

Constitution

&

Bylaws

2022

\*Updated 6/29/2021

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Metro Hawg Hunters is a MN B.A.S.S. Nation Club Member and part of the B.A.S.S. Nation. Our mission is to stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport.

Our club participates in a wide range of activities, including tournaments, conservation initiatives and youth programs. Competitors in our club compete to qualify for the MN B.A.S.S. State Tournament of Champions with hopes to advance to the ultimate goal of The Bassmaster Classic.

**OBJECTIVES**

Metro Hawg Hunters will accomplish its mission by: offering our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement; promoting adherence to all conservation codes and demanding adequate water standards; detecting and reporting polluters to appropriate authorities; improving our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass-catching techniques and ideas; attaining personal growth through participation in club functions and on-the-water competition; contributing to the enhancement of bass fishing opportunities and technologies; encouraging adult and youth involvement in bass fishing; embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.); and, functioning as a dynamic and effective liaison with other chapters of B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.

**Section I Membership**

Metro Hawg Hunters (hereinafter, Club) shall have Regular and Associate members. The Club will have not more than 24 members in total, made up of boaters and non-boaters. The number of boaters shall equal or exceed the number of non-boaters.

**Section Ia Regular Members**

A Regular Member shall be:

1. A current member of B.A.S.S.;
2. Have been an Associate Member of The Club for at least one year;
3. Have paid current membership dues in full;
4. Shall be 16 years of age on January 1st of that calendar year;

**Section Ib Associate Members**

An Associate Member shall:

1. Be a current member of B.A.S.S.;
2. Attend the designated meeting to introduce him/herself to the Club and speak to his/her interests in joining the Club;
3. Be eligible for Associate membership based on a vote of regular members pursuant to Section IId;
4. Have paid current membership dues in full;

**Section Ic Inactive Membership**

Previous members whose Regular or Associate membership is interrupted for one year or more, and who left in good standing, are eligible for membership renewal and shall maintain Associate member status for one year, provided a vacancy exists so as not to exceed 24 members. Renewing, inactive members are not subject to introduction or vote of the regular members.

**Section Id Membership Voting Rights**

Regular Members in good standing may vote in all matters pertaining to the Club, including Constitutional Bylaws, voting of new members, competition rules, and any other matter related to the business of the Club.

Associate members in good standing may vote in matters pertaining to lake selection and tournament dates. Associate members are not eligible to vote in matters related to Constitutional Bylaws, competition rules, or any other matter related to the Club.

**Section Ie Membership in “Good Standing”**

Members who maintain current B.A.S.S. membership and dues owed to The Club are deemed to be in “good standing” and shall maintain all rights eligible to members in good standing. Regular and associate members who are delinquent in membership dues or who have not maintained membership in B.A.S.S. are not in good standing and shall be ineligible to exercise any membership rights until they have satisfied all membership requirements.

**Section II Voting Regulations**

Regular and associate members in good standing are eligible to vote in matters related to The Club as outlined.

**Section IIa Changes to Constitution and Bylaws**

All matters related to constitutional amendments or changes to bylaws shall require a 2/3 majority vote of all Regular members in good standing. Regular members may cast proxy votes with written approval of the Regular member providing the proxy vote.

Any member seeking to amend The Club constitution or bylaws shall make a written proposal to the Board in advance of any club meeting prior to 12/31 of the subsequent fishing season. The proposal shall specifically detail the proposed amendment. The Board shall review the proposal and clarify the purpose and intent of the proposed amendment. The Board shall prepare the amended language, ensure it meets the proposing member’s purpose and intent, and submit the proposal to The Club membership for a vote.

**Section IIb Changes to Competition Rules**

Changes to competition rules shall require a simple majority vote of all regular members in good standing. Regular members may cast proxy votes with written approval of the Regular member providing the proxy vote.

Any member seeking to amend The Club competition rules shall make a written proposal to the Board. The proposal shall specifically detail the proposed amendment. The Board shall review the proposal and clarify the purpose and intent of the proposed amendment. The Board shall prepare the amended language, ensure it meets the proposing member’s purpose and intent, and submit the proposal to The Club for a vote.

**Section IIc Lake Selection and Tournament Dates**

The designated lake selection and tournament date meeting shall require attendance of not less than one half (1/2) of all eligible voting members.

Each year, a small group of members will research and submit to the club SIX lakes for consideration of the upcoming season. These lakes will NOT have been fished by the club in the prior THREE seasons of competition. The lakes should reflect variety, good fishing reports, and the required access to the lake and lake size. The President will prepare slips of paper containing all the lakes that the club will then take a vote. Based on the vote tabulation, the top two lakes will become competition lakes as well as Lake Minnetonka. Lake Minnetonka is one tournament on our “Home Waters”. Lastly, the club will determine a two day tournament on the MN BASS Nation selected TOC waters for the following year. These lakes will comprise our FIVE tournament lakes for that season and be considered our Regular Season.

 When conducting the vote for the first two lakes above, the third and fourth highest voted lakes serve as alternate tournament waters. For the Club TOC, the 6 teams that qualify will mutually determine a lake that meets eligibility requirements and that lake shall be a designated competition lake.

Tournament dates shall be selected through group discussion and consensus. Once proposed dates have been chosen, the President (or designee) will call for a vote on the proposed dates, which will be decided by simple majority vote of those in attendance at the designated meeting.

Members shall not cast a proxy vote for tournament dates.

**Section IIc(1) Lake Eligibility**

No lake shall be eligible to serve as a competition lake more than once every THREE years, with the exception of Lake Minnetonka. The Club home lake, Lake Minnetonka, shall be a designated competition lake not less than once per year.

Eligible lakes shall be not less than 1,000 acres in size and have not less than 15 designated trailer parking spaces available. Parking spaces can include street parking that is considered a reasonable walking distance to the ramp (Example 5-10 min walk).

 The club TOC lake shall not be less than 500 acres.

Eligible lakes shall be within 60 miles of the Delano City Offices located at 234 Second St. N., Delano, MN, as measured on Google Maps.

**Section IId Associate Membership**

After the prospective member satisfies the requirements outlined in Section IB 1, 2, and 3, Regular members in good standing will vote yay or nay to accept the prospective member as an Associate member. Acceptance requires simple majority vote of Regular members in attendance at the designated meeting, provided not less than one half (1/2) of all eligible voters are in attendance. The vote shall be conducted in the prospective member’s absence.

Associate membership is good for one year. After one year, the Associate member shall become a Regular member provided all requirements outlined in Section IA are satisfied.

**Section III Revocation of Membership**

A membership may be revoked by the Club for continued failure to pay dues, disqualification from any tournament (money, Club, B.A.S.S. sanctioned, FLW sanctioned, etc.) for verifiable cheating, or any other action the Board deems detrimental to the Club.

Revocation will be determined by 2/3 majority vote of all Regular members in good standing.

**Section IV Membership Dues & Finances**

All members are required to pay dues owed to The Club by the deadline established by the Board. Failure to pay by the deadline shall result in loss of privileges and rights associated with membership in The Club (e.g., voting, competing) until all membership requirements are fully satisfied.

**Section IVa Federation Nation Dues/MHH Dues**

All club members are required to pay a yearly flat fee of $225 if over 16 years of age (on Jan 1st) and are eligible to compete in the State Tournament of Champions (TOC) based on rankings and allocated spots from the prior year. These dues cover club membership, big bass/big bag prize money for five tournaments, club TOC price money, Federation Nation (MN) and National B.A.S.S. dues and more...

**Section IVb Metro Hawg Hunters Dues for Board members**

All members shall pay a flat fee (see section IVa in dues to the Club by the date established by the Board, except the President, Tournament Director, and Secretary/Treasurer, who shall pay $40, $30, and $20 less than the established flat fee, respectively for their service and time given to the club..

**Section IVc Finances & Records**

The Board shall ensure a checking account and credit card will be maintained for The Club. The checking account balance shall not be less than $500 during any given bank statement period. The credit card statement shall be paid in full upon receipt of each statement. Members in good standing may direct the Board to produce bank statements and records of transaction activity at any time. No member of the Board may deny a member’s access to review The Club’s financial records.

The Club funds shall be used to pay for fundraising expenses and to supplement members’ payment of lodging expenses during the State TOC. Members should plan to pay the entirety of the lodging costs as the supplemental amount contributed to lodging expenses by The Club is dependent upon available funds.

**Section IVd Fund Raising**

The Club may conduct at least one (1) fundraising event annually. All members must make a reasonable effort to attend the event or otherwise contribute to the fundraising effort(s).

**Section V Meetings**

The Board shall conduct regular meetings with all members. The dates and times of the meeting will be announced with sufficient notice to allow members reasonable opportunity to adjust schedules to attend.

The Board shall prepare a meeting agenda, which shall be distributed at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting. The agenda shall detail the topics to be discussed and any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws or Competition Rules.

**Section VI The Board**

The Board shall consist of a President, a Tournament Director, and a Secretary/Treasurer who shall be elected bi-annually to serve in the designated capacity. Board members shall be Regular members in good standing and shall be nominated by a Regular member in good standing. Upon accepting the nomination, Board members are appointed by simple majority vote of all Regular members.

**Section VIa President Duties**

The President serves as the chairman of all Club meetings and directs all official Club business for term of not more than two (2) years. S/he is responsible for ensuring Club compliance with BASS regulations, MN DNR regulations, and membership adherence to the Club constitution, bylaws, and competition rules.

An outgoing President shall have a four-year absence from serving on the Club Board before eligibility for re-election.

**Section VIb Tournament Director Duties**

The Tournament Director serves a two-year term as the Club liaison with BASS at regional and state meetings. S/he serves as the Club chairman in the President’s absence. S/he is responsible, jointly, for ensuring Club compliance with BASS regulations, MN DNR regulations, and membership adherence to the Club constitution, bylaws, and competition rules. S/he coordinates and administers Club tournaments and weigh-in scoring.

The Tournament Director shall be the successor to the President for a two-year term.

**Section VIc Secretary/Treasurer**

The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for satisfying all Club financial obligations. S/he is responsible for financial record keeping and ensuring Club funds are used in a manner consistent with Club business and in compliance with the Club constitution and bylaws. S/he is responsible, jointly, for ensuring Club compliance with BASS regulations, MN DNR regulations, and membership adherence to the Club constitution, bylaws, and competition rules. S/he is responsible for recording Club meetings.

The Secretary/Treasurer serves an indefinite term, but an eligible Regular Member in good standing may nominate a successor at any bi-annual election meeting as required in Section VI (above).

**Section VId Board Duties**

The Board is jointly responsible for completing Club business, which includes, but is not limited to: Liaison activities with BASS; providing timely payment for Club expenses; coordinating lodging during TOC; communicating with Club members about Club activities; coordinating conservation projects; attending BASS regional or state meetings; organize and coordinate youth activities in support of BASS initiatives; direct and organize all Club tournaments; ensure compliance with Club constitution, bylaws and competition rules; interpret Club rules and arbitrate infractions; ensure safe, humane handling of fish; prepare, maintain, and submit a valid membership roster to BASS; update and maintain the Club website and social media presence; and, Club recruitment efforts.

**Section VII State Tournament of Champions (TOC)**

Members eligible to compete in the State TOC shall be determined by descending order of the annual Regular Season Points ranking from the year immediately preceding the State TOC. The regular season is the FIVE regularly conducted MHH tournaments.

Competitors shall be eligible to compete as the Club Top Four Team in the State TOC. Top finishing competitors receive right of first refusal, with subsequent offers descending the Club Regular Season Points rankings. In the event the Club has room for one competitor and two are equally eligible, the two members shall determine who competes on the Top Four Team. Members competing on the Top Four Team may compete as a boater or non-boater.

All members competing in the State TOC are expected to openly and candidly share relevant information with other members of the Club. Members receiving information are expected to retain confidentiality of the information received, to the extent possible.

**Section VII Club Donation to Club Members who reach Regionals or further.**

Members who reach Regionals, also known as the “state team” will receive $200 payment to help cover expenses.