

MERIDIAN BASS CLUB
BY-LAWS
MERIDIAN, MS
(Revised – November, 2006)

SECTION I – PURPOSE

1. To promote the enjoyment of Bass Fishing for all participants.
2. To exchange ideas, methods and techniques for catching bass.
3. To promote conservation of bass fisheries; support "Catch and Release" programs; and Clean Water Conservation Programs.

SECTION II – MEMBERSHIP

1. The club will maintain a minimum of six (6) members at all times.
2. To join the club, a person must:
 - A. be recommended by a current member;
 - B. be a current member of FLW and show proof of membership when joining. If not a current member of FLW, a person must join through the club. If a member's FLW membership is to expire during the year, the member will renew the membership through the club;
 - C. must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.

SECTION III – DUES

Dues are \$55 annually, \$15 for The Bass Federation (TBF) dues, \$15 for State Federation dues, and \$25 for local club dues, and are payable November 1. Anyone who has not paid their dues will be dropped from the active roll and placed in delinquent status until all dues are paid. They may not participate in any club activities or accumulate any points until paid in full.

SECTION IV – OFFICERS

1. President, Vice President, Sec./Treas., Tournament Director (plus two helpers appointed by the Tournament Director).
 - A. President: Presides over all meetings and directs all official business. Supervises all club functions. He or she may call meetings as deemed necessary or at the request of the elected officers or five members in good standing.
 - B. Vice President: Helps the president in his or her duties and presides in the absence of the president.
 - C. Secretary/Treasurer: Maintains accurate minutes of all meetings, financial records, weight standings and any other records of club activities.
 - D. Tournament Director and helpers: Conducts tournament activities, sets tournament start time, conducts and monitors weigh-in after each tournament, selects tournament sites (with membership approval), and accomplishes all coordination required with the tournament site.

SECTION V - ELECTIONS

Officers for the upcoming year will be elected at the End-of-Year Supper and Awards Banquet.

SECTION VI – MEETINGS

The monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday before the tournament to be fished on Saturday.

SECTION VII - TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Safety - Each participant will wear a personal flotation device any time the boat is on plane.
2. Sportsmanship - Good sportsmanship, courtesy, safe boating, and proper conduct are required by all participants. A violation of this rule could result in dismissal from the club or penalization by a committee appointed by the Club President.
3. Tackle - Only artificial lures are permitted. Only one (1) rod may be in use at any one time.

4. Scoring – 200 points will be awarded to the winner of each tournament. Points decrease in 5-point increments as each place decreases by one. If you zero a tournament, you will receive 10 points less than the last person weighing fish. If you do not fish a tournament, you will receive 0 points. Each dead fish brought to the weigh-in will cause one tenth (.1) pound to be deducted from the weight of the catch. Any short fish (must be 11" minimum), or slot fish will be weighed and the total weight of the short/slot fish will be deducted from the weight of the allowable catch. All fish will be measured by the tournament director and/or helpers. Their decisions will be final.
5. Ties - In case of a tie on total weight, the number of fish will be the tie breaker. The second tie breaker will be the largest fish. In case of a tie on the largest, a coin toss will determine the winner.
6. Limit - Fish must be a minimum of eleven (11) inches to be weighed. The club limit is five (5) fish per person in the livewell at any one time. If lake laws are less, the lake rules will be adhered to. When the sixth (6th) keeper fish is boated, one (1) will have to be released immediately. All state, local and lake laws will be obeyed.
7. Weigh-In – All fish must be brought to the scales in a bag with adequate water.
8. Late Penalty - If a person is late for a tournament start, he or she will not be automatically disqualified. If a participant is late for the assigned weigh-in time he or she will be disqualified. The only exception to this rule will be a person who is late due to boat trouble. This person may flag down another participant to verify his tardiness and not be disqualified.
9. Trolling - No trolling with gasoline engine allowed.
10. Livewells - Livewells can be checked prior to the tournament by the tournament director or helpers. Livewells may be checked at any time during the tournament by the tournament director or helpers.
11. Time - All tournaments will begin at safe light as determined by the Tournament Director and will end at 3:00 p.m. unless changed at a regular meeting by the majority of members present.
12. Drop Tournament – Each member’s lowest point tournament will be dropped at the end of the year and the final point standings will then be calculated.

13. Scoring example:

First Place	10 lbs	200 points
Second Place	5 lbs	195 points
Third Place	3 lbs	190 points
Fourth Place	1 lb	185 points
Fifth Place	0 lbs	175 points

SECTION VIII - TOURNAMENT SITES AND DATES

1. There will be one (1) tournament per month for eight (8) months commencing in February and ending in September and an end of the year "Classic" style tournament. Dates and sites for the eight (8) regular tournaments will be set by the tournament director and helpers, and approved by the membership. If any tournament site has to be changed due to uncontrollable conditions, alternate site locations may be set as needed by the tournament director and helpers, or upon a vote by the membership present at the meeting prior to the tournament. The "Classic" date will be set at the regular September meeting.
2. Members will be allowed to fish the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of the tournament weekend. The tournament entry fee must be paid prior to fishing. If anyone misses the tournament start, they must locate and notify a club member that they are fishing.

SECTION IX – PRIZES

Tournament Fee - \$40.00 per tournament fished (\$30.00 goes in the tournament pot, \$5.00 goes into the largest fish pot, \$5.00 goes into a progressive "Classic" pot).

First Place:	payout	40%
Second Place:	payout	20%
Third Place:	payout	15%
Club Acct:	payout	25%
Largest Fish Pot:	payout	100%

SECTION X – STATE TOURNAMENT

1. Each year, the club is eligible to send a 12 person team to the State Federation Championship tournament. The team will be filled by using the final standings from the previous year. New members that joined by December 31st of the previous year will be eligible to fill in on the team as needed.
2. The entry fee for the state tournament is due at the first tournament meeting of the year (usually February). This entry fee is non-refundable.

SECTION XI - "CLASSIC" TOURNAMENT

1. Meeting - A meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to the "Classic".
2. Site - The "Classic" site will be determined by a drawing at the meeting. The members at the meeting can place one lake into the pot after their entry fees have been paid. Only lakes that were fished during the year are eligible for the "Classic". That site will be off limits until Saturday.
3. Entry Fee - The entry fee will be \$25.00. \$15.00 for place prizes and \$10.00 for the largest fish.
4. Prizes - This tournament will pay out 100% of the pot. The four with the most weight will split the pot based on the percentages below. The four with the most weight that are 100% vested in the progressive pot will split that pot based on the same percentages.

First Place	40%
Second Place	30%
Third Place	20%
Fourth Place	10%
Largest Fish	100%

SECTION XII - END OF YEAR AWARDS

A social gathering will be held at the end of the tournament year. At the time of the social gathering, end-of-year awards will be presented to the top three in point standings plus the largest fish of the year.

SECTION XIII - FEDERATION AFFILIATION

The club will apply for and maintain affiliation with The Bass Federation. Federation affiliation requires:

1. Approval of a Chapter Charter by TBF.
2. The club secretary will update TBF with a chapter membership roster once each year upon receipt of a current TBF roster at the year's end.
3. The names and addresses of new members joining the club during the year will be submitted to TBF as they occur.
4. Maintaining 100% FLW membership.

Affiliation with the State Federation and support of its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the State Federation establishes for chapters, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the chapter to participate in the State Federation qualifying tournament(s), and any other Federation-sponsored tournaments or events.

SECTION XIV - REVISIONS AND CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

There will be no changes or amendments to these By-Laws except at the End of Year Banquet.