

ARTICLE 1 – Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This chapter of the Bass Anglers Sportsman’s Society (B.A.S.S.) shall be called the West Valley BassMasters of Tracy, CA, hereafter referred to as the “Club”.

Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his crime. To lobby for change to state conservation department rule(s) when the majority of our members believe such change is in the best interest of our sport. To improve our skill as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass-catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing, and a love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

ARTICLE II – Membership

Section 1: Number of Members

The chapter shall begin with and maintain as least six members.

Section 2: Requirement for Membership

To become a chapter member, a person shall:

- a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership
- b) Be a member of B.A.S.S. (See ARTICLE VI for affiliation requirements).
- c) Be a minimum 16 years of age.

Section 3: Membership Dues

The membership dues shall be determined by the Board of directors and approved by a vote of the full membership. This amount shall be published in the Rules of Conduct.

B.A.S.S. membership dues are also required at the current rate. (See ARTICLE VI, Section 1 for state affiliation requirements.

Section 4: Meetings of Members

The membership shall hold regular meetings at pre-established times and at a pre-established location.

Section 5: Membership Defined

Regular Membership: An individual is considered a “Regular Member” in good standing if his/her dues are paid in full within 90-days of the beginning of the fiscal year. Said fiscal year begins October 30 and ends September 30 of the following year.

The amount of the dues are determined by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote of the full membership. A full member is eligible to receive all Club benefits and may participate in all Club activities.

Associate Membership: An individual may obtain a limited or Associate Membership by submitting 50% of the dues required by full members and declaring his preference for an Associate Membership at that time. (For example: If full membership fees are \$200, then Associate member fees shall be \$100.) An Associate Member may upgrade his/her status to regular membership by participating in Club events (tournaments). The cost of said tournaments shall be equal to 25% of the associate membership fee. (Or \$25 in our example.) An Associate Member is considered a Regular Member when his dues and tournament participation payments are equal to 125% of the fee paid by Regular Members. (example: \$250) A Regular Member may downgrade his membership status to Associate Membership only after completing no less than one prior full year as a Regular Member in good standing.

An associate member is defined as an individual receiving all the rights and privileges of a full membership with the following exceptions:

- An Associate Member is entitled to participate in one non-event tournament and is eligible to earn prizes in that tournament.
- An Associate Member is not eligible to participate in Club sponsored drawings or parties.
- An Associate Member may participate at Club sponsored Barbeques only after his participation payment has been verified by a member of the Board of Directors.
- An Associate Member is not eligible to vote in matters of Club business.
- An Associate Member is not eligible to run for office except by unanimous approval of the Full Membership.
- An Associate Member is not eligible to receive a “Master Plaque” to affix appliquéés he/she may win in Club tournaments.

ARTICLE III – Officers, Elections, Vacancies and Eligibility

Section 1: Officers and their Duties

The officers of the chapter shall consist of:

- a) **President:** Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be an ex officio member of all committees. Supervise all Club functions
- b) **Vice President:** Act as program Chairman. Assist the tournament director at Club functions. Assist the President in his duties and preside in the absence of the president. Contact and schedule speakers and presentations for regular Club meetings. Inform the secretary of such scheduled features. Establish and maintain attendance records.
- c) **Secretary:** Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meeting as called for by the chapter president. Maintain regular liaison between the chapter and the B.A.S.S. National Federation and the state B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation as applicable. Record or designate a recorder of the results of Club events and maintain accurate records thereof. Inform California Department of Fish and Game of our tournament results in accordance with state regulations. Compose, edit, and distribute monthly newsletter.
- d) **Treasurer:** Collect and disburse all monies. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each executive meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the Chapter Board of Directors. The chapter may vote that the treasurer and any other officer handling chapter funds must be bonded.
- e) **Tournament Director:** Be responsible for establishing and maintaining tournament schedule. Work with secretary in procurement of necessary permits. Establish tournament team designation by “blind draw”. Determine on site or by way of available technology if and when conditions are conducive to a safe and successful Club event. Designate individual responsible for or personally oversee live well and/or boat inspection. Designate individual responsible for maintaining correct launch order. Maintain, prepare and supervise weigh-in scales and the use thereof at Club events.

- f) **Member at Large:** Serve as a liaison between general membership and board of directors. This would include the acceptance of any grievances by the membership for presentation to and resolution by the board of directors. Maintain confidentiality of origination of said grievances so that they may be resolved by policy and not considered as personal matters. Maintain order in meetings and events when necessary.

Section 2: Elections

- a) The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of September. Election shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in ARTICLE III, Section 1.
- b) The standing Vice President shall provide a list of members eligible to hold office.
- c) The nomination of officers shall be determined by a blind vote of the members at the September meeting. Each member shall be given a ballot and may offer their nomination of an individual to a prescribed position. A tally of those nominations shall be conducted during the general meeting, undisturbed and outside the immediate meeting area. Two persons receiving the most nominations (and those tied for second) in each position shall be considered for final ballot. Individuals designated as nominees may withdraw from ballot at this time. In the event of a withdrawal, the next leading nominee will be added to the ballot.
- d) The presiding President shall announce the final nominations at which time members will indicate on blind ballot their selection for final vote.
- e) Final ballots shall be tallied and the results shall be announced immediately.

Section 3: Eligibility of Vote

Each regular member is entitled to one vote.

Section 4: Proxy Votes

Proxy votes will be accepted on any voting matter under the following guidelines:

- a) Proxy vote will be written out, signed and dated by member. Proxy by email is acceptable

provided the email source is satisfactorily identified.

- b) Member will notify verbally to a board member of their intent to issue a proxy vote and what member will be presenting the proxy vote. This process must occur prior to scheduled vote.
- c) If any of these steps are not completed, the vote will be null and void.

Section 5: Term of Office

The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on the first meeting day of October and end on the last meeting day of September, or until the successor assumes office.

Section 6: Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be established as described in Article III, Section 2 and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office. National B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

Section 7: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- a) Have been a member for one year
- b) Have full membership dues paid in full.
- c) Have attended at least 75% of the chapter meetings and 75% of chapter functions during a 12-month period.
- d) Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.
- e) Maintain current B.A.S.S. membership.

ARTICLE IV – Standing Committees

All Standing Committees will serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The terms of the committee members will coincide with that of the president. Each committee shall elect a chairman. Committee chairpersons shall present a status report at each regular meeting.

- (a) **Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors will consist of seven (7) members: President, Vice

President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past-President, Tournament Director, and one (1) member elected at large by majority vote of the members present at the September regular meetings.

- o The president will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
 - o The secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
 - o The board will decide all protests and rule on all violations of the tournament rules, Rules of Conduct, and bylaws of the chapter when appropriately received.
 - o The board will develop agendas for the monthly meeting.
- (b) **Youth Committee:** The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and implement a Chapter Youth Project: to introduce young people to the goals of B.A.S.S.: to give them a basis for respect of our national heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and good sportsmanship and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of fishing
 - (c) **Conservation Committee:** The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change; to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statues, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices; to take legal action where appropriate: to undertake informational and educational programs to bring public awareness of threats to our environment; and to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.
 - (d) **Tournament Committee:** The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all chapter tournaments. The tournaments committee will draft tournament rules, which must then be approved by the general membership. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules and investigate all protests concerning tournaments and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V – Removal of Membership

Membership in the Club will be subject to review before the Board for any of the following:

- Failure to pay dues
- Any action, which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter and/or B.A.S.S.
- Failure to attend 50% of the chapter meetings and 50% of chapter functions during a 12-month period.
- Disqualification for any reason from participating in B.A.S.S. sponsored events, including disqualification for use of illegal, nonprescription drugs or alcohol during an event.

- (b) Update B.A.S.S. with a chapter membership roster once each year upon receipt of current B.A.S.S. roster at year’s end.
- (c) Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur. (See ARTICLE II, Section 3 for dues requirements).
- (d) Maintain B.A.S.S. membership.
- (e) Must affiliate with State Federation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the State Federation establishes for chapters, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the chapter to participate in the State Federation qualifying tournament(s), and any other Federation-sponsored tournaments or events.

ARTICLE VI – Affiliation

Section 1: Requirements for Affiliation

- (a) Approval of Chapter Charter by B.A.S.S.

ARTICLE VII – Method of Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

We, the undersigned charter members, do hereby agree to the above bylaws and the commencement of this chapter on _____ day of _____, 2006.

Complete two copies and forward both to Bass Anglers Sportsman Society for endorsement.