

RICHLAND CHAMBERS BASS CLUB 2022 Bylaws

1. TOURNAMENTS:

- I. There will be 12 tournaments each calendar year beginning in January and ending in December. Six tournaments at Richland Chambers and six tournaments at different lakes that are voted on by members. The schedule will be every other month at Richland Chambers and every other month at a different lake. There will also be one open tournament each year that will be 100% payout. The purpose is to promote the club outside of our area. You do not have to participate. The location will be voted on at the December meeting each year. The Annual David Butler Memorial Bass Tournament will be determined and published. It will also be 100% payout.
- II. A preliminary tournament schedule shall be proposed by the Executive Board and by the President of lakes and tournament dates for the entire year and will be presented to the club's membership at the December meeting. Either the Executive Board's or the President's schedule will be chosen by a vote of present members at the December meeting. Once a schedule is approved and published on the club's webpage the schedule will be final. However, the President may change the schedule when circumstances are such that it may be a dangerous fishing or trailering environment. In the event of a change in schedule for a tournament, the revised schedule will require all participants to compete on the same weekend and at the same times. In all circumstances, members are encouraged to use common sense and sound judgement in deciding whether or not to proceed.
- III. Tournaments will be held on the third Sunday of each month unless we vote to change. The December tournament will be the first Sunday of the month. The Banquet will be the second Saturday of December. The Qualifiers Championship Tournament will be voted on at the December meeting. An angler must have fished (8) tournaments to participate in the Qualifiers Championship Tournament. Exceptions can be made by the Executive Board. Tournament cancellation due to bad weather will occur via group text by 8:00 pm Saturday prior to the tournament. A vote by the Executive Board will be taken at that time on rescheduling said tournament's new date.
- IV. Weighing fish during tournament to release and save from dying is allowed. The Executive Board will appoint a different Scale Official for each tournament. Club will provide scale. In the event you need a fish weighed to save it, please call the selected Scale Official to make the arrangements. This will only be done around 11 am for fish that are assumed over 7 pounds and if fish can be released and saved.

2. MEETINGS:

- I. Club meetings will be held after each monthly tournament following the weigh-in. This is your opportunity to voice questions, concerns, and suggestions in a courteous and sportsman like manner. If the issue cannot be resolved during the regular monthly meeting, you can submit in writing to the board for review.
- II. The December meeting is when major changes will be addressed. Any issue that arises during the season should be submitted in writing for review by the Executive Board. A decision will be made in a timely manner by the Executive Board and made known to Club as soon as a decision has been made. Any changes to the bylaws for the next tournament year must be submitted in writing by the November tournament, to be voted on at the December meeting. The Executive Board consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Director, Hospitality Director, Webmaster and Councilor.

3. RULES:

- I. All decisions made by the Executive Board are **final** regarding the eligibility of all contestants and their catch for the tournament. Protests must be made within 15 minutes of completion of weigh-in.
- II. Failure to comply with tournament rules can result in disqualification from that tournament and or expulsion from the club. Members may appeal to the Executive Board if extenuating circumstances are present.
- III. All members and guests must follow all lake rules and regulations. Failure to do so will make you subject to disqualification from that tournament.
- IV. All fish will be released in a location determined by the Executive Board. This location is for the best interest and protection of the fish. **Any member who violates this will be disqualified from the tournament and may face expulsion from the club. Expulsion will be decided on by the Executive Board.**
- V. The only fish that is allowed for a member to keep is one that weighs 8lbs. or more for a trophy.

4. MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION:

- I. Membership fee is \$40 per year per angler. Each angler will sign membership application and liability release form every year when fee is paid.
- II. Members must check in at launch site and pay entry fee by one hour prior to tournament to be eligible for weigh-in. We do not accept fees in advance. A member of the Executive Board will be at site 1 hour prior to designated start. Registration and live well check must be completed before launching your boat. In the event of circumstances preventing you to arrive at these times, please contact Brian Hopkins @ 903-641-5575, or any other Executive Board member for late entry.
- III. Tournament entry fee will be \$60.00 per boat regardless of whether it's a team or solo angler.

5. PARTICIPATION/ELGIBILITY:

- I. A member is **allowed to fish with a guest.** Guests must fish with a member. A guest may fish only one time per year as a guest. The guest is eligible to win the Big Bass pot (money only). Big Bass plaque will be presented to the member who has Big Bass. Members may fish with other members as needed. We understand that life happens, and you may not be able to keep your partner due to health and other issues. We encourage teams to stay together but exceptions will be decided by the Executive Board.
- II. Paying entry fee and not participating is not allowed.
- III. To be eligible for the Team of the Year and or Big Bass of the Year, a member must have fished at least eight (8) tournaments during the year. Plaques will be awarded for Team of the Year, Top 6 Teams, Big Bass of the Year, Sportsman of the Year and Newcomer of the Year. Certificates will be awarded for Top Women's Angler, Women's Big Bass of the Year, Top Youth Angler, Youth Big Bass, Father/Son Team of the Year, Husband/Wife Team of the Year, Legends of the RCBC, David Butler Memorial Awards and other recognizable awards.
- IV. To be eligible to be an Executive Board member:
 - Must fish at least eight (8) tournaments during the previous year.
 - Must be a member in good standing with no outstanding debts owed to the club.
 - Any exception to these requirements must be approved by majority of club members present at the time of election of new officers.
- V. Election of Officers and their duties:

All officers of the club will be elected by the voting membership at the annual club banquet and shall hold office for the term of one year, or until their successors are duly elected. All officers will be part of the Executive Board with the President acting as chairman. All officers will have the authority to delegate a portion of their duties to another member of the club, but responsibility for the duty being completed shall remain with the officer. Any vacancies of officers shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board without delay.
- VI. The officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Program Director, Hospitality Director, Webmaster, Councilor.
 - **President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and the Executive Board. He/She shall determine the agenda and any program for any regular or special meetings of members and shall preside at all elections.
 - **Vice President:** The Vice President shall preside and act as President, Secretary or Treasurer in the absence of that officer.
 - **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will maintain the club's bank account and account for all funds received by the club and paid out by the club. He/she shall prepare a monthly statement showing changes to the financial condition of the club. The Treasurer will take funds from all new members and have the new member complete a membership form. The

Form will be delivered to the President for updating of the membership list.

- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall take meeting minutes and keep a running record of said minutes. A copy of the minutes should be delivered to the President and Vice President each month via email. The Secretary shall also be responsible for maintaining the tournament entry books and results of tournaments. A copy of the complete tournament results should be sent to the President and Webmaster no later than one day following a tournament.
- **Program Director:** The Program Director shall be responsible for conducting special events for the club and assisting all officers with various duties as they arise.
- **Hospitality Director:** The Hospitality Director is responsible for helping new and current members with activities associated with the setup and participation in tournaments and club events. The Hospitality Director is also responsible for assisting all other officers with duties as they arise.
- **Webmaster:** The Webmaster will maintain and update the web page in a timely manner. This position can be held by an existing officer.
- **Councilor:** The Councilor shall be available to council members on various topics. The Councilor shall assist all other officers with duties as they arise.

6. PRE-PRACTICE:

- I. There are no off limits prior to each tournament.

7. START/STOP TIMES:

- I. All tournament anglers will leave at the same time. Tournament start times will be determined by Executive Board. A shotgun start will be conducted by a member of the Executive Board positioning his boat in front of all participants view. An orange flag will be waived as an air horn is sounded. This will allow everyone to see and hear when the Executive Board member allows everyone to leave.
- II. You must be at weigh-in at 3:15 pm. That is either tied off, beached or within sight due to ramp congestion.
- III. No trailering allowed unless notified by Executive Board.
- IV. Any team not at the official weigh-in site by the appointed time will not be allowed to weigh their fish. Exceptions will have to be cleared by a member of the Executive Board.
- V. Anyone leaving the lake early before the end of the tournament must contact a member of the Executive Board to let them know that you are leaving early. This keeps us from searching the lake and looking for a boat in trouble.

8. SCORING:

- I. Richland Chambers Bass Club imposes a 5 fish limit per boat.
- II. Largemouth, Spotted and Smallmouth Bass must be 14" or longer and are the only fish that may be weighed.
- III. Any short fish will not be eligible for weigh in. Measuring will take place before fish are weighed.
- IV. There will be a penalty of half pound for each dead fish.
- V. On slot lakes all fish must be of stated length.

9. POINTS:

- I. There will be a points system keeping up with yearly team standings. First place will be awarded 200 points. Second place awarded 199 points. Third place will be awarded 198 points, etc. Teams unable to weigh a fish receive 20 points less than the last place team that weighed fish. Teams will be required to designate the two partners. One of the two partners must be fishing for that team to be awarded points. In the event two anglers fish together from two separate teams, the points will be awarded to the boat owner...unless the anglers agree otherwise. Each team will be allowed to drop their lowest scoring tournament at year's end.

10. WINNING PLACEMENT:

- I. Total team weight will determine the team standings for the tournament pot.
- II. We pay one place per five boats. Two places paid out in 60/40 split, three places paid out in a 40/35/25 split, four places paid out in a 40/30/20/10 split, five places paid out in a 30/25/20/15/10 split.
- III. \$30 will go towards the payout, \$20 will go to the club, \$10 will go towards the big bass pot.
- IV. Big Bass will pay two spots with a 60/40 split.
- V. There will be a side pot available for anyone to sign up for if they choose. There will be a separate signup sheet and money bag for the side pot. Entry fee is \$20 per boat. All funds collected will be awarded to the first-place team.
- VI. The same angler is eligible to win first and second place big bass.

11. TIES:

- I. If a **tie** should occur during the tournament, the tiebreaker will be determined by the weight of said teams Big Bass.
- II. If a **tie** should occur for the Big Bass Pot; the pot will be divided equally as follows: first place tie 50-50 split – with no second place paid, second place tie 50-50 of the second-place money.

12. PERMITTED LOCATIONS:

- I. No boat may fish within 25 yards of another tournament boat unless it is agreeable with the fellow tournament angler. This will be by verbal agreement. Please respect others.
- II. No bank or tube fishing is permitted during the tournaments.
- III. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters, except areas designated “No fishing, or No boats”.

13. PERMITTED METHODS:

- I. Only artificial bait may be used during the tournament.
- II. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time during the tournament.
- III. No trolling with big motor as method of fishing will be allowed during the tournament.
- IV. Boats must have a working live well/wells.
- V. There will never be more than two people in a boat, unless there is an emergency (i.e., motor won’t crank, rescue, etc..)

14. BOATER SAFETY:

- I. During club tournaments, all members and guests must always wear a life jacket when the boat is on plane.
- II. Boats must have a working kill switch.

15. SPORTSMANSHIP/CONDUCT:

- I. All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. We are fishing for fellowship and representing the Richland Chambers Bass Club. Outbursts and drama will not be tolerated. The Richland Chambers Bass Club is a family environment. Failure to conduct yourself in an adult manner will result in expulsion from the club.

16. CHAMPIONSHIP:

- I. To fish the Qualifiers Tournament which divides the balance of the funds from the previous year, a member must have fished eight (8) regular monthly tournaments. Exceptions can be made by the Executive Board. We pay one place per five boats. Two places paid out in 60/40 split, three places paid out in a 40/35/25 split, four places paid out in a 40/30/20/10 split, five places paid out in a 30/25/20/15/10 split.