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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 comprised 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".

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.

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; however, no officer may serve more than three (3) 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, assures 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 club area, maintain communication with the state conservation director, act as conservation information, 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 present at the club meeting, provided:

1. The entire membership has been notified forty (40) days in advance.
2. The amendments have been discussed and tabled at previous meeting.
3. Two-thirds (2/3) of the current full voting membership is present to vote.

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.
TOURNAMENT RULES

I. Contestants:

Each boat shall have an OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTERS member in it.

II. FISH:

Large mouth, small mouth, and spotted bass – twelve (12”) inch minimum length. State minimum size limits will apply if they are larger than twelve (12”) inches. Creel limits are governed by the waters being fished.

III. Rules

National affiliate and OBF rules apply when not covered by chapter rules. (By-Laws Article III-B)

1. All federal, state, and local watercraft and wildlife laws will be observed.
2. No refund on tournament fees.
3. Sign up and payment of tournament entries will be made no later than the meeting preceding a scheduled tournament.
4. Live wells will be checked by a member of the tournament committee before the start of a tournament.
5. All monetary obligations to the club and to fishing partner must be met before entry in another tournament will be accepted.
6. Tournament Director will maintain all tournament results.
7. Contestant will be permitted to withdraw from a tournament only for a just cause. Any contestant wishing to withdraw will notify his partner and a member of the tournament committee. Failure to provide just cause and said notification will result in a penalty of forty (40) points per incident.
8. Members of the tournament committee are the only individuals permitted to handle fish at the scale.
9. When contestants present tournament fish in approved bags for weigh-ins, they become property of the tournament committee.
10. Club members will have precedence over potential members in tournament drawings.
11. Scoring (Changed 3/7/12)
 - A. Points will be awarded based on how a participant finishes in each tournament as follows:
 - a. The winner will receive 40 points, plus three bonus points.

- b. The second place finisher will receive 39 points, plus two bonus points.
- c. The third place finisher will receive 38 points one bonus point.
- d. The fourth place finisher will receive 37 points (no bonus points).
- e. The remaining fisherman that brings a legal fish to the scales will receive points in descending order until all participants have received their points.
- f. Participants who fail to bring a legal fish to the scales will receive 0 points.
- g. All participants who show up on time will receive one (1) point and all participants that check in at the end of the day on time will receive one (1) maximum of two (2) show-up points. This change is to be posted dated to the first tournament of 2013 season." (Changed 6/5/13)
- h. In the event of a tie, the top finisher will be determined by a tie-breaker:
 - 1. The most legal fish brought to the scale.
 - 2. Biggest fish.
 - 3. If need for further, split points will be used. **Example** $40+3+39+2/2 = 42$. The next contestant will receive the amount of points that he would have won without the tie breaker. **Example:** Three contestants tie for four place, each would receive 37 points, the next contestant would receive 34 points for a seventh place finish.
- i. Dead fish penalty of 4 ounces (.25 lbs.) on that days total weight.
- j. Short fish penalty will be 8 ounces (.5 lbs.) on that days weight .

B. Club Champion (Mr. Bass) will be the angler with the most points after the eight tournaments. In the unlikely event of a tie, they will be declared **co-champions**.

- 12. Mechanical problems are not a valid excuse for late arrival. A contestant who assists a boat in distress will not be penalized.
- 13. Fish will be measured on a "GOLDEN RULE" board using the mouth closed, anyway it measures method.
- 14. Boat & Motor
 - A. All boats must be fifteen (15) feet or more in length and rated for no less than (35) hp.
 - B. A minimum horsepower of twenty-five (25) hp.
 - C. Stick steering is not allowed.
 - D. No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted.
 - E. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.
 - F. Each boat must also have properly aerated or recirculating livewell space to maintain alive a limit of bass by both constants.
 - G. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in tournament competition will be two hundred fifty (250) hp, not to exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1, 1972.
 - H. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer.
 - I. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this rating plate or the two hundred fifty (250) horsepower maximum.
 - J. Each boat has a working kill switch.

- 15 All boats used in O.V.B.M. club tournaments must have insurance with at least three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) liability. Proof of insurance must be shown at the beginning of each year for all boat owners before using the boat in a club tournament.
- 16 Thirty (30) minutes prior to tournament, for boaters and non-boaters, will be the start of check-in time and boat check.
 - A. The check-in spot will be determined and announced by the tournament director prior to the tournament (generally announced at the club meeting prior to the tournament).
 - B. If boaters or non-boaters miss the check-in time, their fifteen (15) points for show-up will be disallowed.
17. Tournament season for Ohio Valley Bassmasters club tournaments will be from January 1st to December 31st of the year in which it falls. Example (Jan.1 to Dec.31, 2002)

Standing Rule #1

- A. Pairings will be made randomly as long as the following criteria are met:
1. Non-members will not be paired together.
 2. Non-members will not be permitted to fish alone.
 3. Members have precedence over non-members if there is a shortage of boats.
 4. Contestants will not be paired together in two (2) consecutive tournaments unless compliance with this rule results in a contestant being unable to fish.
- B. The Tournament Committee will modify the drawing procedure, in accordance with para c below, to ensure the requirements in "A" are fulfilled. Otherwise, the following procedure will be used:
1. Boaters will be put in one "hat", non-boaters in another.
 2. Boaters and non-boaters will be paired by drawing a name from each group. Starting position for the boater is determined by the order drawn. Starting positions will be in reverse order for the second day of a two-day (2) tournament.
 3. If there is more than one (1) boater remaining after all non-boaters have been paired they will be paired together. The two boaters will decide whose boat will be used for that tournament. If the boaters are full members and wish to fish alone they may do so.
 4. If there is one boater remaining, and if he is a regular member, he has the option of fishing alone or of obtaining a tournament committee approved partner.
- C. If, after the initial drawings are made, there is:
1. An extra boater who is a non-member, one of the already paired member boaters having a member as his partner will be drawn and substituted (then para. B (4) applies).
 2. An extra non-boater who is a non-member, he will not be permitted to fish that tournament.
 3. An extra non-boater who is a member, one of the non-members, non-boaters will be drawn and substituted. The non-member will lose his ride for that tournament.
 4. Two non-members paired, one of the two-member pairing will be drawn and partners switched.
 5. A contestant who is paired with the same partner as the preceding tournament, the non-boater will be moved downward in the pairings until the rule A (4) above is satisfied. In the event that rule A (4) cannot be enforced without violating other rules, the original pairing will stand.
- D. The Tournament Committee will make every effort to assure that all members and potential members who want to fish have the opportunity to do so.

Standing Rule #2

Trophies and Chapter Teams

- A. The top finishing individual in the point standings will receive the rotating trophy identifying him as the chapter's "Mr. Bass". Standings are determined by the overall scores, including any penalties, computed at the conclusion of each year' tournament schedule. A trophy will be awarded annually to the fisherman who catches the largest bass during a chapter tournament valued up to \$20.00. (Changed 3/7/12)
- B. The Any members may represent OVBM in Ohio Bass Federation competition according to current OBF rules and regulations. (Changed 3/7/12)
- C. All entry fees to all OBF tournaments will be the responsibility of the individual club members. (Changed 3/7/12)
- D. (Section as written was Eliminated) (Changed 3/7/12)
- D. (Formally Section E) The Club will hold one spot in each tournament for the following year for "Mr. Bass" if he participates.
- F. The Club will award "Mr. Bass" an award of their choice valued up to \$50.00. (Changed 3/7/12)

Standing Rule #3

Tournament Entry Fee and Prize Money

- A. 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:

1st Place - 45%

2nd Place - 35%

3rd Place - 20%

- B. Ties will be shared by combining place money available and dividing equally among the contestants affected. Prize money not awarded due to insufficient place winners (e.g. only three (3) people catch fish) will be put in the club treasury.

Standing Rule #4

Weigh – In

- A. Weigh-in will not commence before the designated quitting time unless all boats are out of the water.
- B. Each contestant having fish must present his fish in a bag separate from his partner's.
- C. All live fish, except trophies, will be released at the site. Fish that are determined to be dead or will have a high chance of non-survival will be disposed of by the Tournament Committee. In no instance shall such fish be returned to the water. (A trophy fish is defined as a five pound (5#) or greater large-mouth, or a four pound (4#) or greater small mouth.) The Tournament Committee may grant the keeping of a smaller fish if the circumstances warrant such a decision.
- D. The Tournament Season shall consist of eight (8) contests (tournaments).

Standing Rule #5

Clothing

- A. The COLORS of the OHIO VALLEY BASSMASTERS INC. shall be BLUE and WHITE in combination whenever possible.
- B. The hat shall be a billed cap. The blue bill and back shall be BLUE; the front panel shall be WHITE. The club logo shall be in BLUE on the front center panel of cap.
- C. The shirt shall be a golf or polo type shirt with 3 or 4 buttons at the neck, a collar, short sleeves, and a pocket over the left chest. The body of the shirt shall be WHITE. Collar and cuff edges of the sleeves shall be blue. If BLUE-collar trim is not available, then the shirt shall be solid WHITE. The club logo shall be on the back of the shirt in BLUE. A member option is to have his / her name above the pocket.
- D. The jacket will be long sleeved with a BLUE body. The collar cuff and waistband will be BLUE with WHITE stripes (if available). The jacket will have two (2) pockets and can have buttons or zipper front. The Club Logo can be silk screened in WHITE or embroidered on the center of the back. The top of the Club Logo is to be approximately four (4) inches below the collar.
- E. The Club Patch (embroidered) will be on the right chest. The members name will be on the left chest. The national affiliate patch will be at the top of the left sleeve, and the OBF patch will be at the top of the right sleeve. All other patches may be located, as the member desires.

Executive Committee Members (6)

Robert Otto	Charter Member	12-22-82
Roger Adams	Executive Member	9-6-89
Arthur Cribbs	Executive Member	5-5-10

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