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OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTERS INC.

CONSTITUTION

I. Name

The name of this chapter shall be the OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTERS INC. (O.V.B.M.)

II. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter shall be to have fun as sportsmen and sportswomen in fishing, to promote public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport, to promote environmental and conservation awareness, to introduce the sport of fishing and to develop the love of fishing to youth, and to promote and foster legislation and codes, which enhance these goals.

III. Affiliation

This chapter shall be affiliated with the OHIO BASS FEDERATION, Inc. (OBF)

IV. Membership

- A. The membership shall be restricted to a total of twenty-five (25) members.
- B. The current membership shall consist of a minimum of sixty percent (60%) boat owners.
- C. Each member shall maintain a membership with the national affiliate of the OBF, Inc.

V. Officers

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Tournament Director
- F. Conservation Director

VI. Board of Directors (Board)

The board of directors shall be composed of a total of six (6) members. These shall be the remaining charter members and other selected members.

VII. Standing Committees (*)

- A. Tournament Committee
- B. Conservation Committee
- C. Youth Committee

(*) Special committees will be added as required

VIII. Meetings

- A. Meetings of the chapter shall be held monthly

B. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as needed.

IX. Calendar

The chapter calendar shall be from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of each year.

X. Amendments

This constitution shall be amended by a three fourths (3/4) vote of the current dues-paid members after written notification provided to each member forty (40) days prior to the vote.

XI. Implementation

This constitution shall become effective immediately upon acceptance of the charter members

(Insert for signers dated 22 Dec. 1982)

OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTERS INC.

BY-LAWS

I. Purpose

Each member shall implement the By-Laws of this chapter at every possible opportunity. A member shall be defined as an OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTER in compliance with the constitution and by-laws of this chapter.

II. Membership Eligibility and Qualifications

A. Potential members shall be by invitation only.

1. Potential members shall serve a probationary period of at least six (6) months to commence upon payment of the current federation dues. This payment is non-refundable.

Note: Regardless of which month Potential Federation dues have been paid. Potential Federation dues must be paid again before the October meeting.

2. During the probationary period, potential members shall:

- a. Attend at least 75% of the meetings.
- b. Participate in at least two (2) tournaments with the chapter.
- c. Be at least eighteen (18) years old.
- d. Be a member of the national affiliate of the OBF, Inc.

B. Upon completion of membership requirements, the potential member may become a regular member by a unanimous vote of the current dues-paid members present and payment of the current year's full dues.

C. Regular members shall be boat owners or non-boat owners.

1. A boat owner shall be defined as a member who owns or has reliable access to a recognizable "bass boat" type fishing boat.
2. A non-boater is defined as a person who does not own or have reliable access to a "bass boat".

D. Any returning member who left in good standing, may return with full membership and voting rights.

III. Member Responsibility

A. Participate in at least 50% of all club sponsored functions plus 50% of all tournaments.

B. Any member missing more than 50% of chapter functions or 50% of tournaments in a calendar year shall lose all voting rights for the following year.

C. Failure to meet 50% participation requirements for two 2 consecutive years, for any reason other than an extenuating circumstance, will result in an immediate dismissal from the club.

D. Any member missing more than 50% of club functions or 50% of the tournaments due to a verifiable extenuating circumstance, (prolonged 2nd shift, extended illness, etc.) may apply for a temporary waiver.

E. Any member applying for a temporary waiver must do so in a formal letter to the club or in person a regular club meeting.

F. A temporary waiver may be granted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting eligible membership, provided two-thirds of the current voting eligible membership is present to vote.

G. A temporary waiver is granted for one (1) year and must be re-applied for on an annual basis, either at the Feb. club meeting or before. Failure to do so on or before the date of the February club meeting will result in immediate dismissal from the club.

IV. Senior Membership

A. Senior membership may be granted to a club member under the following conditions:

1. Member must have fifteen (15) years of membership in good standing with the club.
2. Member must have held an officers position in the club. (Pres., Vice-pres., etc.)
3. Member must be fifty-five (55) years of age or older, or disabled.
4. Member must attend two (2) club functions per calendar year, but will not be required to meet the normal club requirements.
5. If the member wishes to be in the federation they must pay their own federation membership dues.
6. Member will not be required to pay normal club dues.
7. Member will have full club voting rights.
8. Membership is by nomination and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present.
9. Senior members will not be counted in the regular twenty-five (25)-member club by-law.

V. Nominations and Elections

A. Nominations for offices will be made annually at the September meeting.

B. Elections will be held at the succeeding October meeting.

C. Winners determined by simple majority vote of those voting members present.

D. New officers shall take office at the November meeting.

VI. Voting

- A. Only dues-paid members present who meet their responsibilities under section IIIA shall be permitted to vote.
- B. No potential member or guest will be present during the discussion or vote on new members or the passive censure of regular members.
- C. Discussion of new members, constitution, by-laws, or tournament rules, shall be conducted by roll call with three minutes for discussion and two (2) minutes for rebuttal for each member. Rebuttal will be allowed only after all members present have had the opportunity for comment. Subsequent voting on the issue shall be by roll call. Discussion may also be conducted by internet or telephone. Absentee votes may be registered by E-Mail "Send All" or a telephone call to an OVBM officer.

VII. Terms of Office

Officers shall be elected to a one-year term of office. Each officer may be re-elected at the end of the current term in office. Officers may serve no more than (5) consecutive terms in the same office.

VIII. Vacancy in Office

Except for President, should an office become vacant, the board of directors shall appoint a replacement to the office for the unexpired term.

IX. Officer's Duties

A. President

Shall serve as presiding officer at all regular and special chapter projects, direct the official business of the chapter, serve as official chapter spokesperson, assure the chapter fulfills all chapter obligations to maintain affiliation.

B. Vice-president

Vice –President shall serve in the absence of the President as President, serve as program chairperson, assist the President as requested, assume office of President if it should become vacant, chair all committees except tournament and conservation committees.

C. Secretary

Shall record the minutes of each meeting, be responsible for notifying members of the schedule of meetings and events, maintain a record of all correspondence, correspond with members and others at the direction of the President, and assure each member receives a copy of the constitution and by-laws, including amendments.

D. Treasurer

Receive all dues and fees, pay all bills at the direction of the President, maintain accurate financial records, and submit oral monthly reports and an annual written financial statement, to be distributed to each member.

E. Tournament Director

Chair tournament committee and is responsible for the planning and execution of all chapter sponsored tournaments, selects a committee of at least four (4) other members, has custody of all tournament equipment and maintaining records in accordance with OBF requirements, and regularly inform the members of all activities and plans of the tournament committee.

F. Conservation Director

Shall organize and conduct a conservation project each year, handle conservation issues in the club area, maintain communication with the state conservation director, act as conservation information, and try to attend at least one state board meeting per year.

X. Board of Directors Replacement

When a vacancy occurs on the board of directors, through resignation, death, or loss of membership, the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall select a replacement Board member from among the members in good standing, by a unanimous vote of the Directors.

XI. Board of Directors (Board) Duties

The board is charged with assuring that the club maintains progress toward the goals and purposes for which it was initially established. In as much, the board will be the final court of appeals on all matters involving the interpretation or application of the Constitution, By-Laws, or tournament rules.

XII. Appeals

- A. Any member may petition the Board for resolution of disputes involving interpretation or application of the Constitution, By-laws, or tournament rules. Such petitions shall be submitted in writing to any board member within fifteen (15) days of the decision in dispute. The petition shall identify the article or rule in question; give details of involvement and the rationale for non-acceptance of the decision.
- B. The board will render a decision within fifteen (15) days. This decision is final.

XIII. Standing Committee Duties

A. Tournament Committee

- 1. Arrange place, date, and times of all tournaments for the chapter.
- 2. Organize, plan, and where required, make arrangements for all chapter tournaments, ex. Permits.
- 3. Conduct weigh-in, record information.
- 4. Rule with final authority* on proper conduct, procedures, qualifications, and other matters related to the orderly conduct of each tournament. *Subject to appeal rights as stated in article XII.
- 5. Relate information on all state and national tournaments to membership.
- 6. Solicit ideas and suggestions for tournaments from the membership.

7. Provide monthly information on each local tournament.
8. Arrange for trophies and other tournament awards for year of service.

B. Conservation Committee

1. Submit for approval to the membership all proposed actions of the committee.
2. Plan, organize, and conduct at least one function annually.

C. Youth Committee

1. Chair of the committee shall be the Vice-President.
2. Submit to the membership for approval all proposed actions of the committee.
3. Shall plan, organize, and conduct at least one function annually to introduce youth to safety and the sport of fishing.

XIV. Special Committee Duties

Special committees shall be formed for specific purposes of the chapter.

XV. Charter Members

Charter members shall serve on initial Board of Directors, serve as official member of any committee according to individual preference, and be sole membership eligible to vote on the first five (5) new members.

XVI. Local Tournament Rules

A. The Tournament Committee shall prepare and publish a set of Tournament Rules for acceptance by the chapter.

B. National affiliate and OBF rules apply when not covered by chapter rules.

XVII. Dues

A. Regular membership dues shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year, plus the current federation dues.

B. Annual dues are payable at the August meeting.

C. Potential members are required to pay their Federation dues at time of acceptance as a potential member. If they become a regular member within the calendar year, twenty dollars (\$20.00) is payable at the time of selection.

D. Non-payment of dues by the start of the October meeting shall result in dismissal from the chapter.

XVIII. Member Censure and Expulsion

A. Members will abide by the Chapter Rules, Conduct themselves with dignity and demonstrate high ethics at all times. Failure to do so may be cause for censure by the membership. Censure is a warning to members that their behavior is unacceptable to the Chapter and that continuance of such conduct may result in dismissal from the chapter.

1. Censure based on ascertainable misconduct requires two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those dues-paid members present at any regular meeting. The vote of the member-in-question is not counted.
2. Any member receiving two (2) or more censures in a one (1) year period may be brought before the membership for a vote on expulsion from the chapter.

B. Members may be expelled for willful misconduct reflects unfavorably on the purposes and goals of the chapter or which adversely affects the orderly conduct of the chapters business. A vote on whether or not to expel may be taken without an intervening vote on censure. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the majority is required for expulsion and two-thirds (2/3) of the regular dues paid members must be in attendance. The member under consideration is not counted in either of the two-thirds (2/3) requirements for vote.

XIX. Amendments

- A. These by-laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership, provided:
1. The entire membership has been notified forty (40) days in advance.
 2. The amendments have been discussed and tabled at previous meeting. Amendments may be discussed by internet or telephone.
 3. Absentee votes may be registered by E-mail "Send All" or a telephone call to an OVBM officer.

XX. Parliamentary Procedures

Any parliamentary situation not specifically addressed in the Constitution and By-Laws shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised.

XXI. Implementation

These By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon acceptance of the Charter Members.

(MEMBERS SIGNATURES ARE HERE) December 22, 1982

OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTERS INC.

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Date	Description of Change
August 9, 2002	Original e-version
August 3, 2003	Standing Rule 2E and 2F added. Increase \$100 to \$200.
December 3, 2003	Changed document format: Moved Executive Committee Members to first page. Changed Tournament Rule 11D: 5 to 15 points. Changed Standing Rule 1.B.3: Tournament pairings for boaters determined by standing. Changed Standing Rule 4D: 8 to 7 tournaments.
April 7, 2004	Added "Note" to By-Law II.A.1 for Potential Member dues.
November 3, 2004	Changed document format: Moved Table of Contents to first page. TOC list linked to headings in e-version. Deleted XIII.B.1: Chair of Committee shall be the Vice-President.
December 1, 2004	Changed Tournament Rule 15: \$100,000 to \$300,000 liability coverage. Changed Standing Rule 4D- 7 to 8 Tournaments per season.
May 4, 2005	Changed By-Law II.A.1.Note: November to October Changed By-Law XVII.B: September to August Changed By-Law XVII.D: November to October
April 5, 2006	Changed Const. III Affiliation: OBCF to OBF Changed IV. Membership C: BASS to national affiliate Changed II. Membership Eligibility and Qualifications A.2.d: BASS to national affiliate Changed XVI. Local Tournament Rules B.: BASS to national affiliate Changed Tour. Rule III: BASS to national affiliate Standing Rule 5E: BASS to national affiliate
December 6, 2006	Changed IV. Senior Membership A.4 Requirements from 4 to 2
February 7, 2007	Changed Standing Rule 1.B.3: Boater-boater: Right to split
May 5, 2010	Executive Committee members changed
November 2,2016	Changed Tournament Rules III.11 & III.1
January 12, 2017	Changed Constitution VI.C Voting Changed By-Law XIX Amendments Added Standing Rule #2.C

Nov. 13, 2022	<p>Added By-Law II.D Changed Standing Rule II.12.A.9 added “per fish” Changed Standing Rule II.12.A.10 added “per fish” Added II.12.A.15.K Removed Standing Rule #2. A, B & C</p> <p>A. <i>The top one-third (33%) of fishermen will receive awards annually. The amount of this award will be approximately fifty dollars (\$50). The exact amount will be determined by club vote at the end of the tournament year. In addition, the top individual will receive the rotating trophy identifying him as the chapters “Mr. Bass”. Standings are determined by the overall scores, including any penalties, computed at the conclusion of the year’s tournament schedule. A trophy will be awarded annually to the fisherman who catches the largest bass during a chapter tournament.</i></p> <p>B. <i>The top one-third (33%) of fishermen comprise the Chapter Team(s) and will represent the chapter in Federation competition. They will have their entry fees paid to the Regional Tournament after commitment. If one-third results in an odd number, one additional member will be sent to accommodate the “team” concept. Alternates will substitute for the original team members unable to compete. The placement of finish will determine the option of being a boater or alternate in descending order. Any member may participate in the Regional Tournament at their own expense. Any additional participation in Federation Tournaments will be at the fisherman’s expense.</i></p> <p>C. <i>Any member paid in full by the “Fall of the Gavel” at the October meeting in 2016, will have his entry fee paid to the Region V Tournament in 2017(Will be reviewed annually to reinstate for the next year).</i></p> <p>Added New Standing Rule #2 A, B, & C Removed Standing Rule #3 A</p> <p><i>Tournament entry fees are twenty (\$25.00) dollars for each tournament. Fifty percent (50%) of those fees go to the chapter treasury. The remaining fifty percent (50%) will be returned according to the following formula:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>1st Place - 45%</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>2nd Place - 35%</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>3rd Place - 20%</i></p> <p>Added new Standing Rule #3 A, B & C Moved existing Standing rule #3 B to D</p>
Dec. 6, 2022	<p>Changed Tournament Rule - III, 17, B from “fifteen (15) points” to two (2) points.</p>
Jan. 31, 2023	<p>Added Tournament Standing Rule #1, E (Co-angler Expenses)</p>

Feb. 15, 2024	Updated Standing Rule #2, B from “pay \$25 for each” to “pay \$30 for each”.
Feb. 15, 2024	Updated Standing Rule #2, C - changed years to work for this season. Changed “2023” to “2024” and “2022” to “2023”
Feb. 15, 2024	Changed III,15,G from 250hp to 300hp.