

# **Oakland County Bass Anglers**

## **Club By-Laws**

**Revised – 05-09-2022**  
**D. A. Decker**

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## **SECTION 1 - Name, Purpose and Affiliations**

- 1.A. The name of this club is the Oakland County Bass Anglers, herein referred to as the O.C.B.A.
- 1.B. The purpose of this club is to promote bass fishing through friendly, competitive tournaments and to teach angling techniques through seminars of individual member's experiences.
- 1.C. Affiliations are subject to membership approval.

## **SECTION 2 - General Club Rules**

- 2.A. Club membership is limited to 30 members.
- 2.B. The Club will try and maintain a 60 / 40 mix of boat owners vs. non-boat owners at all times.
- 2.C. All active members must agree to obey all club By-Laws.
- 2.D. All active members must participate in at least one-half of the club's point's tournaments each year.
- 2.E. All members must upon paying their initial yearly dues supply the Club Secretary with a signed Oakland County Bass Anglers Liability Release form. This is a onetime occurrence.
- 2.F. All active members must participate in at least two-thirds of the club's membership meetings each year. Excused absences include work, illness, school, vacations and unforeseen emergencies. All other absences must be approved by a club Officer to be excused.
- 2.G. The term "year" in these By-Laws is defined as the period of time between November 1 and October 31 of each year unless otherwise noted.
- 2.H. Motions concerning club matters or revisions to these By-Laws can be made at any membership meeting where at least one-half of the active club members are present.
  - 2.G.1. These motions must be made and seconded before discussed in detail.
  - 2.G.2. These motions must carry a majority vote of the attending active members to be acted upon.
  - 2.G.3. Club members retain their right to vote on Club matters until December 31<sup>st</sup> of their current membership year.
- 2.I. Safety rules concerning club tournaments may be acted on and added to these By-Laws at any membership meeting or enacted by the club Officers.
- 2.J. All financial transactions will be approved by the Treasurer and the President (or another officer if he / she cannot be contacted) before the transaction is carried out.

- 2.K. Any member wishing to use his / her boat during a Club sanctioned event must first present a valid liability insurance policy covering their boat.

### **SECTION 3 - Membership**

- 3.A. Membership approval will be by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the attending active members at a membership meeting or specially called meeting by the President.
- 3.B. Membership voting will be done by secret ballot.
- 3.C. Membership qualifications:
- 3.C.1. All prospective new members must attend at least two club functions. The first of these functions being a regular membership meeting where application for membership is made.
- 3.C.2. Prospective Junior members must meet the same qualifications as prospective new members, be at least 14 years of age and less than 18 years of age, and have an Oakland County Bass Angler Liability Release Form signed by a parent or guardian.
- 3.C.2.1 Prospective Junior members between the ages of 16 and 18 wishing to be a boat owner / operator must first have a valid Drivers License, passed a Michigan Boater Safety Class and permission from the Tournament Committee.
- 3.D. Former members are defined as those who have left the club in good standing and were not inactive the previous year.
- 3.D.1. Former members wishing to return to the membership must meet the same qualifications as prospective new members.
- 3.E. Inactive Members Program:
- 3.E.1. Any member who can't continue as an active member can become an Inactive Member by a two-thirds approval vote of the attending active members at any regular membership meeting.
- 3.E.2. Inactive Members can continue as long as the \$10.00 Inactive dues are paid each year.
- 3.E.3. An Inactive Member wishing to return to the active membership must attend one regular membership meeting stating his desire to become active again. If there are already 34 active members, the Inactive Member seeking active membership will have his name placed at the top of the membership waiting list and is given first consideration for active membership when an opening becomes available.
- 3.E.4. Approval for active membership from the Inactive Members Program must be approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the attending active members at the meeting the request is made.

- 3.E.5. If two Inactive Members request membership at the same time and there is only one active membership place to be filled to make the limit of 30 member roster, the decision to which Inactive Member will become active will be made according to the amount of seniority they have. The Inactive Member with the most active membership (year, months and days) will be allowed to become active again first. The other Inactive Member seeking active membership will have his name placed at the top of the waiting list according to rule number three above.
- 3.E.6. Inactive Members may attend any club function.
- 3.E.7. Inactive Members will receive a monthly newsletter and any other information of interest to the membership.
- 3.E.8. Tournament scores of Inactive Members participating in club points or Classic tournaments will not count toward places, awards, patches or trophies.
- 3.G. Membership Dues:
  - 3.G.1. New and active membership dues are \$75.00 annually.
    - 3.G.1.a. Membership dues pay for the yearly point's tournaments, annual Awards Banquet and a club logo patch for new members.
  - 3.G.2. New and active Junior membership dues are \$35.00 annually.
  - 3.G.3. Anglers who have been an active member of the OCBA for 25 years, will be eligible for a reduced rate (equal to the same rate as a junior member fee).
  - 3.G.4. Membership dues are due at the "**1st**" membership meeting each year and must be paid by the "**2nd**" meeting each year. Active members voted into the membership after the "**2nd**" membership meeting must be paid at the time membership is approved.
  - 3.G.5. Inactive Membership dues are \$10.00 payable when the Inactive Member is approved.
    - 3.G.5.a. If active member dues have already been paid by a member obtaining Inactive membership before he / she has participated in more than (1) of the club's points tournaments, then a refund of all but the \$10.00 Inactive dues will be refunded to the member if he / she so desires.
    - 3.G.5.b. Upon reinstatement to the active membership from the Inactive Members Program, the balance of full membership dues must be paid if the reinstatement occurs when there

are 2 or more of the club's point's tournaments remaining on the tournament schedule.

3.G.6. All membership dues are forfeited by those removed from the membership for reasons stated in paragraph "H" below.

### 3.H. Membership Removal:

3.H.1. Reasons for removal from membership are:

3.H.1.a. Any act by word or deed that brings disgrace or dishonor to the club or its members.

3.H.1.b. Failure to abide by the General Rules stated in Section II, Paragraphs C, D or F.

3.H.2. It will take a two-thirds affirmative vote of the attending active members present to remove a member of the club. Qualifications for reinstatement of a removed member will be set forth by the club Officers.

### 3.I. Honorary Lifetime Member

3.I.1. Automatically bestowed when a member meets the following two criteria:

3.I.1.a. Member has retired from the club.

3.I.1.b. Member has 20 years of club service.

3.I.2. This designation may be bestowed "by exception" for a retiring member with 10 to 19 years of club service. This requires a 2/3 vote of the club members.

3.I.3. Honorary Lifetime Members are bestowed the following privileges:

3.I.3.a. Welcome to fish at any club tournament as a "guest" (Guests cannot earn points or awards).

3.I.3.b. Welcome at any club function (picnic, banquet, etc.) (Cost of the banquet dinner, launch fees, etc. will be paid by the guest.)

3.I.3.c. Lifetime subscription to the club newsletter (Currently "The Lunker")

## **SECTION 4 - Officers and Committees**

- 4.A. The club Officers will consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasury and a Tournament Director.
- 4.B. Committee members will be appointed by the chairpersons.
- 4.C. Active members in good standing are the only members who can be elected to a club office and can only serve as one Officer at a time unless an office has been vacated.
- 4.D. Active members may serve as the chairperson of more than one committee at a time.
- 4.E. Active members can't serve as President for more than two consecutive terms.
- 4.F. Members must have at least one year's active membership immediately prior to being nominated for any club office.
- 4.G. Officer's Duties:
  - 4.G.1. The President will:
    - 4.G.1.a. Preside over all club meetings and functions (except where stated otherwise).
    - 4.G.1.b. Appoint all committee chairpersons.
    - 4.G.1.c. Appoint temporary Officers to vacated offices.
    - 4.G.1.d. Serve as a member of every club committee.
    - 4.G.1.e. Ensure adherence to all By-Laws.
  - 4.G.2. The Vice President will:
    - 4.G.2.a. Assist the President in his duties.
    - 4.G.2.b. Preside over all club meetings and functions in the absence of the President.
    - 4.G.2.c. Serve as program director.
    - 4.G.2.d. Plan the educational and entertainment activities for club meetings and other events.
  - 4.G.3. The Secretary will:
    - 4.G.3.a. Maintain accurate minutes of all membership and special meetings.
    - 4.G.3.b. Maintain accurate membership rosters.
    - 4.G.3.c. Take roll call and maintain accurate membership meeting's attendance records.

- 4.G.3.d. Report these minutes and records at the request of the presiding Officer.
- 4.G.3.e. Maintain By-Laws and administer updates as necessary.
- 4.G.3.f. Maintain accurate Life time records of all tournament scores and standings.
- 4.G.3.g. Maintain a record of boat owners vs. non-boat owners and make the Club aware when there is no-longer a 60/40 mix.
- 4.G.3.h. Maintain a record of boat owners that have provided a valid liability policy covering their boat.
- 4.G.4. The Treasurer will:
  - 4.G.4.a. Maintain accurate records of all financial transactions.
  - 4.G.4.b. Collect all debts due the club and issue payments for all club debts.
  - 4.G.4.c. Make a treasury report at the request of the presiding Officer.
  - 4.G.4.d. Make every effort to turn over a minimum of \$ 200.00 to the new year's incoming Club Officers.
  - 4.G.4.e. Assure that all Club financial transactions are closed out for each year.
- 4.G.5. The Tournament Director will:
  - 4.G.5.a. Preside over all club tournaments and related meetings.
  - 4.G.5.b. Serve as Chairperson of the Tournament Committee.
  - 4.G.5.c. Maintain accurate records of all tournament scores and standings.
  - 4.G.5.d. Report all tournament records at the request of the presiding Officer.
  - 4.G.5.e. Prepare a Tournament Schedule of lakes and dates for club approval. This Schedule must be approved by 2/3 of attending members.
  - 4.G.5.f. Obtain all necessary authorizations for tournaments including:
    - 1) DNR Department of Waterways.
    - 2) DNR marine/special event permits.
  - 4.G.5.g. Set up tournament guidelines including:
    - 1) Blast-off position.
    - 2) Blast-off procedures.



- 3) Weigh-in procedures.
- 4) Partner pairings.
- 5) Safe handling and release of fish.
- 6) Non-boat owner's responsibilities.
- 4.G.5.h. Inform club of all changes to Michigan fishing laws and regulations, including local ordinances.
- 4.G.5.i. Ensure all non-boat owners are paired with a boat owner for each point's tournament.
- 4.G.5.j. Prepare and publish for club approval a budget for tournament expenses.
- 4.G.5.k. Ensure adherence to all "Tournament Rules".
- 4.G.5.l. Lead the tournament committee in determining the "Most Improved Angler of the Year" Award.
- 4.G.5.m. Upon request, form a protest committee made up of himself or his designate and at least 3 active members that will listen to and act upon any protest brought to them during any OCBA sponsored tournament events.
- 4.G.5.n Responsible for coordinating the MBI.
- 4.G.5.o No two boat owners can fish together if this means a non boat owner has to be left on shore or is forced to fish 3 in boat.

#### 4.H. Officers Elections:

- 4.H.1. Nominations for all club Officers will take place at the 2nd to last membership meeting each year.
- 4.H.2. Elections for all club officers will take place at the last membership meeting each year.
- 4.H.3. Voting for the club Officers will take place in the following manner:
  - 4.H.3.a. A voting ballot will be given to each active member of the club. This ballot will contain the names of each nominated candidate and their respective office.
  - 4.H.3.b. Each active member will select their candidate by placing a mark beside the candidate's name, sign the ballot and return it to the elections Officer before the next membership meeting each year.
- 4.H.4. At least one-half of the active members must vote (in person or absentee) in order for the elections to take place.
- 4.H.5. Election to a club office must be by majority vote.
- 4.H.6. All officers will assume their duties at the start of each new year.

4.H.7. In the case of a vacated office, the President will appoint a temporary replacement until an election for that vacated office can be held.

4.H.7.a. Members elected to a vacated office will assume their duties as soon as they are elected.

## **SECTION 5 - General Tournament Rules**

5.A. All Michigan fishing laws, boat and safety rules, local ordinances and No Wake laws apply to all club sponsored events. Disqualification will result if continued disregard for these laws and rules occurs.

5.B. All contestants of any club sponsored marine event must wear a Coast Guard approved personal Floatation Device when main engine of the craft they are in is in operation.

5.C. A proper inspection of all club tournament boats will be made by a Tournament Official prior to the start of each tournament.

5.D. All tournament boats must be equipped with a working aerated live well.

5.E. Club tournament contestants are restricted to using one (1) rod and reel at any one time. Fly Fishing is not allowed in club sponsored tournaments.

5.F. Contestants or guests are not allowed to participate in a club-sponsored tournament while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance. The discretion of the tournament committee applies in these cases.

5.G. Members fishing from another member's boat during a club tournament must offer to pay a rider fee to the boat owner. The amounts of these rider fees will be established by the tournament director prior to the beginning of the tournaments.

5.H. A minimum of fifty (50) yards must be maintained between tournament boats unless a shorter distance is agreed on by the boat owners involved.

5.I. ALL Club Tournament Lakes are OFF LIMITS twelve (12) hours prior to the starting time of each tournament.

- 5.J. The Tournament Director will keep official tournament time. Contestants must set their watches by the Tournaments Directors watch and his time is official concerning the end of the tournament.
- 5.K. A member fishing in another member's boat during a club tournament cannot insist he / she be allowed to operate the trolling motor or control the boat in any way. The non boat owner must receive the approval from the boat owner to control or fish from the front deck.
- 5.L. Both contestants fishing from the same boat have the right to fish their choice of water for at least one-half of the tournament hours.
- 5.M. Tournament starting times where a no wake law is in effect due to low light conditions requires that "Blast Off" positions be held until the boat in front of yours stops or turns off from the direction being maintained.
- 5.N. Any contestant of a club tournament who has already caught the legal limit of bass must, upon the catch of his sixth legal bass, cull a fish from his catch. Only live fish can be culled from a contestant's catch. DEAD FISH WILL NOT BE CULLED!
- 5.O. Tournament contestants must be checked in by the proper tournament official by the designated ending time for the tournament.
- 5.P. A penalty of one (1) pound will be assessed to a contestant's score, for that tournament only, for each minute late checking in for a weigh-in. After five (5) minutes late for a weigh-in the offending contestant is disqualified.
- 5.R. The times of the club tournaments will be established by the Tournament Committee.
- 5.S. There will be no leaving a tournament or a tournament boat without first notifying a tournament participant.
- 5.T. All tournament boats will be equipped with a fish measuring device.
- 5.U. Only artificial baits and lures are allowed to be used in OCBA sponsored tournaments.
- 5.V. Protest must be made prior to end of the official weigh-in. All decisions are final.
- 5.W. All Tournament boats must be equipped with a working Kill Switch and said Kill Switch must be worn at all times while the main engine is running.

- 5.X All members must attend the Pre-Tournament meeting. If unable to attend you must contact via cell phone either the Tournament Director or someone on the Tournament Committee, Failure to make this meeting will result in a one lb. penalty that will be added to your year to date totals as well as falling to the bottom position of the blast off order for that tournament. The Tournament Director and his Tournament Committee will be responsible for the interpretation of this rule as well as any disciplinary actions that may be taken.
- 5.Y. Anything not covered in the By-Laws pertaining to tournament fishing will be decided by the Tournament Director and the Tournament committee by a majority vote.

## **SECTION 6 – Tournament Scoring**

- 6.A. Scoring will be by pounds and ounces with each contestant receiving one point for each ounce of bass he / she weighs in. These points will determine each contestant's place finish at each tournament and his standings throughout the year.
- 6.A.1. A four-ounce penalty will be assessed for the first dead fish a contestant brings to a Club's Tournament weigh-in scales and an eight-ounce penalty for every dead fish after that for the remaining Club Tournaments (including the Club Classic). The Team Tournament will be the only exception and it will be four-ounces for the first dead fish and eight-ounces for each one after that.
- 6.A.2. If a contestant brings a short fish to the Official Tournament Measurer at a club Tournament:
- 6.A.2.a When a contestant presents his catch to the Official Tournament Measurer to be weight-in he can ask him for a Bump on any fish he feels may be shorter than the legal limit. He must indicated this to the Official Measurer before he presents his catch for the weight-in. If the member fails to indicate this to the Official then his catch becomes ready to be weight-in. If a short fish is detected then 6.A.2a and 6.A.2.b will be followed.
- 6.A.2.a The short fish and the largest fish in his creel will be eliminated from his catch if more than one fish in his creel.
- 6.A.2.b The short fish is eliminated from his catch and a three (3) lb penalty will be assessed to his year-to-date total if the short fish is the only fish in his creel.

- 6.A.3 In the case of a tie, the largest bass in the catch of each tied contestant will determine the winner.
- 6.A.4 All measurements will be done using DNR Rules. (Closed mouth and pinched tail)
- 6.A.5 The final standings for the year will be determined by throwing out the lowest single Points Tournament out of Eight for that year.
- 6.A.6 If there is a tie in the final standings we will go back to the totals before the lowest points tournament for that season is thrown out. If a tie still exists then the member with the largest stringer for that season will break the tie.
- 6.A.7 The Angler of the Year becomes the Captain of the MBI Team and will be responsible for Partner Pairings and the representation of The Club at the MBI.
- 6.A.8 The Top Four anglers can choose to bring their own boat, borrowed boat or just be a non-boater for the MBI. The next angler in line will have the same option until all boaters are identified.

## **SECTION 7 - The Annual Classic Tournament**

- 7.A. The Annual Classic Tournament will be a two (2) day event, Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend and held on two (2) different lakes.
- 7.B The Classic Contestants “Active Members Only” will consist of the following:
  - 7.B.1 The members placing first through eighth place at the completion of each year's club points tournaments.
  - 7.B.2. Any member finishing first through third in any of the yearly points tournaments.
  - 7.B.3. Both the First Place and Second Place finishers of the Annual Team Tournament.
  - 7.B.4. Wild Card drawing eligibility:
    - 7.B.4.a Any Club member who didn't otherwise qualify for the Annual Club Classic and has fished all the Yearly Points Tournaments receives one Ballot.
    - 7.B.4.b Any Club member who didn't otherwise qualify for the Annual Club Classic who has fished all the Yearly Points Tournament while catching at least one legal fish in each Tournament receives one additional Ballot.

The wild Card Drawing is for any Club member who didn't otherwise qualify for the Annual Club Classic. If you qualify for both "a." and "b." then you will have two (2) chances in the Drawing. Names will be randomly drawn by a member of the Tournament Committee until at least two different members commit to fish the Classic. Then one additional member will be drawn as an alternate.

7.B.5. The Tournament Director will make every effort to obtain a boat for a non-boat owner participating in the Classic.

#### 7.C The Classic Lakes:

- 7.C.1. To choose the Classic Lakes, each Classic contestant will submit two (2) name(s) of the lake(s) he/she wants as a Classic lake to the Tournament Director or his/her representative prior to the special meeting held to draw the lakes for the Classic (see 7.C.2). The lakes cannot be any of those fished as a points tournament that year."
- 7.C.2. The Classic Lakes will be a random drawing of the submitted lakes and this drawing will take place at a special meeting held the night before the Classic Tournament.
- 7.C.3. The draw will be conducted by placing the Classic contestant's ballots in a "hat" and drawing out one (1) at a time.
- 7.C.4. If a contestant's entry contains more than one (1) name on the same slip of paper, that entry will be eliminated from the drawing.
- 7.C.5. If the second lake drawn is the same as the first lake drawn, the draw will continue until two different lakes are selected.
- 7.C.6. A third lake will be drawn to establish an alternate lake. This lake must be different than first two lakes and only used if one of the originals has a conflict.
- 7.C.7. The names of the Classic Lakes will be announced as soon as they are selected.
- 7.C.8. A Classic contestant cannot receive any information concerning a classic lake or fish finding from any outside sources, including other club members.

## SECTION 8 - Awards and Trophies

8.A. Patches if desired will be awarded for the following:

8.A.1. First, Second and Third place winners of each point's tournament.

8.A.2. Angler of the Year - The First Place winner of the year.

8.A.3. Second Place of the Year.

8.A.4. Third Place of the Year.

8.A.5. Classic Champion - Winner of the Classic Tournament.

8.A.6. The Classic qualifiers.

8.A.7. The Most Improved Member of the Year

8.A.8 The Biggest Largemouth Award winner\*

8.A.9 The Biggest Smallmouth Award Winner\*

8.A.10. The Team Tournament Winners

8.B. Trophies if desired will be awarded for the following:

8.B.1 First place winners of each point's tournament.

8.B.2 Angler of the Year - The First Place Winner of the Year.

The Angler of the year may choose any type award(jacket, shirt, embroidery, cash , trophy) not to exceed \$100.00.

8.B.3. Second Place of the Year

8.B.4. Third Place of the Year

8.B.5 Classic Champion - The winner of the Classic Tournament

8.B.6. The Most Improved Member of the Year:

Based on most points from last year to current year with a minimum of 7 Tournaments fished.

8.B.7. The Biggest Largemouth Bass Award Winner\*

8.B.8. The Biggest Smallmouth Bass Award Winner\*

8.B.9. The Team Tournament winner

\* These bass must be caught and weighed in at one of the club's point's tournaments.

8.C. All those who requested patches and or trophies will be presented to them at the Annual Awards Banquet.

8.D. The following awards are not mandatory yearly awards and there is no set number of awards that must be presented.

8.D.1. Certificates of appreciation will consist of the following:

8.D.1.a The President's Award, presented by The President to an active member for outstanding services to the club.

8.D.1.b The Tournament Director's Award, presented by The Tournament Director to an active member for outstanding contributions to the Tournament Program.

8.D.1.c The Dave Owen Sportsmanship Award – Any active Club member can submit to a Club Officer a member's name along with a short explanation as to why they feel this member is deserving of this award. This will be based on his / her own interpretation of what is meant by showing outstanding sportsmanship. This submission must take place no later than the day following the Club Classic. The Club Secretary will put together a ballot made up of the submissions and submit that to the membership for a vote. The vote will be by popular vote, with the most votes being the winner. The Club Officers will act as a tie breaker if needed. This award will be given out at the annual Club Banquet.

8.D.2. The "Most Valuable Member" trophy will be passed on year to year, to the member making the most significant and valuable contribution to the success and advancement of the club, as determined by the club officers.



8.D.3. The Tom Meadows Valiant Effort Award (The Moofie) – This award may be given out at the Tournament Committee's discretion. It would be based on the least number of fish caught for 7 points tournaments fished in that year. This Award will include a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local tackle distributor.

8.D.4. The Outstanding Jr. Member Award:

The Officers can select a junior member to receive this award, which is based on 1) enthusiasm for the sport, 2) level of participation in the sport, and 3) accomplishments in the sport. As well as overall contribution to the Club.