

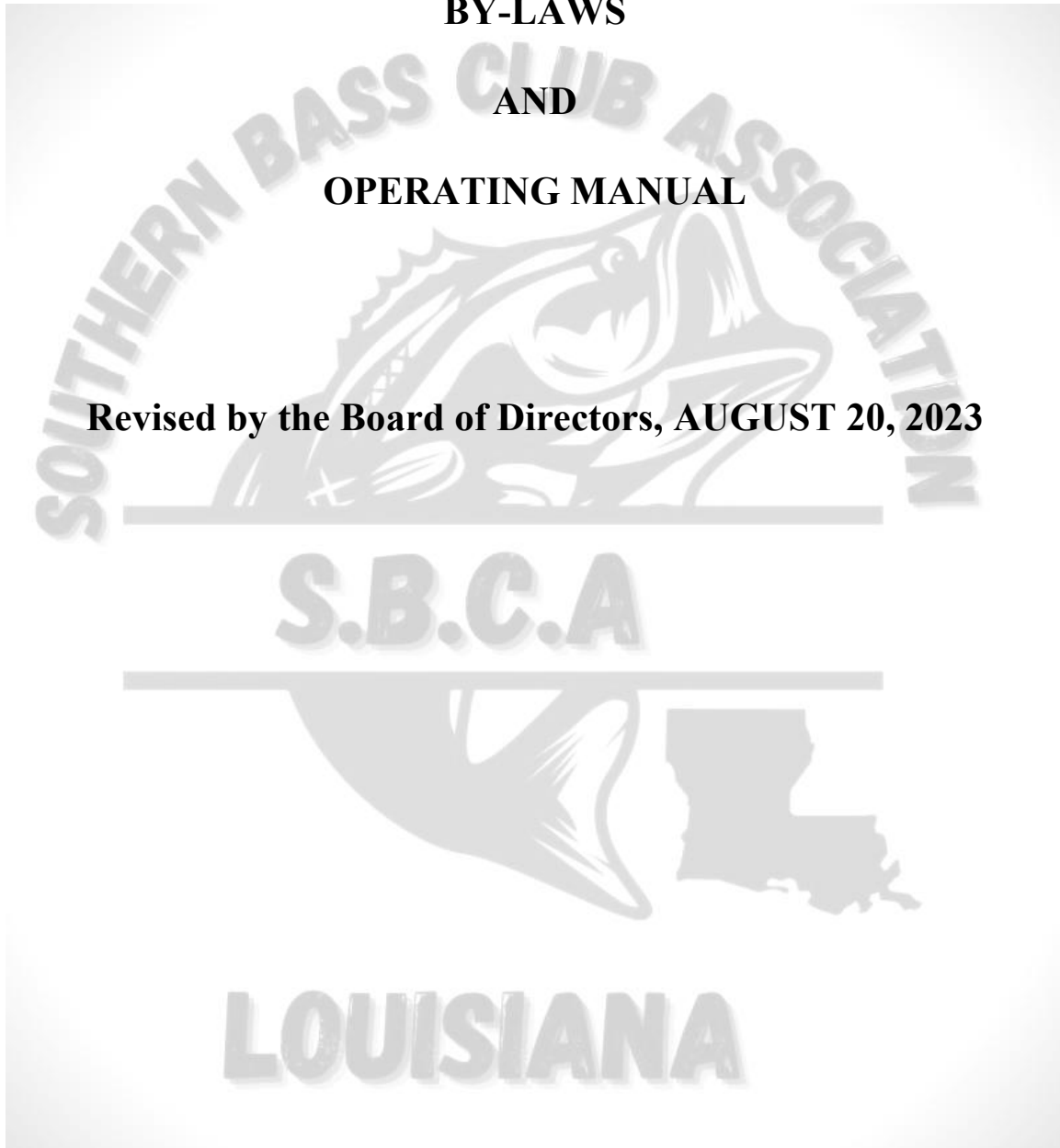
**SOUTHERN BASS CLUBS ASSOCIATION**

**BY-LAWS**

**AND**

**OPERATING MANUAL**

**Revised by the Board of Directors, AUGUST 20, 2023**



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**LOUISIANA**

# I. SOUTHERN BASS CLUB ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

## A. Purpose of Organization

1. Work for improvements in conservation of wildlife.
2. Help preserve our natural lakes, streams and woodlands.
3. Fight pollution of air and water.
4. Help fight unlawful taking of fish and game.
5. Help Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in any way feasible to improve fellowship among bass anglers throughout the state.
6. Encourage and enhance fishing among our youth.

## B. Membership and Dues

1. Open to any organized bass club in the State of Louisiana with a minimum of twelve (12) members and all clubs having a minimum of twelve members with an annual registration fee of \$480.00. Application for membership must be approved by the Board of Directors. Any additional individual non-SBCA members wishing to join must pay a \$40.00 fee each per year. If an individual belongs to more than one club, he/she will not be required to pay SBCA dues through more than one club per year.
2. Any club or member may be expelled for misconduct, violations, cheating in any bass tournament, or any action detrimental to the Association by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
3. The SBCA reserves the right to refuse any club or club member application for membership whether new or renewal dues by returning their application along with their membership dues.
4. All members to the SBCA must have attained the age of 14 years old.
  - A. Anyone below the legal age of 18 must pass a boater's safety course.
  - B. Must have a signed parental consent form.
  - C. Must fish with an adult member in the boat.
5. All SBCA club registration and membership dues must be paid by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for existing clubs. Rosters not postmarked by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline will be charged a late fee of \$25.00 + \$1.00 for each member over 25. (Example: 12 members = \$25.00, 32 members = \$32.00)

6. All clubs with existing SBCA members from prior year must be paid by April 15 to be eligible to fish the following Elite Eight Tournament.
7. Clubs are responsible for all funds (checks) given to the SBCA by the club or its members.
  - a. Clubs will be notified of NSF checks immediately upon receipt.
  - b. If not resolved within 10 days, the club will be sent a certified letter requesting payment.
  - c. If not totally resolved within 30 days, the club is subject to removal from the SBCA pending approval of the Board of Directors.

#### C. Association of Officers

1. The officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Tournament Director, and Events Director.
2. The duties of the officers are:
  - a. The President will preside at all state meetings and shall perform all such duties that are incidental to the office of the President.
    1. He/she will coordinate and is responsible for all of the activities of the Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer
    2. Failure on the part of the President to perform his/her duties as President for three (3) consecutive meetings will result in his/her being removed by the Board of Directors and replaced by the Vice President to fulfill his/her duties.
  - b. The Vice President, in the absence of the President, assumes the President's duties. He/she must work and communicate with all committees and tournament chairmen.
    1. He/she will be responsible for the equipment and materials owned by the State Association.
    2. If the Vice President fails to perform his/her duties, the President will appoint a member of the Board of Directors to fulfill the duties.
  - c. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer
    1. This office must maintain proper communication between the SBCA and its members.
    2. He/she will maintain an up-to-date address roster and provide the SBCA with updated mailing rosters.
    3. He/she maintains and handles treasury records of all receipts and expenditures connected with the Association.
    4. This office will be bonded.

5. If the Executive Secretary/Treasurer fails to perform his/her duties, the President shall appoint a qualified member of the SBCA to assume the responsibilities, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

6. Anyone convicted of a felony will not be allowed to hold office or become a member of SBCA.

#### D. Operations and Procedures

1. All functions and decisions involving the SBCA must be approved by the Board of Directors at the January meeting.
2. By-laws can be changed or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors present at a regular meeting
3. The Board of Directors will meet at least two (2) times each year. There will be at least one (1) SBCA state meeting open to the general membership each year.

##### a. Meeting Schedules

General Membership	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in January
Board Meeting	At the Elite Eight Tournament

4. All SBCA tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with “SBCA Tournament Rules”.

##### **Sanctioned SBCA Tournaments are:**

Elite Eight Tournament – Toledo Bend – Hosted by SBCA  
High School Tournament Schedule – Hosted by High School Division Directors.

**\*sanctioned:** Must be 100% SBCA membership (in good standing) and must abide by SBCA tournament rules.

6. The President shall have the option to appoint a Legislative Coordinator. The Legislative Coordinator will have the authority to speak for the SBCA in matters of general interest to the membership. This in no way establishes authority to support any candidate for political office. All of the Coordinator’s actions must be within the bounds of the SBCA By-Laws.
7. The President shall have the option to appoint a Public Relations Officer(s) to cover all major SBCA state functions.

8. Should this corporation be dissolved for any reason, any funds remaining in the treasury or other assets owned by the corporation after payment of all outstanding obligations shall be disposed of by the Board of Directors and Officers, to an organization who shall do any or all of the following:
  - a. Work for improvements in conservation of wildlife and fish.
  - b. Help preserve our natural lakes, streams and woodlands.
  - c. Fight pollution of air and water.
  - d. Help fight unlawful taking of fish and game.
  - e. Help the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in any feasible way to improve wildlife and fishing in our state.
  - f. Encourage and enhance fishing among our youth.

## **II. OPERATING REGIONS**

1. The state will be divided into three regions with five representatives throughout the state.
  - a. Northern Region – Chad Bowen
  - b. Central Region – Shad Roberts and Grant Dowden
  - c. Southern Region – Dickie Fitzgerald and Bubbie Lopez

## **III. Tournament Director Guidelines**

1. Arrange for scales. Tournament directors will assume full responsibility for the scales while they are in their possession.
2. Arrange for headquarters facilities at the tournament site.
3. Arrange to have at least two people for each scale, one to weigh and one to record.
4. Arrange for someone to handle the microphone in the morning and evening. Choose someone who can act as master of ceremonies.
5. Arrange for people to check in and check out and prepare lists for them. There should be at least three locations (one for every 50 boats), with two people working at each location. Check-in points in the afternoon should be the same as morning check-out points.
6. All materials and equipment at the conclusion of the tournament must be turned over to the SBCA Vice President.
7. Procure bags to be handed out for transporting fish to the tournament weigh-in.

8. Arrange for necessary equipment to minimize fish dying. The SBCA practices catch and release in all its tournaments.

#### **IV. Events Director Guidelines**

1. Understand requirements for each event.
2. Will plan event with attention to financial and time constraints.
3. Will book venues and schedule speakers.
4. Manage all event operations such as preparing venue.
5. Will be responsible for pre-tournament events, such as meeting the night prior to tournament, meal, and possible door prizes and drawings.

#### **V. SBCA Tournament Rules**

1. All state, federal and local laws and regulations will be complied with.
2. Only members of bass clubs affiliated and in good standing with the SBCA are eligible to compete.
3. All fish must be taken with rod and reel and artificial lures. Trolling will not be permitted.
4. All fish must be caught the day of the tournament and during tournament hours.
5. Once a team presents the fish to the weigh master to be counted and weighed; only those fish will be weighed. The contestant may not remove or add any fish to his stringer after that time. In the SBCA Sanctioned Tournaments a maximum of five (5) black bass per team, per day, may be weighed in. If a team presents more than five (5) fish, his team will be disqualified that day. With exception of Elite Eight, 12 fish limit per team per day.
6. In the SBCA Sanctioned Tournaments, only fish measuring twelve (12) inches or Lake Limit may be weighed in. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and the tail touching in any way on the official flat board. There will be a one-pound penalty for each undersized fish that is attempted to be weighed in.
7. In the SBCA Sanctioned Tournaments, if there is any evidence that any fish has been mutilated or stretched for the purpose of reaching the 12 inch or lake limit, the fish will be disqualified, and the one-pound penalty will also be applied plus the fish pound.
8. In the event of a tie of stringer weights for the first place, the winner will be determined by the largest fish first, second the total number of fish caught, and

third by flipping a coin. Any other ties will be settled by combining the places and dividing the prize money equally.

9. Contestants must make every effort to handle fish with care, as all fish will be released back into the lake after they are weighed in. All tournaments will practice catch and release.
10. Each boat must check in or be inside the no-wake zone by the designated weigh-in time. Each team must sign in at the end of the day of fishing, regardless of whether or not he weighs in fish, to be eligible to win a drawing prize.
11. No contestant is permitted to fish within fifty (50) yards of a competing boat which is tied or anchored with the trolling motor in the stored position unless permission has been granted. Also, no fishing within fifty (50) yards of the weigh-in or release site.
12. All monies collected in entry fees will be returned to the contestants after deducting tournament and management fees, not to exceed 20%. Prizes will be awarded on the basis of the number of entries.
13. Awarding of pay outs will be determined by the number of entries and will be paid out one place per five entries. It is not required to be followed exactly, and prize monies will be rounded to the nearest dollar, and no pay out should be less than the entry fee. Expense money will be deducted from total entries before payout is calculated.
14. In the SBCA Sanctioned Tournaments all boats must be at least 14' in length with an internal combustion engine as the primary motor.
15. All contestants must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket while the combustion engine is running. All boats must have running lights in good working condition and also must be equipped with a kill switch attached.
16. Any contestant plowing a wake within the no-wake zone will be disqualified.
17. There will be no "shotgun" starts. No tournament will start before safe daylight, or during unsafe or inclement weather, as determined by the tournament committee.
18. A Safety Committee of five (5) will be appointed by the tournament chairman. This committee will recommend action against individuals who violate our safety rules.
19. Any additional rules, regulations, or requirements will be stated on the entry blank brochure. Each contestant is responsible for knowing and understanding these rules. Interpretation and enforcement of all rules shall be the joint responsibility of the tournament committee, along with the Board of Appeals. (See appendix for

“Functions of the Board of Appeals”.) Complaints or protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within 15 minutes after scales are closed

20. Alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs will not be permitted in the boat anytime during tournament hours, except those that have been prescribed by a physician.
21. Any participant fishing an SBCA sanctioned or sponsored tournament will be subject to take a Psychological Stress Evaluation test.

## **VI. APPENDIX**

### **A. Functions of the Board of Appeals**

When any member of the SBCA, in good standing, is a contestant in any SBCA sponsored or sanctioned tournament, he or she will be entitled to a review by the Board of Appeals on any rules infraction or violation they may be accused of. Upon being notified of the rule violation and the penalty to be imposed, the member may immediately notify the tournament director of his intention to file a plea of review.

The Board of Appeals will be composed of five (5) members, chosen at random by the tournament director or his appointed representative.

The Board of Appeals shall be vested with the power to override any disciplinary action to be taken by the tournament director against any contestant in all SBCA tournaments. These five (5) members must make themselves available to the tournament director at the end of each day of fishing, or until the tournament director verifies the tournament to be valid and complete.

Any contestant that wished to file for a review of his or her rule infraction shall immediately notify the tournament director of his decision to have the Board of Appeals hear his case. The tournament director will then notify the Board of Appeals that the contestant desires an immediate hearing of the charges made against him, and of the penalties to be imposed.

The Board of Appeals, if necessary, may delay its decision until a Psychological Stress Evaluation test can be given to either the complainant or the accused. If the PSE is administered and the test results do not substantiate the complainant's accusations, the complainant will be charged with whatever costs were incurred for the test.

The SBCA rules will be followed to the letter in all SBCA tournaments. If the accused is one of the members of the Board of Appeals, the same procedure will be followed, and a fifth member will be chosen by random drawing from contestants fishing the tournament.

The decision of the Board of Appeals should supersede all other decisions and should be final.