

CLEARWATER BASSMASTERS CONSTITUTION

2011/2012 SEASON

CLEARWATER BASSMASTERS ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPAL THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE HONEST AND WILL STRIVE AT ALL TIMES TO ADHERE TO THE RULES AND ETHICS WE ALL BELIEVE IN.

Creed

- Encourage good sportsmanship and camaraderie.
- Maintain a positive atmosphere within our club.
- To promote and ensure the growth of bass fishing in South Africa.
- Instill in all members, total respect for the environment and to support nature conservation bodies wherever possible.
- Actively practice and promote catch and release.
- Adhere to all club rules and regulations.

Club Headquarters

The club headquarters shall be deemed to be the “municipal areas of greater Johannesburg”

The club’s postal address shall be:

C/O T. Edwards

P.O.Box 221

Isando

1600

The club will be affiliated to the South African Bass Anglers Association (SABAA) and shall comply with all legal requirements regarding the formation of “Sports” clubs.

Membership

Membership of Clearwater Bassmasters shall be open to any person who satisfies all requirements of the club and who has been proposed for membership by a full member and seconded by a full member.

There shall be three classes of membership, these being:

- Full member
- Family member
- Special member

The special membership category has been created to make provision for other classes of membership such as Junior members, Country members and Honorary members. Applications for membership in any of these special classes will, in each instance, be considered and voted on by the general membership at a general meeting.

Member status (any category) will only apply to an individual who has paid all of the relevant fees and is in good standing with the club and related authorities.

Membership fees

Annual membership fees for all classes and joining fees will be set and confirmed annually at the Annual General Meeting of Clearwater Bassmasters members.

A pro rata system has been employed with regard to membership fees and any applicant who should join after the first 6 months of the current season will pay 50% of the full annual membership fee. Annual SABAA affiliation fees for members will be included into annual club membership fees and paid over to SABAA by Clearwater Bassmasters.

Annual membership fees become due at the AGM (June each year) and must be paid by the end of that same month (June).

General requirements

Family members who compete in and win trophies at monthly in-house competitions will be expected to pay for the said trophies. (Family members are defined as the immediate direct family of the member eg: wife, husband or children of the member, who do not normally fish competitively in any of the club membership categories and who do not fish more than 3 events per season).

Members wishing to fish for Regional, Divisional or National Colors must be “Gold Class” Members of SABAA and payment of the relevant fees will be solely the responsibility of that member.

The onus is on members to ensure that they are in possession of a valid fishing license for the province they are fishing in.

As of 1st August 2009 all members shall be required to be in possession of a valid skippers license as well as a current and valid Certificate of Fitness for his/her boat. Failure to comply with this requirement will exclude the member from participation in monthly in-house competitions.

Dual membership with another Bass Chapter will only be permitted on condition that the membership of the “other chapter” is a Country type membership. The main proviso being that Clearwater Bassmasters will remain his/her Primary Club.

Expulsion of Members

Any member may be expelled from the club if he/she contravenes any of the rules listed below:

- Any action which causes the club to be brought into disrepute.
- Any willful action which causes ecological damage.
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs.
- Dangerous or irresponsible handling of their craft.
- Dishonesty of any kind.
- Continued belligerent or destructive behavior which adversely affects the club and the camaraderie within the club.

The elected committee members have the right to evaluate situations that may arise from the above rules and make decisions on behalf of the club members. These decisions will then be relayed to the members who, if are not in agreement may call for a vote. The 51% majority voting rule will then apply (see below under VOTING).

Any member expelled or resigning from the club foregoes any claim he/she might have on any club assets.

Club Management

A committee shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Club in June of each year. The committee will be responsible for handling all club affairs. Only full members in good standing may be elected to the committee. The committee shall consist of the following office bearers:

President	Chairs club meetings and delegates duties to committee members and / or members as the need arises.
Vice President	Stands in for the president when necessary and assists in the execution of his duties.
Treasurer	Handles all financial affairs of the club. Provides a financial report and bank statement at monthly meetings, which will be available for scrutiny by any member. Any financial related query will be noted and discussed at the following monthly meeting.
Secretary	Handles all club correspondence, generates and distributes minutes of the monthly meetings to all members.
Tournament Director	Coordinates and runs all “in house competitions” and acts as the weigh-master.

Note:

If, during his/her term of office, the president resigns, the vice president will fill the position for the balance of that term.

Separate committee meetings will be held from time to time as deemed necessary.

Any member who wishes to make a statement or publish, in any way, anything concerning the club, its activities and membership or its logo, must first obtain permission in writing from the President.

Should a member wish to make a statement or send a notice via email to the club member database the President upon agreement will ask the club secretary to send a copy of said email to all members.

Meetings

Monthly meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month at a time and venue to be agreed by the General Membership from time to time.

Annual General Meetings will be held immediately prior to the normal monthly meeting held during June of each year.

Voting

Each member in good standing will have one vote on any single issue raised at a meeting.

Any motion will be carried on a majority vote of 51%. In the event of a deadlock the president will cast a deciding vote.

No family or junior member will be eligible to vote.

All members in good standing will be eligible to vote at club meetings except at the AGM where eligibility will be granted to those members who are in good standing and have attended at least 4 in-houses and 4 monthly meetings during the course of the past season (July to June).

Proxy votes will be allowed at the AGM (in accordance with a prescribed procedure) for members in good standing and have attended at least 4 in-houses and 4 monthly meetings during the course of the past season (July to June of that year).

Proxy votes are only not allowed at meetings for venue voting.

Hosting of OPEN Tournaments

In the event that the club hosts an open tournament, the required rules and regulations will be drawn up and approved by the General Membership as and when needed.

Indemnities

Clearwater Bassmasters will not be held liable for any action loss or injury of any kind, however caused by any of its members or office bearers during the course of any Clearwater Bassmasters activities or events.

Any person/s who becomes a member of Clearwater Bassmasters automatically indemnifies Clearwater Bassmasters from any liability for any loss or injury of any kind that may occur during the course of any Clearwater Bassmasters activities or events, however caused.

Junior members who are not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at any activity or event organised by Clearwater Bassmasters will be required to produce an indemnity form, duly signed by their parent or legal guardian, indemnifying Clearwater Bassmasters from any liability for any loss or injury of any kind, however caused, prior to them being allowed to participate in that specific event.

Dissolution

In the event of the club being dissolved, all liabilities will be settled and any assets remaining will be disposed of on a pro rata basis as decided at an extraordinary general meeting. An attempt will be made to ensure that at least 80% of all members attend such a meeting.