

TEAM NASHVILLE BASSMASTERS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Revised August, 2021 (effective Jan.2022)

Part 1: Name

This organization shall be called **TEAM NASHVILLE BASSMASTERS** and shall be operated as an independent club. This club will be an affiliate of the Tennessee Bass Federation (TBF), and will strive to operate within the guidelines set forth by the TBF in order to maintain its affiliation.

Part 2: Purpose

To improve our skills as fisherman, through fellowship and friendly exchange of fishing techniques and ideas and extend our fullest cooperation to our State Conservation Department.

Officers, Elections, & Membership

Officers:

President: Preside over all meeting and conduct all official business. It shall be his/her responsibility to appoint and direct all committee functions, and to supervise all club activities.

Secretary/TBF Correspondent: It shall be his/her duty to conduct all correspondence for the club and the TBF which includes being present at all state meetings. **(If the Secretary is unable to be present at any meeting, one of the other officers will be the secretary replacement.)** The Secretary shall maintain the club's active roster and will communicate any changes by email to all members. The Secretary will assist the President with preparing agendas for monthly meetings and take the minutes at the club meetings.

Tournament Director: Supervise all tournaments according to tournament rules, conduct weigh in, oversee blast off, and weigh in times.

Points Chairman: Maintain an up to date record of the point standing and tournament pairings for emailing or distribution at each club meeting. Point's total is based on tournament finishes, meeting points, and participation points and determines final standings for all year-end awards, fish off finalists, and state team qualifying.

Treasurer: Maintain and report the up to date financial record, at each club meeting. Responsible for purchasing year-end awards and shall maintain an open log on all member's dues which includes logging late fees to be paid. No expenditures shall be made without prior approval by the membership. Any monies over **\$100.00** for activities expenditures must be voted by members prior to event and to make the necessary pay outs after each club tournament. The Treasurer shall file the annual corporate report required by the State of Tennessee.

In the event that there is a vacancy in either the Secretary and/or Treasurer positions one individual club member who has been in the club for at least one full year may be voted on to do both of the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer until a second person can be found for either job.

Webmaster: Will be appointed by the Officers.

Revised/ Effective: 08-2020/ 01-1

Elections:

Nominations of officers for the upcoming year will be made at each October meeting, with the elections to be held at the following meeting in November. Elections will be by secret ballot and be determined by a simple majority vote of members present.

Part 1: Voting Eligibility

Anyone who is a paid member in good standing with the club and has been a member for at least one full year is eligible for one vote. No proxy vote will be permitted.

Part 2: Terms of Office

Terms of office shall be **one year** starting January 1st. and shall continue until successors assume office. Terms for officers for each position will not exceed 5 consecutive years.

Part 3: Eligibility for Holding Office

Anyone who has been a member for at least one year and has attended at least three-fourths of all club functions is eligible to be nominated and run for office.

Part 4: Vacancies of Office

If an office becomes vacant, nomination and elections shall be held at the next regular meeting to fill the remaining term which is vacant.

Membership:

Part 1: Number of Members

Membership will be limited to 50 members. After a full membership has been established, the club will begin a waiting list. If at any time the club has a membership vacancy, such vacancy will be filled from the waiting list in order it was made. Boat owners will be considered first in order to maintain an adequate number to conduct tournaments. One free membership will be extended to our local state conservation officer.

Part 2: Smoking Ban

Smoking is not allowed during regular monthly club meetings.

Part 3: Membership Requirements

Any person voted into the club must agree to sign a *Release & Waiver Agreement* (see page 3 below). No member may participate in any club activities until they have signed the waiver agreement. The waiver agreement can be found in Appendix 1 of the By-Laws.

Appendix 1: Release & Waiver Agreement to be completed by all current or future members of the Team Nashville Bassmasters.

Team Nashville Bassmaster's Release & Waiver Agreement

I assume any and all risks associated with participating in the Team Nashville Bassmaster's Bass Club and particular activities that I agree to undertake, including but not limited to, negligent or reckless acts by other participants and club members, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I also agree to abide by the rules of the club as set forth the by designated officials and club members. Knowing these facts, and in consideration for being permitted to participate in the club, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, successors, assigns, or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive release and discharge Team Nashville Bassmaster's and their respective officers and club members, from any and all losses, costs (without limitation, litigation costs, and attorney fees), claims, damages, suits, actions, demands, liability, and expenses in connection with loss of life, personal injury and/or property damage of any kind whatsoever, in law or in equity, arising out of or in the course of my participation in club events. In consideration of possible taking of pictures or images in connection with the club, the undersigned grants Team Nashville Bassmaster's the irrevocable right to use, record, and distribute without further obligation or payment to the undersigned or the undersigned's family, the undersigned's name, likeness, and/ or statements for any and all purposes at any time in any and all media now known or later developed including without limitation television, radio, print and print media, videotape, audiotape, the Internet, on-line services and other telecommunications, wire, and/or computer drive media. I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read the foregoing release and indemnification, am executing it knowingly, voluntarily, willingly, and free from any coercion or duress, and am fully aware of its contents and legal effects. I, the undersigned agree to abide by all of its terms.

Club Member Name (print)_____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Signature _____

Part 4: Eligibility for Membership

All members must be 16 years of age or older. Young angler must have a State of Tennessee Captain's Boaters Certificate, signed parent waiver document and proof of boat insurance of \$300,000 to operate a boat in any club event or tournament. Any person wishing to be considered for membership must be present at a regular meeting and pay the membership dues. A majority vote of members present will determine memberships.

Part 5: Membership Dues

Membership dues for the season shall be **\$81.00** and are to be paid upon affirmation of membership. This amount covers the following: Team Nashville dues of **\$21.00**, Tennessee State Federation dues of **\$10.00**, Bass Federation dues of **\$15.00** and FLW membership of **\$35.00**. Payment to FLW Federation must be done by the Mother Club at time of all other membership dues. (**FLW dues may vary see Secretary for details**).

TBF dues go directly to TBF, \$1 million Club Liability Insurance, and Personal Accident Death/Disability Insurance. If a member uses another club as his "**Mother Club**" the member will not have to pay the TBF \$15.00 fee. The annual dues period will be January to December of the year paid. All renewal dues (**TBF&FLW**) are due by December 31st. Any dues paid after this date shall incur a **\$10.00** late fee. Any club money remaining at the end of the year will be carried into the next year.

Part 6: Removal from Membership

One's membership may be terminated without any refund for any of the following reasons:

- A. Failure to pay dues on or before the February meeting following the December expiration date.
- B. Acting in a manner which would dishonor or disgrace club.
- C. Failure to notify an officer of the club that any entered boat in any tournament will not be available for that tournament in ample time so that other arrangements can be made
- D. Failure to attend at least one half of all club's functions during a one-year period. (Club functions include meeting, tournament, and non-fishing events such as the banquet, etc.).
- E. Failure for the non-boater to comply with the expense-sharing rule outlined in the tournament rules.
- F. No-showing at an entered tournament (see "Tournament Rules"- No Shows)

The above violations may be waived by a majority vote of the membership if an attending member's reasons are deemed valid.

Team Nashville Junior Bassmasters

Team Nashville will be the host sponsoring club for "Team Nashville Junior Bassmasters"

Part 1: Membership Requirement

The junior club is open to any child of/or sponsoring adult member of Team Nashville Bassmasters Club and dues for junior members are free. State or National dues are whatever is required to compete in the State/National Federation Tournaments and are set by State /National Federation each year. All dues are due upon joining the TNB Junior club. Eligible juniors must be at least 9 years old but not older than 15 years of age on or before August 1st.

Part 2: Junior Tournaments

Team Nashville Junior Bassmasters will actively participate in all Junior Bassmasters with contingent eligibility.

Amending Constitution, Opportunities to Advance, and Season Awards

Amending Constitution

Part 1: Amending the Bylaws and Constitution

The bylaws, constitution and tournament rules may be amended at the August meeting by a vote of eligible members. A 2/3rds vote of members present will be required to pass a change/amendment to the bylaws and tournament rules. All bylaws/tournament rule changes will go in effect on January 1st.

Part 2: Amending the Tournament Rules

The tournament rules may not be amended after the **August** meeting.

Part 3: Voting Eligibility

One must have been a member in good standing with the club for at least one full year in order to vote on amendments or changes to the bylaws or tournament rules.

Opportunities to Advance

Participation in Tennessee State Federation

Members who qualify to represent the club in the state tournament must be active members in good standing during the year in which they attend the state tournament. (See Part 5 Section D) The top **6** eligible for the state federation tournament entry fee and lodging will be paid from the club's account.

Classics

Part 1: Sam Turpin Classic Qualification

The Classic has been renamed the Sam Turpin Classic in his remembrance. The tournament committee shall determine a mystery lake for the Sam Turpin Classic and notify the membership of the dates for the Classic after the schedule for the following year has been announced. In order to be eligible to fish the Classic, one must finish in the top **(16)** in the final points standings (**after drops**). Those eligible, will be notified of their eligibility after the last points tournament. After the top **(16)** have been determined, the top **(8)** will have choice being a boater or non-boater. If one of the top **(8)** chooses to be a non-boater, then the next qualifier has the option of being a boater and this procedure continues until the field of **(8)** boaters has been filled. In the event an eligible qualifier cannot fish the Classic, the next top finisher will become eligible. The lake selected for the Classic shall be off limits for all competitors 15 days prior to the upcoming tournament. However, each contestant will be allowed to fish one practice day during the off-limit period.

Season Awards

Part 1: State 6 Man Team Awards

1st through 6th place Trophies or Gift Cards **up to \$40.00 dollars** in the points standings (after all drops) will be awarded at the end of the fishing season. Additionally, these **(6)** anglers will represent the club at the State Federation tournament held the following year. Ties in the point standings will be broken by the total weight of yearly catch. When members who qualify for the state tournament cannot participate, the next member in order of the final standings will qualify as a replacement. This procedure will continue until a replacement is named. In the event a replacement cannot be named before entry deadlines, the tournament committee will select a member at random; who they think will best represent the club.

Top-6 Fish-off The top 6 anglers have another option if (1) there is no State tournament (2) there is a state tournament but the majority (4 of 6) of the top 6 choose not to fish it. In the event this option is chosen, the top 6 will have a one-day fish off tournament on a lake chosen at random based on each angler selecting a lake. The choices will then be combined, and a single lake chosen by random draw. Partners will be paired to fish as a 2-person team for the fish-off and all prizes will be shared by the team. This format will require 3 boaters and 3 non-boaters. In the event there are not enough boats in the top 6, the next angler on the points list with a boat will be chosen to participate and replace the extra non-boater. Once the lake is decided a date that works for all 6 anglers will be selected. Prizes will be awarded from the money that was to be used for the entry fee for the state tournament.

Part 2: Big Fish Award (amended 2020)

A \$50.00 Gift Card and trophy will be presented to the angler at the end of the season for the largest Largemouth and Smallmouth bass during tournament competition. Only point's tournament will count towards the determination of this award. Trophy award can be waived by the recipient if so desired.

Part 3: Angler of the Year Award

The Angler of the Year award will be awarded based on all tournament points and meeting points accumulated. This is a separate award from the state (6) man team and top (16) fish off awards. The award is a (\$250.00) check.

Tournament Rules

Part 1: Interpretation and Clarification

These rules will remain unchanged throughout the year. If a situation arises to which no rule applies, or to which a clarification of a rule needs to be made, or if special circumstances arise, the Tournament Committee shall make an on the spot final decision concerning the matter. The change must be unanimous to pass. (This will simply be for setting disputes, protests and misunderstandings if they occur).

Part 2: Tournament Committee and Duties

1. The club president, treasure, tournament director, secretary and point chairman will act as the tournament committee.
2. The tournament committee will prepare a tournament schedule including sites, dates, ramps, and times to be presented to the club at the August meeting. All tournaments will be up to nine hours in length, exception will be by vote of the members at the ramp on the day of the tournament.
3. The tournament committee shall also be responsible for overseeing any tournament put on by the club, including rules & payouts.
4. The tournament director shall coordinate his efforts with the tournament committee, so those tournaments are run in an orderly fashion.
5. The tournament committee shall conduct random partner drawing at the club meeting prior to each tournament.
6. The tournament committee will conduct weigh-in after each tournament to include measuring and checking for dead fish.
7. The tournament committee will have the right to check boats for life jackets, kill switches, fire extinguishers, bailing devices, ropes, paddles and alcoholic beverages.
8. They will have the right to disqualify any boat if they feel it is unsafe.
9. The tournament director will have the right, at his discretion, to delay or postpone any tournament in case of fog, inclement weather or unfavorable lake conditions. If a tournament is delayed for any reason, it will count as one of the dropped scores in the points standing and will not be rescheduled.
10. **Protest:** Any protests by members of a team must be made at the time of weigh-in.

11. Protest must be resolved within **30 minutes** of the weigh-in. The tournament committee shall give final ruling on any protest.

Part 3: Eligibility and Tournament Rules

Eligibility

Tournament will be open to members in good standing only. Fees will be \$40.00 (or \$43.00 if done on-line) per person, per tournament. This includes the following, payment fees, and \$5.00 for big fish pot. Fees should be paid prior to partner drawing. Refunds will be made for cancellations of no less notice than **24** hours before starting time. Members not able to attend meetings must notify a tournament committee member of his/her intentions to fish prior to the meeting or that member will not be allowed to fish the tournament. Entry fees are due at the meeting and no later than **30 minutes** prior to the start of the tournament. Fees paid after the meeting will have a **\$5.00** late charge. Non-payment will result in a team disqualification. Any member whose check does not clear the bank will require a **\$30.00** fee plus the amount of the check. Two or more bad checks will require cash only for all future fees. Checks may be dated for up to **seven** days after due date.

Partner Assignments

Tournaments will be fished in a 2-man team format. Partners will be randomly drawn at each meeting prior to the tournament. If more boaters than non-boaters are entered in the tournament, excess boaters will become non-boaters, based on current year point standing. In the event of a tie, overall points from the previous year will be used. No two individuals may fish as a team in two consecutive tournaments. A boat owner will fish no more than one tournament by himself if unassigned at any tournament drawing.

Expenses

A non-boater will pay his partner (**\$30.00**) minimum to help cover expenses (tow, gas, oil, etc.) for local tournament and (\$40.00) for tournaments over 60 miles from club meeting place. Any failure to do so should be reported to the tournament committee.

Boater Designation

Non-boating newcomers are encouraged to join the club. However, to balance each tournament, draw with equal numbers of boaters and non-boaters, any member who owns or has access to a boat deemed acceptable to compete in (as determined by the tournament committee), shall have to make his/her boat available for all tournaments entered after being in the club for **two years** or in **16 tournaments**, whichever is less. All boaters must show proof of having an up-to-date **300,000** Liability insurance policy before they will be allowed to use their boat for any club activity.

Prohibitions and Off-Limits

No competitor may hire a paid guide to fish any lake/ body of water on the schedule within 7 days of the start of the tournament. The penalty for this infraction, including possible disqualification, shall be determined by the tournament committee, on or after the day of the tournament.

Scoring

Scoring will be tabulated by the total weight of each boat. Total weight will be awarded to both team members at each tournament. For example, fifteen pounds will be awarded to both members of a team weighing in a total of fifteen pounds of fish. All fish will be checked and weighed by the tournament director. (See Protests) The decision of the tournament committee is final. Each team must bring their fish to the tournament scales in a plastic bag. Each team is allowed to weigh a maximum of **5** fish.

Ramp Locations

A member may launch his boat at any ramp of his choosing but must be at the official blast off point when the tournament begins. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Exceptions will be made by the tournament committee.

Blast off Time

If all eligible participants are present, the Tournament Director may start the tournament at first safe light instead of the time listed. Weigh-in times will not be change if the tournament begins earlier than listed on the schedule.

No-Shows

No-shows for tournaments will have to reapply for club membership unless decided otherwise by the tournament committee. Also, anyone arriving **30** minutes or more after the blast off will be considered a **No-Show** and will have to reapply for club membership unless decided otherwise by the tournament committee. Exceptions will be made only if the member calls either his partner or one of the tournament committee beforehand. (Personal calls only no messages). No new dues are required for readmission.

Short or Dead Fish

The penalty for a short fish when presented to the tournament officials will be the measure short fish plus **(1)** one pound deducted from total team weight. A penalty of **.25** lb. will be deducted for each dead fish weighed in. All fish should be returned to the lake with the exception of dead or unhealthy fish.

Late Arrivals to Weigh-In

A penalty of **3.0** lbs. will be deducted for each team that is late for the weigh-in. In case of breakdown, the boater must call and speak with one of the officers no later than **15 minutes before the tournament ends**. **One member of the team may return to weigh in with their catch by receiving a ride from another angler.**

Note: Only the team that needs a ride will be penalized. All late penalties above, will apply to the receiving a ride clause. After 15 minutes, the team's fish will be disqualified. If your boat is unable to return, arrangement will be made for someone from club to get your boat back to ramp. If a participant leaves before the weigh-in, they are required to contact an officer of the club to notify them that they are off the water. Any participant who goes to the aid of another participant that is broken down will not be penalized for bringing his boat's catch in.

Legal Fish

Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass may be used for scoring points. A limit of **5** fish per boat may be weighed in. State laws will determine minimum size limits during tournaments. If no minimum size is required by the state regulations, a 12" minimum will be enforced. Fish will be measured with mouth closed and tails may be fanned or pinched. All fish will be measure on the official Golden Rule board belonging to the club. No mutilated fish will be weighed in Kentucky bass will be classified as largemouth bass for trophy awards.

Culling Fish

All teams must cull on the **sixth (6)** fish at time of catch. No more than **five (5)** fish should be in the live well at any time.

Tackle

Only artificial baits may be used, with the exception of pork rind, etc. Only one rod and reel **(8)** foot or less may be used at a time. Other outfits may be in the boat and ready for use. All fish must be caught alive in a conventional manner. No trolling with outboard motor is allowed during the tournament.

Safety

A chest type COAST GUARD approved P.F.D. must be used at any time the combustion motor is running. It is the responsibility of the non-boater to furnish his own P.F.D. A kill switch is required on all boats and must be attached to the operator while the combustion motor is running.

A **First Aid Kit** must be on all boats. (See tournament director for details). Any boat deemed unsafe by the tournament committee will not be allowed to enter a tournament. The tournament committee has the right to check **Live Wells** for fish and any compartment that may be able to hold fish or live bait. Any violation of the above rules may be grounds for disqualification or removal from membership. Any participant disqualified for any reason will not be awarded any refunds or participation points.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from each member. Drunkenness during tournament hours will not be tolerated. Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed during tournament hours. No fishing is allowed within **50** yards of another competitor's boat. All fishermen should act as a team while participating in tournaments and allow their partner a turn at the front of the boat at least one half of the fishing time. All fishing must be done within a boat. Operating a boat in an unsafe manner by any member may be grounds for disqualification.

Points

All points will be awarded in the following manner:

- **1st place**- 100 points per person
- **2nd place**- 99 points per person
- **3rd place**- 98 points per person

And so on until all participants have been awarded. Any team with no catch will receive **(10)** points less than last place weigh in. Each competitor will drop his lowest **two** scores for season awards. Only the best seven out of nine tournaments will be used to tabulate final scores, giving each member the opportunity to miss two tournaments.

Meeting Points

All club members will be given **(1)** point for each meeting attended during the year with a maximum of **(5)** points being allowed. Points begin accruing in March and end in October. This is to encourage attendance to all meetings by club members.

Participation Points

Members who actively work in the Frostbite Open and/or actively participate or work in Kids Fishing Day shall be given **(1)** bonus point for each event. All other events deemed necessary by a simple majority vote of the members present will be given **(1)** bonus point. Bonus points will be added to their point standings for year-end awards, fish offs, and state team berths with a maximum of **(4)** participation points.

Allocation of Funds

Part 1: Big Bag of the Day

A big bag of the day (BBD) award will be established. The **BBD** will be presented to a winning team of a regular season **(1)** day tournament event whose total weight is **(20) twenty pounds** or more. Funds for the BBD pot comes from \$5 of every tournament entry fee for the regular season tournaments. The **\$5** will be added to the BBD pot each month during the regular season until a team wins the pot. The BBD pot will cap

out when it reaches **\$500**. \$5 will continue to be deducted from the tournament fees until the cap is reached. Once the cap is reached the \$5.00 fee will move to the Rainy-Day Fund. The amount will be on the monthly financial statement for review by members at the monthly club meeting.

Part 2: Rainy Day Fund

The club will establish a Rainy-Day fund of \$2,000. The source of this fund will be an initial deposit of \$1,000 from the proceeds of the Frostbite Open or other fundraising events hosted by the club. Additional funds will be added over time by taking \$5.00 of each tournament entry fee until the \$2,000 cap is reached. This fund will only be used for the payout of a club sponsored event in which additional funds are required to cover the expense of the event. Any withdraw of funds must be approved by 2/3rd of eligible members.

Part 3: Season Awards

Five (\$5) dollars of every regular tournament entry fee will be used for the Sam Turpin Classic.

Part 4: Big Fish Award

A \$50.00 Gift Card will be presented to the angler(s) at the end of the season for the largest largemouth bass and largest smallmouth bass during tournament competition. Only points tournaments will count towards the determination of this award.

The Big Fish Awards will be allocated from the General Fund using

- Any Tournament Late Fees and
- Team Nashville Bassmasters: will pay for the remaining cost.

Prize Money

Part 1: Entry Fees

The entry fee for each tournament is **\$40.00** or **\$43.00** (on-line payment) per individual angler. Twenty-five dollars (**\$25.00**) from each entry fee will be used for the tournament jackpot. Five dollars (\$5) from each tournament fee will be used for end of season awards. Five dollars (\$5) will be used for the regular tournament Big Fish Pot (BFP), five dollars (\$5) will be used for the Big Bag of the Day (BBD).

Part 2: Tournament Pot Awards

The tournament jackpot is based on **\$25.00** of each entry fee paid out at regular season tournaments.

Part 3: Big Fish Pot

The big bass side pot fee of **\$5.00** is 100% payback and will be paid out at regular season tournaments.

Entry Fee breakdown:

Before Big Bag of the Day cap is reached:

Tournament Pot	\$25.00
Big Fish Pot	\$5.00
Big Bag of the Day	\$5.00
Season Awards	<u>\$5.00</u>

Total \$40.00

After **Big Bag of the Day** cap is reached:

Tournament Pot	\$25.00
Big Fish Pot	\$5.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$5.00
Season Awards	<u>\$5.00</u>

Total \$40.00

Prize money will be split among winning partners equally. Payouts will be based on the number of entries.

Part 4: Prize Money Breakdown

Prize Money checks will be awarded based on boat participation. Payout requires the participant to weigh in a legal measured fish.

Payouts:

- 1 thru 4 boats – 1st place check only
- 5 thru 8 boats – 2 places
- 9 thru 12 boats – 3 places
- 13 or more boats - 4 places

Prizes:

- 1 thru 4 boats: 100%- 1st place
- 5 thru 8 boats: 60% - 1st place
40% - 2nd place
- 9 - 12 boats 50%- 1st place
 - 30%- 2nd place
 - 20%- 3rd place
- 13 or more boats 40%- 1st place
 - 30%- 2nd place
 - 20%- 3rd place
 - 10%- 4th place

In the case of a tie, place money will be added together and divided equally among those who are tied.