



Organizational Guidelines and By-Laws

Revised July 31, 2011

Statement of Purpose and Mission:

The purpose and mission of the Olive Bass Club shall be:

1. To promote Christian fellowship to church members through the sport of bass fishing.
2. To provide a means for developing friendship and ministry to all bass fishermen.
3. To provide a means for teaching the sport of bass fishing to the youth of our church and community.
4. To work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and other conservation groups to enhance bass fishing in our region.
5. To maintain a high level of integrity within the sport of bass fishing.

Membership:

1. Members of Olive Baptist Church are eligible for membership.
2. Unchurched prospects are invited to join the club for the expanse of three tournaments. After three tournaments, unchurched members will be encouraged to participate in Sunday school or worship monthly.
3. Active members of other churches will be allowed to participate as members of the club. This participation will not be used as leverage for membership at Olive Baptist Church but considered a ministry to our sister churches.
4. Any Olive Baptist Church member may recommend members of other churches to the Olive Bass Club.
5. Participation in one tournament event enrolls the participant in club membership for the balance of that fishing year (October – September).

General Statement and Goals:

1. All events will be geared to promote knowledge of bass fishing and ministry through recreation.
2. Tournament tally sheets will be developed that will accumulate information for club records as well for providing the Florida State Game and Fish Commission with information gathered about sport fishing in our area.
3. Data shall be maintained for use in future years to improve the organization.
4. The Olive Bass Club will submit its operation and direction to Jesus Christ and the leadership of Olive Baptist Church.
5. Financial records of the club will be kept by the Recreation Ministry of Olive Baptist Church and are open to inspection by any church member. Actual club monies will be managed through the Recreation Ministry and the church's Administrative Office.
6. A newsletter will be developed for the club's members and sent out shortly after each fishing event. The newsletter should include data from the event, upcoming events and any other noteworthy items deemed appropriate by the club's leadership or newsletter editor.
7. A year-end banquet shall be held after the last event in August but before the first event in September.

Club Officers:

1. Club officers shall be as follows: President; Vice-President; Treasurer; Tournament Director; Public Affairs/Secretary/Newsletter Editor; New Members Contact/Special Events Tournament Director; and Kid's Tournament Director.
2. All officers shall be members of Olive Baptist Church.
3. New officers shall be nominated by the current officers at the July officer's meeting. Prior to their nomination, the new officer nominees will be asked if they would serve (volunteers) if confirmed.
4. Officer nominations shall be confirmed at the August meeting of the club and shall be presented to the general membership at the year-end banquet.
5. The club's officers operate as the Fishing Subcommittee and produce the yearly tournament schedule.
6. The President functions as the chairman at all meetings and votes in a tie-breaking role only.
7. The President reports to the Olive Baptist Church's Recreation Minister or Recreation Committee as directed.

End of Year Awards:

1. **Angler of the Year** - This award will be awarded to the club member who amasses the most points during the fishing year.
2. **Top Six Fishermen** -These awards will go to the six club members who have amassed the most points during the fishing year. The Angler of the Year shall be included in this number.
3. **Lunker of the Year** – This award will go to the club member who weighed in the heaviest lunker during the fishing year.
4. **Heaviest Creel** – This award will go to the two club members who comprised the team that weighed in the heaviest creel during the fishing year. If the heaviest creel was weighed in by a member fishing alone; this will be an individual award.
6. Other awards will be awarded as deemed appropriate by the committee.

Tournament Fees and Prizes:

1. **The tournament fee shall be \$20.00 and must be paid prior to fishing in the tournament and should be paid at the pre-fish meeting. If the tournament fee is paid at the pre-fish meeting and the member is unable to fish in the scheduled tournament, the fees paid will roll over to the next tournament in which that member fishes.** The tournament fee disbursement is as follows: The first \$15.00 goes to paying the daily tournament prizes and the lunker award. Three dollars (\$3.00) are held back to defray expenses of the yearly Kid’s Tournament and \$2.00 are used to defray expenses of the End of the Year Awards banquet.
2. The Lunker Award shall be a prize as deemed appropriate by the committee.
3. The team prizes will be gift certificates to local sporting goods stores on a rotating basis and shall be an identical prize for each team member.
4. Team prizes will be computed on a sliding scale and based on the number of paid participants at each tournament. The value of place awards and the number of positions paid will increase with greater numbers of participants. The following in an **example** of the team prizes to be awarded:

<u>No. of boats</u>	<u>1st place</u>	<u>2nd place</u>	<u>3rd place</u>	<u>4th place</u>	<u>Lunker</u>
6	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 0	\$ 0	*
7	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 0	\$ 0	*
8	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 20	\$ 10	*
9	\$ 45	\$ 35	\$ 20	\$ 15	*

* In all tournaments with eight or more fishermen, the lunker prize shall be a prize of \$40 value. With fewer than eight fishermen, the value of the lunker prize will be reduced accordingly.

Club Meetings:

1. Unless otherwise notified, club meetings shall be held at 4:45-6:00 pm on the Sunday

afternoon preceding the tournament event in the Olive Baptist Church's *Community Room unless otherwise designated by the President or presiding officer.*

Tournament Rules:

1. The following fish which comply with any applicable state laws shall be eligible for weigh-in at all Olive Bass Club tournaments: largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Kentucky spotted bass and/or redeye bass.
2. Any fisherman scheduled to participate in a club tournament that is unable to fish due to unforeseen circumstances (sickness, work, etc.) shall call the Tournament Director as soon as possible so that a possible replacement may be contacted.
3. There shall be a five fish per team limit and all fish shall be a minimum of 12 inches in length. Only five fish may be brought to the scales and all culling should be done so that a maximum of five fish are in the live well at any one time.
4. The two-man fishing teams shall consist of two club members or a club member and an appropriate guest. A boater may fish as a single member team if the non-boater has to cancel and a suitable substitute cannot be found and may weigh in five fish as provided for elsewhere in these tournament rules. A single team boater shall only be required to pay a single entry fee and will be awarded half of any team place prize earned as a result of the day's fishing activity.
5. Contestants under the age of 18 shall be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. However, if the parent or legal guardian desires not to fish, no fees shall be collected from them. It shall be left to the discretion of the boater whether or not to take a minor on board.
6. The use or possession of drugs and/or alcohol during any club activity is strictly prohibited.
7. All tournaments shall begin with prayer requests and prayer. The prayer shall take place at the prescribed time or later at the discretion of the Tournament Director should circumstances dictate delaying the prayer time (e.g., all boats not launched). All boaters should make every effort to be launched ten minutes before the scheduled prayer in order to facilitate fellowship. Fishing shall be allowed immediately after the prayer. Tournament weigh-in time shall be 3:00 pm unless otherwise directed by the Tournament Director prior to the beginning of the tournament. Due to the heat during summertime tournaments, tournaments weigh-in time will usually be 1:00 pm unless otherwise specified. The tournament ends upon completion of the weigh-in and presentation of tournament prizes.
8. There shall be no fishing within 150 feet of another contestant's boat in rivers or in the same hole on small lakes such as Bear, Hurricane, etc, without the permission of the other contestant.
9. Weighing in of a short fish will result in the biggest fish in the team's creel being forfeited. Each short fish presented for weigh-in will result in forfeiture of a bigger fish in the creel starting with the biggest fish and working down if more than one short fish is presented. A single courtesy check will be performed for one fish per weigh-in. The request for a courtesy check must be made prior to the fish being presented for weigh-in.
10. A yellow belly board will be used to measure fish.

11. A contestant will be disqualified if not within 150 feet of the tournament launch site at the prescribed weigh-in time.
12. The Tournament Director's watch shall be used to determine the official start and stop times for all club tournaments.
13. All contestants should participate in the weigh-in even if no fish are weighed in. This will help ensure that everyone is accounted for and no contestant is left on the water with possible problems. *In the event that a contestant must leave early, every effort should be made by that contestant to notify the Tournament Director or another contestant either via cell phone or a note attached to another contestant's vehicle.*
14. All tournament fees shall be paid prior to the tournament start time.
15. All contestants must fish from the boat during tournaments and contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish. All boats must remain in designated tournament waters during the tournament day. Trailering a boat to another location is prohibited.
16. All contestants must abide by all applicable state and local laws.
17. The owner of the boat should operate the gas-powered outboard. Partners should determine where they will begin fishing prior to departing the launch site at the start of the tournament. The operation of the trolling motor while fishing should be shared equally and should also be determined prior to the start of the tournament. Life jackets must be worn properly when the gas-powered motor is in operation at speeds above idle. If the motor is equipped with a kill switch, it must be attached to operator during gas-powered motor operation. All boats must be equipped with an operational aerated live well. In addition, all Coast Guard required safety equipment must be onboard and in good working order.
18. In the event that two or more teams weigh creels of identical weight, the largest fish in each creel shall be used as the tie breaker. If the largest fish in each creel weighs the same, the number of fish in the creel shall be used as the second tie breaker. If the teams remain tied after these two tie breakers, a draw shall be declared and all the prizes for the positions involved shall be combined and divided equally among the participants. In the event two or more participants weigh in lunkers of identical weights, the weight of the creel of the respective teams shall be used as the tie breaker. If, at the end of the fishing year, two or more members are tied for the Angler of the Year award, a fish-off will be held. This fish-off will be scheduled prior to the year-end banquet and will be held at a site and time determined by the club's officers. Participants in the fish-off must select a partner from members of the club during the preceding fishing year.
19. The composition of the teams shall be determined at the pre-fish meeting. Only parent/child and/or husband/wife teams will always be allowed to fish together, even in draw tournaments. Non-boaters attending the meeting will have priority for fishing spots.
20. To promote fellowship, rotation of partners is encouraged. If a draw tournament is held, the Tournament Director shall conduct the draw at the pre-fish meeting.
21. Failure to comply with club rules will result in disqualification for that tournament day.
22. Catch and release shall be practiced at all club tournaments.

23. Only artificial baits may be used.
24. Only one rod and reel may be fished at a time.
25. Fishing partners should share gas and oil expenses for both the boat and tow vehicle when applicable.
26. The Tournament Director is responsible for the final decision on fishing when unforeseen circumstances arise. It shall be his responsibility to make judgments as to when the tournament can begin because of storms, fog, etc. He shall be responsible for calling off tournaments if necessary because of hurricanes or other inclement weather conditions. This could be done as late as at the launch site on the morning of the tournament. In addition, if the possibility exists that all launch sites on the lake or river designated as the tournament site which lie within 60 miles of I-10 and Davis Highway (as the crow flies) could be under water, the Tournament Director is authorized to call the tournament off. If the Tournament Director calls a tournament off due to mitigating circumstances, he shall survey the members that are signed up to fish as to what location the tournament should be moved. Moving a tournament should be done only as a last resort. Moving the tournament on the same day due to mitigating circumstances shall not affect the point awards. All questions concerning the tournaments should be directed to the Tournament Director. If the Tournament Director is not present, the unforeseen and mitigating circumstances issues shall fall to the President or the highest ranking club officer present (See #1 under Club Officers). If the Tournament Director is not going to fish in the next tournament, the highest ranking officer who will be fishing should be recognized and his phone number given to all attendees at the pre-fish meeting.

Team Points:

In order to determine the Angler of the Year and the Top Six Fishermen, points shall be awarded to members throughout the fishing year. The points shall be awarded as follows:

1. Two (2) points shall be earned for attending the pre-fish meeting.
2. Three (3) points shall be awarded for participation in the monthly tournament.
3. Five (5) points shall be awarded for working the Kid's Tournament.
4. One point (1) shall be awarded for each pound of bass weighed in. Fractional amounts will also be awarded, e.g., 4.8 lbs. = 4.8 points. These points will be awarded equally to each member of the team. **There will be a 1/2 pound (.50) penalty assessed for each dead fish in the creel including the lunker and all penalties will be applied prior to the awarding of any prizes.**
5. Three (3) points shall be awarded for finishing in first place in the tournament; second place will be awarded 2 points; and a third place tournament finish. be awarded 1 point. These points will be awarded to each member of the team.
6. One (1) point will be awarded for the tournament lunker. This point will be awarded only to the contestant who catches the fish.
7. If a boater is unable to fish and no suitable partner can be found for the non-boater who is able to fish, the non-boater will be awarded 3 points and no tournament entry fee is required of the non-boater. If a non-boater partner is

unable to fish, the boater will either fish with a suitable substitute coordinated with the Tournament Director or fish alone as a single-man team.

8. If three participants are fishing from a single boat, only two may fish at any one time (two baits in the water at one time). Each member of the trio will accumulate points commensurate with the team's finishing place in the tournament as outlined above. The five fish limit still applies. The three-man team will divide the two-man team prize and only a two-man fee will be required of the three-man team.
9. In an effort to promote fellowship among club members *and in keeping with the purpose and mission of the Olive Bass Club, two (2) fellowship bonus points will be awarded members under the following conditions:*
 - a. *if that member attends or makes his intention to fish known before the pre-fish meeting (if unable to attend the meeting) for a non-draw tournament unpartnered and allows the Tournament Director to partner him with another member.*
 - b. *if a member brings a partner who is a first time fisherman with OBC.*
 - c. *if a member fishes with a youth partner provided the youth partner has not yet begun high school, paid the appropriate tournament fee and is actually in the boat and fishing.*

The Tournament Director will make every effort not to partner the same two people two months in a row and fellowship bonus points will be limited to two (2) points per tournament per fisherman.

Tournament Season:

1. The tournament season will be October through September of each year.
2. It is recognized that conflicts between the yearly tournament schedule established at the beginning of the club year and other church activities may arise; therefore, the club reserves the right to change tournament dates during the fishing year. The Minister of Recreation will notify the club officers of conflicts with tournament dates if, and when, they arise. The Minister of Recreation will be the final authority for the need to reschedule a tournament to avoid any conflict with the ministries of Olive Baptist Church. Once any conflicts are identified, the club officers shall be responsible for selecting an alternative date for the tournament. Members participating in a rescheduled tournament will be required to pay the regular tournament entry fee and prizes will be awarded as described elsewhere in these by-laws.

End of Year Classic Tournament:

1. All club members who have accumulated a minimum of 25 points *and fished in at least three (3) tournaments* during the current fishing year shall be eligible for participation in the End of Year Classic.
2. Regular tournament fees shall apply.
3. Contestants may individually weigh 5 bass at the End of Year Classic.
4. The End of Year Classic shall be open to all other club members who wish to fellowship but they shall be ineligible for any prizes or awards. No tournament fees are required for non-eligible participants but any boating expenses should be shared if fishing with a partner.

Kid's Tournament:

1. The club will conduct a Kid's Tournament annually.
2. This ministry will be a pan fish outing for children.
3. Contestants for prize categories will be 16 years or younger.
4. All adult club members should assist in this tournament with the intent of promoting fishing techniques and Christian fellowship with young people.

By-Law Revisions:

1. *These Organizational Guidelines and By-Laws shall be revised by the officers of the club in July of each year. Any proposed changes shall be presented to the club members for approval at the August meeting.*
2. *Any member of the club may propose changes to the by-laws at the August meeting of the club.*