

# **Constitution and By-Laws**

## **Of The Hawg Hawlers Bass Club of St. Louis, Missouri**

### **ARTICLE I....NAME, MISSION, VISION AND VALUES**

#### **SECTION I Name**

The name of the organization shall be "Hawg Hawlers Bass Club of St. Louis, Missouri" known in this Document as "Hawg Hawlers".

#### **SECTION II Mission**

- Provide a source of safe, friendly, affordable bass fishing competition.
- Promote adherence to Conservation Codes
- Stimulate awareness of the sport of Bass fishing
- Improve our skills as Bass anglers through friendly exchange of tips and techniques.

#### **SECTION III Vision**

Continually improve to become the friendliest, most affordable and enjoyable bass fishing club in and around the St. Louis area

#### **SECTION IV Values**

Conduct ourselves in an ethical manner with integrity and fairness in all matters.

### **ARTICLE II....MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION I Membership**

Membership is considered a privilege and subject to the following conditions:

- a) Membership in the club is open to everyone with the exception of the following:
  - If you have made more than \$12,000 in tournament winnings (including cash & prizes) a year prior to the tournament date, you are ineligible to fish. Winnings from Big Bass Bash, Charity, Work-sponsored or Owners tournaments are excluded from this rule.
  - If you have fished a Bassmaster Elite, Major League Fishing, Bass Pro Tour, Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit, NPFL, or the "PRO" side in a FLW Tour event in the past 3 years, you are ineligible to fish. Major League Fishing exclusion does not apply to High School, College and Bass Fishing League events.
  - If you have ever won a Bassmaster Classic or FLW Championship, you are ineligible to fish.
  - If you have provided guide service or instructional fishing, for pay on the tournament lake within one year of the tournament date you are ineligible to fish.
  - If the majority of your income derives from fishing related videos, instructional videos, or internet content, you are ineligible to fish.

- The officers reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone at their sole discretion upon unanimous vote of all officers. If you have a question regarding your eligibility please contact club officers for the final decision.

b) Returning members must have no previous action of expulsion from the club.

c) A member's actions are expected to reflect favorably on the club and its members.

## **SECTION II Removal from Membership**

Expulsion from the club could result from any of the following infractions:

a) A display of bad sportsmanship

b) A display of bad moral character

c) Flagrant disregard of boating safety

d) Any other act that would reflect dishonor or disgrace the club or its members

e) Any tournament rule violation that the majority of the officers deem of sufficient severity to revoke or not renew his\her membership.

**Note: Each incidence will be brought before the officers. The accused member(s) will be given the opportunity (privately) to present his\her side. The officers will then decide if expulsion is warranted. If one of the officers is involved, uninvolved officers will review the incident and take necessary action.**

## **ARTICLE III....OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

### **SECTION I General Responsibilities of a Hawg Hawlers Officer**

**Position Eligibility:** Member in good standing with no previous incidents resulting in formal disciplinary action (probation, suspension or expulsion)

**Primary Responsibility:** Officers must be willing to accept the duties of another officer in their absence.

(Note: see individual primary responsibilities)

**Meetings:** Make decisions in the best interest of the club. All officers will be entitled to vote. Decisions will be made based upon a majority vote.

**Tournament:** Meet with other club officers to address any protests, rule enforcement and penalties associated with infractions of the Hawg Hawlers Tournament Rules or By-Laws.

**Equipment:** Assist other Officers with equipment responsibilities as required.

**Documentation:** All officers attending a tournament shall bring the following items to each tournament

a) Hawg Hawlers By-Laws

b) Tournament Rules

c) Tournament schedule

d) Payout schedule

e) Club checkbook (President and Treasurer)

**Newsletter:** Provide any relevant information to the Secretary.

**Other:**

- a) Provide input into the development of the club documentation
- b) Provide input to establish the Tournament Schedule
- c) Share the responsibility for organizing and staging the Awards Banquet

**SECTION II Duties of the President of the Hawg Hawlers Bass Club**

**Position Eligibility:** Member in good standing. The candidate must have satisfactorily completed a minimum of one term as an officer. **Primary Responsibility:** The President shall preside over all meetings and events; maintain rules of order during meetings and ensure the completion of assigned duties of the officers of the club.

**Tournament:**

- a) Function as an interface with Resorts and Marinas prior to finalizing the scheduling of tournaments
- b) Make announcements prior to takeoff and weigh in to include:
  - a. Rules review
  - b. Time check
  - c. No fishing area
  - d. Weigh-in location
  - e. Speed limits
  - f. Size and creel limits
  - g. Welcome new members
  - h. Other announcements as necessary
  - i. Field questions and rule clarifications.
- c) Present checks, awards and 50/50 side pot
- d) Ensure that the necessary photo documentation of the tournament is assigned and carried out.

**Equipment:** Checklist for the pre-tournament meeting

**SECTION III Duties of the Vice President(s) of the Hawg Hawlers Bass Club**

**Position Eligibility:** Member(s) in good standing. Up to two Vice Presidents may serve concurrently in a tournament year.

**Primary Responsibility:** The Vice President(s) shall preside in the absence of the President and assist the President. Solicit Supporters (sponsors) for donations. Serve as contact for merchandise with club logo. The Vice President(s) shall maintain an electronic record of a list of the sponsors of Hawg Hawlers. The record shall include contact names and numbers and donations to Hawg Hawlers on an annual basis.

**Tournament:**

- a) Provide attendance prizes and awards.
- b) Draw boat numbers for attendance prizes.

**SECTION IV Duties of the Secretary of the Hawg Hawlers Bass Club**

**Primary Responsibility:** The Secretary will maintain all of the club documents for the current year, record meeting minutes and keep records for the club.

**Documentation:** Compile and maintain Angler of the Year standings.

**Newsletter:** Compose and distribute the newsletter

**SECTION V Duties of the Treasurer of the Hawg Hawlers Bass Club**

**Primary Responsibility:** The Treasurer shall act as custodian of the funds of the club, give financial reports at meetings, keep records of membership dues paid, pay any necessary debts as directed by the officers, make necessary deposits, maintain a running balance of the club funds and maintain a set of records for that office.

**Tournament:**

- a) Provide checks for tournament places and big bass winners
- b) Enter weights and free tournament winners on the tally board.
- c) Document patterns on the tally board
- d) Collect 50/50 side pot and provide winner's portion of the 50/50 side pot to President
- e) Provide Free Tournament certificates.

**Equipment:** Tally board and marker

**Documentation:** Compile and maintain membership forms and club roster.

**Other:**

- a) Liaison between club and Liability Insurance carrier
- b) Draw boat numbers for take-off positions.

**SECTION VI Duties of the Tournament Chairman of the Hawg Hawlers Bass Club**

**Primary Responsibility:** The Tournament Chairmen shall be responsible for keeping the club scales and bringing them to each tournament and reading the scale weights aloud at each tournament weighing so the weight may be recorded for each members scores. See that each fish is measured on an Officer approved Length Board to ensure that each fish is of legal length. Solicit and instruct volunteers for tournament directors.

**Tournament:**

- a) Support the Tournament Directors
- b) Determine legality of fish presented at weigh-in.

**Equipment:** Maintain and transport tournament equipment to the tournament location

**Documentation:** Obtain permits for all tournaments.

**Newsletter:** Provide list of Tournament Directors.

## **ARTICLE IV....ELECTIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, VACANCIES**

### **SECTION I Election of Club Officers**

The following is the process for bringing in new officers

- a) Nominations will be taken for club officers beginning August 1 and ending August 31.
- b) Announcements will be made at each of the tournaments in June, July and August, that nominations will be accepted during those dates.
- c) Members can nominate themselves.
- d) September 1 all nominees will be contacted to determine their desire to run for office.
- e) Unopposed offices are approved.
- f) For opposed offices, a two-person election committee will be appointed by uninvolved officers to conduct and ensure a fair election process and to determine a winner by popular vote. The election should be conducted as early as possible, but in no event later than the banquet. Only current members in good standing who have fished two tournaments by the time of the election will be eligible to vote.
- g) New officers will be announced at the September tournament with the exception of opposed offices where an election isn't yet finalized.
- h) In the event that offices are not filled by the September tournament, current officers will use the September tournament to solicit volunteers.

### **SECTION II Term of Office**

The term of office shall be a tournament season. The tournament season begins and ends at the conclusion of the annual Awards Banquet.

### **SECTION III Vacancy of an Office**

Vacancies of any office will be filled for the remaining term by person(s) appointed by the remaining officers.

## **ARTICLE V....FINANCES**

### **SECTION I FEES & FINANCES**

All fees and organizational funds collected shall be used for the following:

- a) Club equipment and permits.
- b) Club website, postage, publications and literature.
- c) Club event payout, prizes, trophies, plaques, etc.
- d) Club insurance.
- e) Any other use for the club as decided by the club officers.
- f) Any money not covered in the items above will be used for the Hawg Hawlers Awards Banquet.
- g) The Treasurer will carry over adequate funds as an operating reserve to ensure future budget obligations will be met without a deficit or shortfall in funds. Every effort should be made to distribute funds collected in the same calendar year.

## **ARTICLE VI....ANNUAL AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **SECTION I Memorial Tournament**

The first tournament of the year will be designated as a "Memorial Tournament" to honor deceased members. A moment of silence will be held to honor their memory.

### **SECTION II Awards Banquet**

An Awards Banquet will be held at the end of each tournament season to recognize member Achievements. The dinner will be free to members that fished a minimum of two (2) tournaments during the season.

### **SECTION III Angler of the Year**

An "Angler of the Year" award will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet based on the following conditions:

- a) The angler is a member in good standing
- b) The angler has the highest point total recorded during competition at the scheduled club tournaments.
- c) Points are accumulated beginning with the first tournament of a tournament season and end with the last tournament of a tournament season.

### **SECTION IV Big Bass of the year**

A "Big Bass of the Year" award will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet based on the following conditions:

- a) The angler is a member in good standing
- b) The angler has weighed in the heaviest bass during a regular club tournament in which the angler was a registered participant.

## **SECTION V Eight (8) lb Largemouth Bass & Five (5) lb Smallmouth Bass**

The club will provide \$150.00 toward the Fiberglass Reproduction mount of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass based on the following conditions:

- a) The Largemouth Bass weighs at least 8 lbs. The Smallmouth Bass weighs at least 5 lbs.
- b) The Bass is caught during a regularly scheduled Club Tournament
- c) The Bass is weighed in and counted in the angler's statistics.
- d) The Bass is the largest 8+ lb Largemouth Bass or the largest 5 + lb Smallmouth Bass caught in a tournament season.
- e) The Bass has been released alive and unharmed.
- f) A taxidermist receipt is provided to the Club Treasurer.
- g) The angler is a member in good standing
- h) Only two awards are available per tournament season, one for the biggest Largemouth and one for the biggest Smallmouth. Reimbursement will be paid when the club receives a copy of the taxidermy receipt.

## **ARTICLE VII.....AMENDING THE BY-LAWS, TOURNAMENT RULES OR PROCEDURES**

### **SECTION I Process for amending the By-Laws, Tournament Rules or Procedures**

The procedure to amend these By-Laws, Tournament Rules or Procedures is as follows.....

- a) Proposals must be submitted, in writing, to the club officers.
- b) The club By-Laws, Tournament Rules and procedures will be reviewed as necessary, at the beginning of each year by the incoming and outgoing officers. The By-Laws, tournament rules and other procedures may be changed by a majority vote at any meeting where all current officers are present, or their votes verified. Changes to the By-Laws and Tournament Rules once the tournament season has commenced (after the first tournament) is discouraged and should only be done with unanimous consent of all the officers.
- c) Copies of these by-laws and articles will be made available to any member of the club, upon request.