

Harris Chain Bassmasters - Club By-Laws

Revised: January 29, 2024

Effective Date: Feb 06, 2024

ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This club shall be called the Harris Chain Bassmasters (HCBM) of Eustis, Florida.

Section 2: Purpose

The Harris Chain Bassmasters herein as HCBM, purpose to advocate the following:

- (a) Responsible Resource Management
- (b) Community Service
- (c) Stimulate Public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport
- (d) Connect with and support youth involvement
- (e) Support our State Conservation Department and organizations through moral, political support and encouragement.
- (f) Improve our skill as anglers through fellowship, supportive camaraderie and friendly exchange of techniques.

ARTICLE II- Membership

Section 1: Number of Members

The club shall begin with and maintain at least six (6) members.

Section 2: Requirement for Membership

In order to be eligible for membership in the HCBM club a potential member must:

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership
- (b) Be recommended by at least one (1) member at a regular monthly meeting.
- (c) Fish one tournament with HCBM as a non-boater, and be present at the following meeting, unless excused by a member of the HCBM Board of Directors (BOD).
- (d) Be voted on by membership. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation must be unanimous.
 - (1) Should a “no” vote be cast the members casting the “no” vote have 5 business days to explain their reason or reasons to the BOD. This may be done at the meeting, in person, or by e-mail to BOD.
 - (2) Once the BOD receives the “no” voters’ reasons, the BOD will review the reasons and make a determination of the validity. If the BOD feels the reason or reasons are valid the vote will stand, if not, the prospective member will be affirmed. Either way, the President will notify the prospective member of his acceptance or rejection before the start of the next regular club function.
- (f) Eligible member must be 18 years of age or older to join the HCBM club.

Section 3: Honorary Membership

Requirements and Privileges:

- (a) Current member in good standing with the club
- (b) Someone the general membership of the club feels will benefit the club
- (c) Prospect must receive a unanimous vote of those club members attending a regular meeting at which prospect is presented. Votes will be by secret ballot
- (d) Be allowed to fish club tournaments
- (e) Pay no club dues

Section 4: Membership Dues

All Members must be current on annual membership dues of \$25.00, payable in advance, upon acceptance of membership by election and renewed annually at the December meeting.

Section 5: Meetings of Members

The membership shall hold regular meeting at pre-established time. Current meeting dates and time are the first Tuesday of each calendar month with a start time of 7:00PM. If the regular meeting is canceled for any reason the meeting will be held within 1 week later at a designated location.

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, assists the president in his duties and presides in the absence of the president.
- (c) Secretary: Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the club president.
- (d) Treasurer: Collect and disburse all moneys. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each regular meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the club Board of Directors.
- (e) Tournament Director: Plan, organize, and oversee all club tournaments. Draft changes to tournament rules and present to the general membership for approval, keep tournament records, announce results, enforce all tournament rules and investigate all protests concerning tournaments.
- (f) Weigh Master: Responsible for weighing of all fish brought to the scales. Will measure fish brought to the scales (as needed), weigh all fish and call out the weight as read from the club scales to the Tournament Director (TD) or assigned scorekeeper. Acts as the TD in their absence and assists the TD in the conduct of their duties.

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Work in concert with the TD in monitoring tournament location (s) for weather, launch conditions, or hazards at designated tournament sites.

Section 2: Elections

The elections of officers shall be held at meeting during the month of November.

- (a) Nominations will be accepted during the October meeting.
- (b) Elections shall be by simple majority of members present.
- (c) Election for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in ARTICLE III, Section 1.

Section 3: Eligibility to Vote

Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

Section 4: Term of Office

The term of office is for two years, which shall begin the first meeting in December and end on the last day of November.

Section 5: Vacancies

In the event the current club President departs the HCBM board position prior to the end of their elected term, the Vice President will move into the office of President and an election will be held to fill the Vice President vacancy. All other vacancy will be appointed by the Club President.

Section 6: Eligibility to hold office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- (a) Have been a member for six months.
- (b) Have attended at least 75% of club functions during the last 12 month period.
- (c) Have shown an active interest in all club functions.
- (d) All club officer positions, except President's position, maybe filled by any member of the HCBM that is in good standings. To be eligible to hold the office of President a member must have served a full term in another officer position.

ARTICLE IV – Club Tournaments

Section 1: Tournament Eligibility and Fee

- (a) Any member that is in good standing with club is eligible to fish in club Tournaments.
- (b) Classic Tournament, if a new member is voted in December they will start in January of the New Year.
- (c) Entry fees will be \$30 per person of which \$25 goes to tournament payout pool and \$5 for Classic Fund.
- (d) Non-boater will pay boaters entry fee of \$30 for gas and boat usage expenses. An additional \$25 is paid for a day two tournament.
- (e) Members must be 60% active in current year's function to be eligible for classic money.
- (f) Two day events are single point's events with only one entry fee per tournament angler.

Section 2: Lake Section

- (a) The Tournament Director (TD) and Weighmaster will select tournament dates for the entire tournament year which is January to December. Proposed dates will be provided to membership at the December meeting for review and final approval. Even month draw will be Harris Chain Lakes and odd month will be non-local lake.

Note

Saturday and Sunday alternating days will be followed no matter if a single or 2-day tournament is scheduled.

- (b) At November's meeting all present members offer their lake choices to be fished for the coming year. All lakes will be voted on for approval, lakes will then be placed in a bin and the previous monthly tournament winner or designee will draw a lake to be fished at the monthly meeting. The 2-day tournament lake will be chosen at the October meeting. The previous year's lake will not be eligible.
- (c) If selected lake is fishable but the date is changed due to weather or other circumstances, all club members will be notified. In the event a selected lake has been found to be not fishable by the TD; the replacement lake will be the Harris Chain of Lakes, launching out of Lake Eustis. If selected lake is found not fishable before monthly meeting a new lake can be selected at Club meeting.
- (d) The 2 day Classic Tournament be held in December on the Harris Chain of Lakes, with the exception if the Harris Chain is off limits prior to a Federation Tournament which another lake is voted on.

Section 3: Tournament Guidelines

- (a) Tournament hours will be safe light to 3:00 pm, except during June, July, August, and September which will be safe light until 2pm.
- (b) Members must sign up (or have another member sign you up) for the next tournament before the beginning of the meeting, or by notifying the TD before the meeting. Exception being is early sign-up paring for 2-day away tournaments as determined by club members.
- (c) Angler and Co-angler pairing will be determined by the HCBM tournament director. Contestants may elect to change partners after fishing with the same partner twice during the tournament year.
- (d) Once the pairings are announced any member (for safety reasons or legitimate personal reasons) may ask TD to be reassigned.
- (e) Tournament paring will begin with the first non-boater drawn being paired with the TD, and be designated as boat number one. Second non-boater drawn will be paired with the weigh master and be designated as boat number two. Then boaters

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will be paired with a non-boaters until all non-boaters have a boater starting with boat number three. Boats number three and four are always designated as release boats.

- (f) Boaters paired as tournament partners will have the option of fishing together (boat used will be their decision) or fishing alone (must be declared at the pairing meeting) in their own boat.
- (g) A non-boater(s) attending the monthly club meeting will take precedence over absence non-boater(s) and guest if there is not enough boaters to meet the club's needs. All non-boater(s) who are not paired with a boater shall be the first non-boater(s) drawn for the following month tournament and must be paired with a boater until all non-boater(s) have missed at least one tournament.
- (h) All anglers shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship.
- (i) If a co-angler has to use their boat to allow a non-boater(s) to fish, his points will be awarded as a co-angler.
- (j) The TD, or his designated replacement, will launch all boats at safe light, sending them out in the order that they were paired, (or amended by the TD), until all boats are launched.
- (k) All boats may be inspected by the TD before the tournament.
- (l) No courtesy checks for short fish will be done at the weigh-in.
- (m) If a member arrives late for a club tournament, he/she must physically locate and check in with a club member participating in that tournament prior to fishing in the tournament. If a club member is late for a second tournament or more in a club year he/she is disqualified from that tournament.
- (n) Any club member who stands up a partner for a club tournament shall be penalized five (5) points for the first occurrence. On the second occurrence the offending member will be placed on probation and may have his/her membership reviewed (for dismissal) by the Board of Directors.
- (o) Alcoholic beverages are not permitted during tournament hours, including the weigh-in.
- (p) 2-day away tournament weigh-in will be 3:00PM on Saturday and 2:00PM on Sunday.

Section 4: Payouts and Points System

1. Tournament purse will be 100% of entry fees minus classic fund.
2. Payback:
 - a. Tournament prize money will be awarded on the following scale: Up to 7 fishermen, one place will be paid, the next increment will be at 8 (8-14) {pay 1st and 2nd}, then in increments of seven; (15-21)) {1st-3rd} except as annotated in section b.
 - b. Prize money collected from boaters will be awarded to boaters and moneys collected from co-anglers will be awarded to co-anglers based on above payout schedule.

c. The Classic funds collected during the HCBM Classic tournament will be applied to the next Fiscal Year budget for the next year's Classic.

3. Club points will be awarded monthly as follows:
5 points for each club meeting attended
5 points for any special club function as determined by the Board of Directors
4. Tournament points (100 point system) will be awarded as follows:
 - a. 100 points to tournament winner, 95 to second, 90 to third, 87 to fourth, 84 to fifth, 81 to sixth, 79 to seventh, 77 to eighth, 75 to ninth and all other places will decrease by one point per place, with five points being awarded to participants who do not catch a fish.
 - b. 2 points will be awarded to the biggest bass caught.
5. In the event of a tie the following tie breakers will be used: most fish, most live fish, coin flip (coin flip only determines points winner, first and second place money will be combined and divided evenly between tying anglers).
6. Classic points are awarded as follows:
 - a. 1 point for attending a monthly meeting and 1 point for fishing a monthly tournament for a total of 24 available points for the tournament year.
 - b. A member must have accumulated 14 points (60%) to qualify for classic payout.
7. Angler and Co-Angler of the year points:
 - a. Each member's best ten (10) tournament finishes and from attended meetings up to eleven (11 x 5=55) and any Board of Directors approved special event will be used to determine a member's final year standing.
 - b. Co-Angler of the year will be based on best ten (10) tournament finishes that were fished as a Co-Angler.

Section 5: Protest and Violations

1. If a member has a grievance of any kind with the club, club procedure or a fellow member, he/she must submit the grievance in writing to a member of the Board of Directors. The Board will take the grievance under advisement and make decisions based on their best judgment.
2. Protests must be submitted in writing prior to payment of prize money
3. Any violation not receiving a penalty during a tournament will be handled in the following manner by the TD:
 - a. First violation within a tournament season will be a written warning.
 - b. Second violation within a tournament season will cause a disqualification from tournament that violation occurred.
 - c. Three (3) or more violations within a tournament season will cause a disqualification from tournament that violation occurred and possible termination from

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HCBM Club. Club board will determine if termination of fisherman should occur.

of members present, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

ARTICLE V – Standing Committee

Section 1: Terms

Standing committee(s) will be appointed by the President from volunteers at the December meeting and serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The terms of the committee members will coincide with that of the president. The President will select a chairman from the Volunteers.

Section 2: Standing Committees

The committees will consist of:

- (a) Board of Directors: The Board of Directors will consist of seven (8) members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, immediate past President, Tournament Director, Weighmaster and one or two members elected at-large by majority vote of the members present at the November regular meeting.
 - (1) The president will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
 - (2) The board will decide all protests and rule on all violations of the tournament rules and bylaws of the chapter when appropriately received.
 - (3) The secretary will record the minutes of these meetings
 - (4) The board will develop agendas for the monthly meetings.
 - (5) Member at-large shall assist the Board in various duties to include handling election duties.
- (b) Activities Committee: Preside over the planning and coordination of the club’s special functions and events such as annual awards banquet, special interest benefit tournaments that may be suggested, casting kid’s events, etc. Committee chair will seek voluntary help from club members in carrying out those activities that require assistance.

ARTICLE VI – Removal of Membership

A member may be dropped from the membership roll for any of the following:

- (a) Failure to pay dues
- (b) Any action, which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this club.
- (c) Failure to attend 50% of the club meetings and 50% of club functions during a 12 month period.
- (d) Disqualification for any reason from participating in Club sponsored events, including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol.

ARTICLE VII – Method of Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended at regular meeting by a 2/3 vote