

**CHAPTER CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS
ZUMBRO VALLEY BASSMASTERS OF MINNESOTA**

ARTICLE I -- Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This Chapter shall be called “**ZUMBRO VALLEY BASSMASTERS,**” of Minnesota.

Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of Bass Fishing as a major sport. To support the State Conservation Department both morally and politically. To improve our skills as Bass Anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass-catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing.

ARTICLE II -- Membership

Section 1: Membership Requirements

To become a member a person shall:

- (a) Express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) Be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- (c) Maintain Memberships in B.A.S.S. and, after their first year, Membership in the Minnesota Bass Federation.
- (d) Fill out and meet all membership application requirements.
- (e) Be voted on by the existing membership present. Vote shall be by voice, simple majority required for acceptance.

Section 2: Membership

- (a) The amount of membership dues shall be voted on annually.
- (b) New member dues are payable upon being voted into the Chapter.
- (c) All current member dues shall be paid in full prior to the draw for the first tournament of the year.

ARTICLE III -- Officers, Nominations, Eligibility, Elections, Vacancies

Section 1 : Officers and Duties

The Officers of this Chapter shall consist of:

- (a) President :
Preside over all meetings, direct all official business, and supervise all Chapter functions. Final interpretation of all Rules and By-laws.
- (b) Vice President :
Act as Program Chairman, assist the President in his duties, and preside in the absence of the President.
- (c) Secretary :
Maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, submit minutes of previous meetings to the membership for approval . Maintain Chapter Rules and By-laws.
- (d) Treasurer :
Maintain accurate financial records and submit these records to the membership for approval at the monthly meetings. Receive and disperse Chapter funds as directed by the membership and officers.
- (e) Tournament Director :
Present the membership with an awards plan for the upcoming tournament season. Upon approval of the membership, obtain and distribute the awards based on the tournament results. Govern all Chapter tournaments rule on disputes, and record and report weigh-in results.
- (f) Weighmaster :
Organize and perform all weigh-ins at Chapter tournaments. Ensure all fish are releasable and meet the minimum length requirements of the tournament. Assess penalties as required.
- (g) Youth Director :
Organize and implement all youth activities. Report results to the Federation Representative in a form presentable to the State Federation.
- (h) Federation Representative :
Attend State Federation meetings, and represent the Chapter in all Federation activities. Maintain liaison between the Chapter and B.A.S.S.

Section 2 : Nominations

The nominations for Chapter Officers shall be held annually during the November meeting. Any active member may be nominated for any office. This nomination shall be accepted or rejected by the nominee. If the nominee accepts, the nomination must be seconded to be official. Any active member may volunteer himself for any office, this must also be seconded to be official. Members may hold more than one office in any given year.

Section 3 : Elections

The election of officers shall be held annually during the December meeting. Election shall be by a majority of the total membership at the meeting.

Election for each officer shall be held separately in the order listed in Article III Section 1.

Section 4 : Eligibility of Vote

Each member is entitled to one (1) vote. Proxy votes will be accepted only if they are signed and delivered to an existing officer prior to the election meeting.

Section 5 : Term of Office

The term of office is one (1) year, which shall begin on January 1, and end the last meeting day of December or until the successor assumes office.

Section 6 : Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be received and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating that office.

ARTICLE IV -- Method of Amending

Section 1 : Amending the Constitution and By-laws

The Constitution and By-laws may be amended at a regular monthly meeting by a 2/3 majority of the total membership present, provided that notice of the amendment has been made to the membership at least one (1) month prior to the vote. Members choosing not to vote for or against an amendment or major Chapter decision will not be counted in the total membership at that meeting.

ARTICLE V -- Removal from Membership

Section 1 : Reasons for Removal

A member may be dropped from the membership role for the following:

- (a) Failure to pay annual dues by the set date.
- (b) Failure to fulfill required obligations as described in the By-Laws, Fish Off and Tournament Rules.
- (b) Any action which would reflect dishonor or disgrace on this chapter

Section 2 : Process for Removal

The process for determining whether a member will be removed for violation of above noted rules is as follows:

- 1) A charge must be brought against a member in writing.
 - a. The charging party must be a member in good standing.
 - b. The written charge must be in duplicate.
- 2) The written charge will be read before the membership at a regular meeting of the membership.
- 3) At that meeting, a copy of the written charge will be presented to the charged party and a copy will be kept by the club president.
 - a. If the charged party is not present at the meeting, the notice of charge shall be mailed as soon as possible but no later than 7 calendar days after the meeting.
- 4) At the next monthly meeting of the club, the charged member will have an opportunity to defend himself/herself against said charges, or make amends for any such claims against said member.
- 5) At the conclusion of any defense, the determination of the charged member's continued membership with the club will be determined by a majority vote after sufficient discussion has occurred.
 - a. Sufficient discussion will be satisfied when a minimum of 3 opportunities for and 3 against have been offered. Further discussion will be allowed in accordance with the Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI -- Meeting Guidelines

1. All Regular Chapter meetings will be directed by the (a) President, (b) Vice President, (c) or by an appointed Officer.
2. All motions brought to the floor must be seconded and discussed before a vote will be considered. Majority of the members present is the deciding factor.
3. Meetings will be adjourned by a motion made by the presiding officer, seconded and voted on.
4. Any flagrant misconduct will be dealt with accordingly.

ARTICLE VII -- Tournament Location

Section 1 : Establishing Tournament locations

Locations for Chapter Tournaments shall be proposed by a "Lakes Committee" and voted on at the regular December meeting.

Section 2 : Rules governing the changing of a tournament location.

The only reasons a location should be changed are: Safety reasons, On request from a civil authority , or from lake shore property owners. Every effort should be made to fish the intended lake. In the event of poor weather conditions, a discussion shall be held to discuss a one (1) hour delay, the change of access, or the change of the lake to fish. To change the lake will require 100% agreement of the members fishing the tournament. The Tournament Director shall preside over this function and, with the Weighmaster and the President or the next highest ranking officer, will make the final decision on Safety issues.

Original copy for this change in the Constitution and By-laws was dated 1st day January 1979. Updated December 3, 1986, Approved February 1987. Updated January 1996, approved April 1, 1996. Updated March, 2003, approved April 2, 2003.

**FISH-OFF and TOURNAMENT RULES
ZUMBRO VALLEY BASSMASTERS of MINNESOTA**

Violation of these rules will result in disqualification unless the specific rule has an attached penalty. If a contestant receives a citation from civil authorities during a Tournament they will be disqualified.

1. Each contestant is expected to observe the common sense rules of courtesy, safety, sportsmanship, and conservation. Consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs in boats will not be allowed.
2. Each boat shall have all required Coast Guard approved safety equipment.
3. Scoring shall be determined by pounds and hundredths of pound. Winners will be determined by total weight accumulated during the designated tournament hours at weigh-in time, less any penalties assessed.
4. Bass must be caught alive, and in the traditional sporting manner. Dead Bass cannot be culled.
5. Bass determined dead by the Weighmaster or appointed Officer shall carry a penalty of .125 lbs or 2 oz per said Bass.
6. Contestants have the option of keeping one (1) releasable bass per tournament year with no penalty. Any other bass determined releasable that said individual decides to keep will be determined non-releasable and carry a penalty of .25 lbs per said bass.
7. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, meeting the minimum length, are eligible to be weighed in. (Minimum length shall be either 12 inches or a greater length determined by the conservation laws governing the tournament body of water.
8. Ties for position after weigh-in will be broken by:
 - (a) Total bass in catch.
 - (b) Weight of Big Bass in catch.
 - (c) Flip of the coin.

Ties for year end position will be broken by:

- (a) Total weight for the year. **
- (b) Total number of bass caught for the year. **
- (c) Big Bass for the year.
- (d) Flip of the coin.

** Totals from the 5 Tournaments used to qualify. For “Angler of the Year” all 7 Tournaments used to qualify.

9. Tournament hours, Launch site, and Weigh-in site will be determined at a regular Chapter meeting prior to each tournament by majority vote of the participants. These times are official. The only reasons a time or location shall be changed are: reasons, On request from a civil authority, or from lake shore property owners. Every effort should be made to fish the intended lake. In the event of poor weather conditions, a discussion shall be held to discuss a one (1) hour delay, the change of access, or the change of the lake to fish. To change the lake will require 100% agreement of the members fishing the tournament. To change access or to delay start time will be decided by the Tournament Director, the Weighmaster, and the highest ranking officer present.
10. A penalty of one (1) pound will be assessed for each minute the contestant is late for the weigh-in. Any contestant arriving five (5) or more minutes late for the weigh-in will loose the entire catch of the day. Life threatening situations are the only exceptions, to be determined by a majority vote at the weigh-in. The Tournament Director, the Weighmaster, and the highest ranking Officer present, will determine if a contestant is late and assess the appropriate penalty.
11. Each contestant is responsible for their own catch. Each contestant will keep their own catch separate from their partner's. No contestant will have in their possession at any one time, more than a legal limit of Bass. Each contestant must register and weigh-in their catch at the weigh-in station. Any contestant presenting more than the Tournament Limit to the Weighmaster will loose the largest bass in the bag.
12. Two contestants will be selected by draw for each boat. No two (2) partners may fish together more than once in one tournament year, except in the case of a multi-day tournament that is counted as a separate tournament each day. Fishing partners are expected to work out all necessary arrangements concerning operations and expenses of their rig between themselves. Each partner is entitled to equal time at the controls.
13. Contestants may fish any place on the designated tournament lake. All fishing must be done from a boat. Contestants must not depart their boat to land a fish. All boats must leave the official take-off point, remain in the water during the tournament day, and return to the designated check-in point by the designated check-in time with the respective contestants.
14. Contestants may rent or use their own boat. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Motors (gas or electric) may be used to position the boat while casting.

15. Only artificial lures are permitted. No live or prepared baits, with the exception of Pork Baits are allowed. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time. Only casting spinning, or spin-cast reels and rods may be used. Substitute or alternate tackle may be in the boat.

16. It is the responsibility of each member to notify the Tournament Director, or be present at the meeting to ensure they are included in the draw for a given tournament. If they are not present or do not make the notification they will not fish. A member will be allowed to enter into the tournament late a maximum of 1 time per year. It is each member's responsibility to find out who their partner is and to make all necessary arrangements for the tournament.

17. To assure a manageable balance, new member applicants will be accepted based on a maximum ratio of 70% active boaters to 30% non-boaters. Some new members may own, or have access to a boat but would prefer to fish as a non-boater to gain experience. This applicant would be counted as a boater if the ratio at the draw is out of balance. Applicants with no access to a boat will be entered as a non-boater.

18. Changes in partners must be approved by the Tournament Director, all attempts will be made to ensure each contestant has a partner.

19. Individual yearly standings will be based on the following points system:

75 points	1st	57 points	8th	46 points	15th
72	" 2nd	55	" 9th	45	" 16th
69	" 3rd	53	" 10th	44	" 17th
66	" 4th	51	" 11th	43	" 18th
63	" 5th	49	" 12th	42	" 19th
61	" 6th	48	" 13th	41	" 20th
59	" 7th	47	" 14th	40	" 21st

Points reduce by 1 through the rest of the field that caught at least one legal fish.

To get the points for any position at least one keeper bass must be weighed in, 10 points will be given to those who fished the tournament.

The following is a strongly recommended guideline:

Each contestant shall wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver whenever the main engine is in use. Ignition kill switch shall be operational.

Original copy updated and revised March,2003. Approved April 2, 2003