

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

South Carolina

CHAPTER BYLAWS (updated 3/8/2021)

This chapter shall be called the Lugoff Bassmasters pursuant to the provisions of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society B.A.S.S.

FEES

Annual Membership Dues	\$235.00	Tournament Fee	\$20.00
Minimum Membership Payment	\$175.00	Big Fish	\$5.00
Non Boater Fee	\$20.00	Progressive	\$2.00

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

Our purpose is to create among fellow anglers, and the public in general, an awareness of our chapter and society's contributions to American angling, conservation and outdoor recreation. To encourage and instruct the youth of our community in the art of bass fishing. To pledge ourselves to full adherence to all conservation codes and to detect and report polluters of our nation's waters.

- Promote and share camaraderie with fellow anglers.
- Improve our skills as bass anglers through the exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas.
- Stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major participation sport, as well as a relaxing and healthy past time.
- Offer our organized, moral, and political support and encouragement to our state conservation departments.
- Promote full adherence to all conservation codes.
- Demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards.
- Detect and report any polluter, call public and political attention to his/her crime.
- Encourage both private and governmental studies into any reason why fishing on our lakes and streams is deteriorating, and to have them seek solutions for restoring and maintaining top bass fishing conditions for ourselves, our children and their children.
- Promote and encourage youth fishing. (Kids don't go fishing, they are taken fishing) Instill at any early age an interest and love for this great recreation of angling.
- Participate and promote fishing tournaments to help stimulate public interest in bass fishing.

I MEMBERSHIP

Membership is unlimited

A) Requirements for New Members

- 1) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership, and the basis on which our chapter was established.
- 2) Receive recommendation for membership by a member in good standing during a regular club event.
- 3) Fish one club tournament with an active club member.
- 4) Be voted on by the club membership. Vote shall be in accordance with the **voting quorum**. The perspective member will be excused and not present during the vote for his/her acceptance into active membership.
- 5) Must be a member of B.A.S.S. or submit for membership to be eligible for Federal participation.

B) Membership Dues

Annual membership dues shall be payable in the following manner:

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

- 1) The **Minimum Membership Payment**, will be due during the month of August for existing members. For new members it will be due upon their acceptance to the Lugoff Bassmasters.
- 2) The additional **Annual Membership Dues** maybe paid in full, or set up on account and paid in consecutive monthly installments at least \$10, paid in full by March. Club dues are paid by active members; associate members do not pay dues until they are voted into active membership.
- 3) Guest staying in the cabins will pay the fee for each night.

C) Delinquent Accounts

- 1) Members will be set-up on account in good faith for payment of dues to the Chapter for his/her membership, non-payment will not be tolerated.
- 2) Accounts that become 60 days or more delinquent will not be eligible to accrue meeting or tournament points until the account is made current. "Lost points are not recoverable."
- 3) The only exceptions for delinquency will be for those members that have formally filed a valid leave of absence through one of the club officers.

II OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, ELIGIBILITY, TERMS AND VACANCIES

A) Officers and Duties

- 1) **President** – The President shall have the usual powers of supervision and management which pertain to his/her office as well as the following duties:
 - a. Preside over all meetings and direct all official business.
 - b. Ensure meetings are held on a regular basis.
 - c. Ensure regular elections are held. (Sec. 2 below).
 - d. Supervises all club functions.
 - e. Countersigns all meeting minutes and financial reports.
- 2) **Secretary** – Act as custodian of all Chapter correspondence and records as well as the following duties:
 - a. Maintain a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of all club members and associates
 - b. Preside over all meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President.
 - c. Assists the President and Vice President when necessary.
 - d. Records minutes for all meetings called for by the Chapter President.
 - e. Maintain regular communications and act as liaison between the Chapter and B.A.S.S. and the South Carolina Bass Federation.
 - f. Prepare and distribute meeting agenda prior to all meetings.
 - g. Coordinates and produces meeting minutes.
- 3) **Treasurer** – Acts as record keeper and responsible agent for all monetary business transaction of the Chapter as well as the following duties:
 - a. Maintain all chapter financial accounts.
 - b. Collects, deposits, disburses, and receipts all monies, excluding regularly scheduled tournament payouts.
 - c. Prepares accurate financial reports to be included as part of the meeting minutes during each chapter meeting.
 - d. Prepares an annual audit for review by the Chapter Board of Directors, which consists of all chapter elected officers.

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

- 4) **Tournament Director** – Presides over the tournament committee, to plan, organize and operate all Chapter tournaments.

B) Elections

The elections of club officers shall be held annually during the July meeting. Elections shall be by simple majority of members present. Election of each office shall be held separately in order as listed in **Officers and Duties**.

C) Eligibility to Vote

Each active member is entitled to one vote for each agenda item. Proxy votes are NOT permitted.

D) Terms of Office

The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on August 1st, and end on the last meeting day of July or until the successor assumes office. Original slate of officers shall serve until the last meeting day of the following July. The interim period from August until November should be used as a transition period to allow for a smooth and integral transition from and to offices.

E) Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nomination shall be solicited and an election held to fill the remaining term of that office. B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change in any office.

F) Eligibility for Office

To be eligible for holding any office the individual must:

- Be an active member in good standing with the Chapter.
- Have held Chapter membership for a minimum of six months.
- Have attended at least 75% of the Chapter meetings and functions.
- Have shown an active interest in all other Chapter functions.

III COMMITTEES

All standing committees will serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The term of the committee members will coincide with the terms identified in **Officers and Duties, Terms of Office**.

Tournament Committee

The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all chapter tournaments. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules and investigate all protests concerning tournaments and make recommendation to the chapter's general membership. The committee has the authority to alter any tournament's scheduled date, start and end times, landing and/or lake for any reason proposed by any club member if the proposal is deemed to have merit by a simple majority of the committee. Any change will be determined by a majority vote for the change by the committee. The committee also has the authority to determine if a member requesting to fish an abbreviated tournament will be allowed to do so. The tournament committee will consist of:

- Tournament Director
- Three members at large

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

IV VOTING QUORUM

The Quorum shall consist of the active voting members present provided that a minimum of 51% of the total Chapter membership is present.

- A) The President will not vote in an open forum except in the event that the vote results in a tie. The President will then carry the deciding vote.
- B) The only time the President may vote in an open quorum is for the acceptance of new members.

V MEETINGS

Regular Chapter meetings will be held on Wednesday evening prior to each scheduled tournament. The elected officers will be responsible for notifying members in the event that any changes occur to prevent scheduled meetings.

- A) The president may request unscheduled meetings as needs or situations warrant.
- B) The Chapter year will begin August 1st and end on July 31.

VI B.A.S.S. AFFILIATION

Requirements for B.A.S.S. Affiliation

- Approval of Chapter bylaws by B.A.S.S.
- Update B.A.S.S. with a Chapter membership roster once each year, immediately following the election of new Chapter officers and directors.
- Names and addresses of all new members must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur. The necessary forms are included in the B.A.S.S. Chapter handbook.
- Maintain a 100% B.A.S.S. membership.
- Support the State Federation, Conservation, youth programs and any additional requirements that the State Federation establishes for chapters such as membership dues, attendance at meetings, etc. that would be necessary in order for the Chapter to participate in the State Federation qualification tournament and other Federation sponsored tournaments and events.

VII LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Any member in good standing may request a leave of absence when there is a reason that will preclude their attendance for 90 days or more, all requests must be in writing. A Leave of Absence form should be used whenever possible.

- A) A leave of absence may be used to project a member's non-availability for 90 days or more, but not to exceed 12 months.
- B) Should a leave of absence exceed a 12 month period the following requirement must be met:
 - 1) Fish one club tournament.
 - 2) Individual must then be voted back into membership under **Membership**

VIII_GUEST

Guests sixteen (16) years of age or older must pay tournament fee. Guests, under 16 may fish for tournament prizes. All Guest are excluded from the **Progressive Big Fish Pot**.

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

IX AMENDMENTS

Any active member may submit amendments to the Chapter Bylaws and Tournament Rules. Request for change must follow these guidelines in writing:

- A) Identify if your request is to change, delete or add to the document in question.
- B) Identify the section (s), or rule (s) that are relevant to your request.
- C) Explain why you think the change needs to be made, i.e. how it will help the Chapter, or how it is hurting the Chapter.
- D) Provide a copy of your request to one of the club officers.

There will be no open floor discussions until the request has been submitted in writing and included as part of the scheduled meetings itinerary no later than the first meeting of the season. At which time it will be presented to the **Voting Quorum** for discussion and voting. Normally amendments will take place at the beginning of the season. But, the club officers may deem a change critical and apply at it any time.

X AWARDS

“Angler of the Year” will be determined by the member who has accumulated the most points at the close of the club year. In case of a tie, the accumulation of weight will determine “AOY”. “Big Fish” is determined by the biggest fish weighed during the scheduled tournament year.

XI ADOPTION

This document will become effective upon the adoption by the voting quorum identified in **Voting Quorum** at a scheduled meeting, and is subject to final review by B.A.S.S. This document will be reviewed annually. Amendments will be identified and submitted under **Amendments**.

XII DISSOLUTION

In the event the membership determines that the need, nor the desire for this Chapter no longer exists, it will be dissolved. Dissolution in accordance with this provision will require the same formalities with respect to notice and number of votes required to pass the motion as required to amend this document. Should dissolution ever be required prior to dissolution of the Chapter all obligations will be liquidated. Any remaining assets will go towards sponsoring a social function, or will be donated to an organization of the membership’s choice.

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

Tournament Rules

- 1) The Lugoff Bassmasters will fish the scheduled dates of each tournament and will meet on Wednesday prior to a scheduled tournament.
- 2) Members, not able to attend the tournament meeting, must inform one of the tournament committee members prior to the scheduled meeting if they intend to fish that meetings tournament. Members that have indicated they will fish the upcoming tournament and are not bringing a guest must enter the boater/non-boater draw to be eligible to fish the tournament. Any member unable to fish an entire tournament and desires to fish as a boater will be allowed to forego the draw provided that the Tournament Committee has been advised of the member's circumstances and has approved the abbreviation. If approval is granted under the preceding stipulation the member will not be allowed to bring a guest.
- 3) Extremely bad weather or water conditions can cancel or change the scheduled site, any changes will be announced by the Tournament Committee prior to assembling at the tournament site.
- 4) When more boaters than non-boaters are fishing, unpaired boaters have the options of bringing a guest, fishing alone or pair up with another boater.
- 5) No club member will fish with the same person two consecutive tournaments (Based on the draw). On a two day scheduled tournament, members will fish with their partner for the same days. A member bringing a guest to a two day tournament, also fishes with their guest for the both days. No member may bring a guest at two consecutive tournaments and no more than two guests a year. If the member's guest joins the club, that guest is not charged against the member. Unpaired boaters that elect to bring a guest after the draw will not be subject to the two consecutive rule. Members who leave the club in good standing, retain the option to visit the club as a guest without being sponsored by a club member and fish two tournaments a year incurring tournament fee's only.
- 6) All expenses (i.e. boat and towing vehicle gas) will be shared equally. The **Non-Boater Fee** must be paid by the non-boater. Non-boaters who elect to drive directly to the launch site are still responsible for this minimum fee. The **Non-Boater Fee** per day minimum must be paid to the boater by the non-boater prior to the start of each scheduled tournament. The boater and non-boater must notify their respective partner if they are to meet at the launch site. Non-boaters have the responsibility to ask the boater what their obligation is for the tournament. It is the boater's decision whether or not payment is due.
- 7) State Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations must be observed at all times. Any violation will constitute immediate tournament disqualification. Not wearing a personal floatation device (PFD) while the boat is on pad will result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.
- 8) All Tournament boats must be equipped with a functional safety kill switch with lanyard attached to the boat operator. You're responsible for having your livewells checked if fishing alone. Failure to do so will result in a disqualification of the boater in that tournament.
- 9) There will be no shotgun starts, all starts will be approximately 10-15 seconds apart according to your drawn position.
- 10) Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited during tournament hours.
- 11) Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. First time will result in tournament disqualification, second time removal from the club. The Tournament Committee plus club officers will have the final decision.
- 12) All fish will be retrieved from the deck of the boat. Competitors must not intentionally depart the boat to land fish. You must remain in contact with the boat

LUGOFF BASSMASTERS (8524)

- 13) Only artificial lures may be used. Only one rod may be used at a time, only one line in the water.
- 14) No trolling allowed (the act of manipulating the lure solely by maneuvering the boat under big motor power).
- 15) A five (5) fish limit per person with 14 inch minimum length (except where 12" in accordance with state law). A penalty of .25lbs per dead fish will be assessed at weigh-in.
- 16) Culling: You must cull to the club limit of five (5) fish whenever the sixth (6th) fish is caught. When the 6th fish is brought into the boat, one must be culled to maintain the 5 fish limit before the next cast or starting the big motor. Failing to cull down to 5fish will result in that day's catch being disqualified.
- 17) One (1) pound per minute of total weight will be deducted if you're late for weigh-in up to 5 minutes, after 5 minutes will result in the loss of that day's weight. Check-in is within 100 yards off the no wake area.
- 18) All fish will be released at tournament location.
- 19) Tournament payback schedule will be 1st place 50%, 2nd place 30% and 3rd place 20% paid at the tournament location upon completion of weigh-in. All ties will be broken by biggest fish weighed. Big Fish payout is 100%.
 - A) Tournament and big fish fees for are required for each tournament.
 - B) The Progressive Big Fish Pot will roll over until a fish of 5 lbs. or greater is weighed in. All members entering the Progressive Big Fish Pot will be obligated for all fees until the pot is paid out, even if they do not fish a tournament. All fees are due at the current tournament meeting no money will be accepted after that point, with the exception of members who could not attend the tournament meeting. Withdrawal from the pot must be submitted in writing, and all fees paid will be forfeited.
- 20) Points will be awarded to active and associate members in the following manner:
 - A) 10 points for meeting attendance 5 points for calling in.
 - B) 10 points for big fish. (Ties for big fish will be broken by total weight, then total number then coin toss.)
 - C) 250 points for 1st place, 225 points for 2nd place, 200 points for 3rd place, 175 points for 4th place, 150 points for 5th place.
 - D) Sixth place through twenty-fifth place will have five point separation, with sixth place being 145 points and twenty-fifth place being 50 points. (EXAMPLE: 6th ~ 145, 7th ~ 140, 8th ~ 135, 9th ~ 130, etc.)
 - E) Members who do not catch fish will be awarded 40 points for participating in the tournament.
- 21) Points will be deducted in the following manner:
 - A) 10 points for failure to show at the meeting place or launch site on time. Prior notification is not subject to this deduction.
 - B) 100 points for failure to show for a scheduled tournament in which you stated your intent to fish and tournament fees will be forfeited. The Tournament Committee will evaluate the points deduction case by case; emergencies, sickness, etc.
- 22) Protests may be filed verbally or written to the Tournament Committee before the closing of the scales. All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.