

INDY BASS HUSTLERS

BY-LAWS

Revised and Adopted January 2016



ARTICLE I

Section 1: Name

- A. This Club shall be called the “INDY BASS HUSTLERS” and shall be referred to as the “Club” herein.

Section 2: Objectives

- A. To promote the sport of bass angling through competitive tournaments.
- B. To encourage and adhere to all conservation policies and laws of the Governing State of Indiana and all other governing states.
- C. To become better bass fisherman through the willing exchange of ideas and techniques of fishing.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: Membership

- A. The Club shall not exceed a membership of thirty (30) active members.
- B. Any person seeking membership in the Club shall state his or her intention to join the Club in an open meeting in front of all members present. This requirement shall also apply for past members. The announcement of one’s intention to join the Club is a condition precedent to being able to qualify to join the Club.
- C. An applicant for membership must be recommended by at least one (1) member in good standing and fish two (2) Club tournaments with two (2) different members. An applicant for membership must also fish with another Club member, preferably a Club officer, at a time other than a Club tournament.
- D. A previous member who left active membership in good standing shall be required to fish one (1) tournament with a Club member before rejoining the Club.
- E. Applicants must be members of the governing body/organization of which the Club is sanctioned by at that time period, whether it is B.A.S.S., FLW, or any other organization.
- F. Acceptance of an applicant for membership shall be voted on by the membership only at a regularly scheduled meeting. Voting shall be by secret vote and acceptance shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of members voting. Prospective members must be present at the meeting in which the vote is taking place, but shall not be permitted in the room while discussion on the applicant and the vote is taken.
- G. A member in good standing may elect to take a temporary leave of absence from the Club so long as the temporary leave of absence is no longer than one (1) year. If, within the one year period, a member taking a temporary leave of absence from the Club wishes to rejoin, the member needs only fish one (1) tournament with a member in good standing in order to have his acceptance voted by the Club with the same requirements as any other prospective member.
- H. A prospective member being considered for membership in the Club shall be randomly put in the draw to fish a tournament and drawn out in the ordinary course of the tournament draw as if he was a member. No special pairings shall be permitted for prospective members. A prospective member shall receive participating points,

weight points, tournament points, meeting points, any and all awards, and may participate in the Big Bass pool. Once a prospective member has been accepted by the Club, retroactive points and awards shall be awarded for past performance.

Section 2: Dues

- A. Annual membership dues shall be determined at the beginning of each year. Current members' dues are to be paid in full no later than December 1 of the preceding year.

Prospective members, who have been accepted after January 1, must pay their dues in full prior to the draw for the first tournament.

Once paid, all dues become the Club's property and are non-refundable.

- B. New members shall pay annual membership dues at a pro-rated amount for the remainder of the year if applicable.

Section 3: Member in Good Standing

- A. A member in good standing shall attend no less than six (6) out of nine (9) of the Club tournaments unless excused by the Club. A member shall be deemed to have been in attendance if he fished one (1) day of a two (2) day tournament.
- B. A member in good standing shall show a genuine interest in Club functions by volunteering ideas and services during meetings and tournaments.
- C. A member in good standing shall adhere to the laws of nature and those set up by God and man.
- D. Financially support the Club by paying all dues and fees on time.
- E. Adhere to the Club tournament rules and regulations in the strictest manner.
- F. Practice sportsmanship and courtesy at all times during Club functions.
- G. A member will be subjected to review by the membership for failure to adhere to the Club's By-Laws.
- H. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote is necessary to remove a member from the Club roster and said vote shall be by Club roster.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: Officers

- A. The Club officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Tournament Director and Tournament Committee (4).
- B. The Tournament Director is the person who finished first in the preceding year (Mr. Bass).

- C. The Tournament Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director as well as four (4) other members who shall be voted by the Club.

Section 2: Elections and Voting

- A. Nominations shall be made at the October meeting and elections of officers shall be held at the November meeting.
- B. All Club business voted upon requires a majority passage for all members present at the regular Club meeting.
- C. Fifty percent (50%) of the Club membership constitutes a quorum. A quorum is required to vote on Club business.

Section 3: Terms of Office and Vacancies

- A. Terms of office shall be one year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31.
- B. Vacancies in Club offices will be filled by the Officers as soon as they occur.
- C. Membership vacancies may be filled at any time.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1: Procedure for Amendment

The By-Laws may be amended at any time, provided that:

- A. The proposed amendment is presented and discussed at the meeting one month prior to the meeting when said amendment is voted upon. The proposed amendment must be carried by fifty-one percent (51%) majority of all ballots recorded on said amendment vote.

ARTICLE V

Section 1: Duties of Officers

- A. President – preside over Club meetings, Board meetings and Club functions.
- B. Vice President – assumes role of President in the President’s absence.
- C. Secretary/Treasurer – keeps minutes of all meetings. Keeps records of Club monies.
- D. Tournament Director and Committee – makes up tournament dates and schedules. Presents them to the Club at last meeting of the year for Club to vote on for following year. Tournament Director and Committee enforce all tournament rules as established by the Club and presides at all tournaments.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1: Tournament Rules

A. Tournament Sites

1. Tournament sites will be suggested by Tournament Committee and presented to the general membership. Tournament sites shall be voted on during the December meeting and shall be approved by a majority of votes.
2. A Club tournament may not be held on the same lake two (2) months in a row.

B. Parings

1. A blind draw for each tournament shall determine partners, first pairing boat owners with non-boat owners. Unless unavoidable, no two persons shall fish together two (2) times a year.
2. All participants for a tournament draw **must** be at the meeting prior to the next tournament. If unable to attend the meeting, you must notify one of the officers or Tournament Director prior to the meeting informing them of your intent to fish or not to fish in the tournament. (ex. Absence will be for work, school or medical emergency for personal or immediate family). If drawn without a partner, you may bring a guest. If not in the draw, no points will be given for tournament participation or fish caught.

Boaters may hold out of one (1) draw per year, with intent to fish tournament, if boaters out-number non-boaters.

3. A guest is considered as any person who has not expressed to the Club their intention to join the Club. A guest may fish with a member of their choice in the event that a special arrangement has been made and approved by the Club or in the event that the member has been drawn without a partner. A guest's weight and points shall not count toward the total weight and points awarded by the Club to members. A guest may participate in the Big Bass pool.

C. Boat and Transportation

Each pair of contestants is expected to determine arrangements for boat, refreshments and transportation. The contestant not furnishing the boat is **REQUIRED** to pay half of all fuel costs and fees incurred as a result of the tournament.

D. Tackle and Equipment

No live bait or prepared bait is permitted. Any reasonable number of rigs is permitted in the boat; however, only one rig is permitted to be used at a time. All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Boat live wells will be checked only when contestant is fishing alone.

All electronic fishing aids are permitted. Trolling motors may be used to maneuver the boat while casting. Trolling with a gas motor is also permitted.

Live well aerators will be checked periodically.

The Tournament Committee may, at its sole discretion, check live wells, aerators, kill switches, or any other safety features at any time before or during a tournament.

E. Permitted Fishing Locations

Fishing will be permitted in all areas not posted as off limits. Fishing is not permitted within thirty (30) yards of another contestant's boat unless consent is given by party in other boat. All fishing is to be done from the boat.

A violation of the permitted fishing locations rule shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.

Trailing of boats is permitted. Said member must notify the Tournament Director and Committee in advance, and said member shall launch at time designated by Tournament Director. Said member must be at chosen ramp at designated weigh-in time.

In the event the Tournament Director feels that a particular ramp is unsafe or the waters nearby are unsafe, the Tournament Director may, at a time prior to blastoff, recommend an alternate ramp for those members who so choose to put in at an alternate ramp. The alternate ramp shall be available to any member who wishes to use it. In the event that a member wishes to utilize an alternate ramp proposed by the Tournament Director, said member shall begin his travel to the alternate ramp after blastoff of the tournament is conducted at the ramp originally chosen by the Tournament Committee. Unless otherwise announced by the Tournament Committee, the weigh-in will be conducted at the ramp originally chosen.

Any member choosing to put in at an alternate ramp shall be responsible for returning to the original launch site and shall be present at the time the tournament is over. Any member choosing to put in at an alternate ramp site shall be responsible for reporting to a member of the Tournament Committee where said member is launching, as well as the general location in which said member is fishing.

F. Boat Operation

A mutual agreement between partners must be reached prior to take off in regard to boat operation. It is recommended that each partner operate the front of the boat (trolling motor) and pick the desired fishing locations at least fifty percent (50%) of the time. It is expected that each participant will operate the boat as to not handicap the other participant at any time (front-ending).

G. Safety

Boat should be at least fifteen and one-half (15 ½') feet in length and seventy (70") inches wide. Forty (40) HP motor or larger with no stick or tiller steering and deemed safe for tournament fishing with two (2) people by the tournament committee.

All boats will be operated in a safety and courteous manner. Every boat must have the required U.S. Coast Guard equipment. Kill switches must be installed and used at all boats that have an electric start motor and will be checked periodically, at random. Defective kill switches must be repaired prior to next tournament or boat owner will not receive daily five (5) participation points.

Everyone is required to wear a life vest that is secured (fully zipped or buckled) at any time in which the gas motor is in operation, including idling. The boater shall not only have his life vest securely fastened, but shall

also have the kill switch attached firmly to the kill switch mechanism. A non-boater shall also be required to make sure that the kill switch is attached.

H. Fishing Hours

Hours will have been previously determined at meeting prior to tournament. Club tournaments shall not exceed nine (9) hours in length per day. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change the tournament hours in case of emergency. Any member leaving tournament waters early should notify another member or leave message on member's vehicle, or participation points are forfeited for both members.

A night tournament shall not exceed twelve (12) hours in length. A night tournament shall be defined as follows:

Any tournament in which the total time fished in darkness exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the total time fished. (Official DNR sunrise/sunset times shall apply).

I. Weigh-In

Conducted at the launch site, as close to the water's edge as possible. Contestants will turn in their catch to a tournament official immediately upon docking. Bass must be in a plastic bag or similar holding device to facilitate handling. There should be enough water in the bag to cover the fish. Weighing of fish on water is permitted at discretion of tournament director or committee.

No tournament fish shall be permitted to leave the lake with any member, non-member, or other disinterested third party, unless such fish is dead or deemed by the Tournament Committee to not have a substantial chance of living. Any dead fish determined by the Tournament Committee shall leave the lake with a member and shall not be permitted to be distributed to non-members or other disinterested third parties. An exception to this rule shall be any fish which needs to be registered with the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes of scientific study, weighed on official scales for scientific study, or a fish that the Tournament Committee deems to be a "trophy" and that will be mounted by a member.

J. Scoring

Only Black Bass, Largemouth, Smallmouth, and spotted Bass will be eligible for weighing. The number of bass each contestant will be allowed to weigh in shall not exceed the legal bass limit for the state or lake in/on in which the tournament is held. Indian's legal bass limit is five (5) bass of any combination of the above mentioned. At no time shall any member have more than the legal limit for the body of water. Under no circumstances will a bass under ten (10") inches be counted or ten (10) for spotted bass. Length will be determined by keeping the mouth closed and bumping the nose up against the edge of the bump board. Any way the tail can then be pinched to get it across is legal. Fish will be bumped by the Tournament Committee or ranking officer present.

K. Takeoff

Determined in accordance to draw, first boat owner and non-boat owner drawn will be first to take off, etc. All tournaments will be a staggering start in twenty (20) second intervals. Last person drawn will be in charge of takeoff. Starting position will be reversed on second day of two (2) day tournament.

L. Penalties

1. Late Dues – no points will be given and participant will not be allowed in the next tournament draw until current dues are paid.
2. Violation of permitted fish locations:
 - a. 1st violation – deduction of ½ total weight and ½ tournament points;
 - b. 2nd violation – disqualification from tournament, no weight and no tournament points.
3. Violation of any Club rules concerning safety, illegal fish (1” under-sized) will result in minimum penalty of ten (10) points and maximum penalty of disqualification and/or expulsion.
4. The Tournament Committee, at its discretion, may decide the penalty for the violation of any other rules which it deems a member has violated.
5. A 3 oz. penalty for each dead fish. Said penalty shall not apply to Big Bass weight.

M. Use of Alcohol and Controlled Substances

Use of alcohol or any controlled substances during tournament hours will result in disqualification and loss of all points of contestant. Also, no alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are to be in use during tournament hours.

Anyone arriving at the tournament site that appears to be physically or mentally impaired due to consumption or use of alcohol or controlled substance, will be subject to elimination from participation in the tournament.

N. Littering

No member shall be permitted to litter at any time during a Club-Sanctioned event. This provision covers not only the time contestants are on the water, but also times in which contestants are launching and weighing in. The term “littering” shall be broadly defined by the Tournament Committee. Littering shall include, but not limited to, the discarding of cans, bottles, plastic, paper, or other generally-recognized products (including glass containers for cigars), plastic baits, worms, grubs, other various trailers, and discarded fishing line.

Section 2: Point Scoring

A.

1 st Place	30 Pts	9 th Place	14 Pts
2 nd Place	28 Pts	10 th Place	12 Pts
3 rd Place	26 Pts	11 th Place	10 Pts
4 th Place	24 Pts	12 th Place	8 Pts
5 th Place	22 Pts	13 th Place	6 Pts
6 th Place	20 Pts	14 th Place	4 Pts
7 th Place	18 Pts	15 th Place	2 Pts
8 th Place	16 Pts		

- B. There will be five (5) participation points given for each tournament day in which a member participates. For two-day tournaments, a total of ten (10) consecutive points will be awarded, five (5) points per day.

- C. Anyone weighing fish will be awarded one (1) point position plus weigh points after 15th place.
- D. Two (2) points will be awarded for attending a Club meeting. If unable to attend the meeting, you must notify one of the officers of the Club. A member shall be deemed to have attended a meeting if member has an excused absence. An excused absence will be given for work, school or medical emergency for personal or immediate family. One (1) unexcused absence will be permitted.
- E. Late returns to the weigh-in will be docked one-half (1/2) pound off of their total weight for that day for each minute that they are late, up to a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes, at which time total weight for that day will be forfeited.
- F. It will be the Tournament Director's responsibility to ensure the tournament rules are adhered to in all cases. The five (5) members of the Tournament Committee will be responsible for ensuring the scales, bump board determining length and books for keeping proper records are present at weigh-in. The Committee will also be responsible for weighing in the fish and, in general, running a smooth and fair contest.
- G. In most cases, the Tournament Committee will be required to be at the weigh-in site first and on the front end making sure no local fishing laws are being violated. The Tournament Director can delegate the responsibility for keeping a running total of all points acquired by the Club members in Club competition and also a running total of pounds and ounces. Attendance points shall be awarded per the Club Secretary's records.

Section 3: Club Trophies and Awards

- A. There will be tournament plaques awarded to the first two places. The plaques will be engraved with the place won, date, amount of weight, and tournament site. The awards will be presented at the year-end banquet.
- B. Yearly awards will consist of:
 - First through Eighth Place – recognition with certificate of placement
 - Mister Bass Plaque – presented to the smaster with the highest accumulated point total for the year. In case of a tie, total weight in tournament competition will be the guiding factor.
 - Boss Bass Award – presented to the Club member in good standing who catches the largest, by weight, bass of the year.
 - Boss Stringer Award – presented to the club member at the end of the year for weighing in the largest stringer (in pounds) caught in Club competition.
 - The Sportsmanship Award – a coveted award given to a Club member voted to receive it by follow Club members. This is a floating trophy passed on yearly.
 - Most Improved Fisherman and/or Rookie of the Year – the Tournament Committee shall decide with ONE (1) of the two awards shall be presented and to whom the award shall be presented. The person most improved in position from the preceding year may receive the “Most Improved Fisherman” award. The highest finishing

rookie may win the Rookie of the Year award. The Tournament Committee's decision as to the award and the recipient shall be final.