

# Fellowship of Christian Bass Anglers

## Constitution and By-Laws

### **ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose**

#### **Section A. Name**

1. This Chapter shall be called the FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN BASS ANGLERS of Rossville, Georgia.

#### **Section B. Purpose (Mission Statement)**

1. The Fellowship of Christian Bass Anglers (FOCBA) views as the purpose for our existence and we give our pledge to fulfill the following creed:
  - 1.1. To use the tradition of fishing as a common ground for Christian Fellowship among its members and to witness and introduce our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to those who might not otherwise know Him.
  - 1.2. To promote fishing as a family event.
  - 1.3. To make fishing more enjoyable and productive through conservation and sportsmanship.
  - 1.4. To promote Christian values, morality, honesty, and integrity in all we do.
  - 1.5. To be responsible stewards of God's gifts.
  - 1.6. To pass on our knowledge of Christ and the tradition of bass fishing to others....and ask that they do the same.

### **ARTICLE II: Club Membership**

#### **Section A. Number of Members**

1. The chapter shall begin with at least six (6) members, and shall have no more than fifty (50) members at any one time.

#### **Section B. Requirements of membership**

1. Requirements for membership in FOCBA are as follows:
  - 1.1. Voluntarily express an interest in membership.
  - 1.2. Be present at monthly club meetings.

1.3. Review and agree that they have read and understand the Club Constitution and By-laws and the Tournament Rules.

1.4. Be voted on by the membership.

1.4.1. Any members allowed to fish and paying their yearly dues on a tournament morning will be voted on by other team members at the following meeting for yearly membership.

1.5. Unless other arrangements are made, each new member must pay his yearly dues during the meeting at which he decides to join.

Once the above requirements are met, full membership will be awarded.

### **Section C. Membership Dues**

1. The membership dues shall be \$40.00 per team annually beginning the first quarter of each new season. New members should pay their dues in full. Anyone unable to pay their dues immediately should talk to a club officer to discuss arrangements.

### **Section D. Tournament Fees**

1. The following fees are applicable to FOCBA Tournaments:

1.1. Club Tournament Fees

1.1.1. Member tournament fees shall be \$25.00 per boat/team. The fees shall be distributed as listed below:

1.1.1.1. \$5.00 shall go to the general club fund for expenses and classic fund

1.1.1.2. \$15.00 will be awarded to first place

1.1.1.3. \$5.00 to second place

1.2. A "Big Fish" pot will also be collected, but participation in this is strictly voluntary. This fee will be set at \$5 per person wishing to participate. Choosing to refrain from participating in the "Big Fish" pot will disqualify you from winning the "Big Fish" reward.

1.3. Dogfight Fees

1.3.1. Dogfight fees shall be set at \$20 per boat. The \$20 entry fee shall be distributed as listed below:

1.3.1.1. \$5 will go to the general club fund for expenses and classic fund

1.3.1.2. \$10 will go to first place

- 1.3.1.3. \$5 will be awarded for the largest fish weighed in at the tournament.

## **ARTICLE III: Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility**

### **Section A. Officers and Their Duties**

1. The following officers will be elected to serve:
  - 1.1. President: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business, and appoints and directs all committee functions, and supervises all club functions.
  - 1.2. Vice-President: Act as program chairman, assist the president, and preside over meetings in the absence of the president.
  - 1.3. Secretary/Treasurer: Maintain accurate financial records and report at each meeting. Will preside over meetings in the absence of the President and VP.
  - 1.4. Tournament Director: This person will be responsible for tournaments and is tasked with keeping accurate records and reporting to the club each month. After the initial year, this office shall be voluntarily held by the reigning Angler of the Year. If the Angler of the Year declines the position it shall move in order of the preceding years standings.

### **Section B. Elections**

1. The election of officers
  - 1.1. Elections will be held annually at the regular meeting during the month of December.
  - 1.2. Elections shall be by simple majority of members present.
  - 1.3. Elections for each office shall be held separate in order listed in Article III, Section 1.
  - 1.4. The term of office of an officer is one year, which shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31, or until the successor assumes office. Original slate of offices shall serve until December 31.

### **Section C. Eligibility of Vote**

1. Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

2. The term of office of an officer is one year, which shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31, or until the successor assumes office.

**Section D. Vacancies**

1. In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be accepted and an election held to fill the expired term of the individual vacating the office.

**Section E. Eligibility for Holding Office**

1. To be eligible for an office, a member must:
  - 1.1. Have been a member for three months.
  - 1.2. Have attended at least 3/4 of the chapter's meetings and 3/4 of the chapter's functions.
  - 1.3. Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.

**ARTICLE IV: Removal of Membership**

**Section A. Membership Removal**

1. A member shall be dropped from membership roll for any of the following reasons:
  - 1.1. Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace to the chapter and damage the testimony of the individual and the club.
  - 1.2. Any actions or activities which could question the existence or sustainability of the organization.
  - 1.3. Not paying dues or fees within a reasonable time.
  - 1.4. Blatant disregard for the FOCBA Constitution and tournament rules.
  - 1.5. Missing more than three (3) consecutive meetings without a reasonable excuse, such as job requirements or sickness. A contact to one of the members to inform him of your intended absence must be made.
2. Any such actions must be voted on in two phases:
  - 2.1. Majority vote of club officers and tournament committee.
    - 2.1.1. If a majority is not obtained, the action to remove will not continue.

2.1.2. If a majority is obtained, the action will continue to a vote of all current members.

2.1.2.1. Voting can be held in two different manners

2.1.2.1.1. Simple majority vote by raise and counting of hands

2.1.2.1.2. Simple vote by paper

## **ARTICLE V Annual Awards**

### **Section A. End of Year Awards**

1. At the December meeting, the following awards will be distributed:
  - 1.1. The member who has caught the biggest largemouth bass during a regularly scheduled club tournament during the year will be designated "Mr. Largemouth Bass."
  - 1.2. The member who has caught the biggest smallmouth bass during a regularly scheduled club tournament during the year will be designated "Mr. Smallmouth Bass".
  - 1.3. The member who has caught the biggest spotted bass during a regularly scheduled club tournament during the year will be designated and "Mr. Spotted Bass".
  - 1.4. The team with the most total points at the end of the year will be designated "FOCBA Team of the Year".
  - 1.5. The boater and co-angler with the most total points at the end of the year will be designated "FOCBA Angler of the Year" and "FOCBA Co-angler of the Year".

## **ARTICLE VI: Tournaments and Points**

### **Section A. Tournament Points**

1. Tournament points shall be computed as follows: The place finished subtracted from 21 x 5 points (Examples: 1st place =  $(21-1) \times 5 = 100$  points; 17th place =  $(21-17) \times 5 = 20$  points). A minimum of twenty (20) points per tournament will be awarded to each team who participates in a tournament. A team fishing a tournament shall receive no less than twenty points even if they fail to weigh in any fish for the tournament. No points will be awarded for a disqualification.

2. Five points will be awarded to the team with the large fish at each tournament.

**Section B. Classic Tournament**

1. The club will hold a “Classic Championship” at the end of the regular tournament schedule.
  - 1.1. The lake to be fished for the Classic shall be selected, by the tournament committee, from all the tournament lakes to be fished for the year.
  - 1.2. The Classic tournament shall be a team tournament.
  - 1.3. The Classic shall have a five (5) fish limit per boat.
  - 1.4. Classic Qualifications
    - 1.4.1. A member must have his dues paid for the year
    - 1.4.2. A member must have fished a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the yearly tournaments.
    - 1.4.3. Any team that has fallen short for the classic can “buy-in” at the discretion of the club members.
      - 1.4.3.1. The cost will normally equal the total amount to obtain the minimum number of tournaments.

**Section C. Tournament Schedule**

1. The tournament schedule is to be formulated at the beginning of each year with the tournament committee selecting the tournament dates.
  - 1.1. The tournament committee shall choose the lakes and ramps for each date chosen.
  - 1.2. The lake or reservoir scheduled will be off limits to all club members at sundown the day prior to kick-off-time.
  - 1.3. The Classic tournament lake shall be off limits to members a week prior to kick-off-time. A week shall be interpreted the Monday 12:01 a.m. prior the kick-off-time.
  - 1.4. Day tournaments will be held on Saturdays with the time determined by the tournament committee.
  - 1.5. Night tournaments will be fished on Friday nights with the start and finish time to be determined by the tournament committee.

- 1.6. The club must vote on any exceptions prior to the tournament. The tournament director will have the only official time at the tournaments.
- 1.7. Dogfight tournaments will be scheduled on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings. The dogfight committee and tournament director will determine the time for these tournaments.
2. In the event of severe weather, a tournament is subject to be shortened, postponed or cancelled with the majority approval of the tournament committee.

**Section D. Tournament Conduct and Rules**

1. All tournament participants must observe safe motoring at all times. Caution and safety on morning and evening blast-off is to be observed by all participants. A life preserver will be worn at all times with the exception where boat speed does not exceed 10 miles per hour. The kill switch shall be used if the boat is so equipped. Running lights are required during all night tournaments while the outboard motor is running.
2. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited during any tournament. This time shall be interpreted as being the time boats are launched until the last fish is weighed. Disqualification is automatic and no written protest is required to enforce this rule. Expulsion from the club may be determined and implemented as a result.
3. Profanity is prohibited and is grounds for automatic disqualification and possible expulsion from the club permanently.
4. All tournaments are "team format".
  - 4.1. If a team member is to be absent, the remaining team member has the option of fishing alone, or he can bring another partner, but that partner must pay a \$10.00 alternate teammate fee.
  - 4.2. If the same alternate fishes more than one tournament, he/she will not have to pay the fee a second time. If a different alternate is used, he/she must pay the \$10.00.
  - 4.3. The Tournament Committee will decide and handle all discipline for all members arriving late to club tournaments under direction of the Tournament Director.
5. Weigh-In

- 5.1. Tournament Director duties include:
  - 5.1.1. Being in charge of the weigh-in.
  - 5.1.2. Observing the measuring of fish for each tournament.
  - 5.1.3. Recording the weight of each participant's catch.
  - 5.1.4. Keeping the starting and ending times for each tournament.
  - 5.1.5. Determining the qualification of a fish for weighing.
- 5.2. The Tournament Director, with assistance from the Tournament Committee will make the final decision as to whether fish is alive or dead.
- 5.3. The limits shall be five (5) bass per team, per boat at ramp area at time of weigh-in.
- 5.4. Any team in the possession of more than five (5) fish will be disqualified.
- 5.5. An eight (8) ounce deduction will be administered from the total weight for each dead fish weighed in.
- 5.6. All live fish are to be released at the tournament site. If any team has live fish (bass) in his live well at the end of the weigh-in, they will be disqualified (mounting fish excepted).
- 5.7. A one (1) pound deduction will be administered for each short fish. Fish are to be measured with mouth closed and tail pinched on a "Golden Rule" under the direction of the Tournament Director by the Tournament Committee.
- 5.8. Anyone late to the ramp will be penalized one-half (1/2) pound per minute late. After five minutes the team will be disqualified.
- 5.9. Once boats are trailered, fish are ready for weigh in. Fish should be promptly weighed and released in order to reduce the mortality of the fish. The health of the fish should take precedence over other issues at the conclusion of the tournament.
6. Locking through is not permitted during club tournaments or dogfight tournaments.

**Section E. Expenses and Etiquette**

1. Fishing tournament expenses between team members are to be decided upon at those members discretion. Good judgment is the best rule to follow. Any unresolved disputes concerning expenses should be directed to club officers for resolution.

2. Good etiquette and common sense are good guidelines to follow for the team members while fishing together. If both anglers are in agreement the days fishing is normally better for both.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Meetings**

### **Section A. Club Meetings**

1. The President will preside over all meetings. All business should be conducted at the beginning of each meeting to leave the latter part for activities. Proper rules of order should be observed at all times. The meeting shall be brought to order and ended by vote of members.
2. Regular club meetings will be held the first Thursday in each month at 7:00pm. Any special called meetings will be announced by telephone. Please check our web site at [www.focba.org](http://www.focba.org) for meeting news. Meeting attendance is vital to creating the fellowship and atmosphere to have a successful club.
3. Ten (10) points will be awarded for club attendance.
4. Missing a meeting due to employment, you will be awarded five (5) points if a club officer is notified ahead of time.
5. Missing for ANY other reason will result in no points being rewarded.

## **ARTICLE IX: Fiscal Responsibility**

### **Section A. Fiscal Responsibility**

1. The fiscal year shall start January 1 and end December 31. The treasurer **will** give a financial report for the year at January meeting. This report must be approved by a vote of the members present before the newly elected officers take office.

## **ARTICLE X: Suggested Jobs and Committees**

### **Section A. Suggested Jobs and Committees**

1. Tournament Committee: The top five (5) members having the most points during club scheduled regular tournaments at the end of the fiscal year shall be designated the Tournament Committee for the following year. It shall be their duty to set dates, lakes and designate the ramp used for launching each tournament. They will also supervise

the tournament and verify the catches. Only the Tournament Committee can change tournaments, dates, lakes, and ramps. (In the case of the team tournament format, one member from each of the top five teams will be selected for the tournament committee)

2. Public Relations Director: The appointee to this post should make every effort to bring the public's attention to the club's functions that might be of interest to them and help further the principles and goals on which the club is founded.
3. Dogfight Committee: The purpose of this two (2) or three (3) man team is to schedule dogfights during the year.

## **ARTICLE XI: Payment of Money Due**

### **Section A. Payment of Money Due**

1. All members shall pay money's due upon joining FOCBA. This includes dues, patches, tournament fees, or any other money for other activities.

## **ARTICLE XIII: Amending the By-Laws**

### **Section A. Amending By-Laws**

1. Any suggested changes to the above by-laws will be made to the club for their study and review at regular meetings. The club will discuss and vote on the suggested changes.
2. Any immediate changes to the above by-laws can be undertaken and implemented only by a unanimous vote amongst current club officers and tournament committee members.