

LUNKERS BASS CLUB

BY-LAWS & TOURNAMENT RULES 2016 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1: NAME: LUNKER'S BASS CLUB of Panama City, Florida.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE: To stimulate awareness of Bass Fishing as a sport; to improve our skills as Bass Anglers through fellowship and friendly exchange of ideas and competition.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: NUMBER OF MEMBERS: NO LIMIT; with the exception that no more than 40% of our membership will be NON-BOAT owners.

SECTION 2: REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP: To become an active member, a person will: voluntarily express interest in membership, pay all required dues in a timely manner, and share fishing expenses between partners, complete membership application, and be voted on by Club Membership. In addition, to receive lodging compensation from the Club for the 2 Day October Tournament at Lake Eufaula, a Member must participate in 6 Tournaments throughout the year. The October Tournament may count as tournament 6 to reach this Club requirement.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual dues will be \$24.00 payable in November or Prorated at \$2 per Month the from month joined. After the November Tournament, members must be in good standing to participate in the upcoming monthly tournaments. Only paid members may accumulate Angler of the Year Points.

SECTION 4: REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP: Anglers will, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner that will NOT reflect unfavorably on Lunkers Bass Club or its Members.

Any Member may be suspended or expelled from the Lunkers Bass Club by a majority vote of the Membership for the following but not limited to misconduct charges: Unsportsmanlike conduct; repeated public conduct that reflects poorly upon the Club; continued behavior detrimental/disruptive to the Club; or violations of the By-Laws/Tournament Rules of the Club. For Tournament Protest refer to paragraph 10 of the Tournament Rules.

Club Officers will evaluate all complaints of member misconduct for validity. All information concerning the complaint will be provided to the Club Membership at a scheduled monthly meeting. If by majority vote, the Lunkers Bass Club Membership determines the complaint is valid, the accused Member has the right of appeal at that meeting or the following membership meeting. The membership will vote on any such appeal. Majority votes rule.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct is a very serious matter. Club Membership may, by a majority vote, require a member accused of unsportsmanlike conduct to submit to a Voice Stress Analysis or Polygraph Test. The Voice Stress Analysis or Polygraph Test will be conducted by a person who specializes in that area. The test will be coordinated and scheduled with Tester and Accused by the Club Officers. The Club Officers will ensure scheduling of the test is reasonable for all parties. Lunkers Bass Club will absorb the cost of such tests if member passes the test. If member does not pass the test or fails to submit to a test, the member will reimburse Lunkers Bass Club for any and all incurred expense. Any member failing such test or refusing to submit to such test will be expelled from the Lunkers Bass Club. Although all charges of misconduct should be filed with the Club Officers as soon as possible, **THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT CHARGES!**

ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES:

PRESIDENT: Presides over meetings and directs all Club business. Responsible for ensuring Limited Lunkers are involved in participating in the annual Tournament of Champions. Appoints and directs committee functions and supervises all Club functions. Is a voting member of the Club. Tie Breaks will be conducted by pulling from hat. Authorized to sign checks. Solicits Club members to assume positions of the Club offices.

VICE PRESIDENT: Assists the President in his or her duties and presides over meetings in the President's absence. Chairs all committees. Authorized to sign checks.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Maintains accurate meeting and financial records and reports them at each meeting. Maintains Club Website, if applicable, and forwards tournament results to Around the Tournament Trail. Is responsible for writing checks after each tournament. If not present at a tournament, he/she will ensure that another Club Officer receives the checkbook and will be present to write checks. Sells \$1.00 tickets at each meeting for 50/50 drawing (50% goes to the club).

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Serves as the chairman of the Tournament Committee. If required, appoints a Weigh-Master to assist with weigh-in operations, and will direct club tournaments in accordance with tournament rules. A Voting Club Officer for items concerning Tournament Issues Only. Authorized to sign checks.

**** NOTE **:** Officers may occupy more than one office if deemed more efficient for the organization.

SECTION 2: NEGLIGENCE: Any Officer found negligent in the performance of assigned duties may be removed from office by a Majority Vote of the Club Membership.

SECTION 3: ELECTIONS: The election of President and appointing of Officers shall be held at the regular monthly meeting in October or at a special meeting determined by the Club Officers. Volunteers for Officer Positions will be honored first. If there are no volunteers, other Club members may nominate someone for a position. The person nominated must agree to the nomination. Election of Officers requires a Majority Vote of the Club Membership present at the meeting.

SECTION 4: TERM OF OFFICE: The term of office is for the period of one year that begins 1 November and ends 31 October.

SECTION 5: METHOD OF VOTE: Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

ARTICLE 4: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS:

The Constitution and By-Laws will be reviewed in its entirety at the October meeting or at a special meeting determined by the Club Officers. Any proposed change requires a motion and a second before being voted on by the members present. Changing the Constitution and By-Laws require a Majority Vote of the Club Membership present at the meeting. The result of the voting takes effect in November. Any proposed change after the October meeting must be submitted in writing to the Club President during a monthly meeting. The proposed change will be presented, discussed, and voted on during that same meeting. The result of the voting takes effect immediately.

ARTICLE 5: MEETINGS

Regular meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, and will start at 6:30 PM. Special meetings may be called by the President. If the regular meeting date falls on a legal Holiday, the meeting will be held on the following night.

ARTICLE 6: TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT: Club sponsored tournaments will be conducted in accordance with Tournament Rules. The Tournament Year will begin with the November Tournament and end with the October Tournament.

SECTION 2: TOURNAMENT DATES/SITE SELECTION: A Club Tournament will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The Tournament Date will not be changed unless determined to be unsafe/unfit to fish. A tournament site will be determined at the meeting prior to the tournament date. All nominated sites will be voted on, then, the two (2) sites receiving the most votes will be voted on with the site receiving the majority of votes becoming the tournament site and the number 2 selection being the alternate site. Changing the tournament site, date, or both for any reason (I.E. hurricane, extremely high waters or projected bad storms) after the monthly meeting and before the day of the tournament requires a Majority Vote of the Club Officers. If changed, the new tournament site will become the alternate site determined at the monthly meeting. In addition, March is a two day tournament at Lake Seminole, Seminole Lodge Landing, or at a launch site determined by the Club. Members are responsible for their own accommodations. The October 2-day tournament will be at Lake Eufaula, LakePoint Resort. If LakePoint Resort is not available, another suitable location for lodging will be nominated and voted on by the Club. In all cases the launch site will be the closest suitable ramp to the Club's lodging accommodations. The tournament will be held on the 3rd weekend of the month and NOT Columbus Day Weekend as in the years past. The Club will participate in reducing lodging costs for Members who participate in at least 6 Club Tournaments throughout the year. The October Tournament may count as tournament 6 to reach this Club requirement. If a Member confirms a reservation for lodging and then cancels their reservation after the confirmation deadline, the Member will be responsible for paying all costs incurred by the Club for their reservation. Emergencies will be taken into consideration by the Club Officers. The President will ensure required reservations are finalized by the June meeting and presented to the members for concurrence.

SECTION 3: TOURNAMENT TYPES: Generally, tournaments are *INDIVIDUAL WEIGHTS*. Optional *DRAW* tournaments may be held if voted for at the monthly meetings.

SECTION 4: TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: Each member is responsible for their entry fee. If only 6 members participate in the Tournament of Champions, the Club will pay entry fee for positions 7 & 8 if necessary, and if required by the Tournament of Champions Host Club. Club winnings will be prorated by club cost.

ARTICLE 7: AWARDS

SECTION 1: ANGLER OF THE YEAR: Angler of the year will be determined by a point system.

SECTION 2: POINT SYSTEM: Three (3) points will be given for attending a monthly meeting. Two (2) points will be given for participating in a monthly tournament. Fifty (50) points will be given to the person with the most weight at weigh-in, decreasing one point for each place to one (1) point for Fiftieth place. Bonus points will be awarded the top 3 places: 1st Place-5 Points, 2nd Place-3 Points, 3rd Place-1 Point. Lunker of the tournament will receive Two (2) Points. Members weighing a limit of five (5) will receive One (1) Point. Exception: On 2 Day Tournaments a Limit Point will be awarded each day for a limit weighed. For example, if a limit is caught on Saturday the member earns One (1) Point. If a member weighs a limit on both days, Two (2) Points will be awarded for the tournament. A legal fish must be weighed-in to receive points. **The point system for the Angler of the Year is determined by counting ELEVEN (11) months of the calendar year.** Most total weight will be the tie breaker. Second and Third place Angler of the Year as well as Lunker of the Year will also receive an award.

SECTION 3: AWARDS: Angler of the Year \$250 plus Plaque. Second and Third Angler of the Year and Lunker of the Year will receive Plaques or have a choice of \$50 for each award.

LUNKERS BASS CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES

1. In order to fish in the monthly Club sponsored tournament, a member must have paid annual dues and be in good standing with the Club. November Tournament may be fished with annual dues owing. However, annual dues must be paid prior to fishing any other month. Any hardship or emergency that occurs during a Tournament needs to be brought to the attention of Club Officers. If required, Club Officers will make a ruling addressing the hardship or emergency. In all cases a Member's well being is paramount.

2. Tournament entry fee is \$30.00 per person. The Big-Bass pot is \$5.00 of the Entry Fee. It is not Optional.
3. Boating arrangements and/or intentions should be identified no later than the Wednesday meeting before the tournament. Non-Boaters should make every attempt to secure a back seat without forcing a draw. However, if a non boater needs a back seat and is unable to secure one before or at the meeting, all boater names with empty back seats will be placed in a hat and a name drawn to determine who carries the non-boater. If two boaters are paired up, they will be considered boaters and their names will also be placed in a hat. **EXPENSES:** Owning and operating a boat is a tremendous expense. It is encouraged for the boater and non- boater to agree on expenses before the tournament. Non-Boaters should keep in mind that expenses may vary from each boater. Expenses for a non-boater riding in a boat with a 250 hp motor versus a boat with a 50 hp motor will be different. However, in all cases, for a one day tournament, the **MAXIMUM** amount a non-boater may be charged for expenses is \$50.00. For multiple day tournaments it is up to the boater and non-boater to work out the expenses prior to the tournament.
4. Guests ***MUST*** fish with Club members in accordance with Rule 3, only if all Club members have been paired up. No one will fish more than one (1) tournament as a guest. Guest will not accumulate Angler of the Year Points. No Club member will be left ***on the hill*** due to a guest. However, invited guest may not be bumped after the monthly meeting prior to the tournament. One must pay annual dues at the monthly meeting prior to the tournament to be considered a member for boating arrangements.
5. A minimum of two (2) boats is required to ***start*** a tournament. The Tournament Director will determine how boats are launched to start the tournament. In addition, the Tournament Director will start and stop the tournament according to his/her timepiece, which will be the official time. Contestants not in reasonable view of the Tournament Director at the official conclusion of the tournament will be penalized one (1) pound per minute they are late. If contestants are fifteen (15) minutes late, they are disqualified from the tournament. ***EXCEPTION:*** If contestants are late due to a mechanical breakdown, the Club Officers present will evaluate the circumstances and determine whether a weigh-in will be allowed. Any contestant rendering assistance to, or towing in a disabled boat will not suffer a penalty. If the disqualification occurs on a 2 Day Tournament, the Member is disqualified for that particular day, and the other Day will count toward the Tournament results for the weekend. However, a Member who is disqualified may **NOT** accumulate Tournament Position Points or Lunker Points for the Angler of the Year Standings for that particular Tournament. Contestants are responsible for getting a time hack from the Tournament Director. Standard tournament time is from Safe Light to 3:30 PM unless changed by Club Officers. **Tournament times for the Spring and Fall 2 Day Tournaments will be Safe Light to 4 PM CST on Day 1 and Safe Light to 2 PM CST on Day 2 unless changed by the Majority of Club Members present.** Scales will open at 3:45 or 15 minutes after end of tournament.
6. All Largemouth, Smallmouth, or Spotted Bass brought to the scale area will be in accordance with State and Local laws. A five (5) fish limit is imposed on all tournaments and all fish must be 12 inches in length (mouth closed) to qualify for weighing (except where State or lake slot limits conflict). Only 5 fish may be in the Angler's possession at any time during the tournament. There will be no Culling of Dead Fish. Each contestant is allowed one weigh-in. If there is a tie for individual weight, the biggest fish breaks the tie. In the event both big fish are the same, the total number of fish breaks the tie. In the event it is still tied, a coin flip will break the tie. All live fish will be returned to the water as quickly as possible. Each competitor should request his/her largest fish be weighed and documented in case of a tie. During the 2 Day Tournaments the Lunker Side Pot will have 2 winners each day. The split of the Side Pot will be 60/40. This does not affect the Tournament Lunker winnings.
7. Anglers may not handle their fish once they are presented to the Tournament Director/Weigh-Master for measurement and weigh-in until the official weight has been documented. There will be a 4 oz (**.25 lb**) deduction per dead fish determined by the Weigh Master. The dead fish penalty will be subtracted from total weight for the tournament standing. In addition, if the Lunker is dead, the dead fish penalty will also be subtracted from the Lunker weight for the Lunker Pot. The Angler determines Big Fish for weighing. **Fish will be brought to the scales using a weigh bag with sufficient water; and all live fish will be immediately returned to the water after weighing. A one pound penalty will be imposed on total weight including Lunker (if applicable) for not using a weigh bag with sufficient water.**
8. There will be a one (1) pound penalty deducted from the total weight for each fish that does not measure. If 2 fish are declared short, the member is disqualified. If the disqualification occurs on a 2 Day Tournament, the Member is disqualified for that particular day, and the other Day will count toward the Tournament results for the weekend. However,

a Member who is disqualified may NOT accumulate Tournament Position Points or Lunker Points for the Angler of the Year Standings for that particular Tournament. There will be no courtesy weigh-ins. Only one 22 inch fish may be weighed unless state law or tournament waiver permits. Penalty will match small fish rule. Size limits will be determined by state laws for the body of water fished with the exception of state tournament waivers.

9. The Tournament Director/Weigh Master will have his/her fish measured and weighed by another member of the Club.
10. Any protest must be registered with the Tournament Director, or any other Club Officer not involved in the protest, within 15 minutes of conclusion of the weigh- in. The Tournament Director and Club Officers will rule on the protest. All decisions are FINAL.
11. At the launch site, the Tournament Director will determine if conditions are unfit/unsafe to fish the day of the tournament. If conditions are determined unfit/unsafe by the Tournament Director, the club members present will assemble as a group and vote on a new tournament date and site. The tournament may be conducted on the same day at a different site if agreed upon by majority of Club Members present. If the tournament date is changed, Club Officers will ensure all club members are notified of the new tournament date and site.
12. All boats must be operated in a safe manner and in accordance with State and Local Laws. A certified Life Jacket/PFD will be worn by all contestants during tournament hours anytime the boat is on plane. Running lights will be used during the hours of darkness. If running lights do not work, the boat is prohibited from launching until running lights are not required.
13. Any person arriving late, but wanting to fish in the tournament, must leave a note with name and intentions on another member's vehicle that is fishing the tournament. If no intentions are stated, the person or persons are automatically entered in the tournament and are obligated to pay all required fees at weigh-in.
14. The weigh in will not be finalized until all boats are accounted for.
15. No natural bait is permitted. *EXCEPTION:* Pork baits may be used.
16. Fish will be measured with a *GOLDEN RULE*.
17. Checks will be written or cash given out by one of the Club Officers present at the tournament site. 10% of entry fee will go to the Club.

The following payback schedule will be used:

<u>Number of Contestants</u>	<u>Payback Percentage</u>
6 or less	1 st – 60% 2 nd – 40%
7 to Unlimited	1 st – 45% 2 nd – 30% 3 rd – 25%

*Note: If at the end of the tournament, only one person weighs in fish, he/she will only be awarded 1st Place, Lunker Money and Points. 2nd and 3rd Place Money will be returned to Club operating funds. If only two people weigh in fish, with seven (7) or more participants, 1st Place, 2nd Place, and Lunker Money and Points will be awarded and 3rd Place will be returned to Club operating funds.

18. All boats must have some type of aerated livewell to keep fish alive.
19. Trophy fish eight (8) pounds or over may be kept by the contestant for mounting purposes only.