

Okanogan Valley Bass Club By-laws

Article I. NAME & PURPOSE

Section I.01 NAME: The name of the club shall be **Okanogan Valley Bass Club**, also known as **O.V.B.C.**

Section I.02 PURPOSE: The purpose of the Okanogan Valley Bass Club is to develop interest and participation in bass fishing, to promote sportsmanship and the conservation of our natural resources and to work toward the development of clean multiple use waters for the enjoyment of all. To obey Washington State Fish & wildlife game laws and assist in their enforcement. To, by example and deeds, tutor's today's youngsters into persons who fish responsibly and are example sportsmen. We, the members, dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of our goals and to cooperate with any organizations subscribing to our goals.

Section I.03 MOTTO:

A. Motto: **"BASS ANGLERS"**

Bass anglers are highly motivated conservationist.
Advocating the highest degree of.
Sportsmanship and.
Support of community waters and fishing programs.

Avoid spilling and never dump gasoline, oil or other pollutants –on land or in the water.
Never leave trash being, including worn line, old hooks and bait, and practice recycling.
Gain knowledge about aquatic nuisance species and how to help prevent their spread.
Learn and abide by all fishing regulations and boating laws.
Educate fellow anglers and especially new participants about fishing ethics.
Respect private property and the rights of other anglers and outdoor recreational users.
Save fish for tomorrow by practicing conservation and learning proper Catch, Photo, and Release (CPR) techniques.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Section 2.01 Membership Requirements

- A. Any person 18 years of age or older who demonstrates an interest in bass fishing and request membership in the club is eligible to join.
- B. Applicants and members must pay annual membership dues upon acceptance as a member.
- C. Memberships are family memberships consisting of husband, Wife, and all children under the age of 18.
- D. OVBC membership is contingent upon a member's compliance with the Federal, State, Local and Club rules and regulations related to fishing and boating.

- E. Applicants who have previously had their membership revoked must meet the condition set forth at the time their membership was revoked. Additionally, a 2/3 vote of the memberships present and paid annual dues are required prior to reinstatement of the club memberships and privileges.
- F. OVBC will have business cards made that are used as proof of current membership payment and club events on back of card.

Section 2.02 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Associate membership is offered to individuals who want to fish and OVBC tournament who are not an OVBC member.
- B. Associate members must comply with all OVBC rules while acting in the capacity of an associate member.

Section 2.03 DUES:

- A. Dues are \$ 30.00 annually and must be paid in full prior to the first tournament of the year. Except that new members shall pay their membership dues prior to the close of the membership meeting in which they are accepted.
- B. All membership privileges are contingent upon payment of dues.
- C. Dues for Associate Membership shall be \$15.00 per tournament per competitor.

Section 2.04 REMOVAL OF MEMEBERSHIP:

- A. Members who fail to pay their membership dues become inactive (for a period of one year) and forfeit all membership privileges. After one year inactive members are dropped from the membership role
- B. Members shall observe the highest standards of ethics, sportsmanship and personal conduct at all times, they shall obey the laws and the authorities having jurisdiction over fishing and/or the waters they fish from. They shall also obey the rules and conditions set forth by the tournament director during club fishing events. Members shall keep themselves informed and aware of the laws, rules and conditions applicable to outdoor sporting activities and club events in which they participate, they shall yield to all other recreational user's courtesy and avoid interference with their activities
- C. Illegal drugs and drunkenness during club activities is strictly prohibited
- D. Any member whose actions are contrary to or detrimental to the club can have their membership revoked by a two third vote of the members present at any membership meeting. A membership is revoked in the following manner.
 - 1. A letter must be presented to the board of directors. The letter must provide the date time, name and a description of the offending members action. The name of any witnesses shall be provided in the letter.
 - 2. The board of directors shall investigate the complaint and make ruling on the offense.
 - 3. The board of directors will present their finding at the next general membership meeting. The board of directors shall also present their recommended action, if required and call for a vote of approval on their ruling. Action recommended by

the board of directors shall be approved by a simple majority vote. A call for termination requires a two third vote of members present.

Article III. OFFICERS, TERMS, DUTIES & ELECTIONS:

Section 3.01 OFFICERS, TERMS & THEIR DUTIES

A. PRESIDENT, Term is one year.

1. Will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors
2. Preside at meetings
3. Call for mandatory agenda items as follows:
 - July, proposed tournament schedule from tournament director and committee.
 - August, appoint awards banquet committee.
 - September, officer nominations and tournament schedule.
 - November, call for sportsman of the year nominations and meeting locations.
 - December, officer elections, select sportsman of the year.
4. Appoint and coordinate committees.
5. Compile and present news and publicity pertaining to the club or its functions to the news media or the public.

B. VICE PRESIDENT (VP) Term is initially one year.

1. Preside in the absence of the president.
2. Assume presidency in the event of the resignation of the president.
3. Call for the nomination and election of a VP at the next monthly membership meeting. The newly elected VP will fulfill the VP position until re-elected or replaced at the next annual election.
4. Assume the duties of the Secretary or Treasurer in their absence.

C. SECRETARY, Term is on year.

1. Keep, read, and take minutes at each membership meeting.
2. Assist any of the officers with task's if needed.

D. TREASURER, Term is one year

1. Keep journal (record) of accounts payable and receivable along with receipts and invoices.
2. Give the Treasurers report at each monthly membership meeting.
3. Collect, post and issue receipts for dues.
4. Maintain and update a listing of members who have paid their membership dues.

5. Record and maintain club funds to be deposited in local banking facility. Provide the president and secretary with an updated listing at each monthly membership meeting.
 - A club expenditures require the approval of the board of directors and the majority vote of member present at any membership meeting. Except that the board of directors are authorized to make or approve any expenditure under \$500.00 without the vote of the membership.
 - Three signature cards must be present at the banking facility. The signatures shall be those of the president, treasure, and the tournament director. Two club officer signatures are required on each check.

E. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, their terms vary so that no more than 2 directors are replaced in any one year. Until further notice, The Board of Directors serve as the Tournament Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

1. The Board of Directors conducts the business of the club. The Board of Directors is empowered to make club policy and decisions, which are necessary to act on prior to the next scheduled meeting and are not in conflict with the club by-laws. Business conducted by the board shall be considered final for dollar amounts less than \$500.00.
2. The Board of Directors comprised of:
 - a. Three members at large.
 - b. The club president (chairman of the board), with no voting rights except to break a tie in the absence of a board member.
 - c. Only the board members have a vote at the board meetings.
 - d. The board shall conduct and open meeting once a quarter, (Dec., Mar., Jun., And Oct.,)

F. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (TD), Term is one year.

1. Implement and enforce the tournament rules and regulations.
2. Conduct drivers meeting.
3. Serve as weigh master & recorded (may have assistance from another club member.)
4. Compile an accurate record of tournaments, contestants, numbers & types of fish caught, total weights & big fish weights.
5. Record and maintain recorded of Angler or the Year points and report standings at the monthly membership meeting.
6. Submit the WDFW reports within 30 days of each tournament. The TD must submit a completed WDFW Contest Form and the WDFW Zebra Mussel form for each tournament.
7. Collect and disburse tournament fees and awards.
8. Receive and resolve tournament protest/ disputes.
9. TD has the right to hold prizes until meeting with board of directors for any protest or disputes that affect the outcome of a tournament.
10. Convene and preside over the tournament committee
11. At the end of each term, the outgoing TD will serve as the assistant TD.

G. WEBSITE MANAGER, The Web Manager term is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

1. Web Manager is responsible for timely maintenance and upkeep of the club website & Social Media pages.
2. The web manager also serves as the Club Historian, Responsible for the security, maintenance and upkeep of all historical records and data.
3. All board of directors and club offices will have access to club website and social media pages in event of absence of website manager.

H. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE, A three-member Tournament committee serves to support the TD in the conduct of tournaments and the enforcement of the tournament rules. Currently, The Board of Directors serves as the Tournament Committee.

1. Work in conjunction with the TD to generate next years proposed tournament schedule. The pending schedule shall be presented, discussed and voted upon at the July membership meeting.
2. Consultant to the TD in resolving protest/disputes. Assist the TD as requested or needed in the conduct of tournaments

Section 3.02 **ELECTIONS:** The club officers are elected in the following methods.

1. Nominations are proposed and voted upon at the September membership meeting.
2. Final election of club officers shall be the first order of business at the December membership meetings.
3. Election by a simple majority of members present at the membership meeting.
4. Newly elected officers will immediately assume their offices & duties on January 1st of the new year.
5. Terms are January 1st - December 31st.

Section 3.03 **VACANCIES:** Nominations for any vacant office shall be presented and voted upon at the next membership meeting. The new officer will assume the duties and responsibilities of the vacant office immediately after the vote.

Section 3.04 **VOTING ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Members in good standing, 18 years of age or older may vote.

Section 3.05 **ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE:** at the September membership meeting, any member 18 years of age or older in good standing, who is nominated for an office and concurs is eligible to run for the office for which they were nominated.

1. Members elected to the Board of Directors shall have been in good standing for two years.
2. Members elected to the Tournament Committee should have served one year as TD.
Note: Currently Board of Directors serve as the Tournament Committee.

Article IV. MEETINGS:

Section 4.01 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS: As sportsmen protecting our individual rights to fish, our meeting shall be conducted in line with parliamentary procedures and the Roberts Rules of Order in order to protect our individual member's rights to be informed, offer opinions, make suggestions, participate in discussions and have a vote on all aspects of club operation.

Section 4.02 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

- A. The Monthly membership meeting are held on the first Monday of each Month.
- B. The Membership meeting is called to order at 6:30 PM and shall last no longer than two and one-half hours.

Section 4.03 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

- A. The Board of Directors shall meet no less than once each quarter.
- B. The Board of Directors meeting shall be held at the same location as the general membership meeting and shall be called to order and conduction prior to the membership meeting.
- C. The Directors meeting shall adjourn not later than 6:30 PM.

Section 4.04 SPECIAL MEETINGS:

- A. The president may at times call for a special meeting of the club officers to discuss and/or conduct club business that must be accomplished prior to the next scheduled membership meeting.
- B. Minutes of the special meeting shall be taken by the Secretary and read at the next membership meeting. Said minutes shall become part of the membership meeting minutes.

Article V. RECOGNITION AND AWARDS.

Section 5.01 RECOGNITION:

1. **Tournament Awards.** Recognition goes to the top team in each of the scheduled club events.
2. **Selection.** Tournament winners are determined by total weight in accordance with article VI.
3. **Award.** Recognition is in the form of a plaque with tournament name and date plate. Subsequent recognition is tournament name and date plates.

Section 5.02 SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR.

1. **Sportsman of the year.** The primary award in the category is the Archi Webster Sportsman of the year award. A second sportsman of the year can be awarded to

another member who has demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and club support.

2. **Selection.** By nomination and membership vote.
3. **Award.** Plaque awarded at the OVBC award banquet.

Section 5.03 ANGLER OF THE YEAR. (AOY)

1. Selection is based upon points earned in club tournaments. A first place earns 25 points, second place 24 points, third place 23 points, etc. The angler with the highest accumulated tournament points (for seven of the eight tournaments) at the end of the season earns the recognition and award of the Angler of the Year. All ties are broken by largest fish.
2. **Award.** Angler of the year patch and trophy.

Section 5.04 BIG BASS OF THE YEAR.

- I. **Selection.** Selection is made from the big bass weight at each tournament. The heaviest largemouth and the heaviest smallmouth weighed in during the tournament season win the plaques.
2. **Award.** The big fish recognition is a plaque indicating the fish type, weight, location and date. One plaque for the heaviest largemouth and one plaque for the heaviest smallmouth are awarded.
3. In case of a tie for big bass of the year, both contestants will receive an award.

Article VI. TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. **GENERAL:** The OVBC offers its membership the opportunity to participate in competitive bass tournaments. The primary goal of each OVBC tournament is for each contestant to have a thoroughly enjoyable time. It is the responsibility of the TD and each contestant to know and comply with Federal, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington State and OVBC boating and fishing rules and regulations
2. **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** Interpretation and enforcement of the OVBC Tournament rules shall be left to the TD. The TD may impose sanctions as deemed appropriate for infractions without limitation e.g., penalties disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition for participation in subsequent tournaments. (the TD shall be the final authority in imposing federal, state and OVBC rules and regulations upon contestants during the conduct of a club tournament.)
3. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Tournament eligibility and entry is open to all members in good standing who meet OVBC requirements. Exceptions:
 - A. A non-member may fish one tournament in a lifetime as a non-boater before becoming a member, OVBC "open" tournaments are open to all contestants that meet and comply with the OVBC Tournament rules.
 - B. A non-member who does not meet the above conditions may compete in OVBC tournaments as an Associate member (Article II, Section 2.) Associate members must meet and comply with all OVBC tournament requirements and rules.

4. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** During tournament hours no contestant shall be under the influence of, or in the possession of alcohol, marijuana or any illegal substance. Violation of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification and possible loss of club memberships.
5. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Each contestant shall demonstrate the highest standard of sportsmanship, safety and conservation at all times. Illegal or unfavorable conduct that discredits themselves or other club members shall not be tolerated, illegal or unfavorable conduct that is disrespectful of other contestants, spectators or others fishing in the contest waters shall not be tolerated.
6. **RULES OVERVIEW:** Anyone found to have violated the OVBC tournament rules may be penalized or disqualified from the event.
 - A. **REGISTRATION & DRIVERS MEETING:** The drivers meeting is conducted by the TD. The TD shall give an overview of the tournament rules and identify any special rules in place for the tournament. All contestants must complete registration and attend the drivers meeting.
 - B. **SAFETY:** It is the TD'S discretion to make changes deemed necessary when contestants(S) safety is of concern. Including delaying tournament hours due to fog or other weather factors. Boating safety must be observed at all times during competition. Any time the boat is being propelled by the outboard motor, a U.S Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver (PFD) type III or higher, must be worn and properly fastened. Additionally, the kill switch must be attached to the boater with a lanyard (maximum of 48").
 - C. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** Boats must meet and be operated in compliance with the applicable U.S. Coast Guard and state rules and regulations at all times. No boat may exceed its manufacturer's rated horsepower. Boats must have a working kill switch attached to the driver whenever the outboard motor is running. Boats must have an aerated live well suitable to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition. Standing on seats, ladders, coolers or raised platforms during a contest is not permitted. The boater is responsible for the operation of the boat, their personal conduct and the conduct of their non-boater partner throughout the contest period. No "boater" shall be less than 16 years of age without prior TD approval. Every boat involved in the tournament shall have the "Contest Banner" around the Motor until the Event is over and boat is out of the water. **NOTE:** The term "boater" refers to the boat owner/operator. The term "Non-Boater" refers to the passenger of the boat.
 - D. **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:** All boats that enter a OVBC tournament shall meet the OVBC insurance mandate of \$300,000 personal liability insurance.
 - E. **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds, Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one rod per contestant may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use. Every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. No underwater viewing devices may be used in a tournament without prior TD approval. Puncture style cull tags are **NOT ALLOWED.**
 - F. **FISHING:** Fishing must be accomplished in compliance with all governing rules and regulations. All fish must be caught by rod and reel from the boat. No more than 5 bass can be in a live well at any one time. No netting or snagging of dead fish is allowed. Penalty for such an offense is disqualification.
 - G. **LICENSES:** Each contestant must have in possession a valid and current WDFW fishing license governing the fishable waters of the event. Each contestant must also hold a valid and current Boaters safety card. Penalty for such an offense is disqualification.
 - H. **BREAKDOWNS & EMERGENCIES:** The tournament banner serves as an emergency signal by placing it on the motor inside out. As sportsmen, it is our responsibility to render assistance to other disabled boaters. Except for an emergency, only one contestant may leave the boat at any one time. If you have to leave the tournament before weigh-in let the TD know. This can be

accomplished by placing a note on the windshield of the TD's vehicle or by word of mouth through another contestant.

- I. **PRACTICE & OFF LIMITS:** OVBC does impose an "off limits period." The five days prior to the day of competition are considered "off limit" fishing days. Except where a Monday of the five day off limits period is a holiday, pre-fishing is permitted on that holiday. Off limit waters during the event will be announced by the TD at the drivers meeting. Off limits means no sport fishing for any species on that body of water during that time frame.
- J. **BLAST-OFF:** Contestants shall leave the launch at the order they drew, the TD will specify passing rules, when applicable. Last person or team drawn will handle blast-off. Interval will be 15 seconds.
- K. **WEIGH-IN:** Should be completed in the same order as the draw for blast off. Each boater will receive either a chip or a laminated card showing what draw number they have. This shall be given back when the boater weighs in.
- L. **SPECIAL RULES:** Additional rules when applicable shall be specified and announced by the TD at the Drivers Meeting.
- M. **PROTEST:** Protest must be submitted to the TD in writing 30 minutes or 15 minutes verbally prior to the end of the final weigh in. The TD will resolve protest(S) prior to the announcement of the winners. The TD has the authority to hold prizes until next monthly meeting or special meeting called. See Article III section 3.01 (F).
- N. **SCORING FISH:** All tournament bass will be weighed on the club scales. More than 1 dead bass in creel will result in disqualification. If multiple dead fish are weighed in by same boater in multiple events it may result in disqualification for the season. Any team returning to the checkpoint 10 minutes late, without just cause or letting the TD director know prior to the end of the event will be disqualified. Contestants may also be penalized one pound for each minute they are late running to the weight-in- area. No angler shall seek and/or receive fishing information including GPS waypoints from a non-contestant angler during the off limit periods.
- O. **STANDINGS & TIES:** Final standings in any contest shall be determined by the heaviest cumulative weight. The cumulative total will reflect actual weight of bass caught. Less assessed penalties, if any. Any and all ties shall be broken by the big fish, in the unlikely event of duplicate tie (both creel & big fish) the affected teams will participate in a 30-minute fish off with the largest fish caught during that period determining the winner. If no fish is caught within the 30-minute period another 30 minute will start and so on.
- P. **FEES/PAYOUTS:** The entry fee for an OVBC 1 day Tournament is \$60.00, \$50.00 for registration and \$10.00 for big bass pot. The entry fee for a OVBC 2-day tournament is \$120.00, \$100.00 for registration and \$20.00 for big bass pot. OVBC will pay out 80% of registration fees and 100% of the big bass pot each tournament. The TD shall determine the number and type of payouts according to the number of boats entered.
- Q. **EMERGENCY CHANGE:** normally changes will not be made to the tournament schedule once the permits are issued. In the event the need for an emergency change is felt to be prudent and in the best interest of the club and its members, the following procedures are in place.
 - 1. Prior to the tournament anyone having information that may affect the safe conduct or best interest of the club concerning a tournament should provide the information to any one of the OVBC directors.
 - 2. The directors will inform TD and remaining OVBC officers.
 - 3. The directors shall determine if an emergency change is called for. In the event a director is not available, the remaining directors shall select a club officer to stand in for the absent director(s).

4. If the emergency change is called for, A director will notify the OVBC Web manager to place an emergency notice on the OVBC web site & other social media sites.
5. In the event of an emergency change the TD with the assistance of other club directors will notify as many of the members as possible.
6. The morning of a scheduled tournament the TD has the authority to delay or cancel the tournaments and may at their discretion ask for a vote of members present.
7. Any member wishing to protest a TD decision must present their written protest to an OVBC Director. The Board of Directors will make a determination regarding the matter.

R. **TOURNAMENT RULES:** These rules to be read at every drivers meeting prior to the tournament.

TOURNAMENT RULES

- **OFF LIMITS:** The TD will notify all contestants at the drivers meeting of any off-limit waters.
- **ELIGIBILITY:** A maximum number of two persons per team with at least one team member being 18 years or older. All contestants will need to hold a valid WDFW fishing license and Boaters safety card.
- **EQUIPMENT:** All boats must be equipped with a working aerated live well, all anglers are must wear their Coast Guard Approved PFD and be seated in cockpit area while boat is under power from gas motor. Anglers are not allowed to stand on top of their pedestal seats, coolers or motor cowlings to elevate anglers above the deck of their boat. No underwater view devices are allowed. Puncture style cull tags are NOT allowed.
- **DEAD FISH:** There is no weight reduction penalty for a dead fish however 2 dead fish in a team's creel will result in disqualification.
- **TACKLE / METHODS:** Only artificial lures and pork rind style trailers are allowed during the tournament. All fish are to be caught using legal and ethical methods, snagging of fish on beds or netting of dead fish will result in disqualification.
- **CULLING / POSSESSION:** No minimum length requirement. A total of 5 fish limit, Smallmouth and/ or largemouth bass are allowed. Culling is to be done immediately upon catching a 6th fish. Culling in a host marina will be grounds for disqualification. Puncture style cull tags are NOT allowed. All state and local regulations will be allowed.
- **WEIGH-IN:** The TD will act as the official timekeeper. Any team arriving late at the weigh in will be penalized 1 pound per 1 minute up to 10 minutes. Any teams arriving 10 or more minutes late without just cause will be disqualified. Teams will be considered "checked in" once their boats are off pad inside host marina bay. The boat must remain in the water if the fish are still in the live well.
- **TIES:** Big fish will be used to break ties. In the unlikely event of duplicate tie (both creel & big fish) the affected teams will participate in a 30-minute fish off with the largest fish caught during the period determining the winner.
- **PROTEST:** All protest must be submitted in writing within 30 minutes of the final weigh-in or 15 minutes verbally. Protest will be accepted from registered tournament anglers only.
- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & DRUGS:** At no time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs, other than prescription allowed in the boat or to be consumed.
- **RELIEF RULE:** In the event that an angler must leave the boat during the event to use the restroom, one angler must remain in the boat at all times and all fishing must cease until both team members are in the boat.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Each team is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any time failing to do so may be disqualified.
- **DISTANCE:** A safe casting distance will be maintained between boats. The first boat to that area will establish the perimeter. If you come up on an angler working down a bank line you will be expected to fall in behind the established angler a safe casting distance behind.
- **LIVEWELL CHECK:** All live wells will be checked prior to blast-off by the TD or his assistant.
- **LIABILITY:** All anglers are required to have their own liability insurance and by registering in the tournament, agree not to hold the Okanogan Valley Bass Club sponsors or officials liable in any way.

Article VII. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS:

Section 7.01 The Okanogan Valley Bass Club constitution and by-laws may be amended in the following manner:

- A. The entire membership must be notified by Website prior to voting on proposed amendment at a specified membership meeting.
- B. The website post shall state the proposed amendment and the date to be voted upon.
- C. A Two third vote of the members present at the specified meeting is required to pass the amendment

Article VIII. DISSOLUTION:

Section 8.01 The call for dissolution shall be proposed in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall call a special meeting of all club officers. A Discussion will be held and a vote taken to approve or disapprove the call for dissolution. If approved, the call for dissolution will be put before the general membership in the following manner:

- A. The entire membership must be notified by email or mail prior to voting on proposed dissolution at a specified membership meeting.
- B. The letter or email shall state the reasoning for dissolution and the date to be voted upon
- C. A two third vote of the members present at the specified meeting is required to pass and achieve dissolution.

Section 8.02

- A. All debts owed by the club shall immediately be paid in full.
- B. All debts owed to the club shall be collected to the extent possible.
- C. All assets on loan by the club shall be returned to its owner.
- D. All assets on loan by the club shall be collected to the extent possible. After action A, B & C above, the remaining club monies and assets shall be donated to another nonprofit club as per voting members choice.