-officio of all committees.

**Sec. 2** The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president during his absence, shall act as tournament committee chairman, and shall assist the president in his duties.

**Sec. 3** The secretary shall keep minutes of all Club meetings. The minutes shall be an accurate and official record of all business transacted. They shall make all necessary correspondence for the Club. In the absence of both the president and the vice-president, the secretary shall assume the duties of the president. They shall maintain regular liaison with the Club's insurance carrier and mail in appropriate documents once a year immediately after the election of officers. They shall have the authority to delegate work to any member, upon approval of the president.

**Sec. 4** The treasurer shall receive all Club funds and keep them in a bank or depository selected by the Club and shall report to the membership the financial condition of the Club. The treasurer shall keep a record of the amounts of initiation fees and dues voted by the Club.

## **Article XII – Dues and Fees**

**Sec. 1** The Club shall assess an initiation fee from each new member of \$45.00.

**Sec. 2** Amount of dues shall be set by the Club and are payable monthly or quarterly in advance. Members wishing to pay for the whole year may pay for 11 months and thus be given a 1-month discount.

## **Article XIII – Club Responsibility**

**Sec. 1** The Club shall not be responsible for any unauthorized action or commitment of any officer or member.

**Sec. 2** The Club shall support efforts in conservation and youth programs.

## **Article XIV-Club Sponsorship**

**Sec.1** Club sponsors shall be companies in which the membership has a relationship with and believes the sponsors' products and services furthers the Purpose of the Club

**Sec. 2** Criteria for club sponsors: Sponsors will benefit the Club in the form on non-monetary compensation in lieu of advertisement or testimony

**Sec. 3** Club sponsor shall be a non-binding agreement.

## **BASS BUSTERS TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. Tournament rules: are in effect starting in January and remain in effect for the entire year. These rules will only be changed after the November tournament and before the January tournament of the following year.
2. Participation and eligibility: in all tournaments are open to members in good standing whose dues are not in arrears. Members must declare their intent to fish a tournament by the club meeting in order to qualify for tournament points.
3. Prospective members and guest: may fish the pick-your-partner tournaments. Prospective members may also fish draw tournaments on a space available basis. They pay no club fees and are not eligible for points or awards. (Exception: Awards will be awarded at team draw)
4. Special Tournaments: Prizes and entry fees will be set by the members fishing any special tournament. The tournament will be governed under the existing rules.
5. Sportsmanship: Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship will be disqualified from the tournament they are fishing. All participants will be expected to maintain a clear and respectable distance between boats while fishing.
6. Spirit of the Rules: All rules have “loopholes.” It is the intention of this club to provide an honest, sportsman like environment. In the interest of good sportsmanship, club members are reminded that the “Spirit of the Rules” will prevail in all judgment cases.
7. Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures will be used; however, pork and pork-strips may be used. Rods may be of any length.
8. Trolling: as a method of fishing is not permitted
9. Tournament dates and lakes: will be selected by the Tournament Committee and may be subject to change. Once the tournament schedule is approved and posted, there will be “no change in venue” other than adjusting to a new launch facility.

10. Fishing Hours: will be determined by the Tournament Committee and will be announced prior to each tournament.
11. Official Timepiece: will be that of the Tournament Chairman.
12. Licenses: Each contestant must have in possession a valid and current fishing license with appropriate stamps governing the fish-able water of the event. Penalty for such an offense is disqualification of the day's catch.
13. Fish Handling: Contestants will make every effort to handle fish by the lower jaw. Aerated live wells will be used. Rope or metal stringers will not be allowed. Fish in live wells will not be removed except in a culling situation or at weigh-in. Dead fish may not be culled. All fish culled must actively swim away, if not they must be retrieved by the contestant and returned to the live well and sufficient live fish culled to meet legal possession limit requirements.
14. Boating Safety: All members declaring themselves as Boaters in a tournament will be responsible for having a liability insurance policy for their boat. Boats will be equipped with standard Coast Guard Safety equipment. Safe conduct while boating is necessary. Life jackets and lanyards connected to functioning engine kill switches must be used when the outboard motor is operating. Non-boaters are required to supply their own life vest. Running lights are to be used at morning blast-off, during night tournaments and whenever they are needed for safe boat operation. All boats are to obey (5mph) zones.
15. Check-in: All boats must be checked for functional livewells and both anglers have life vests to receive an official signed weigh slip from the tournament chairman prior to blastoff. In the event an angler is late for blastoff they may still be eligible to fish the tournament if the following conditions are met.
  - A. Late arrivals must locate another club member and have livewells checked and verified as empty before fishing.
  - B. Late arrivals must provide a signed affidavit by the club member who checked the livewells to the tournament chairman at weigh-in.
  - C. The signed weigh slip or affidavit will be required at the weigh-in to receive points or awards.
16. Measuring Devices: All boats will have a Well-E-GO flat board or ruler to measure fish. Fish of questionable length will be measured on the clubs official flat board. Fish will be measured flat with mouth closed and moving tail and must measure 13" (thirteen inches) in length.



17. **Size Limits/Bag Limits:** Qualifying fish (largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass) must be a minimum of 13" (thirteen inches) in length, measured laying flat, mouth closed on a Well-E-GO flat board or ruler and the daily limit will be 5 (five) fish per angler. Team tournament limits are 5 (five) bass per team but never more than the legal daily possession limit. If only (1) angler competes as a team the limit is 5 fish. Should local regulations specify a different method of measurement, a different minimum length, or a different bag limit than the club's standard, the more stringent standard will be utilized in the tournament.
18. **Trophy Fish:** is a fish 5 (five) pounds or larger and may be claimed by its captor.
19. **Drawing Partners:** for the monthly tournaments are detailed under either draw or the pick-your partner tournament sections.
20. **Start and Finish:** All contestants will start and finish at the lake headquarters (usually at the launch site) as set by the tournament committee. The tournament committee chairman will instruct all boats to the designated meeting area during the morning blastoff.
21. **Alcohol Use:** No alcohol or drugs will be permitted in or around boats through completion of the post tournament debriefing. Anyone who appears under the influence will be disqualified from the tournament.
22. **Operation of Boat:** The Boater shall operate his/her boat from the front of the deck. The non-boater has the right to choose half of the fishing areas but does not have the right to operate the boat from the front of the deck unless granted permission by the boater (or) in a safety/emergency situation.
23. **Sharing Expenses:** The non-boater is required to cover a fair share of expenses. The amount can be up to 50% of the expenses agreed upon by the boater and non-boater. Shared expenses generally include the following: gas-vehicle and boat, outboard oil, tolls, parking fees, launch fees, and lodging.
24. **Radios and Cellular Telephones:** are allowed in boats as an emergency tool only. Boat-to-boat communications are prohibited except for emergency purposes.

25. Pre-Fishing: will be allowed at any tournament lake at any time before the tournament starts.
26. Leaving Boat: All fish will be hooked, fought and landed from the angler's boat. No fishing from docks, shore, or other places is permitted.
27. Scoring: will be in pounds and hundredths of pounds. All fish must measure 13" (thirteen inches) long with mouth closed on a Well-E-GO flat board or ruler. Each contestant's big fish will be utilized as a tiebreaker in case of ties.
28. Re-Weighing: of fish can only be requested once and only at the scales. The second weighing will be official.
29. Penalties:
  - A. Tardis: Contestants who are late will have 1 (one) pound subtracted from the total weight for each minute late up to 5 minutes (5 lb max). Contestants who are late by more than 5 (five) minutes at the specified time or have not checked in for the weigh-in will be disqualified for that day.
  - B. Undersized Fish: Penalties for weighing-in a fish smaller than the 13" minimum length shall be processed as follows: Each undersized fish, shall be removed prior to weigh-in. In addition, per each undersized fish a 2 (two) pound penalty shall be incurred.
  - C. Violation of Daily Limit: Anyone or any team having more than the 5 (five) fish limit in their possession past the official check-in time shall have their weight disqualified for the day.
  - D. Culling fish inside the designated launch site and areas designated by the tournament committee is prohibited.
  - E. Mutilated/Altered Fish: Any fish that appears mutilated or altered in the tournament director's judgment will be deemed illegal and 1 (one) pound will be subtracted from the total weight for each such fish. It is the goal of the club to release live all tournament caught bass following the weigh-in. Contestants are therefore required to do all in their power to preserve their daily catch. Deliberate rough or careless handling of fish while culling is grounds for disqualification.
  - F. Dead Fish: The penalty for dead fish will be progressive in the amount of 1st dead fish .20 (20/100) of a pound. 2nd dead fish .40 (40/100) of a pound. 3rd dead fish .80 (80/100) of a pound. 4th dead fish 1.60 (160/100) of a pound. 5th dead fish or more 3.20 (320/100) of a pound.
  - G. Protests: Complaints or protests must be submitted to the tournament chairman within 30 minutes after weigh-in. A decision of tournament committee members present will be made prior to awards and shall be final.

30. Awards: Eligible club members only: Draw and pick-your-partner tournament awards will be:
- First Heaviest Stringer- First Place Award
  - Second Heaviest Stringer- Second Place Award
  - Third Heaviest Stringer- Third Place Award
  - Big Fish- Big Fish Award

**You may not weigh in a DEAD fish to claim the big fish award, however, a dead big fish will be counted toward your overall weight with dead fish penalty applied.**

31. Points: will be awarded each month as follows: Tournament points will be awarded to the top 20 places. A fish must be weighed-in to be eligible.

|              |               |                    |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1st -20 pts  | 8th - 13 pts  | 15th - 6 pts       |
| 2nd - 19 pts | 9th - 12 pts  | 16th - 5 pts       |
| 3rd - 18 pts | 10th - 11 pts | 17th - 4 pts       |
| 4th - 17 pts | 11th - 10 pts | 18th - 3 pts       |
| 5th - 16 pts | 12th - 9 pts  | 19th - 2 pts       |
| 6th - 15 pts | 13th - 8 pts  | 20th - 1 pt        |
| 7th - 14 pts | 14th - 7 pts  | Big Fish – add 1pt |

- Team Draw/Pick: Club members on same team receive equal points (exception - big fish point).
- Prospective members will receive no points.
- Meeting Attendance 1 pt
- Tournament (show up) 3 pts
- Debriefing Attendance 1 pt
- All members are required to have 1 throw out tournament per year but will receive all Show Up, Meeting and Debriefing Points earned.
- All ties will be broken by big fish. (listed below by situation)
  - Individual Tournaments: Big fish caught at that event
  - Points on the Year: Big fish caught up to that point on the year
  - Year End: Big fish caught all year

32. Year End Awards: will be awarded at the annual banquet to the top five tournament fisherman. A \$500 cash award will also be given to the Angler of the Year. There is also a big fish award in the amount of \$250 for the club member that catches the largest fish of the year while fishing a club tournament and is a member in good standing. Awards will be presented to Sportsman of the Year, Mr. Bass, Rookie of the Year, and the Top Co-Angler (non-boater). In the event of a tie for the Year-End Awards, the contestant with the largest fish caught during the year wins. In the event of a tie for the Angler of the Year, a fish off will take place at a lake and date designated by the tournament committee. The person with the largest weight during this fish-off will be declared Angler of the Year. In the event of a weight tie at this event the largest fish caught will break the tie. A club officer will be present at the designated lake for livewell check, blast-off and official weigh-in.

33. Courtesy: Any contestant who has to leave the water after the launch must notify a member of the club. If not possible to locate another club member they must leave a note in an obvious place on an officer's vehicle. A search party will be formed to search for any boat not checked in by the end of the weigh-in.
34. Boat in distress: Contestants with boat or motor trouble will be allowed to transfer their fish to another boat. The fish must be identifiable and accompanied by one contestant from the disabled boat.
35. **Decisions of the Tournament Committee are final in all matters.**

## **BASS BUSTERS DRAW TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. These tournament rules will apply during a tournament that has been designated a “Draw” tournament by the tournament committee.
2. Only members and prospective members may fish a draw tournament:
3. Draw tournament rules:
  - A. Member must declare their intent to fish the tournament at the draw. If a member is not present they may have an attending member declare intent for them.
  - B. Prospective members must be present at the club meeting and declare their intent prior to the draw.
  - C. Members and prospective members must declare boat or no boat prior to the draw.
  - D. The club secretary will count the number of members fishing to determine the number of boats needed.
  - E. All boat owner names will go into one draw with non-boaters in another.
  - F. This will be a true draw. We will draw pairings of non-boat owners and boat owners until all non-boat owners are satisfied. If there is an odd boat owner they may elect to bring a guest if so desired. The last boat drawn will act as the de facto starter and will be in charge of launching the boats according to their number. Starting positions will reverse on the 2nd day of a two day tournament with the number one boat assuming as the de facto starter.
  - G. Draw tournament rules apply for all team draw tournament.

## **BASS BUSTERS PICK-YOUR-PARTNER TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. These tournament rules will apply during a tournament that has been designated a “Pick-Your-Partner” by the tournament committee.
2. Members must declare their intent to fish a pick-your-partner tournament at the club meeting. If a member is not present they may have an attending member declare their intent for them.
3. Prospective members and guest are invited to fish these tournaments.
4. Order of Priority for pairing of partners:
  - 1 -Member, non-boat owner
  - 2 -Member, boat owner
  - 3 -Prospective member in attendance (walk in).
  - 4 -Sponsored guest in attendance
  - 5 -Outside guest not in attendance

*The above order shall govern and each must be satisfied before consideration of the next priority. All members are given priority and will be paired with other members who wish to participate in the tournament. If a member has not been paired, a draw will be held to determine member's partner.*

5. Starting positions will be determined by a draw. The last boat drawn will become the de facto starter and is in charge of starting the boats according to their number. Starting positions will reverse on the 2nd day of a two day tournament and boat number one assumes as the de facto starter.

## **BASS BUSTERS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPION (TOC) RULES**

Qualifications: Top twelve point qualifiers and draw individual tournament event winners from the previous year standings (minimum of 7 events participation) will compete in a one day tournament of champions (TOC) in the following year held during a combined club tournament at a lake of the tournament committee's choice. This will be a tournament within a tournament as follows.

1. A regular draw club tournament will serve as a TOC. In the case where the event is a 2 day tournament, the weight from the first day of this tournament will count towards the one day TOC.
2. Awards: Will be determined by that year's tournament committee.
3. Regular draw rules apply.
4. Eligibility: TOC qualifiers must be active members in good standing.
5. Awards and money awards will be given out after the first day of the regular club tournament
6. Tournament committee members will be responsible for organizing a club BBQ / Dinner. The club will pay for the BBQ/Dinner expenses for club members.
7. Weigh-ins: Each TOC Qualifier will participate in an individual weigh-in of up to 5 fish for each contestant for the TOC determination.