

Suskie Bassmasters

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Organization: Suskie Bassmasters

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. (Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.)

Location: River Grille, Plains

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:40 p.m.**

Presiding Officer: John Nealon, Vice President

Secretary: Mike Gillott

II. Roll Call & Attendance

- Ralph Aufiero – President — Absent
 - John Nealon – Vice President — Present
 - Dave McGovern – Treasurer — Present
 - Mike Gillott – Acting Secretary — Present
 - Matt Miller – Tournament Director — Present
 - Tom Shaffer – Tournament Director — Absent
 - Chris Ostrowski – Board Member — Present
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III. Treasurer's Report / Financials

- **Last Meeting Closing Balance:** \$2,663.97
- **Current Balance:** \$2,663.97

Report: None

IV. Reports

A. Officer Reports

No formal officer reports were presented.

B. Committee Reports

No formal committee reports were presented.

V. Old Business (Unfinished Business)

A. Boat Participation Limit (Safety Consideration)

No final decision was made; item remains under review.

Discussion included:

- Avoid formally setting a maximum limit at this time.
- If participation exceeds **30 boats**, a secondary launch structure (“sidebar”) will be implemented.
- Tournaments may be divided into **three launch sections** if necessary.
- A clause will be included addressing the possibility of **splitting launch groups**.
- Launch order will be addressed during the **captains meeting**, encouraging teams to self-regulate.
- If issues arise, the **Board will determine a resolution**.

Current Standing:

- No formal boat limit established.
- Launch procedures to be addressed at captains meeting.

Status: Agreed Upon:

1. THERE IS NO LAUNCH LIMIT
 2. LAUNCH ORDER WILL BE SELF POLICED AND DISCUSSED AT THE CAPTAIN’S MEETING
 3. OVER 30 BOATS WILL TRIGGER A SIDE-BAR BOARD DISCUSSION.
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B. Captains’ Meetings and Rules

Captains’ meetings will be held:

- Prior to the first tournament
- Mid-season

Topics to include:

- Safety procedures
- Tournament expectations

Additions to Application and Rules:

- A signature section will be added to the application acknowledging rules and responsibilities.
- A “captain information” section will be added.

Captain Responsibilities and Rules (to be included):

1. The Captain is responsible for all members of the team and all actions of the boat while on the water.

2. Right of way: stationary boats should yield to moving boats in shallow areas, pinch points, chutes, bridge piers, and other hazards.
3. Running lights must be used in accordance with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations.
4. Launch procedures: captains must know their assigned group and launch accordingly. Launches will be staggered, allowing faster boats to go first.
5. When passing a stationary boat, maintain approximately a **20-foot buffer** and stay outside the boat and shoreline when applicable.
6. If assistance is needed, members must stop and render aid. Remain with the disabled boat until help arrives and contact a Board member immediately. No penalty will be assessed for assisting.
7. A checkbox will be added confirming that club rules have been read.
8. The Board will handle all complaints; all Board decisions are final.
9. Members should contact a Board member with any rule or regulation concerns.

Status: AGREED UPON

C. Team Designation and Points Policy

Proposed structure reviewed and updated.

Policy Includes:

- Each team must designate a **Captain, First Mate, and/or Other**.
- Points follow the **Captain**.
- If two Captains are involved, allocation must be determined with valid cause.
- If two First Mates are involved, points remain with the boat.
- No team changes permitted during the final week of the season.
- The Board will resolve discrepancies; all decisions are final.

Application Changes:

- Add checkbox designating **Captain / First Mate / Other**, including identification of Captain.

Rule Addition:

- Team designation must be declared at registration.
- Any changes to team format must be submitted to a Board member at least **24 hours prior to the tournament**.

Motion: Chris Ostrowski

Second: Dave McGovern

Result: Passed unanimously

D. Junior Angler Championship Eligibility Waiver

Proposal reviewed to waive weekly attendance requirement for junior anglers.

Policy Includes:

- Junior anglers must fish at least **one tournament**.
- Must be **under age 16**.
- Anglers turning 16 during the season are **grandfathered**, but must obtain a valid fishing license.

Action: Add to official rules

Motion: John Nealon

Second: Chris Ostrowski

Result: Passed unanimously

E. Lloyd Memorial Plaque

Chris Ostrowski reported:

- Contact has been made with a trophy shop regarding a **memorial plaque for Lloyd**.
 - An email has been sent for sponsorship support.
 - The project is currently in progress.
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F. Open Tournament Event

Previously tabled item was revisited.

Details:

- Date: August 30, 2026
- Launch: 6:30 a.m. or first light
- Format: Bag tournament
- Limit: 3 fish
- Side lunker pot
- Entry fee: \$50
- Lunker: \$10

Status: Approved to proceed (“It’s a go”)

Event planning will move forward.

G. Club Apparel (New Shirts)

Discussion included:

- Potential **new logo**
- Updated **shirt design**
- Apparel options:
 - Standard T-shirt
 - Sun shirt
 - Hoodie

Additional direction:

- Update logo on website to **mid-2010s logo**
- Send reminder message to members
- Incorporate **Black Diamond Bridge** concept (Miller design)
- Offer both **new optional shirt and original design**
- Launch a **T-shirt design contest**
- Order **black Board polo shirts**

Status: Tabled (design and rollout pending)

VI. New Business

No new business was introduced.

VII. Announcements & Open Floor

No additional announcements or items were brought forward.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was **adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

Next Meeting:

- **Date:** May 20, 2026
 - **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
 - **Location:** Facebook
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IX. Tabled Items for Next Meeting (Parking Lot)

No items currently tabled.