



# ***OSPREY BASS ANGLERS***

BY LAWS  
And  
TOURNAMENT RULES  
*Revised: February 1, 2025, for 2025*

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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. Senior members 70 years or older will be exempt from paying the \$75.00 membership dues.
- c) The Osprey Bass Anglers will no longer be affiliated with Quad State.
- 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 need to pay their membership dues of \$75.00 and then they can fish the first club tournament free of charge. New members with paid dues will be allowed to compete for the purse on the first tournament.
- g) Non-members must attend one club monthly meeting prior to fishing a tournament and must pay \$100.00 fee to compete in the tournament. The club will receive \$25.00 and \$75.00 will go toward the tournament payout.

## **SECTION 2 – CLUB POLICES**

- a) The club shall receive 20 percent of the total fees collected for each tournament.
- b) Club shall retain a 20 percent of the total fee from each special tournament.
- c) All places not paid at one 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.
  - The Vice President will take on the responsibilities
    - Recording the weigh-in at tournaments
    - Using the club laptop to post tournament results, leaderboard and update website
    - Check for uniform violations in accordance with bylaws and rules at tournaments and meetings
    - Announce any violations and penalties for not meeting the uniform requirements or other areas of his responsibilities
- c) Treasurer – 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. Record tournament results and keep leaderboard up to date.
- 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: The officers will be nominated at the January meeting and voted on at the February meeting
- 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 with dues paid and 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. promptly by Zoom monthly and once quarter at the restaurant.
- 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 or phone text or Groupme text a member/members of the executive committee to confirm attendance for the fishing tournament as a boater or non-boater by 5pm on the day of the monthly meeting.

### **SECTION 2 – SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- e) Special meetings shall be called by club President at his/her discretion.



- f) 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) The tournament season will start in March with the two day tournament and another two day tournament will be added in October thus eliminating February as the start of season but leaving it available for an open tournament on the 2nd, 3rd or 4th Saturday. The February open decision will be decided by the club at the February meeting. The March two day tournament and April tournament lakes will also be chosen at the February meeting.
- b) Club Tournaments: Each tournament shall be fished on the second weekend of each month except for the first two tournaments which will be fished on the third weekend of the first two tournament fishing months. The club tournaments shall be held in accordance with current schedule and tournament rules.
- c) 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.
- d) Non-boater(s) not paired with a boater have the option of fishing from the lake bank.
- e) For each tournament the fee is \$75.00 except for bank fisherman, the tournament fee will be reduced to \$50.00.
- f) 10 extra points will be awarded to each member monthly for wearing the club jersey or club cap for each tournament at the tournament weigh-in. The Vice President will be responsible for providing the list of members to be awarded the 10 points.

## **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 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of October. 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 all 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 enough money to support that event.
- d) 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.
- e) A Youth fishing festival will be held annually the day before Father's Day. The chairman which will be appointed by the president shall preside over the Youth Fishing event.

## ***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 nominated in January and voted on February and take affect that same year. No Non-member shall be in attendance when voting on rule changes.
  - The changes will go on the list in January by first and second nomination.
  - The list of changes will be voted on after a 30 day cooling off period with no discussion with a yes or no vote at the February meeting (majority vote will approve/pass suggested change and less than majority will disapprove/fail suggested change).
  - 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**

- a) 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.
- b) All guest boaters must present themselves at the meeting prior to the tournament in order to fish out of his/hers own boat.
- c) The membership shall select the tournament lakes as follows: **The lakes will be selected by quarter starting at the February meeting, one lake will be selected for March. The remaining lakes will be selected by quarter starting at the March meeting.**
- d) It is the member's responsibility to notify his/her partner if unable to participate in the upcoming tournament.
- e) Prior to the start time the Tournament official will check all boat's live wells and for the

proper gear (i.e. life jackets, buoy, fire extinguisher, etc.).

- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) 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.
- j) No member may allow fish caught by him/her or anyone else to be counted on the score of anyone other than the original member. Persons found guilty of this offense shall be suspended from the club.
- k) Each member is allowed only 5 fish in possession or less if governed by state or local law.
- l) 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 access for each dead fish and deducted from total weight. Total weight after all penalties shall be contestant's final weight.
- m) The clubs 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.
- n) 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.
- o) POINT AND WEIGHTS:
  - 1) 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.
  - 2) 5 points for heaviest bass, 4 points for next and so on.

- 3) 10 points for each member who brings in a limit to the scale (5 fish limit)
- 4) 2 points for attending the monthly meetings.
- 5) 10 points for attending the tournament (ramp points).
- 6) 10 points for having on the club jersey or cap at weigh-in per tournament
- 7) Members will also receive 1 point per pound for total weight for each tournament. These points will be in addition to the regular tournament points mentioned above.

p) MONTHLY TOURNAMENT PAYOUT:

- 1) Three places and Big Bass shall be paid as follow:
  - I. 1st Place – 50%
  - II. 2nd Place – 30%
  - III. 3rd Place – 20%
  - IV. Big Bass fee of \$5.00 per member shall be paid on the heaviest bass of the tournament.
  - V. All places not paid will be held over to the next tournament.

q) Competitors

- 1) 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.

r) FISHING HOURS

- 1) The Tournament Director shall set fishing hours at meeting prior to tournament. The Tournament Director may alter the 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. The Tournament Director shall state the time to meet at the ramp.
- 2) Members must be in no wake or dock area by official stop time.

s) WEIGH IN

- 1) Weigh in shall be 15 minutes after official stop time.
- 2) Members must be in line no later than 15 minutes after start of weigh in
- 3) Members not in line 15 minutes after start of weigh in shall be disqualified.
- 4) Weigh Master and Tournament Director or their designee(s) are solely responsible for measuring and weighing the fish.

t) PROTESTS

- 1) Any protests must be registered within 15 minutes (verbally) of conclusion of weigh

- in to the Tournament Director.
- 2) Executive Committee members present who are not involved in the protest will arbitrate the protest.
  - 3) All decisions are final.
- u) 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 the 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 in one tournament, with the exception of the Classic Tournament. Guests have the option to pay an entry fee or fish the tournament for free by paying no fee.
  24. The executive committee will rule on any unusual items and those not covered in club tournament rules.
  25. All tournaments must consist of a 3-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 are allowed to fish in your boat non-competitively if you have an open boat with a signed consent form for each tournament fished.
  30. Your main engine must be operational. If you declare your engine is not functional and it is repaired before 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 boat contestant can be brought in by another participant in the tournament. The broken-down boat contestant's fish caught during the tournament 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. 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.
39. Big fish catch and release option for club members (boater/non boater) boating a fish of 8lbs or more and choosing to weigh and release it prior official weigh-in and still qualify it for the tournament being fished.
  - Members choosing this option must follow these following steps. This would apply to both angler (boater) and co-angler (non-boater) in same vessel:
    - The fish has to be at least 8lbs or more to qualify.
    - If angler and/or co-angler catches the fish, the same exact scale has to be used (to be determined by the club) and they can video tape by cell phone the weighing of fish as well as measurement to verify that it is legal per state of Texas law or whichever state the fish is caught in, especially if on a slot lake. The witness will be the co-angler if boater catches the fish and angler if the co-angler catches the fish.
    - If a boater is fishing alone, it is their responsibility to communicate with one of the executive member of the club and travel to their location for them to witness the weighing in of the fish.
    - Same weigh scale (Rapala) will be used by all members during the tournament.
    - In the event the fish expires prior to the above steps or doing those steps then it can be taken to the official weigh-in for weighing and penalties will apply for weighing a dead fish.

These rules are final for a period of one year.