

OSPREY BASS ANGLERS

BY LAWS
And
TOURNAMENT RULES
Revised: December 2, 2017 for 2018

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BY LAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1 - NAME

The name is and shall be **OSPREY BASS ANGLERS**

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE:

The purpose of this club is to stimulate public awareness of Bass Fishing as a sport and to offer our State Conservation Department moral and political support. Secondly, to promote full adherence to all conservation codes, to demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. Next, to assist in detecting and reporting polluters, other wildlife Conservation related offenses, to improve our skills, techniques, share expertise through a friendly fellowship and exchange or ideas in the thrilling Sport of BASS fishing. Lastly, the club would like to establish a lasting tradition of Bass Fishing for the youth and family.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership shall be open to all personnel.
- b) There are no limits in membership.

SECTION 2 - REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted for membership a person shall:

- a) Be invited by an active member in good standing, express a desire to join.
- b) Meet all legal requirements of State
- c) All club membership and tournament fees shall be paid in accordance with club rules.

SECTION 3 - MEMBERSHIP BEHAVIOR

- a) If a member displays unsportsmanlike conduct or any action that could bring dishonor or disgrace to this club as determined by the executive committee, that member shall be subject to a penalty up to forfeiture of his/her membership.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP FEES

SECTION 1 - REQUIREMENTS

- a) Each member is required to pay all tournament fees prior to fishing each tournament.
- b) Members and Persons joining Osprey Bass Anglers have two options:
 - 1) If you pay all tournament fees in three monthly payments you will receive a 20% discount which reduces it to \$660.00 from \$825.00. It must be paid by the third tournament and no refund even if a non-boater does not come out of the hat. The \$660.00 or \$825.00 does not include your \$75.00 membership dues.
 - 2) The cost to become a member is \$75.00 for membership dues and each tournament cost \$75.00.
 - 3) A member can make arrangements to pay at the ramp for the tournament and if he/she doesn't show they must pay in advance from hence forward. Additionally, a flat fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for the next tournament in addition to tournament fee.
- c) All members of Osprey Bass Anglers shall also pay a \$10.00 Quad State which is included in the \$75.00 Membership dues.
- d) A \$27 fee will be charged for each insufficient check written to the club.
- e) After second insufficient check written to club, member shall pay all fees in cash.
- f) New members who have never belonged to the Osprey Bass Anglers will have the option to join the Osprey Bass Anglers by paying their membership dues of \$75.00 and fishing their first club tournament free of charge. New members will be allowed to compete for the purse.

SECTION 2 – CLUB POLICES

- a) Club shall receive \$15.00 per tournament from each member tournament fees.
- b) Club shall retain a 20 percent fee from each special tournament.
- c) All places not paid at tournament shall be rolled over to the next tournament.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – CLUB OFFICERS

The officers of club shall consist of:

- a) President – Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and direct all committee functions. Supervise all club functions and serve as head of the executive committee.
- b) Vice-President – Assist the president in his duties and preside over club in absence of the President.
- c) Treasure – Supervise all club funds and accounts. Keep accurate and up to date ledgers of all club transactions. Sign checks and give monthly financial report at club meetings. Give annual report at the end of year.
- d) Secretary - Maintain accurate minutes of all meetings-Publish roll of membership and distribute to membership. Take attendance at all meetings and tournaments.
- e) Tournament Director – Supervises all club tournaments in accordance with tournament rules. Will act as liaison between club and tournament site.
- f) Weigh-Master – Measure, weigh and record all fish at weigh-in. IAW tournament rules.

SECTION 2 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

- a) Shall consist of the 6 officers listed in Article IV, Section 1.
- b) They will rule on any and all unusual circumstances, by majority vote.
- c) In case of tie the President shall be the tie breaking vote
- d) Members shall be reimbursed for accrued expenses when conducting club business with executive committee approval.
- e) The Executive Committee shall have the authority to change the lake if there are unsafe conditions (low lake levels, unsafe boat ramp, etc.) or bad weather.

SECTION 3 - NEGLIGENCE

Negligence:

- a) In case of negligence, the Officer found in offense shall be removed from office and suspended for a period of time. The specific length of time shall be decided by club membership in a closed door meeting.

SECTION 4 – OFFICER ELECTION AND TERM

- a) Election and Term of Office: Election of offices other than President shall be held annually at the November meeting. Voting shall be conducted by show of hands. Election of President shall be every two years by membership voting via secret ballots. The officers selected shall take their office in February of the following tournament season.
- b) The official terms shall be: President 2 yrs, Vice-President 1yr, Secretary 1yr, Treasurer 1yr, Tournament Director 1yr and Weigh-Master 1yr.

SECTION 5 - VACANCIES

- a) In the event an office becomes vacant, nominations shall take place and an election held to fill the unexpired term of that office at the next meeting.

SECTION 5 – ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE

Presidential office:

- a) Must have held office within OSPREY BASS ANGLERS for at least one year.

Other Club Offices:

- a) Must be an active member for a period of one year.
- b) Must have attended $\frac{3}{4}$ of all meetings and club functions.
- c) Must have shown interest in all club activities and promotion of the club to prospective members.

SECTION 6 – ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

- a) All members in good standing are entitled to vote. Each member must be present to vote. Each member is allowed one vote per topic.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - REGULAR MEETINGS

- a) The monthly meeting will be conducted on Saturday one week prior to the scheduled tournament. The meeting shall be held at 5 p.m.
- b) Meeting place will be decided by members. The official club uniform shall consist of a shirt or jersey for tournaments. For meeting the uniform shall consist of a shirt/jersey or cap with the club emblem visible. The only exception to this uniform by-law is attending the annual banquet. For public club events such as meetings or tournaments, members out of uniform will be penalized 10 points and the only exception is attending the annual banquet.
- c) Any member out of uniform 3 times in a year at tournaments and/or public meetings will be disqualified either at that tournament prior to weigh-in meaning they will not be allowed to weigh-in fish at that tournament or future tournaments and also lose 10 points from their official leaderboard score.
- d) A member must call another member of the club or a member of the executive committee to confirm availability for the fishing tournament as a boater or non-boater prior to the meeting.

SECTION 2 – SPECIAL MEETINGS

- a) Special meetings shall be called by club President at his/her discretion.
- b) If the executive committee plans a meeting, the membership shall be advised. Also, special committee elected officials shall have their own time for meetings (separate from regular club meetings).

ARTICLE VI – REGULAR TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1 – TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- a) Club Tournaments: Shall be held the second Saturday morning of each month. The club tournaments shall be held in accordance with current schedule and tournament rules.
- b) Tournament Schedule: The February tournament lake shall be selected at the November meeting. The remaining lake tournaments shall be selected 3 per quarter starting at the February meeting.
- c) Tournament Schedule: Shall be fished as printed unless special circumstances dictated a change and if so that change shall be nominated, second and voted on by the club members.
- d) Two Day Tournaments: The March madness 2-day tournament at the same lake will now be treated as two separate tournaments so maximum point can be acquired on both tournament days. A \$150.00 tournament fee will apply. A two day tournament shall also be fished in May which is two separate tournaments and two separate lakes which must be in close proximity of each other.
- e) Non-boater(s) not paired by the draw with a boater have the option of fishing from the lake bank.

ARTICLE VII – SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1 – TOURNAMENT POLICIES

- a) Special Tournaments: Shall be conducted and decided upon by the membership. This includes special projects and/or activities.
- b) The club shall hold a CLASSIC tournament the second Saturday of November. The Classic tournament lake will be selected on the Friday before the tournament. There has to be 3 members in attendance before the selection can be official. The selection will be from a hat containing the lakes fished during the year. A minimum of 3 tournaments shall be fished to qualify for the Classic Tournament.
- c) Fund Raiser: There will be one fund raiser tournament per year. Time and format will be determined by club vote. The club will sponsor the top six at the next year's Top Six tournament on one condition, that the club raises a minimum of \$2,500.00 over and above the Youth tournament funds.
- d) Quad States: All members of Osprey Bass Anglers must fish at least one club tournament prior to participating in any other Osprey associated events.
- e) Any Quad state member who wishes to fish any regularly scheduled Osprey Bass Anglers tournament may do so with payment of the tournament fee.
- f) Dallas Bass Hookers: Osprey members will have the option of fishing five joint tournaments per year with the Dallas Bass Hookers. These tournaments will be coordinated through each club's Tournament Director.
- g) A Youth tournament will be held annually the day before father's day. The chairman shall be appointed by the president.
- h) The club will be responsible for paying 100% of what the executive committee members deem reasonable for travel and lodging expenses to send the President or a selected executive committee member to a maximum of 4 Quad State events.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMEMORATIONS

- a) Members departing in good standings or discharge shall receive some type of name tag from Osprey Bass Anglers. If at any time during membership an individual participated as an Officer, a special award may be given.
- b) An annual banquet shall be held to honor outstanding members.

- c) Officers must attend the annual banquet unless an emergency occurs. Violators will be removed from office.

ARTICLE IX – AWARDS and PRIZES

- a) During the annual banquet the Member with the highest point total for the year shall be deemed the Anglers of the Year and shall receive a trophy or plaque or jacket and a \$200.00 check. The Top Six awards will be decided by the Executive Committee.
- b) In addition to the top Angler, five other Members with the next five highest point totals will also receive an award.
- c) The member who catches the biggest bass (1 bass that weighed the most) for the year shall also receive an award.
- d) The Classic winner shall also be recognized with an award.

ARTICLE X – CHANGES

- a) Changes to Bylaws shall be made at the November meeting.
- b) The changes will go on the list in November by second nomination.
- c) The list of changes will be voted on after a 30 day cooling off period with no discussion and a yes or no vote at the December meeting.
- d) Changes made to the Bylaws and/or Tournament rules shall remain in effect for one year.

ARTICLE XI – MEMBERSHIP WAIVER

SECTION 1 - Waiver

As a paid member of OSPREY BASS ANGLERS I have read and understand the Bylaws and Tournament Rules of OSPREY BASS ANGLERS. I hereby waive and release all officers, sponsors and other members of OSPREY BASS ANGLERS from any claims of personal injuries, accidents and or damages to myself and property.

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. To fish monthly sponsored tournaments a member must be in good standing (i.e.) dues and fees paid up to date prior to start time (See Article III of the Bylaws). Members must be properly licensed for fishing on tournament day.
2. All guest boaters must present themselves at the meeting prior to the tournament in order to fish out of his/hers own boat.
3. The membership shall select the tournament lakes as follows: The first lake of the New Year shall be picked at the November meeting of the current year. The remaining nine lakes are voted on by quarters. However, in case of bad weather or water conditions the Tournament Director will call for a vote to postpone the event.
4. Partners shall be decided by open draw at the monthly meeting before tournament. Once the draw is complete there will be no additions. It is the member's responsibility to notify his/her partner if unable to participate in the upcoming tournament.
5. Prior to the start time the Tournament official will check all boats for the proper gear (i.e. life jackets, etc.). 6. One pound of weight shall be deducted from each contestant's total weight for each minute late for check in. Contestants who arrive ten or more minutes late will be disqualified. In the case of a mechanical failure the boater not the non-boater shall incur the penalty.
7. All boats shall be operated in a safe manner. It is required that all participants wear a Coast Guard approved PFD when operating boat motor. All boats with electric start shall be equipped with some sort of ignition kill switch.
8. No participant shall be allowed to fish within 50 yards of another contestant's boat that is previously anchored. **Anchoring includes power pole(s) and trolling motor must be up.** All participants shall stay in boat unless an emergency or for an essential stop.
9. Only artificial baits will be used, no prepared baits except for pork rind strip. Only one rod and reel may be used at one time, others may be in the

boat ready to use. No trolling or live bait permitted and all fish must be caught in the sporting and traditional rod and reel manner.

10. No contestant may allow fish caught by him or anyone else to be counted on the score of anyone other than the original contestant. Persons found guilty of this offense shall be suspended from the club.
11. Each contestant is allowed only 5 fish in possession or less if governed by state or local law.
12. The club shall use State rules for legal fish size with the exception of the 10 inch rule change. Any participant who brings an illegal fish to the scales will lose the weight of the short/illegal fish plus ½ lb. from total weight. All fish shall be boarded and weighed. A ½ lb. penalty shall be assessed for each dead fish and deducted from total weight. Total weight after all penalties shall be contestant's final weight.
13. The club's official measurement ruler shall be a Checking Stick. Measurement shall be from tip of closed mouth to tip of pinched tail. Mauled, mangled or otherwise disfigured fish will be weighed at the discretion of the Tournament official. All fish will be measured.
14. Heaviest stringer shall be first place and next heaviest second and so on. In case of a tie for heaviest stringer, the person with the heaviest single fish will be declared the winner. In case of a tie for biggest bass, the person with the greater number of fish will be declared the winner.
15. POINT AND WEIGHTS
 - a) Monthly tournament points – The point system shall be utilized beginning at 35 points for first place heavy stringer and 34 for second place and so on.
 - b) 5 points for heaviest bass, 4 points for next and so on.
 - c) 10 points for each member who brings a limit to the scales (5 fish)
 - d) 2 points for attending the monthly meetings.
 - e) 2 points for attending the tournament.
 - f) One point per pound for total weight for each tournament (rounded up for .5 lbs or higher and down for below .5). These points will be in addition to the regular tournament points mentioned above.
16. MONTHLY TOURNAMENT PAYOUT
 - a) Three places shall be paid as follows;
 - b) 1st Place – 50%
 - c) 2nd Place – 30%
 - d) 3rd Place – 20%

- e) Big Bass fee of \$5.00 per member shall be paid on the heaviest bass of the tournament.
 - f) All places not paid will be held over to the next tournament.
17. Competitors of Osprey Bass Anglers functions are expected to maintain the highest standards of Sportsmanship, Courtesy, Safety towards others and conservation. Maximum courtesy will be practiced at all times especially in and around others involved in our tournaments. Alcoholic beverages will not be allowed in boats. Each contestant will be responsible for bringing back trash to dispose of properly.
18. FISHING HOURS
- a) Tournament Director shall set fishing hours at meeting prior to tournament. The Tournament Director may alter hours if conditions deem necessary. The tournament director can only change tournament end time on the day of tournament prior to the start time. Once the tournament has started the end time can't be changed. Tournament Director shall state the time to meet at the ramp.
 - b) Members must be in no wake or dock area by official stop time.
19. WEIGH IN
- a) Weigh in shall be 15 minutes after official stop time.
 - b) Members must be in line no later than 15 minutes after start of weigh in
 - c) Members not in line 15 minutes after start of weigh in shall be disqualified.
 - d) Weigh Master and Tournament Director or their designee(s) are solely responsible for measuring and weighing the fish.
20. PROTESTS
- a) Any protests must be registered within 15 minutes (verbally) of conclusion of weigh in to the Tournament Director.
 - b) Executive Committee members present who are not involved in the protest will arbitrate the protest.
 - c) All decisions are final.
21. Anyone late for blastoff (start of tournament) is required to find at least two active members, in most cases in one boat who are fishing the tournament. Pay any fees and have boat and live well checked by those members. Habitual offenders will be punished as deemed necessary by Executive Committee.
22. Non-Boaters at each tournament shall pay a minimum fee.

- a) Agreed upon non-boater fee shall be paid prior to fishing the tournament. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification.
 - b) A boater who wishes to deny a non-boater access to his boat must present his reasons to the executive board for validation.
23. Guests are allowed to fish one tournament, with the exception of the Classic Tournament. Guest has the option to pay an entry fee or fish the tournament for free by paying no fee. All guests must go through the draw format for a partner.
 24. Tournament officials will rule on any unusual items and those not covered in club tournament rules.
 25. All tournaments must consist of a 2 boat minimum. Any tournament that fails to reach the set minimum shall be rescheduled.
 26. All tournament fees can be paid at the monthly meeting or shall be paid at the ramp.
 27. Row call shall be held before and after every tournament.
 28. If at the end of the year there is a point tie for angler of the year the winner will then be determine by using the heaviest total weight for the year.
 29. Adults and minors allowed to fish in your boat non-competitively if you have an open boat with a signed consent form for each tournament fished.
 30. If going in the hat as a boater your main engine must be operational. If you declare your engine is not functional prior to the draw and is repaired between the draw and the tournament you cannot use the engine at the tournament. In the event the engine is started you would be disqualified. You are only allowed the use of the trolling motor.
 31. No transfer of fish from one boat to the other unless the broken down contestant can be brought in by another participant in the tourney. Contestants catch shall be held separate from the transporting boater at all times.
 32. No culling dead fish.
 33. After a boat has left the boat ramp and breaks down for 1 hour a non-boater has the right to call or text one of the executive board members and request to move to the next open boat in accordance with the open boat policy to finish the tournament.
 34. Once the non-boater gets into another boat there will be no switching back to the original boat.

35. If the original boat left the boat dock the Non-boater will pay 50% of the fee to original boater and 50% to new boater for boat gas.
36. The boater also has the option to move to an open boat if his/her boat cannot continue however the non-boaters get first option on open boats in accordance with the open boat policy
37. Qualifying mechanical failure is a breakdown of the big motor or trolling motor.
38. The open boat policy for non-boaters and boaters is in the order of the draw so the first open boat in the draw is the first boat available. It will always follow in the order of the draw for available open boats. That order will be noted in the meeting minutes.

Note: The open boat policy will go in affect in all situations which require a non-boater and/or boater to move to the next open boat regardless of whether it is because of a boat breakdown or members not able to make the tournament. The open boat policy for non-boaters and boaters is in the order of the draw so the first open boat in the draw is the first boat available. It will always follow in the order of the draw for available open boats. That order will be noted in the meeting minutes. Any member not able to make it to the tournament or if during the tournament a boat breaks down, that member(s) must text the Tournament Director with the situation so the time and date is recorded for time stamp purposes and also to determine the order of open boat accommodations in accordance with the open boat policy. If a boater or non-boater can't make the tournament we encourage communication between each other prior to contacting the tournament director or send a text to both non-boater/boater and tournament director at the same time.

39. Non-boaters that go into the draws for regular tournaments and don't come out of the draws with a boater partner prior to the Quad state tournament eligibility deadline will not be penalized with ineligibility instead shall still be eligible to fish those Quad State tournaments.
40. Boater and non-boater partners have the option if they agree and there is enough room to bring on a second non-boater fishing from the bank.

These rules are final for a period of one year.