

ELITE FORCE BASSMASTERS

Constitution and Bylaws

Article 1 Name

The name of this organization shall be Elite Force Bassmasters.

Article 2 Purpose

- - To Stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport and offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement.
- - To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards.
- - To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas.

- To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters embracing the principles and purposes of The Bass Federation INC. and FLW.

Article 3 Membership

To become an active / regular member, a person shall:

- - Voluntarily expresses genuine interest in membership
- - Be 18 years of age or older
- - 100% of the members shall be required to be members in good standing in The Bass Federation INC. and FLW.
- - The Executive Board, with input from the General Membership, will vote on accepting any perspective member(s).
- - The Executive Board will have final vote on removing any members for any reason

they deem the member to be unfit to be part of the Club. (See section below)

- - All accepted new members will go through a 6-month probation period having all privileges. Any time during the probationary period, The Executive Board can vote to deem a member unworthy and vote to remove such member if warranted.
- - In the event that we cannot fill a full team for the Regional Tournament, the Executive Board can seek boaters or riders from outside the club. The club will not seek more than 3 individuals to fill out a Regional team.

This person(s) will be considered an Honorary Member and owe no dues for the current year but will need to be a TBF/FLW Active Member.

Article 4 Dues

Active / Regular Membership Dues shall be \$50 per year, **non-refundable**, and paid by December 31st.

- Once paid, the member will be moved to Active Member Status.
- All Unpaid Members will be considered INACTIVE Members and will not be permitted to participate in any Club Meetings or Tournaments until the annual dues are paid in full for the year.
- Inactive Members will be removed from all Club communication.
- National and State dues must be paid in full to the club Treasurer by December 31st.

Article 5 Officers and Their Duties

The Officers in the Club

- Are three (3) in number, consisting of President (Treasurer), Vice President and Assistant Vice President, and/or any other number or
- title the Executive Board votes to create.

The Duties of the Officers Shall Be;

- **President** Presides over all meetings and directs all official business. In general, appoints and directs committee functions and supervises all club functions. Determines meeting dates and develops a meeting agenda for each regular meeting.
 - Establishes a preliminary Tournament schedule for the following year based on input from Club Members were possible.

Will then present that schedule with any modifications necessary to the Executive Board for their review and approval by majority vote of the Executive Board.

- The President will be responsible for the registration of participants in Club Tournaments and the assignment of partners thru random draw. Riders will be required to alternate each Club tournament thru Boaters they haven't fished with yet for the year where possible before they can fish with a boater they have already fished with in that year.
- The President will file for all permits for the upcoming season and track approval.
- Maintains accurate and up to date copies of the club by- laws, club roster, and the

club listing with addresses and phone numbers.

- Is responsible for the development of an annual financial budget and the annual audit of the treasury records. A monthly audit of the treasury records is optional.

- Keeps an up to date documented standard practice/ procedure manual for this office and ensures likewise for the remaining officer positions.

The PRESIDENT will have the final decision to over rule any and all votes by the Executive Board if the President feels it is in the best interest of the Club to do so.

Vice President

- Acts as a program chairman and assists the President in his duties and presides over all meetings in the Presidents absence. Maintains regular liaison between the club and The Bass Federation Inc. and the District TBF INC. and FLW chapter Federation.
- The Vice President will also perform all Tournament Responsibilities; To type and issue to each member a current year tournament schedule, once site and dates are established by the Executive Board. To direct the entire tournament. Included is the coordination at check in and weigh-in, boat checks (life jackets, kill switch, livewell, etc.), head count prior to blast-off and the enforcement of all tournament rules and predetermined restrictions. Main objectives to be stressed are safety,

sportsmanship and fellowship.

The preventive maintenance and workability of all weigh-in equipment (scales, net, dink board, etc.),

Accurate records of all weigh-in data required to maintain the tournament summary and to determine the tournament/ trophy winners.

- A tournament summary should be made available to the President immediately after the Tournament conclusion.
- To award all financial winnings at the tournament site. To be accompanied by a handshake.

- Must keep up to date standard practice/ procedure manual for this position.

- - **Responsibilities for OPENS**

The registration of participants.

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Accurate records of all weigh-in data required to maintain the tournament summary and to determine the tournament/trophy winners.

To award all financial winnings at the tournament site. To be accompanied by a handshake.

Must keep and up to date standard practice manual (procedure) for this position.

Assistant Vice President:

- Maintains accurate minutes of all club meetings. Has charge of all correspondence and reports previous minutes at each meeting.
- Will send an agenda out via email to all Club Members before all meetings and send a summary email out to all Club Members to recap each monthly meeting.
- Will assist the President and Vice President where needed.

- Must keep an up to date standard practice manual for this position.
- Will help at all Tournaments with launch and weigh in.

President/Treasurer:

- Collects, disburses, monitors and reports all financial actions at each regular meeting (includes annual dues, 50-50s, fundraisers, tournament fees, banquet dinners, etc.).
- Accurate records of all club receipts and disbursements must be kept in the clubs financial ledger.
- Must keep the clubs financial actions within the confines of the approved annual budget. Any exceptions to the approved

annual budget must be through the directions of the Executive Board.

- Responsible for the inventory and sale of club supplies.
- Responsible for the preparation of either an annual audit of financial records. Annual audits will be conducted at the first meeting of each year. As an option, monthly disclosure of account balances could be conducted at each regular meeting.
- The President and the Treasurer should agree upon the method to be used for the New Year.
- Must keep up to date standard practice manual (procedure) for this position.

Article 6 : Angler of the Year (AOTY) Co-Angler of the Year (CAOTY)

A. Points System and Club Tournament

- The club will hold a 10 to 13 tournament circuit and members can drop their worst 3 - 4 tournaments based on the overall number of Tournaments.
- The club will charge \$40 fee for all members participating in the tournament.
- \$10 of that fee goes to the Club general account, \$5 dollars to Lunker Pot and the rest to the Winners of the Tournament to be split 1st: 50% , 2nd: 30% and 3rd: 20%
- Additional places or less places may be paid based on Participation and agreed upon by the majority of the Executive Board members present at the event.

- A 10 tournament circuit: Members can drop their worst 3 tournaments towards their AOTY/COAOTY totals.
- A 11 - 13 tournament circuit: Members can drop their worst 4 tournaments towards their AOTY/CAOTY totals.
- All Members must sign up as IN or OUT by 5pm the Sunday before the Tournament on our website forum or by notifying an Officer if not able to access the website.
- The tournament draw for pairings and launch order will be done the Sunday night before the tournament, after the 5pm signup deadline.
- Members who miss the sign up date, may enter the tournament late one time per year only with a \$10 fee for being late. Once a member uses their one-time

annual/ seasonal allowance for being late, they will not be able to participate “late” again for the rest of the year if they miss the Sunday sign up cutoff at 5pm.

- Any member who signs up and has to back out of a Tournament, will be charged a \$10 fee that must be paid before they can participate in the next tournament. If that member fails to pay, they will not be allowed to fish a Club event until payment is received.
- If a member signs up but backs out of more than one Tournament in a year, they will be suspended for a tournament of the Executive Boards choosing.
- These rules are not meant to hurt/punish any club member but to help make sure all members are treated EQUALLY at the draw and to prevent any member from trying to avoid/manipulate placement with

another member (rider/ boater) thru missing the draw and signing up late or being part of the draw but than backing out.

AOTY/CAOTY points will be awarded on a “points” system:

- 100 points for 1st place, 99 points for 2nd place, 98 points for 3rd place, 97 points for 4th place and so on...
- Anyone who fishes but does not weigh a legal fish, will receive 55 points for participating.
- If a member is DQ'd for any reason, they will not receive any points.
- In order to DQ a participant, it will be by the Majority Vote of the Executive Board Officers that are present at the event based on the circumstances presented.

- AOTY will be awarded to the Boater who has the highest points for the year.
- CAOTY will be awarded to the Rider who has the highest points for the year.
- In the event of a tie, the Boater/Rider with the highest total weight for the year will win AOTY/CAOTY respectively.

B. A "Classic" tournament will be held for all paid active club members attaining qualifying status during the regular scheduled tournament season.

- In order to qualify for the Classic tournament, members must participate in a minimum of five (5) Elite Force Bassmasters monthly tournaments for the current year.

- The Classic tournament date and location will be determined by input from the Club Members and a majority vote of the Executive Board.

C. Tournament Cancellations/Reschedules

There may be a need to cancel or reschedule a Tournament through out the season.

The Executive board, by majority vote can cancel / reschedule any tournament/event they deem necessary for any reason. (As an example, unsafe conditions or extenuating circumstances).

- Rescheduled events may be held as conditions dictate at the same location, a new location, the same date or a new date by the majority vote of the Executive Board with the ultimate purpose of being in the best interest of the Club.

D. Awards

A club fishing championship award shall be given to the AOTY/ROTY member(s) with the highest total of tournament points as outlined in the tournament rules. The Executive Board to satisfy such demands as needed may create additional awards by a vote.

- If relevant, the Executive Board will determine and purchase trophies at the end of the year. The Officers of the Club will award the trophies at the year end banquet/ dinner.
- The Club by rule of the majority of the Executive Board will try and pay entry fees for any member(s) who qualifies for the State Classic. The amount of assistance will be whatever the Executive Board feels the club can afford when the decision is made.

E. Guest(s)

- Club members that are Boaters can bring a Guest once they have gone thru the Tournament draw, if they are solo. If thru

the draw a Club Rider is placed with them, they will not be allowed to have their Guest fish with them. Member Riders are our priority for placement.

- Any guest fishing with the Club must have the intention or desire to join the Club. Each guest can only come out 1 time and after that will need to join the Club in order to fish with the Club again.
- Any Club Co Angler wanting to bring a Guest(Rider): the guest will need to go into the draw and after all active Club Co Anglers are placed, then they will be placed with the first open Boat.
- From time to time the Club may be short Boaters and the Club, thru the Executive Board majority vote, reserves the right to bring in outside Boaters in order to help fill the field where needed in best interest of

the Club.

Article 7: Executive Board

- The Executive Board shall consist of the Officers of the Club. President(Treasurer), Vice President and Assistant Vice President and/or any other title created by the majority vote of the Executive Board.
- Final interpretation of the By-laws rests with the Executive Board, with the PRESIDENT having the final decision making to overrule the Board if he/she feels is in the best interest of the Club.
- The Executive Board will make final decisions on all matters of Elite Force Bassmasters by majority vote, while relying heavily on the input of the general membership.

- The PRESIDENT can override the Executive board and has final decision making on any and all topics/votes/circumstances where the PRESIDENT deems necessary for the best interest of the Club.

Article 8 Committees

All Committees will be created, sized and appointed by the President and / or Vice President with the approval of the majority vote of the Executive Board as needed.

Article 9 Elections and Terms of Office

A. Club Officers will hold Officer Positions for Lifetime Appointment.

- If an Officer advocates their seat or requests to advocate their seat, the Executive Board ONLY will vote for the replacement Officer based on the

nominations of the Executive Board and input from Club Membership. Majority of the Executive Board votes will win.

- The President can veto the Executive Boards vote and will have the final decision on the replacement Officer whenever the President feels necessary to veto the vote for the good of the Club.
- Proxy votes are not permitted.

B. The PRESIDENT may hold a vote to replace an Officer in the case any Officer is not performing their responsibilities, not acting in the best interest of the Club or for any reason the President feels needs to be addressed for the good of the Club .

- This vote will be by the majority vote of the Executive Board ONLY.
- The replacement Officer vote will be based on the nominations of the Executive Board with input being considered by the Club Membership.
- Proxy votes are not permitted.
- The President can veto the Executive Boards vote and will have the final decision on the replacement Officer if the

President feels necessary to veto the vote for the good of the Club.

C. To be Eligible for Office

A member must have been a regular member for twelve months, attended at least 3/4 of all regular meetings and events designated as club functions, and is currently an active/regular member, and has shown an active

interest in all organizational functions. In the event no member is eligible, or no eligible member will accept nomination, the aforementioned requirements may be waived by vote of the Executive Board with the President having the Final Decision.

D. Recall of any Officer or General Membership

- For just and proper grievance an Officer or General Membership may be affected/revoked through a majority vote of the Executive Board or at the request of the President.
- The President will have the final decision to override the board where he/she deems necessary for the overall good of the Club. The Presidents decision is final and binding.

- The PRESIDENT may hold a vote to replace an Officer in the case any Officer is not performing their responsibilities, not acting in the best interest of the Club or for any reason the President feels needs to be addressed for the good of the Club . This vote will be by the Executive Board ONLY (please see article 9 above).

Article 10 Alterations and/or Amendments to the Constitution

- The Constitution may be amended at any time of the year as needed by the majority vote of the Executive Board OR if the President feels alterations or amendments are needed immediately for the best interest of the Club.
- All matters not provided in the Constitution shall be acted upon by majority vote of the Executive Board with

the President having the final decision if he/she feels it is in the best interest of the Club.

Article 11 Responsibility and General Conduct

- Each club member is responsible for any and all of his acts at any club sanctioned meeting and/or activity, as well as any privately engaged activity which may, in part or whole, reflect unfavorably upon the reputation and wellbeing of the club as an entity including but not limited to social media.
- Any act such as littering, destruction of property, trespassing, blatant dishonesty, theft, unsafe boating, continued disrespect and/or disregard of others rights, etc., shall be construed as a breach

of sportsmanlike conduct and constitute just and proper grievance.

- Any member, either by personal observation or by reliable report, may file a written, signed complaint to the club President, who shall review and recommend to the Executive Board (voting body): exoneration, probation, suspension, or dismissal of accused member for alleged breaches of conduct.
- At all times, the conduct of each member, both with other members and the public in general, are expected to be maintained in the finest spirit of sportsmanship.

Article 12 Removal of Membership

A member will be dropped from the membership for any of the following:

- - Failure to pay yearly dues by December 31st of each year.

- - The Club may hold a vote to replace a Club Member for any just and proper grievance. This vote will be by the Executive Board ONLY with the President having the final decision to over ride the Executive Board if he feels it is in the best interest of the Club to do so.
- - Any violation to article 11.
- - Any other reason not covered here may and will be discussed and voted upon where necessary by the Executive Board only. Majority vote of the Executive Board will determine the outcome of such meeting. The President will have the final decision to override the Executive Board if he feels it is in the best interest of the Club.

Article 13 General Organizational Operation Meetings

- Club meetings will be held as designated by the President.
- The President will preside at each meeting with the customary club agenda in effect.
- In case of emergency and the needs of short notices the President can use the message board for an on-line vote.
- Meetings cannot be reopened after adjournment!

Article 14 Accounting Period

All records shall read on an anniversary year; that is, January 1 to December 31.

Article 15 Annual Budget

An Annual Budget should be prepared and

proposed by the President at the January meeting. The budget should reflect planned receipts and disbursements for the entire next year. Budget will be reviewed with the Executive Board. Once the budget is approved it will be the responsibility of the club President(Treasurer) to monitor and maintain the club spending within the budget. Any financial actions outside of the budget guidelines will be through the direction of the PRESIDENT and/or OFFICERS and requires a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Article 16 Dissolution of the Organization

In the Event that the Organization is dissolved

Any assets, after satisfying all liabilities, shall be divided proportionately among all existing active members in good standing, depending upon their total length of time in the

organization to be discussed and voted upon by the majority vote Executive Board.

This Article can be revisited for possible changes by the President if deemed necessary at any time.