

CONSTITUTION
BY – LAWS
AND TOURNAMENT RULES



LAKEVIEW, MISSISSIPPI

Revised 3/23/24

CONSTITUTION
FOR
LAKEVIEW BASSMASTERS OF LAKEVIEW, MISSISSIPPI

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

SECTION A – Name

This organization shall be known as **Lakeview Bassmaster’s of Lakeview, Mississippi.**

SECTION B – Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to:

1. Promote true sportsmanship, competition, relaxation and the enjoyment of bass fishing in our area.
2. Improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas.
3. Promote and encourage youth fishing and a love for this great sport.
4. Stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport.
5. Offer the local area Game and Fish Commissions our organized moral and political support and encouragement.

ARTICLE II: Membership and Dues

SECTION A - Membership

Active Members

Membership shall be limited to thirty (30) members. These members shall be dues paying and actively participating in club functions.

Inactive Members

Former active members who, due to circumstances, wish to be listed on the roster as an Inactive Member. These members shall be non-dues paying; non-participating member with the privilege of returning to active membership by a majority vote at any club meeting if an active position is open.

Associate Members

Former Active Members who, due to circumstances, wish to be carried on the roster as an Associate Member. These members shall be dues paying, non-participating members with the privilege of returning to Active Membership by majority vote at any club meeting, if an active position is open.

Life Members

A Life Member will be any member, whose contributions and dedication to the club and its activities, have been deemed by the Active Members to be exceptional. All annual club dues shall be waived upon election to the Life Member status. A Life Member shall have full active membership privileges upon meeting active membership requirements.

Special Members

Non-former member afforded special recognition by the club.

Honorary Members

Former active, associate, life or inactive members now deceased.

SECTION B – Provision for Membership

Active Members

The prerequisite for becoming a member of the **Lakeview Bassmaster's of Lakeview, Mississippi** are as follows:

1. Be recommended by one or more member of the active membership.
2. Be eighteen (18) years of age. **EXCEPTION:** The son of a current Active Member can be sixteen (16) years of age.
3. Attend a minimum of two (2) regular club meetings.
4. Fished with at least two (2) members of the active membership.
5. If a prospective member is rejected, the prospective member must wait at least one (1) month before resubmitting an application for membership.
6. The vote for inactive, associate and new applicants applying for active membership shall be in order of first come/first served.

Associate and Inactive Members

In order to become an Associate or Inactive Member, the person must request in writing to the club defining the category desired. The member must meet the requirements of the category and be voted by majority vote of the Active Members present at the club meeting.

Life Member

For a member to be given Life Membership status, a motion must be made and second by the Active Members. A vote must be taken and passed by two thirds (2/3) vote at the club meeting.

Special Member

For a person to be considered for special membership status, a motion must be made and second by the active membership. To add the person to the Special Member roster, a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the active membership is required at the club meeting.

Honorary Member

Any deceased former Active, Associate, Life or Inactive Member will be automatically added to the Honorary Member roster.

SECTION C – Dues

1. Annual dues shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) each year.
2. Payment of dues begins in January and extends until May 31st.
3. A Five Dollar (\$5.00) late penalty per month, not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), will be assessed on any dues paid after May 31st as per the Treasurer.
4. Members, who have not paid dues by May 31st, cannot fish any club tournament and will not be eligible for points or trophies until dues are paid.
5. Points acquired before May 31st will be retained but will not be added until dues are paid.
6. Point accumulation will begin after dues and penalties are paid in full.

ARTICLE III: Officers, Elections, Vacancies and Eligibility

SECTION A – Officers (, Special Positions,) and Duties

The officers of the **Lakeview Bassmaster's** shall consist of:

1. **The President**
Duties of the President shall be to preside over meetings and conduct all official business of the club. He shall supervise all tournaments.
2. **The Vice President**
Duties of the Vice President shall be to assist the President in his duties and to act as Program Chairman.
3. **The Secretary**
Duties of the Secretary shall be to maintain the minutes of the club, keeping track of all club members' points, arranging and maintaining the awarding of trophies, and issuing, maintaining and preparing awards, as well as cultivating and sustaining publicity.
4. **The Treasurer**
Duties of the Treasurer shall be to maintain the financial matters of the club and present a report at each regular club meeting.

5. **Sergeant at Arms**

Duties of the Sergeant at Arms shall be to maintain order at all club functions and to assist the President in his duties.

6. **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of five (5) elected officers and four (4) elected committee members. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to rule on the removal of a member (for reasons other than failure to pay dues) from the membership, rule on financial matters, select banking facilities, be responsible for administering public relations, and supervise revisions of the constitution.

7. **Tournament Director**

The Tournament Director shall be responsible for selecting the lakes to be fished each month, monitoring and maintaining check in and weigh in time(s), collecting all fish weights at the conclusion of the tournament, and entering those weights into the tracking system on the club computer. In the event of rain at weight-in the Tournament Director shall keep all weights on paper & ensure points are entered in computer by club secretary.

SECTION B – Elections

1. Elections of club officers shall be held annually at a regular club meeting during the month of November.
2. Elections shall be by simple majority vote of active members present.
3. Elections of club officers shall be held separately and in order listed in Article III, Sect. A
4. No club office shall be held by a person in succession, unless agreed upon by all active members present at the election meeting.

SECTION C – Eligibility of Vote

Each active member, in good standing, is entitled to one (1) vote for each office.

SECTION D – Term of Office

The term of each office is for one (1) year, which shall begin on January 1st and end on the last meeting day of December or until his successor assumes office at a regular club meeting.

SECTION E – Vacancies

To be eligible to hold a club office, a member must:

1. Have been an Active Member for six (6) months.
2. Have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of the club meetings.
3. Have shown an active interest in club functions.

ARTICLE IV: Method of Amending Constitution

SECTION A _ Amending the Constitution

The constitution may be amended at any regular club meeting by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the active members present, provided notice of the proposed amendment was presented to the membership at least one club meeting prior to vote.

ARTICLE V: Methods for the removal from Active Membership

SECTION A – Removal from Active Membership

A member shall be dropped from the active membership role for the following:

1. Failure to pay dues.
2. Any action which would bring dishonor and disgrace on the organization.
3. Failure to attend sixty percent (60%) of each of the club activities without a valid reason.
 1. The Executive Committee shall hold a hearing and rule on continuation of such person's membership should a problem arise involving item two (2) and three (3).
 2. The member in question shall be allowed to attend the hearing if the member desires.
4. An expelled member shall, at the next regular meeting, have the right to appeal any action of the Executive Committee to the club membership. The appeal shall be voted on

using secret ballot by the membership and a simple majority will uphold or defeat the appeal.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

SECTION A – Regular Meetings

Regular club meetings shall be held the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 PM.

SECTION B – Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the president or upon written request by six (6) active club members. Written requests shall state the objective of a special meeting and notification shall be made to the entire active membership by the six (6) requesting club members.

SECTION C – Transaction of Business

The active members present at a club meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

SECTION D – Executive Quorum

Six members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to properly conduct club affairs.

ARTICLE VII: Committees

SECTION A – Standing Committees

1. Executive Committee

Shall consist of the five (5) officers plus four (4) active club members elected by the active membership.

2. Tournament Committee

Shall consist of eight (8) Tournament Directors appointed by the President. Each Tournament Director shall oversee one of the monthly club tournaments. After completion of all regular season tournaments, the club President shall appoint a Classic Tournament Director.

3. Special Committees

Special Committees shall be appointed by the President to serve for one (1) year or until such time as the committee's responsibility has been completed.

BY-LAWS For LAKEVIEW BASSMASTERS OF LAKEVIEW, MISSISSIPPI

RULE 1: Club members are encouraged to attend meetings in-person, however being virtually present is acceptable in agreed upon special circumstances (unable to attend by realistic means). Unless otherwise agreed upon by the active members present at each meeting (, both in-person and virtually), business of the club shall be conducted in the following order:

Opening of the meeting by the President

- A. Roll Call
- B. Reading of the minutes of the last club meeting
- C. Treasurer's report and reports of officers and committee
- D. Report of the Executive Committee
- E. Unfinished business
- F. New Business
- G. Raffle Drawing
- H. Previous Tournament Results
- I. Tournament Pairings
- J. Open fishing reports
- K. Remarks for the good and welfare of the club
- K. Adjournment

RULE 2: Tournament rules shall be adopted and can be changed to suit different situations. All members will abide by all tournament rules.

RULE 3: The Tournament Committee shall select tournament dates.

RULE 4: There shall be a "Sportsman of the Year Award" selected by vote of the club membership. At each club meeting, following a regular club tournament, each member may submit one vote for his pick as sportsman. All votes will be submitted to the Vice President at each meeting. The Vice President will maintain the votes until the final monthly meeting at which time the cumulative vote tabulation will be made and the sportsman of the year announced at the December banquet.

RULE 5: Largest bass caught during the club tournament season shall receive the annual "**Big Bass Award**"

RULE 6: No member shall wear or display the Lakeview Bassmaster's club emblem in a detrimental manner. Violation of this rule is cause for suspension and dismissal from the club. The club emblem shall be worn by members only. It shall be displayed on a respectable garment.

RULE 7: It shall be the duty of each club member to obey all conservation laws, rules and regulations of the Game and Fish Commission (litter laws, licenses, etc.)

RULE 8: At the end of the 8th tournament of the regular season (March-October), the top 6 points leaders in the boater division and the top 6 points leaders in non-boater divisions will participate in the club Classic tournament at a lake to be determined by the Classic Tournament Director. All top 6 leaders from both the boater and non-boater divisions must have fished in at least 60% of all club activities to be qualified for the Classic Tournament. Classic tournament arrangements shall be announced by the Classic Tournament director at the November Club Meeting.

RULE 9: There will be an "**Angler of the Year**" award based on total points accumulated during club tournaments and other club events. There will be an award for the "**Classic Champion**". Both "**Angler of the Year**" and "**Classic Champion**" are to be considered equal in prestige.

TOURNAMENT RULES For LAKEVIEW BASSMASTERS OF LAKEVIEW, MISSISSIPPI

1. RULE DECISIONS:

The interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final.

2. LAKE SELECTION:

The Tournament Committee, appointed by the club President, shall make the lake selection for all tournaments. Lake selection will be announced at the club meeting prior to the scheduled tournament. Lake selection will be adhered to barring unforeseen circumstances and changes must be approved by majority vote of the Tournament Committee.

3. TOURNAMENT HOURS:

The Tournament Director for the monthly club tournament shall announce hours of the fishing at the club meeting. This will include check-in time and weigh-in time.

4. SAFETY:

Safety is every angler's responsibility. Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament participants. A Coast Guard approved life must be worn and secured properly while combustion engine is running and in gear.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from each participant. Any infraction of the fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for disqualification from any tournament and disciplinary action from the club.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures can be used. No "live" or "prepared" baits are permitted with the exception of pork or pork type strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spinning or spin cast reels and rod may be used. Only one rod may be in use at one time. Other rigged rods may be ready in the boat for substitute purposes, however, only one rod is permitted in the water at one time.

7. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:

Non-boating members should be prepared to pay half (1/2) of the boating expenses on tournament day. Partners should discuss boat arrangements and travel arrangements prior to morning departure (partners should contact each other three (3) days prior to the tournament).

8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Members may not fish within fifty (50) yards of "dropped anchor" of other members (anchored member is one with anchor in water and trolling motor up). A member may not come into an area where another member is drift fishing or running his trolling motor, drop anchor and insist that the other member leave. Either fish along courteously with him or find another location. Boats must stay in water during tournament day (except wildcard tournaments). All members must leave the official dock and return by boat. Both members must remain in the boat at all times except during emergencies or where safety is involved. If an emergency occurs, one partner may take their fish to another boat and report to weigh-in.

9. CARE AND DISPOSITION OF FISH:

All live fish caught during tournaments should be returned to the lake after weigh-in. All live fish returned to the lake will be awarded two (2) bonus ounces per live fish. Dead fish will be retained by members and properly disposed of (live fish bonus ounces will be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Director). His decision will be final. Dead fish will not be awarded bonus ounces.

10. LATE PENALTY: CHECK-IN AND WEIGH-IN

CHECK-IN: Members, who are not at the check-in area on time, must do the following: let the Tournament Director or any member fishing the tournament know of their intentions, and launch at the designated ramp. Both partners must agree upon any predetermined late check-in. **WEIGH-IN:** Boats, who are not at the weigh-in area on time will be penalized one (1) pound of weight, per partner, per minute late up to fifteen (15) minutes. After fifteen (15) minutes the angler will be disqualified. Any angler-assessed penalty must make up that weight before tournament placement points can be awarded. Members may report to weigh-in with someone else in the case of an emergency.

11. OFFICIAL TIME:

The tournament participants will adjust all watches to the Tournament Director's called time prior to "Blast Off". The Tournament Director will keep a record of all late members. In the absence of the Tournament Director, the President will assume this responsibility.

12. SCORING:

Scoring will be determined by total weight of the fish caught by each competitor. This weight will determine the individual awards and combined weight of each partner will determine the team awards. Legal tournament fish include: Largemouth Black Bass, Kentucky Spotted Bass, and Smallmouth Bass. Each partner may weigh in a total of five (5) fish. At no time shall the member have more than the tournament regulated limit of fish. Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to the weigh master. If the competitor presents more than the tournament limit the competitor will reduce with LIVE bass to the tournament limit and each bass reduced will result in a 1 pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. A bass will not be counted or weighed that is less than twelve (12) inches in length. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, penalty shall be deducted from their daily score. Any fish that appears to be mangled in any way will be measured and credited only at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

13: CATCH AND RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED

14. WEIGH-IN RULES:

Partners must stay with each other (except in case of emergency situation) during the course of the tournament until the weigh-in is completed. No member shall allow any fish not caught by him to be weighed with his fish. Staking out fish, lead loading or other un-sportsman like procurement is prohibited. In such cases, both members will be disqualified from all club tournaments until such time as the Executive Committee makes a ruling on the matter. During live fish tournaments, all anglers must remain in their boats at the weigh-in site with aerators running until called to weigh-in by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will supervise the weigh-in of all fish and supervise the return of all live fish to the lake for bonus point consideration. The Tournament Director’s ruling concerning bonus points is final. The club Secretary will record all weights as announced by the Tournament Director. After weigh-in is completed, weights will be totaled, and any assessed penalties will be subtracted. After verification of weights, the Tournament Director will announce the tournament results.

15. TIES:

In the event of a tie, the angler with the largest / heaviest bass will be awarded the higher place. Should the largest bass weigh the same, then the longest bass will be the tiebreaker. It will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to make a ruling on the matter of ties. In the club Classic, a tie for first place will be decided by a fish off between the participating members immediately after the weigh-in. The first member to return to the dock with a legal fish will be declared the winner. Scoring for the club Classic will be the same as the monthly club tournaments.

16. PROTEST:

Any member wishing to protest the score or the conduct of a fellow member must do so in writing within thirty (30) minutes after the weigh-in time. Any person accusing or accused of violating any rule must take this matter before the Executive Committee for a ruling.

17. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed in boats during tournament fishing hours.

18. TOURNAMENT FEES:

A ten-dollar (\$10.00) tournament fee (Per Person) must be paid to the Tournament Director prior to blast-off. Failure to pay the tournament fee will disqualify the member from the tournament. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to collect all tournament fees and submit the balance to the club Treasurer.

19. POINTS SYSTEM:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
1 st	30
2 nd	29
3 rd	28
4 th	27
5 th	26
6 th	25
7 th	24
8 th	23

9 th	22
10 th	21
11 th	20
12 th	19
13 th	18
14 th	17
15 th	16
16 th	15
17 th	14
18 th	13
19 th	12
20 th	11
21 st	10
22 nd	9
23 rd	8
24 th	7
25 th	6
26 th	5
27 th	4
28 th	3
29 th	2
30 th	1

Largest Bass 5lbs and over: 5 points

Tournament Show (no fish): 3 points Meeting Show: 3 points

Excused absence: 0 points Unexcused absence: 0 points

Team: First Place 3 points Second Place: 2 points Third Place: 1 point

Family Tournament attendance: 3 points

20. TROPHIES: Plaque

1 st Place	Plaque (or Plate)
2 nd Place	Plaque (or Plate)
Big Bass	Plate
1 st Place Team	Plate
2 nd Place Team	Plate

ADDENDUMS

1. PARTNERS PAIRING:

During the tournament year, every effort will be made to ensure that anglers who have previously fished together in a tournament are not paired together. It will be the responsibility of the “non-boater” to announce if he has previously fished with an angler. Before tournament pairings are made, each angler must state his intention to fish “boat” or “no boat”. The entry deadline for a tournament shall be 7:00PM on Thursday before the weekend of the tournament. Any club member who wishes to change their status for the tournament must personally contact the Tournament Director prior to the entry deadline. Every effort shall be made by the Tournament Director to pair a participant with a partner. Failure to notify the appropriate parties by the entry deadline shall result in no points being awarded. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

2. CLASSIC FUNDS:

The club will provide two hundred eighty dollars (\$280) to be divided equally among the Classic Tournament Director and the top six-point leaders. These top six-point leaders shall determine how the money shall be distributed.

3. POINTS FOR NOVEMBER MEETING AND DECEMBER BANQUET:

Meeting points shall be awarded to club members attending the November club meeting and the December club banquet. These points shall carry over into the following year's point standing. Standard club rules will apply.

4. BLAST-OFF: (Revised 1996)

Blast off departure shall be in a "trickle" format, with the order of departure determined by the order of tournament pairings at the previous club meeting. The Tournament Director shall automatically be the last boat to depart in all tournaments. Tournaments of two (2) or more days will have the order of blast-off reversed each day. **Classic Tournament** blast off order to be administered in point order: boater 1-6 paired with non-boater 6-1 (ex: boater position 1st place is paired with non-boater position 6th place, etc.).

5. POINTS FOR MEMBERS WITH REGULAR WORKING HOURS DURING MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS (Approved by Executive Committee March 6, 2007)

Members that have irregular work schedules that do not allow them to attend regularly scheduled club meetings may still receive 3 points providing:

- Must be at their regular job. Member must still contact a club officer or executive committee member by phone or text prior to the next meeting and state the reason for their absence.
- The member must notify the Tournament Director or any club officer of their intent and status (i.e. boat or no boat) to fish the upcoming tournament. If no club function is scheduled for that month the member may receive meeting points by notifying any club officer of their planned absence.
- Must be present and fish in the tournament scheduled for that month

6. PAPER FISH RULES: (Revised 2003)

The Tournament Director will determine the use of paper fish. Paper fish shall be allowed if a club tournament is to be held on a lake that imposes a size restriction other than the club standard twelve (12) inch minimum or in water conditions that are not conducive to keeping fish alive. Such conditions are water temperatures in excess of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. A paper fish shall consist of a bass twelve (12) inches or more in length, which would fall within that particular lake's restrictions. The paper fish must be measured using a flat "Golden Rule" (mouth closed and the tail pinched) and weighed on a "tournament calibrated" scale. The partners will verify both length and weight. Scoring will be either all live fish or all paper fish. "Tournament Scales" will be electronic scales calibrated before each paper fish tournament. It will be the responsibility of each angler to ensure that all electronic scales used for each tournament are calibrated at check-in. It will be the responsibility of each Tournament Director to verify the calibrations.

7. HONOR SYSTEM:

If a member has to fish alone during a tournament where "paper fish" rules are in effect, that angler will record the length and weight of their own catch. **That member will be on the honor system in regards to recording their catch.**