

Marietta BassMasters

By-Laws

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Article I. Name

The official name of this organization shall be the MARIETTA BASSMASTERS, hereinafter referred to as the Club or MBM.

Article II. Purpose

The Marietta Bassmasters is an organization of, for, and by bass fishermen. The purpose of our organization is to bring together dedicated bass anglers for the fellowship derived from participation in club activities, the exchange and exploration of ideas for the betterment of Marietta Bassmasters, qualification for state organization championships, sustainment and improvement of environmental and bass fishing habitat and involvement in special projects as recommended or required by parent organizations.

Article III. Government

I. Parliamentary Authority:

The parliamentary authority governing meetings of the club shall be the most current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

II. Club Officers:

The elected officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of office for each officer shall be one year. The duties of the officers are defined as follows:

- 1) President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Executive Board. He shall have general supervision and direction of the Club's committees and shall see that their duties are properly executed.
- 2) Vice President:** The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President. If the office of the President becomes vacant before expiration of term, the Vice President fills the unexpired term, and the office of Vice President shall be filled by a special election at the next regular business meeting.
 - i. The Vice President shall also serve as Tournament Director and Tournament Committee chairman.

- 3) Secretary/Communication:** The Secretary shall maintain a complete and accurate record of all Club meetings and all Executive Board meetings and internal membership communications as requested by the President.
 - i. He shall also maintain an accurate roster of Club membership and shall handle such other correspondence as may be requested of him by the President. Should the office of Secretary become vacant during the year, it shall be filled by special election.
- 4) Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall maintain the funds and financial records of the Club and shall receive and disburse funds as directed by the Club or by the Executive Board.
 - i. He shall maintain a simple system of financial accounts and shall present a summary report of those accounts at each Club meeting. Should the office of Treasurer become vacant during the year, it shall be filled by special election.

III. Executive Board:

The Executive Board shall consist of the current Club officers, the immediate Past President, and two (2) additional members-at-large elected by the Club.

- 1)** The Board shall meet at a minimum of twice a year at a time and place designated by the President.
 - i. The Executive Board will be the final authority in the interpretation of Club rules, and in any matters not covered in the Bylaws.
 - ii. Vacancies among at-large members on the Executive Board will be filled by special election.

Article IV. Membership Procedures

I. Club Membership:

Club membership is selective, and the number of members is limited to 26; however, honorary Lifetime Members will not be counted toward the 26-member limit when tallying total membership. Members are not required to own a boat; however, members and/or prospective members are responsible for maintaining a minimum of \$300,000 of liability insurance on all boats used at Club functions. The Executive Board has the right to verify proof of insurance at the time of membership or whenever deemed necessary. Members,

prospective members, and guests are required to sign a Release of Liability & Participation Agreement, as prescribed by the Club.

- 1)** Marietta Bassmasters is a dual affiliated with two (2) parent organizations: (1) Georgia BASS Nation (B.A.S.S) and (2) Georgia Bass Federation (TBF). Members are required to be an active member of both parent organizations of Marietta Bassmasters to maintain active membership.
- 2)** Active membership in more than one bass fishing club is allowed. Per parent organization requirements, membership exercising this option, are required to declare their PRIMARY or SECONDARY club. All new members are required to declare their choice at time of acceptance of membership. All existing members are required to declare their choice at end of year renewal.
- 3)** Preference will be given to Primary members for all Club State team selections per existing guidelines in Article VIII: Tournament Rules | Section C, then Secondary members.

II. Processing Procedure:

As openings occur, applicants will be reviewed in order of their dated applications.

III. Prospective Members:

- 1)** Prospective members must be at least 21 years of age to be considered for membership in the Club. The children of current Club members are eligible for membership at age 18, and if admitted, may retain their membership so long as their fathers continue to be active members, and all other membership requirements are met. Once a member so admitted reaches the age of 21, active participation by his father is no longer a membership requirement for said member. Prospective members must attend two regular Club meetings and fish two tournaments before being voted on at the next (third) regular Club meeting. Member(s) less than 21 years of age will only participate as a non-boater. Each prospective member will be given a Fact Sheet at his first meeting and the Secretary will be responsible for acquainting him with Club rules and activities, and the responsibilities of Club members. As part of the on-boarding process new members will be given all information and guidelines for Marietta Bassmasters and be required to sign the Release of Liability and Participation Agreement.

- 2) Prospective members are not eligible to participate in tournament prizes and the optional Big Fish pot (see Article VII, Section B). The weight of any fish caught by a prospective member while participating in Club tournaments prior to his being accepted into membership will, however, be credited toward his yearly total weight once he has become a regular member of the Club.
- 3) A new member will pay dues for the portion of the current quarter that they are eligible to fish. A prorated amount will be charged for each month equal to approximately 1/3rd of the quarterly dues. Dues are payable prior to fishing any Club Tournaments.

IV. Inactive Membership:

- 1) Upon his formal request, and with the approval of the Club, a member can be carried inactive for a period of six (6) months. At the end of the six-month period, he may be reinstated as an active member or have his inactive status extended for an additional six (6) months by action of the club. An inactive member shall begin paying quarterly dues retroactive to the beginning of the quarter in which he returns to active status. To be granted inactive status, a member must have all dues owing paid up to the date inactive status begins. No member will be allowed to return to active status until all money owed to the Club is paid.

V. Code of Conduct:

- 1) All members of MBM shall exercise rational and acceptable behavior at all functions. No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed in boats during MBM Tournaments. Any conduct violation on the part of a member which may tend to jeopardize, endanger, disparage, or denigrate the good order of MBM or parent organizations, such member may be expelled or suspended by majority vote of the Board of Directors with process as defined per bylaws. Membership shall exercise due diligence with respect for each other as anglers and as men. All new members will be expected to adhere to the Bylaws, including this pledge, upon being accepted into the Club. A Marietta Bassmaster's word is his bond.

VI. Termination of Membership:

- 1)** Membership may be terminated by the resignation of the member, or by dismissal.
 - i. Resignations should be in writing and be addressed to the President of the Club. Such resignations should state the reason(s) for the resignation, and the effective date of same.
- 2)** Dismissal of a member may occur for the following reasons:
 - i. Code of conduct violation(s)
 - ii. Two-thirds of the Club members ask for his resignation.
 - iii. He fails to pay dues and other financial assessments in a timely manner as defined per Article VII: Finances | Section A: Quarterly Dues.
 - iv. He misses three consecutive meetings or three consecutive tournaments without contact to MBM EB.
 - v. He fails to attend 75% of all Club functions in a given year without contact to MBM EB.
 - vi. The decision to dismiss a member is that of the Executive Board, who shall have sole discretion in this matter by **majority vote**.

VII. Reinstatement of Former Members:

- 1)** Former members who resigned in good standing with the Club may be reinstated to active membership provided the following:
 - i. Club membership is open to additional members.
 - ii. At a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the former member notifies the Club, either directly or through proxy, of his desire to reinstate his membership.
 - iii. Club members approve the former member(s) request for reinstatement by a simple majority vote at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting following the meeting at which the former member requested reinstatement. Former members are not required to be present at the meeting at which the vote is taken.

Article V. Voting Procedures

I. New Members:

- 1)** A prospective member will be voted on by the Club after he meets the requirements set forth in Article IV.
- 2)** The vote will be by secret ballot following a Club discussion of the prospective member. Three (3) votes against a prospective member will disqualify him from membership. The prospective member has the option to attend or not attend the meeting at which he will be voted upon.

II. Club Officers:

- 1)** Nomination and election of Club officers will be held at the DECEMBER meeting each year or as determined by need and approved by EB by majority vote.
 - i. Nominations will be from the floor, and officers and committee members will be nominated and elected in the following succession: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) Executive Board Members-at-Large, and three (3) Tournament Committee members.
 - ii. Election of Club officers will be by secret ballot, and winning candidates must receive a simple majority vote of those members present and voting. Failure of a nominee to receive a simple majority will result in a runoff between the top two nominees. New officers will be installed at the JANUARY meeting.

Article VI. Amendments to Bylaws

- 1) These Bylaws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed changes has been given at a previous meeting. They may also be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose by the Executive Board.

Article VII. Finance

- 1) The operational expenses of the Club, including tournament prizes and year-end prizes, are financed through quarterly dues and special assessments.

I. Quarterly Dues:

- 1) Each member shall pay quarterly dues of \$60.00. Such dues are payable at the January, April, July, and October meetings.
 - i. When a member is absent at a meeting at which dues are to be paid, it is his responsibility to contact the Treasurer and make payment arrangements before the next scheduled tournament.
 - ii. Any member that fails to contact the treasurer and pay their dues prior to the next tournament will not be able to count their weight for that tournament and will forfeit his right to fish all future tournaments until his dues are paid.

II. Optional Big Fish Pot:

- 1) An optional Big Fish pot is maintained by the Club, and members who wish to participate are assessed \$2.00 per month.
 - i. No payments from the Big Fish pot will be made to any member who has not paid his monthly assessment up to date prior to fishing the tournament in which he qualified to win the pot.
 - ii. To win the pot requires a fish of seven (7) pounds or more, except on Florida lakes, where a fish of nine (9) pounds or more is required. Once the pot is won, it is re-started with a contribution of \$5.00 from each participating member.

- iii. To gain admission to the Big Fish pot, a member must pay the monthly \$2.00 assessment retroactively to the date the pot was last won and re-started, including the \$5.00 re-start assessment. {new Big Fish explanation}

III. Special Assessments & Fines:

- 1) From time to time, a financial assessment may be levied against the membership of the Club for special projects or other defined purposes. From time to time, non-participation fines or other financial penalties may be imposed upon Club members as permitted by Club rules. Money collected from all such fines shall be paid into the Club treasury's general fund.

IV. Monthly Tournament Prizes:

- 1) Until such a time determined by the Executive Board of the club based on current membership totals and any other financial considerations that these specific payouts are no longer sustainable; the club will allocate a total of \$130.00 from the Club treasury for monthly tournament prizes as follows:
 - i. Boater and co-angler prizes
 1. First Place // \$30.00
 2. Second Place // \$20.00
 3. Third Place // \$10.00
 4. Big Fish // \$5.00

V. Year End Prizes:

- 1) Trophies: Only the top (1st place) fisherman on the boater and co-angler side during the year will be awarded trophies.
- 2) At the end of the calendar year or if applicable at time after state championship tournament(s) are complete; expense allocation funds for the state championship(s) participants can be reviewed for reimbursement. The decision for disbursement of approved expense allocation funds is that of the Executive Board by majority vote.
- 3) The money allocated for year-end prizes and approved state championship(s) expenses should leave the Club treasury with a minimum balance of \$100.00 after all known expenses are met.

Article VIII. Tournament Rules

I. Definitions:

- 1)** Tournament year will be defined as September 1 to August 31.

II. Calendar year:

- 1)** Defined as January 1 to December 31. Tournament dates for the calendar year will be selected by the Executive Board prior to the first tournament of any new calendar year. The following rules shall govern the selection of tournament dates:
 - i. Dates should avoid known conflicts with other major tournaments and events.
 - ii. No more than three (3) two-day tournaments should be scheduled in each year.

III. Spring and Fall 2-day tournaments:

will be selected at regular scheduled club meeting(s) and in accordance with the following:

- 1)** Spring – the month of the February meeting for the following year’s event
- 2)** Fall – the month of the August meeting for the following year’s event.
- 3)** Each selection for Spring and Fall, at a minimum, consideration and discussion should be given to the State organizations upcoming State championship events.
 - i. This selection will give a minimum allowance of 1 year for reservations regarding accommodations.

IV. Club Tournament Standings and parent organization state championship(s) Qualifications:

- 1)** Club Tournament Standings will be based on the cumulative total of all the weight recorded for each of the monthly tournaments from the defined tournament year for each member angler, hereinafter referred to as the club standings. In addition, Club Co-angler standings will be tracked and based on each angler(s) participation as a co-angler under same definition as Club Tournament Standings, hereinafter referred to as the club co-angler standings.

- 2) The top six (6) or twelve (12) individual anglers and alternates based on club standings from the defined tournament year will be used as the qualifier all parent organization(s) state championship tournament(s).
 - i. The club will support one (1) team as standard per parent organization rules and qualification by providing the tournament and big fish entry fees to each respective tournament. A second team will be afforded an opportunity if the rules and guidelines are met within the prospective parent organization.
 - ii. All entry fees and expenses will be the responsibility of the individual anglers allocated for the second team. MBM EB can, if desired, allocate and authorize from MBM General fund any expense offsets for the second participating team.
- 3) For the club team(s) participating:
 - i. The top six (1-3) finishers in the overall yearend standings will be used as boaters and the 4-6 finishers will be the co-anglers respectively. Primary club members are given priority for these positions.
 - ii. If, under any circumstance(s), individual(s) described above for selection in team(s) cannot commit and/or participate, selection of team members will be done in descending order of finish within the club standings for the defined tournament year with Primary members receiving priority.
- 4) The first-place finisher in club co-angler standings; if the first-place finisher is not within the overall top 6 or 12 rankings, angler will be given right of first refusal as the 6th or 12th member of the club representing team for state championship, provided he is a primary member of the club.

V. Tournament Committee

- 1) The Tournament Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director (Vice-President) and 3 members nominated from, and elected by, the Club Membership. The tournament director will act as the Chairman of the Committee and will vote only in the case of a tie. Tournament Committee members will also set up and takedown the equipment required for the

tournament weigh in. Club members not willing to perform these functions should decline nomination to the Tournament Committee.

- 2)** Lake choices are produced via the tournament committee on a per month basis. Tournament committee will provide a choice of 2 lakes for the next month. Tournament Director will present the choice of lakes for the next month to membership for selection by simply majority vote of those members present and voting at regularly scheduled monthly meeting, hereinafter referred to as the active tournament lake.
- 3)** In the event of extenuating circumstances that may impact the desirability of lakes recommended by the Tournament Committee for any given month, other lakes may be substituted for those originally recommended by the Committee at any regular monthly meeting prior to the tournament.
 - i. If a lake chosen by the club is determined to be undesirable by the Tournament Committee due to unsafe conditions, weather, low water levels, or other unforeseen conditions, the Tournament Committee will move the tournament to the originally proposed alternate lake for that month. If the alternate lake is determined to be undesirable as well, the Tournament Committee will present two new lakes to the membership at the next scheduled meeting. If a regularly scheduled meeting is not scheduled prior to the date of the tournament, the Executive Committee will choose one of the two new lakes proposed.
 - ii. The Executive Committee, upon recommendation from the Tournament Committee, shall have final say over any decision to cancel a tournament or to change tournament dates or times if changes need to be made prior to a regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

VI. Tournament Pairings

- 1)** Pairings will be done by the Vice-President and at least one other member of the Tournament Committee from a file maintained by the Vice-President.
- 2)** No two members shall fish together more than one (1) time during a Tournament year; exceptions are to include but not limited to, number of available anglers for a monthly tournament draw, emergency considerations

and total active membership number (s). If exceptions are used by rule, then each of those occasions shall be at least three months apart if applicable.

- 3) No member will be paired odd or solo more than once in a Tournament year provided extenuating circumstances are not in order.
- 4) When a Club member cannot be present at a meeting where tournament pairings are to be done, it is his responsibility to notify the tournament director or one of the other Club officers as to whether he will fish the upcoming tournament and wishes to be paired boat or no-boat.
- 5) Members and prospective members who fail to notify the Tournament Director or a Club officer of their intent to fish, or not fish, prior to the beginning of each monthly meeting will be disqualified from competing in that month's tournament. E-mails, voice mails, and messages sent via fellow members will not constitute a proper means of notification unless there are received and acknowledged by the recipient prior to the beginning of the monthly meeting. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure his notification is received by the appropriate club officer prior to the beginning of each monthly meeting.
- 6) Members disqualified from tournament competition for the reason cited in the previous paragraph may still show up and fish with the Club if they choose. However, disqualified members will not fish with a member who is competing in the tournament and, for clarification; the weight of any fish caught by disqualified members will not count toward the tournament or end-of-year standings.
- 7) Emergencies or reasonably unforeseen circumstances that prevent a member from providing proper notification of his intent to fish or not fish will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- 8) In addition, members request to be paired odd or solo will not be honored. Members who feel their participation in an upcoming tournament is questionable should either notify the Tournament Director of their intent not to fish or enter the tournament pairings process as a non-boater.
- 9) The Club recognizes there may be instances in which a member declares his intention not to fish, only to have circumstances change that will allow him to fish. In such instances, provided the member did provide proper notification of his intent not to fish, the member will be allowed to fish as follows:

- i. The tournament director will pair the member with an available “odd” pairing and the member will fish as the non-boater.
- ii. The member pairs himself with another member who initially declared his intention not to fish. The tournament director must approve this pairing.

10) Boater Surplus Rules

- i. When it is evident at the time of monthly tournament registration, a surplus count of boaters exists beyond or over the total co-angler or non-boater count; the following rules will apply:
 1. To satisfy the required or equal amount of co-angler or non-boater participant(s) from the surplus of boater registration participants, the needed co-angler or non-boater participant(s) will be chosen from the tournament’s registered boater participants and solely determined using a seniority list of club members.
 - a. Seniority list is maintained by the Club Secretary and a copy provided to the Vice President and/or Tournament Director each month. This list will be inclusive of all active members of the club and shall be ordered from newest members to oldest members based on their original active membership date.
 - b. The seniority of members who resign from the club OR take leave of absence and are in good standing at time of departure, will be considered the original date of membership.
 2. The seniority of members who resign from the club OR take leave of absence and are in good standing at time of departure, will be considered the original date of membership.
 - a. Member(s) are required to actively participate in the tournament for which they are selected from the seniority list. If they do not actively participate for any reason, their name(s) will NOT be checked off from the on-going selection process by seniority list.

3. Once a member(s) is/are checked off from the seniority list, they will not be required to satisfy another co-angler or non-boater requirement until such time the selection order of the list has returned to that member(s) position in the seniority list.
4. If a boater misses 3 or more consecutive tournaments, then the next tournament he will participate as a non-boater. This will not change his status or order on the seniority list. The only exception is if the club does not have enough boater's register for that event. He will be placed in the boater pool and has filled his obligation.
5. Boaters who are moved into the non-boater pool due to a surplus of boaters will compete for the monthly tournament prizes on the boater side. If the boater declares to be a non-boater prior to the draw he will qualify for the non-boater tournament prizes. A boater put in the non-boater pool due to missing 3 or more consecutive tournaments will qualify for the non-boater tournament prizes.
6. In the case of boater/boater pairings above, both boater participants have the option of fishing individually out of their respective boats or can agree to fish together. This will apply to all tournaments, 2-day tournaments included.
7. In the case of 2-day tournaments, the following will apply if boaters agree to participate together:
 - a. Boater(s) selected as co-angler(s) or non-boater participant(s) using the selection method as described in Section 2/b, will be required to actively participate as co-angler or non-boater for one (1) of the two (2) days of the tournament.
 - b. Registered boater(s) that is/are paired via random tournament draw with the surplus boater selection member(s) will be required to actively participate as co-angler or non-boater for one (1) of the two (2) days of the tournament. Both members will be credited and checked

off from seniority list provided each member actively participates for their day of the tournament. In addition, both members will be excluded from participating in this pairing scenario in the next consecutive 2-day tournament; unless the available number of anglers is not adequate to satisfy the pairings for that tournament.

VII. Tournament General Rules, Scoring System and Weigh-In Procedures

1) General Rules Applicable to Tournaments

- i. All boats used in club tournaments must be equipped with a kill switch, (which must be used by the operator of the boat while the boat is in motion above idle speed), a compass or a global positioning system (GPS), and a functional bilge pump. During tournament competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat.
- ii. All tournament participants are required to wear a Coast Guard approved Chest-type life preserver (PFD) always when the outboard engine is in operation above idle speed. The use of “Fanny Pack” type PFDs are prohibited. Violation of this rule will result in a \$5.00 fine.
- iii. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in tournament competition will be 250 HP. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this plate.
- iv. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. All bladder tanks, and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer, are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options, installed by a manufacturer’s authorized dealer, are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline, in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or

strapped in a boat. No portable gas tanks, or containers capable of holding gasoline, can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No “barges” or similar craft will be permitted, and all decks must be factory installed. No boat equipped with “stick steering” shall be permitted to be used by any competitor.

- v. Only artificial lure(s) may be used, and its use is regulated by state and local rules and regulations. No live bait is permitted.
- vi. Fish may be taken by casting or jigging methods only. No trolling is permitted. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning reel may be used at any one time.
- vii. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat.
- viii. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your boater or co-angler for verification. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.
- ix. No club competitor can hire or have fished with or have solicited fishing information from a guide after the close of the monthly meeting for which the active tournament lake is selected. In the case of 2-day tournaments, this rule applies to 30 days prior to the 2-day event. (Guide is - A person that gets paid to take others fishing for any species on the active tournament lake)
- x. A tournament may be canceled or postponed due to dangerous weather conditions by a majority vote of those members present and voting at a special election called by the Executive Board at the tournament starting time.
- xi. Safety during club tournaments is imperative.
 - a. The Club acknowledges The Georgia Safe Boating Guide as an operational document that each Club member is

responsible for reviewing and following during any Club function taking place on the water. The Non-boater is responsible for verifying the safety of the boat to be utilized during tournament and/or practice hours. Any problems must be reported to the Tournament Director, who will then determine if the boat is safe to use for the event in question. Prior to each tournament or other event, the Tournament Director will brief the club regarding any safety concerns the members may be exposed to during the event. Violation of safety procedures will result in a \$10.00 fine. Habitual offenders will be expelled from the Club.

VIII. Tournament scoring

- 1)** All scores will be based on total weight.
- 2)** A maximum limit of five (5) bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, or shoal bass) per person per tournament day may be weighed in except in states or on specific lakes where a lesser number is the maximum legal limit and will be defined and referred to as a tournament limit.
- 3)** At no time shall any angler have more than the tournament limit in his possession. This applies to all circumstances where the angler catches any legal fish and already possesses a tournament limit, culling of a fish **MUST** take place immediately, prior to resuming any fishing activity. Culling of **DEAD** fish is strictly **PROHIBITED**. If an angler resumes fishing activity and has more than the tournament limit in his possession, he will be required to begin culling his fish; starting with the largest live fish, until the tournament limit is reached under his possession.
- 4)** A penalty of four (4) oz will be subtracted from the total weight for each dead fish weighed in.
- 5)** If a member is late for a weigh-in, one (1) pound of weight will be deducted from his total weight for each minute he is late up to fifteen (15) minutes late, after which the member will be disqualified and none of his fish shall be weighed. In the event of motor or other boat problems, catches of both partners will be

weighed if one of them arrives at the weigh-in point on time with both stringers of fish. Penalties will apply as stated above. If notification of prior commitments is given to his partner and the Tournament Director, a member may be excused from any part of the tournament.

- 6) If a member becomes ill or disabled during a tournament, he may advise any other member of the Club, and have his fish weighed in by another member of his choosing.

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- 6) If a member becomes ill or disabled during a tournament, he may advise any other member of the Club, and have his fish weighed in by another member of his choosing.

X. Weigh-In Procedures

- 1) All fish brought to the weigh-in shall be in an approved MBM weigh-in bag with enough water to cover the fish. During the months of May, June, July, August, and September, a maximum limit of 8 bags will be made available for weigh-in of tournament fish. NO personal weigh-in bags will be used during these months.
- 2) The fish will then be counted and checked to see if they are alive. Any fish of questionable length will be measured on a “Golden Rule”-style measuring board. Any fish failing to meet the minimum size limit for the lake being fished by simultaneously touching on both ends on the official measuring board (pinching of the tail is acceptable per Georgia DNR regulations) will be culled from the stringer without credit, and an additional one (1) pound penalty will be assessed against the contestant’s total tournament weight for each short fish.
- 3) If the contestant is left with only one fish after all short fish have been culled, the weight of that fish before a penalty is applied will be used to determine if it qualifies for Big Fish of the Tournament or for the optional Big Fish pot. The minimum length of any fish weighed in shall be twelve (12) inches, except where a longer minimum may be imposed by law on specific lakes.
- 4) After tournament weigh-in, all live fish will be returned to the lake. Any angler: in which dead fish and seriously compromised fish are part of his total catch or tournament limit, will be required to properly dispose of these fish. Each angler shall take the time to aid any fish that is struggling when released. If the fish(s) cannot swim off at the time of release, the angler shall retrieve the fish(s) for carry home as described above.
- 5) Tournament results are final five (5) minutes after the last contestant has weighed in. No protest of weight or live count will be allowed unless fish are still available for re-count or re-weighing.

Article IX. General Club Rules

- 1)** The Club will organize and execute at least one major project each year which will either help promote conservation, participation in parent organization youth event or help a worthwhile charitable organization.
- 2)** Members should consider Tournament pairings and agreement to participate in a specific Club project as a contract. Barring problems with work, family, or illness, members are expected to show up as agreed. If a member cannot show up when expected for a tournament, he should contact his partner, Tournament Director or MBM Board member as far in advance as possible.

Revision history and the date(s) below:

Revision	Date
General	Oct. 3, 2002 Nov. 6, 2003 Feb. 5, 2004 Oct. 7, 2004 Nov. 4, 2004 Jan. 4, 2007
amended Article V: Sec B amended Article VIII: Sec B / paragraph 2 added Article VIII: Sec A / #2d added Article VIII: Sec B / paragraph 3	Nov. 1, 2007
amended Article VIII: Sec A / #4 added Article VIII: Sec A / #5	Aug. 4, 2008
added Article VIII: Sec D / #2	Feb. 5, 2009
amended Article VIII: Sec A / #2c, amended Article VIII: Sec B / paragraph 2	Aug. 6, 2009
amended Article VII: Sec A / # 1 & 2	April 1, 2010
amended Article VIII: Sec C and E / #1 & #5	September 2, 2010
amended Article VII: Sec E #1 add Article VIII: Sec A #4	May 5, 2011
amended Article VIII: Sec C / 8 oz rule	Aug 4, 2011
amended Article VII: Sec A / #2 amended Article IV: Sec C / #4	Sept 1, 2011
amended Article VIII: Sec D / #2 iv & vi	Oct 6, 2011
amended Article VII: Sec D	Jan 1, 2013
amended Article VIII: Sec D / #1, a & b amended Article VIII: Sec D / #2b, iv	Feb 1, 2013
amended Article VIII: Sec D / #1(c - delete) & #2 (rewrite)	May 1, 2013
amended Article VIII: Sec D / #1a	April 1, 2015
amended Article VIII: Sec C / Reversed to 4 oz rule	September 1, 2015

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amended Article IV:Sec A/ membership total / done by EB with approval	November 1, 2015
amended Article IV:Sec C/ #1: youth membership addition	March 1, 2016
Amended Article VIII / Sec F Added #5 & 6	May 1, 2017
Amended Article VII / Sec E/ #1: Trophies Amended Article VIII / Sec D/#2- b, ii: added #3 & 4	Dec 7, 2017
Amended Article VIII / Sec D/:added #2c	Mar 7, 2019
Amended the following: All Section(s) headings (format) Article II, III, IV, VII, VIII	Dec 2022