

HARRIS CHAIN BASSMASTERS (HCBM) BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Name and purpose:

Section 1: Name

This club shall be called the Harris Chain Bassmasters, (HCBM)

- (a) The official mailing address for business purposes of the HCBM shall be as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Purpose

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

- (a) Responsible Resource Management
- (b) Stimulate Public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport
- (c) Support our State Conservation Department and organizations through moral, political and social encouragement
- (d) Improve our skill as anglers through fellowship, supportive camaraderie and friendly exchange of techniques

ARTICLE II: Means of Governance

Section 1: Bylaws and Angling Rules

The HCBM shall create governing Bylaws and Angling Rules that will provide separate sets of guidelines with distinct areas of authority for the purpose of conducting the club's business and activities. A Board of Directors shall be created for the administration of all bylaws, rules and regulations.

- (a) The club Bylaws shall be the ultimate authority and senior to all rules and regulations at present or in the future.
- (b) The Angling Rules shall be those that provide for the processes and procedures of all angling activities and may be amended, added or deleted as needed.
- (c) The Board of Directors shall conduct an annual review of all current Bylaws, and Angling Rules, including any additions, revisions and deletions, during the

year. The review is to be made prior to the beginning of the next year and such review shall incorporate the existing bylaws, rules, additions, revisions and deletions into an updated set of documents that shall be presented to the membership, with no requirement for approval, at the January meeting of the following year. Since all such provisions received approval during the past year, the combined documents shall be presented to the membership as "New Business" indicating the updated rules at the January meeting are for informative purposes only. At that point the updated rules shall be deemed current and in effect.

Section 2: Method of Amending Bylaws and Rules

The provisions for the amending of the bylaws and rules are as follows:

- (a) The bylaws may be amended at a regular meeting by 2/3 vote of members present provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the Board of Directors having jurisdiction for review.
- (b) Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be submitted at least one (1) meeting prior to the call for a vote on the amendment.
- (c) The submittal for a bylaw amendment must state the current bylaw as written followed by the written proposed change. If the proposed change cannot clearly identify the justification for the change, a narrative for the change shall be provided to support the proposed amendment. "A good idea" is not justification for an amendment change.
- (d) Proposed changes in Rules may be presented at a regular meeting without prior notification and shall follow the standard procedure for putting a topic on the floor for consideration. The proposed rule change must be supported by a motion and seconded to open the topic for discussion. The proposed change should be supported by the committee having jurisdiction but not required. Upon completion of the discussion a call can be made for a vote on the proposal. A proposal will require a simple majority vote by the members present in the affirmative to be approved.

NOTE: Rules are not bylaws and should not be mixed with bylaws. In general, rules are under the jurisdiction of subordinate standing committees. Bylaws are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Executive Board and Board of Directors

There shall be an elected Board of Directors that shall be the governing body of the Harris Chain Bassmasters, (HCBM):

- (a) The Board of Directors (BOD) shall have the sole authority of rule on all aspects of the HCBM.
- (b) The responsibilities of governance shall consist of two (2) bodies with both having distinct areas of authority in governing the business and social affairs of the club.

1. The Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) shall consist of the four (4) primary officers of the club being the President, Vice President, Secretary and the Treasurer. This body has the authority granted by the Board of Directors to oversee and direct the general operations and business of the organization.

2. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall consist of seven (7) to eight (8) members which shall include the four (4) members of the Executive Board, Tournament Director, Weigh Master and one (1) to two (2) At-Large club members as needed. This body has the ultimate authority to oversee the structured elements of the club such as boards and committees and their operations.

Any additions, alterations or deletions to the club structure and/or governing Bylaws shall be required to have the approval of the BOD.

3. The BOD shall authorize the procurement and continuance of club liability insurance coverage on an as needed basis.
4. The BOD has the sole authority to provide interpretations of Bylaws and Rules lacking clarity of meaning and/or purpose and may refer to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order for guidance.
- (c) The President of the HCBM shall also preside as the President of the Board of Directors with the duties and authority granted by the BOD.
The President may call for a meeting of the Executive Board or Board of Directors as deemed necessary.
 - (d) The BOD shall formulate a Code of Conduct as the principle guideline for the club member's understanding of what is and is not acceptable conduct. The guidelines are meant to give members notice of what is to be expected during the performance of the club activities that shall be, but not limited to, the member participation in assemblies (i.e. meetings) for conducting the business of the club and the participation of club events (i.e. tournaments) for the purpose of sharing the interest in club angling activities.
 - (e) The Board of Directors shall direct the creation of a **Safety Committee** for the purpose of creating a procedure to address issues of medical concerns and/or

mechanical failures experienced by members that may occur while participating in club activities. The Safety Committee will be comprised of volunteer members that have an interest in participating in the function of the committee. A Chairman of the committee is to be appointed by the President from the volunteer members.

- (f) Any issues that are not or cannot be delegated to the club's governing bodies shall give weight of governance to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III: Officers, Elections, Eligibility and Vacancies:

Section 1: Officers and Their Duties

The officers of the Harris Chain Bassmaster (HCBM) 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 records of all regular and special meetings as called for by the club president, maintain club roster of members with their contact information, maintain updates of club Bylaws and committee Rules, maintain records for club required boat liability insurance coverage as well as the club's general liability insurance policy, perform other duties as directed.
- (d) Treasurer: Collect and disburse all monies; 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 (TD): Plan, organize and oversee all club tournaments, draft changes to the tournament rules and present them to the general membership for approval; keep tournament records, announce results, enforce all tournament rules; investigate all protest concerning tournaments.
- (f) Weigh Master (WM): Responsible for the weighing and measurement of all fish brought to the scales (as needed), call out the weight as read from the club scales to the Tournament Director (TD) or an assigned scorekeeper; acts as the TD in his absence, and/or assists the TD in the conduct of their duties work in concert with the TD in monitoring tournament locations, weather, launch ramp conditions and/or hazards at designated tournament sites.
- (g) Members At-Large (2): Assist the boards and committees in various duties such as fish weigh-in, meeting preparation, elections and other duties identified

as needed.

Section 2: Term of Office

The term for each officer is for two (2) years, which shall begin with the first day of December following their election in November and ending on the last day of November of the two (2) year term.

Section 3: Elections

The nomination of officers shall be held at the meeting during the month of October.

- (a) Each officer will be voted on in the order as listed in ARTICLE II, Section 1.
- (b) The election of officers shall be by the simple majority vote of members present at the November meeting.
- (c) The Chairman of a committee is an appointed position by the President from the volunteer members wishing to participate in the committee and is not subject to election requirements.

Section 4: Eligibility to hold office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- (a) Have been a member for six (6) months
- (b) Have attended at least 75% of club functions during the first year of membership
- (c) Have shown an active interest in all club functions
- (d) All club officers, except for the President's position, may be filled by any eligible club member who is in good standing
- (e) To be eligible to hold the office of President a member must have served a full term of two (2) years in a lesser officer position

Section 5: Eligibility to Vote

Each member in good standing is entitled to one (1) vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

- (a) A member in good standing is one that is current with the payment of dues.

Section 6: Vacancies

The filling of officer vacancies shall be as follows:

- (a) In the event the current club president vacates his position as the club President/President of the Board of Directors prior to the end of his term, the club Vice President will become, upon his acceptance, the interim President of the club and of the Board of Directors for the remainder of the past president's term.
- (b) The interim President having vacated his position of Vice President shall call for an election at a time certain for the purpose of electing a new Vice President to fill the vacancy of the Vice President position for the remainder of the term.
- (c) Should the current Vice President choose not to move into the position as interim President, the Vice President shall call for an election at a time certain for the purpose of electing a new President to serve for the remainder of the term of the past president.
- (d) In the event that no eligible member, as specified in ARTICLE II, Section 6, is voted to be President, the Vice President shall become the interim president by default for the remainder of the term.
- (e) Any vacancies, other than the President, may be filled by appointment by the current President in lieu of an election to fill the lesser positions.
- (f) For clarity, the reference to the "remainder of the term" is to be understood as the length of time in months until the end of a two (2) year election cycle. At the end of the two (2) year terms, all officer positions shall be subject to new elections.

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Section 1: Requirements for Membership

To be eligible for membership in the HCBM club a potential member must meet the following:

- (a) A prospective member must be at least 18 years of age to be considered for membership.
- (b) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership
- (c) Fish one (1) tournament with the HCBM as a non-boater and be present at the following month's meeting unless otherwise excused by a member of the HCBM Board of Directors (BOD).
- (d) Be voted on by the membership present at the meeting by an oral/hand simple

vote of approval. The vote must be unanimous by the members voting. The prospective member shall not be present during the vote.

- (e) Any member indicating a “no” vote will have an opportunity to explain the “no” vote to the BOD members present at the meeting.
- (f) At the announcement of a “no” vote, the President shall call for a brief temporary recess in the meeting and hold a side bar discussion between the BOD members present and the individual(s) indicating the “no” vote.
- (g) Should the BOD not be able to resolve the “no” vote issue(s) presented, the President shall call the meeting back in session and the vote on the prospective member shall be declared as tabled for further review by the BOD. The President of the BOD shall call for a special meeting at a time certain of the members to hear and address the issue(s) relevant to the rejection for membership. The BOD shall declare a positive or negative decision on the membership issue.
- (h) Upon the decision by the BOD on the prospective member’s membership, the prospective member shall be notified of the decision by the President through any means of contact provided by the prospect. If affirmed, the prospect shall be requested to attend the following monthly meeting to accept membership. If disaffirmed, the prospect shall be notified of the decision with cause. The decision of the BOD shall be final.

Section 2: Honorary Membership

Requirements and Privileges:

- (a) Must be 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 the prospect is presented. Voting is by show of hands.
- (d) Be allowed to participate in club tournaments and activities
- (e) Exempt from paying club dues except will pay for the portion of insurance fees.

Section 3: Membership Dues

- (a) The base membership fee shall be \$30.00, payable annually in December. Additionally, members shall be assessed a portion of the club’s liability insurance coverage, to be determined as needed, and paid with base fee.
- (b) The membership fee is due upon acceptance of a new membership and prior to participation in club activities

- (c) The membership fee may be prorated for a portion of a year for a new member at the discretion of the President.

Section 4: Removal of Membership

A membership may be revoked and removed from the membership roster for any of the following violations:

- (a) Failure to pay club dues and/or fees
- (b) Any action that would reflect dishonor and/or disgrace on the club
- (c) Failure to attend 50% of the club meetings and 50% of club functions during a twelve (12) month period
- (d) Disqualification for any reason from participating in Club sponsored events, including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol
- (e) Physical, verbal or disruptive conduct towards a member, or at a club meeting or club sponsored event at the discretion of the BOD
- (f) Failure to maintain club required insurance coverage by boat owned members while in use at club sponsored events

Section 5: Membership Meetings

The Harris Chain Bassmasters shall hold a regular monthly meeting as specified by the Executive Board.

- (a) Current meetings shall be held on the first Tuesday of the month at a time and place specified.
- (b) Should the meeting date, time and place not be available as scheduled, an alternate date, time and place will be scheduled within the time frame of one (1) week unless otherwise specified.
- (c) The BOD shall set forth the requirements of a quorum for the purpose of establishing the minimum number of officers or members in attendance of a proceeding for the purpose of conducting the club's official business actions.
- (d) The quorum required for the purpose of conducting the general business of the club at the Executive Board level shall be 75% (3) of the four members of the Executive Board members in attendance.
- (e) The quorum required for the purpose of conducting the club's business under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors shall be 2/3 of the BOD in attendance, i.e. $.667 \times 7 \text{ Board members} = 4.669 = \underline{5} \text{ members}$; $.667 \times 8 \text{ Board members} = 5.336 = \underline{5} \text{ members}$.

The equation uses the principle of a decimal greater than .500 is rounded

up by 1; a decimal less than .500 is rounded down by 1.

ARTICLE V: Standing Committees

Section 1: Creation of Committees

Standing Committees shall be created by the Board of Directors on an as-needed basis.

- (a) The President shall appoint a Chairman of a committee from those club members who volunteer to serve and shall serve a term of one (1) year, or more, at the will of the President.

Section 2: Conservation, Activities, Fishing/Tournaments Committee

The following committees and duties are as described herein:

- (a) Conservation: Report on issues of importance with respect to local and state conservation activities specifically involving areas of fish management, habitat restoration and improvements to area water resources.
- (b) Activities: Report on past, present and future club functions such as special club events of interest and annual club banquet preparations.
The Activities Committee shall not have any duties or responsibilities that are assigned to another committee's jurisdiction.
- (c) Fishing/Tournament Committee: Establishes and oversees fishing tournament processes and procedures for participation of the club members. Reports on the monthly fishing tournaments with locations and conditions. Records and reports on monthly tournament results, establishes the guidelines for the weighing and release of all angler catches, performs angler pairings for tournaments, sets time frames for start and finish of tournaments, maintains angler meeting and tournament points, designates the year end awards and winning anglers. The BOD may assign additional responsibilities as needed.
- (d) The Fishing/Tournament Committee has been given authority to the Tournament Director (TD), by the Board of Directors, to create, manage and be responsible for establishing specific fishing and tournament rules that are to be created as an addendum and shall be part of the standard committee rules and regulations. For the ease of adding, revising and/or removal of angling provisions, the addendum shall be added as a Tournament Rules Supplement that may be expanded as needed.
- (e) The fishing/tournament rules established by the committee are not bylaws and

therefore may be revised by a motion and a second during a club meeting to open a discussion for any rule addition, alteration or deletion. The committee having jurisdiction should support any proposed rule change but is not required. The standard voting process of majority vote shall be utilized to implement a rule change.

- (f) Any expenditures to be made from club funds by a standing committee or club officer shall have a maximum available cap of \$100.00. Expenditures expected to exceed the cap shall require prior approval by the BOD. Receipts from expenditures shall be submitted to the club treasurer no later than the following monthly meeting.
- (g) Additional committees and functions may be added to the bylaws as needed and approved by the Board of Directors.
- (h) Any protests or complaints against any club member, function or activity shall be presented to and addressed by the committee having jurisdiction and any action or decision by the committee is final unless a referral from the committee is presented to the Board for investigation and appropriate action.
- (i) Any final decision or action taken by a committee may be appealed if not referred to the Board, with cause, by an impacted member to the BOD for resolution.

Footnote:

This May 21, 2026 edition of the Bylaws contains new provisions as well as existing and partial provisions derived from the previous recorded edition of May 05, 2025, with the effective date of May 06, 2025. These Bylaws and Angling Rules have been compiled by, and at the direction of, the HCBM Board of Directors..

