

# **FOX VALLEY BASS CLUB CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

## **Article I: Name and Purpose**

### Section 1: Name

This club shall be known as the Fox Valley Bass Club hereafter referred to as the FVBC.

### Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport.

To improve skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas.

To promote and encourage youth fishing and a love for this great recreation.

To offer state conservation department moral support and encouragement.

To instill in ourselves and others, who come in contact with us, courtesy, honesty, sportsmanship, and good conservation practices and a desire to perpetuate quality bass fishing.

To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards.

To detect and report any polluter and call public attention to that crime.

To function as a dynamic link with other clubs.

This club shall be a nonprofit organization.

## **Article II: Membership**

### Section 1: Membership Definition

Membership in the FVBC is defined in the following manner.

ACTIVE MEMBER – A member in good standing who actively participates in FVBC functions.

### Section 2: Requirement for Membership

To become a member of the FVBC a person shall:

- a.) Express a genuine interest in membership and agree to abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the FVBC.
- b.) Be elected by a 2/3 majority vote of active members present in a secret ballot.
- c.) Pay FVBC dues of \$35.00 by the January meeting.
- d.) Former members in good standing shall be exempt from Article II Section 2b.
- e.) Anyone wanting to join the club must be at least 16 years old and if under age 21 must have a waiver signed by the member and their legal guardian.
- f.) Anyone 16-20 years of age must be accompanied by a legal guardian at the meetings.

### Section 3: Removal from Membership

A member may be removed from the membership roster for the following reasons:

- a.) Failure to pay membership dues by the January meeting.
- b.) Any action that would bring or reflect dishonor or disgrace on the FVBC.

c.) Individuals considered for expulsion from the FVBC for an infraction of Article II Section 3.b must be notified in writing by the president of the FVBC ten (10) days prior to the next meeting before any action is taken in order that s/he may appeal his/her position to the membership. A negative response will constitute expulsion, otherwise a 2/3 majority vote of members present will be required to expel a member.

#### Section 4: Reinstatement of Membership

A member dropped for violation of Article II Section 3.a may be reinstated upon correction of the discrepancy, however s/he will accumulate no points and will have no voting rights until reinstatement.

A member removed for violation of Article II Section 3.b. will not be reinstated under any circumstances.

### **Article III: Officers, Elections, Voting, and Vacancies**

#### Section 1: Officers and their Duties

##### **PRESIDENT**

- a.) Presides over meetings and supervises all FVBC functions.
- b.) Shall have the power to appoint and disband committees as deemed necessary.

##### **VICE PRESIDENT**

- a.) Assists the President and Secretary/Treasurer in their duties and presides over FVBC meetings in the President's absence.
- b.) Procures all awards for tournaments and yearly placing.
- c.) Prepares and delivers a write-up on FVBC functions and tournaments with pictures, when available, to the local press.

##### **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

- a.) Maintains accurate minutes of all FVBC meetings and prepares an informal report of each FVBC Tournament and current standings.
- b.) Presents these reports at the next FVBC meeting, or if unable to do so, provides a copy to the Vice President for presentation.
- c.) Maintains the FVBC records.
- d.) Collects dues and FVBC tournament fees.
- e.) Maintains accurate financial records and reports on the financial status of the FVBC at each general membership meeting.
- f.) Allocates monies for approved FVBC expenses and keeps the FVBC checkbook.
- g.) Prepares a general financial statement at the end of the year along with a proposed budget for the following year.
- h.) Maintains and is responsible for all necessary tournament materials to be on hand at each FVBC tournament. These materials shall consist of the scale, clipboard, sorting tub, FVBC measuring device, weigh-in bags, and all other necessary materials.
- i.) Position of Secretary/Treasurer will be exempt from dues and tournament fees while in office.

## Section 2: Elections

The elections of FVBC officers shall be held annually at the regular meeting during the month of SEPTEMBER. Elections shall be by secret ballot. The elected official shall be determined by a majority vote of the active members present. Election of each officer shall be held separately in the order listed in Article III, Section 1.

## Section 3: Voting

- a.) Each active member present shall have one vote in all FVBC functions.
- b.) All motions etc. will be carried by a majority vote of active members present except for Amendment changes.
- c.) The President shall have the power to break any tie votes.

## Section 4: Term of Office

The term of office shall be for one (1) year beginning October 1 through September 30.

## Section 5: Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be requested and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the office.

## Section 6: Eligibility to Hold Office

Be an active member for a minimum of six (6) months.

## **Article IV: Constitution/By-laws**

### Section 1: Amendments

- a.) A committee shall be selected to handle all amendment/changes to the constitution of the FVBC for the following year. The committee will be made up of (3) active members of the FVBC, one of whom shall be an elected officer.
- b.) The constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority of votes. All proposed amendment/changes must be presented in writing to the chairman of the committee prior to the November meeting and then turned over to the committee. The committee will meet no later than 20 days prior to the December meeting to review all amendment/changes and put them into ballot form. Ballots will be mailed to the general membership no later than 10 days prior to the December meeting. Ballots may be turned in at the December meeting or mailed to the committee chairman no later than 10 days following the December meeting. The committee will meet prior to the January meeting to tabulate the ballots and will announce the results at the January meeting. All amendments will take effect in January and will remain unchanged until the following January.

## **Article V: Club Meetings and Tournaments**

### Section 1: Meetings

- a.) A general membership meeting will be held the third Wednesday of each month at a suitable location.
- b.) All meeting will be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

## Section 2: tournaments

- a.) FVBC tournaments will be held as directed by our tournament schedule.
- b.) Eight (8) Tournament dates and bodies of water will be selected at the November meeting.
- c.) Tournament bodies of water must be within a approximate 100 mile radius of Appleton, Wisconsin, for the one day tournaments. The bodies of water scheduled for the weekend tournament must be within an approximate 200 mile radius of Appleton, Wisconsin.
- d.) One tournament director and two assistants shall be designated at the meeting prior to the tournament and shall be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> names drawn in the tournament pairings. The tournament director, assistant one and assistant two will comprise a committee that will make decisions regarding concerns, complaints and controversies that may arise on tournament day. For a new member's first three tournaments, if their name is drawn first, they can defer being director. Their name will be moved down to third name drawn.
- e.) A body of water may be fished more than once in a season (other than in the TOC).

## Section 3: Tournament Directors Responsibilities

- a.) Establish a starting time and check point for the tournament.
- b.) Hold a meeting prior to the start of the tournament to cover the following:
  - 1 – Check livewells.
  - 2 – Check all boats for live and/or prepared bait.
  - 3 – Inform participants of special rules or safety instructions as they pertain to the specific tournament lakes.
- c.) Determine and insure a fair and safe take-off.
- d.) Conduct a weigh-in subject to the following:
  - 1 – The participants will be called by boat number, in sequence, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
  - 2 – Each participant's catch shall be recorded in a manner consistent with the official rules in Article VI. All entries will be recorded by the Tournament Director.
  - 3 – The Tournament Director shall insure that one participant from each team signs the weigh-in form after all relevant information has been recorded.

## Section 4: Awards/Prizes for Regular FVBC Tournaments

- a.) There will be a FVBC award presentation to each member annually. The awards are: Bass Angler of The Year, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. final standings will be determined by the total points accumulated in the regular FVBC tournaments, including bonus and meeting points. Furthermore, a "STRINGER" listing will be added for the team weighing in the most pounds of bass in a FVBC Tournament. A "LUNKER" listing will be added for the FVBC team weighing in the single largest bass, by wight, taken in a regular FVBC Tournament. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

## Article VI: Official Rules and Scoring for FVBC Tournaments

### Section 1: Official Rules and Regulations for all FVBC Tournaments

- a.) The Tournament Director will be responsible for the enforcement of all rules during a closed FVBC tournament.
- b.) Participation in FVBC tournaments is open to all active club members\* of the FVBC.  
\*In order to be considered an *active club member* (for participation in FVBC tournaments), a new or prospective member (one whose dues are not yet paid for the calendar year) must pay club dues by the club meeting preceding any tournament that new or prospective member wishes to fish.
- c.) Participants must possess a valid Wisconsin fishing license and will be obligated to follow all Federal, State and County fishing and boating laws.
- d.) Tournament hours shall be a minimum of six (6) hours to a maximum of ten (10) hours in duration with a starting time to be determined and announced by the Tournament Director at the time of the tournament pairings. Bodies of water shall be off-limits to fishing from 12:01 a.m. preceding the starting time of that tournament.
- e.) Tournament registration and pairings for each tournament shall take place at the prior months meeting. The first name drawn shall be a “BOAT” and as such have the option of providing the boat for that tournament. The second name drawn shall be a “NO BOAT.” If you are drawn as a “NO BOAT”, you pay the “BOATER” a minimum of \$25.00 to help with the expenses. No two (2) FVBC members will be paired together more than once per year until all participating tournament members have been paired at least once. Should a conflict arise, the pairings will be backed up and redone until no conflict arises. If there should be an odd number of participants in a FVBC tournament, the last name drawn may bring a guest without losing his/her two guest per year privilege or fish alone. A guest may not be a member of the FVBC. A member may only be drawn last and alone for one (1) tournament per year. Should s/he be drawn last and alone again, the drawings would be backed up so that s/he would fish with another FVBC member.
- f.) There will be a registration fee of \$20.00 per participant per boat per tournament which must be paid at or before the monthly meeting. Tournament entry fee of \$20.00 shall be distributed as follows: \$15.00 for the tournament pool, \$3.00 for the Club pool and \$2.00 towards TOC pool. If not at the meeting for the tournament pairings, and /or do not notify someone who will be at the meeting that you want to get into the drawing, the ONLY way you will be allowed to fish is to use your guest option. In this case, you must notify the club Secretary/Treasurer and submit the tournament fee for both you and your partner by the evening prior to the day of the tournament.
- g.) Although not required, it is encouraged that two (2) participants fish in each boat. Should anyone desire to bring a guest, the guest shall not be eligible for any FVBC awards or prizes, however, the guests’ catch would count towards the total point accumulation of the boat. Each active member will be allowed to bring two (2) guests per year to a FVBC tournament.
- h.) Boats must comply with appropriate Coast Guard, State, and local boating regulations. A Coast Guard approved floatation device must be in the boat for each person on board and be in use when the gasoline motor is in operation.
- i.) Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for immediate disqualification. Alcoholic beverages shall not be

allowed in any boat that contains a competitor, during tournament hours. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for immediate disqualification from this and all future FVBC tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor that reflects unfavorably upon the purpose of the FVBC as in Article I, Section 1, shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

- j.) A full discussion regarding boat operation and scheduling shall be held between the fishing partners prior to the tournament starting time. The schedule must permit, if either partner insists, equal time for each to fish from the front of the boat and control the trolling motor. Each partner, if either partner insists, must be given the opportunity to fish his/her selected water an equal amount of tournament time. The owner of the boat has the option of allowing his/ her partner to operate the gas motor and assumes the responsibility for his/her action. If a contestant should waive his/her rights, s/he is assumed to agree with the boat owner as to the operation and scheduling.
- k.) Fishing is permitted anywhere in tournament waters except within 50 yards of an anchored competitor's boat. (Anchored boat means that the anchor is overboard and resting on the bottom and the trolling motor is in the retracted or stowed position.). All angling must be done from a boat. Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Partners must remain in sight of each other and each other catch under conditions previously cited, except in case of dire emergency, in order for their catch to be scored in the Tournament. Should a situation arise whereas it is not possible to launch the boat at the checkpoint, the boat may be launched at an alternate site and then moved to the official checkpoint for inspection by the Tournament Director. There will be no fishing allowed during the move.
- l.) FVBC tournaments will be open to all legal tackle. No live or prepared bait will be allowed with the exception of pork-type strips, rind, etc. Only one rod and reel may be used at a time. Another rod may be used if one rod becomes inoperable because of a hang-up. Other rods may be kept rigged and ready in the boat for alternate use. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Motor trolling (manipulation of the lure by either gas or electric motor) shall be prohibited.
- m.) There shall be only one (1) official checkpoint for check-out and check-in. This checkpoint will be designated by the tournament directors.
- n.) It is the responsibility of each contestant to appear at the checkpoint with sufficient time remaining to checkout on time. A late arrival shall check with the first FVBC member found and notify him/her of his/her late arrival and have his boat inspected. No fishing will be allowed prior to boat inspection.
- o.) Each team will be responsible for its own catch from the livewell to the sorting tub. Each team must register in person at the checkpoint. It is the teams responsibility to see that it receives credit for its own catch.
- p.) When a partner for a tournament does not notify that s/he is not going to show up and leaves the other partner stranded, to fish alone, that person shall be fined \$10.00 with the fine going to the person left stranded.

## Section 2: Regular Tournament Scoring

- a.) Points will be awarded at the rate of one (1) point per ounce of live largemouth or smallmouth bass caught plus appropriate bonus points.
- b.) A limit of bass, largemouth and smallmouth combined, will be three (3) fish per participant.
- c.) Only bass which conform to state regulations, or more, when measured with the mouth closed on the official FVBC bumpboard will be scored. All fish under 1" over the legal limit will be measured, no exceptions.
- d.) There will be a one pound deductions for any short fish. Short fish are eliminated from catch. There will be ½ pound deducted from a team's total weight if they bring a fish deemed to be dead to the weigh-in.
- e.) Competitors who fail to return to the official checkpoint at the appointed time shall be automatically disqualified and will accumulate no points for that tournament. The only exception to this rule is if a team is late due to helping a broken down boat. However in order to qualify for this exception, the helping team must contact someone in the tournament. The broken down boat will not be allowed to count their catch.
- f.) Each boat will fish as a team. The boat's catch for the day will determine the total points, including participation, bonus, and lunker points, allowed for each member of the team.
- g.) Should a competitor be inadvertently stranded at the checkpoint on the morning of the tournament by his/her partner (whether that be a fellow club member or an invited guest), s/he shall be allowed a four fish limit and awarded 1.5 times their weight points for the day. The same shall be for the odd person remaining from the tournament drawing, if that person cannot bring a guest. A guest would always be the first choice.
- h.) In case of ties in a FVBC tournament, each team will share the position equally.
- i.) It is mandatory that all members return to waters as many live bass as possible, regardless of size. It is acceptable that individuals be allowed to keep "trophy" bass.

## Section 3: Point System

- a.) A tournament placement point one (1) will be awarded for each FVBC boat/team beaten in a FVBC regular tournament. If a boat/team does not catch a legal bass in a tournament, it will be awarded participation points only.
- b.) Bonus points will be awarded as follows:
  - 1 point per ounce of fish caught
  - 5 points for a limit of 6 bass per two man team, or 5 points for a limit of 4 bass if member fishes alone.
  - 5 points for lunker bass.
  - 15 points for tournament participation
  - 15 points per meeting for attendance from October thru August
  - 30 points each night of 1000 Islands participation. Meeting points second night count separately.
  - New members (those that have never been members of FVBC) paying dues after January 1 of the year would receive a "bonus" of points to match those Meeting Points available for that "Club Year" (back to October of previous year).
- c.) Only the best 6 tournaments, from the tournament schedule, will count towards year

end total points.\_

#### Section 4: Big Bass Pools

- a.) All private big bass pools shall conform to all FVBC Official Rules and Regulations as stated in Article VI, Sections 1 and 2.

### **Article VII: Tournament of Champions**

#### Section 1: Eligibility

Contestants must finish in the top ½ of the FVBC standings as determined by the regular tournament schedule including all bonus points. There will be no entry fee for the TOC.

#### Section 2: Format

- a.) The Tournament of Champions will be the third weekend in September with the actual date chosen at the same time as the regular tournament dates.
- b.) The time, and lake for the TOC will be determined at the meeting immediately following the last regular FVBC tournament.
- c.) Two regular active FVBC members will be chosen to act as tournament directors, however they may not be TOC contestants. The names of four (4) bodies of water will be placed in a hat and one will be drawn by a FVBC officer. That lake will be off limits and secret to all contestants until the night before the Tournament of Champions. At 6:00 PM of the night preceding the TOC, the tournament directors will notify each of the TOC contestants as to the location and official checkpoint of the tournament. The TOC cannot be any body of water fished within that year.
- d.) TOC contestants may bring, but are not required to bring, a guest/observer to the TOC. (Eliminate the portion dealing with the drawing.) The guest/observer's catch will not be counted toward the contestant's weight.
- e.) The lake for the TOC will be within a 100 miles radius of Appleton, Wisconsin.

#### Section 3: Winning

- a.) Each contestant will be responsible for his/her own catch and only that catch will count for points. Points will be awarded at the rate of one (1) point per ounce of caught bass measuring over the legal limit. There will be no bonus points awarded.
- b.) Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) from each active member's dues and \$2.00 per participant from each regular club tournament will be set aside to be paid to the winners of the TOC. The prize fund will be divided: 50% to the winner of the TOC, 30% to second place, and 20% to third place.
- c.) The individual state limit for the body of water fished shall be the weigh in limit.

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