

Constitution and By-Laws

Austin Reel Bass Club

modified Wednesday, December 08, 2021

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Revision History

June 13, 2018 – Clarification of Meeting points, requirement of attendance to get meetings points and voting rights on tournaments. Also addition of three drops of meetings per year like the 3 tournament drops per season.

December 9, 2019 – Dropped TABC and added language to partner up with Cowboy Church Bass Club on a Championship and a few tournaments during the year.

December 8, 2021 – Changed payout and team scoring section to have team scored on combined best 5 fish instead of the combined best 10 fish. AOY best five fish will always be tracked by paper sheet and be recorded as such regardless if team best 5 fish are weighed on scales or is a paper tournament.

Our mission statement

In the spirit of “*Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."* we want to promote Christian fellowship, faith in God, and an awareness of God and Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

The name of this club shall be the Austin Reel Bass Club. Austin Reel Bass Club may be referred to below as ARBC.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this club is to promote:

- A. Christian fellowship.
- B. A consistent witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. Responsible stewardship of God's gifts.
- D. An opportunity for participation as a dynamic and effective link with other like-minded bass clubs.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Membership

A. Membership shall be open to any person who promotes, encourages, and supports the mission statement of the club. A new member application will be voted on and must carry 2/3 of the club's vote. Upon payment of dues he shall become a member.

B. The membership of the Austin Reel Bass Club shall consist of:

- (1) Boaters - Members who own fishing boats and plan to use them in club tournaments.
- (2) Non Boaters - Members who do not own fishing boats.
- (3) Members of Cowboy Church Bass Club shall have dual membership in ARBC and ARBC in Cowboy Church Bass Club

C. The membership of Austin Reel Bass Club recognizes that boating and fishing can be hazardous activities. Each member agrees individually to assume all risks of damage to his person and /or property which might occur.

D. Austin Reel Bass Club shall maintain a partnership with Cowboy Church Bass Club. This will include Austin Reel Bass Club participating in 1 to 2 conjoined tournaments with Cowboy Church Bass Club midway between the two clubs (i.e. Lake Belton, Lake Waco) and an end of year Championship with prize money paid out of the field from entry fees during the respective clubs' tournaments.

E. A member that does not support, represent, or have the best interest of ARBC in mind, can be removed by the board.

F. A club member must be in good standing to participate in End of Year Championship tournaments. A good standing decision will be determined by the board.

Section 2. Dues

A. Membership dues, as determined by majority vote of the membership, are due at the first regular meeting of each year. Members joining during the year will have their club dues pro-rated. All club membership requirements as follows:

B. Membership dues include the additional cost of

1. ARBC annual club dues – currently \$12

C. A member of ARBC must be 17 years of age or older and pay dues.

D. Any child under the age of 17 must fish with their legal guardian on all Bass Club activities. Junior membership with Parent sponsor (also an active member) is allowed (Junior under age 17) with all voting rights except end of year Officer elections.

E. Membership dues will be pro-rated for any member for the ARBC annual club dues portion on a \$1 per month deduction for the month the member joins.

ARTICLE 3: CLUB MEETINGS AND TOURNAMENTS

Section 1. Meetings

Club meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. on the Monday of the month immediately following a tournament unless otherwise noted. These dates may be changed by the Executive Committee under special circumstances. Please consult ARBC calendar on website for exact day as some meeting dates are moved out a week due to a holiday occurring on or very near to a meeting date.

Section 2. Meeting principles

Club meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Christian principles.

Section 3. Meeting conduct

The consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or mind-altering substances (except medication prescribed under a doctor's care that will not impair the operation of a boat) is prohibited at all Austin Reel Bass Club functions, and functions at which membership is representing Austin Reel Bass Club.

Section 4. Meeting points and voting

Attendance is defined as being at the meeting in person. One point will be awarded for attendance. A member will drop three meetings a year without penalty for a max of 9 meetings points a year. A member must be present at the meeting to place a vote on a lake, ramp or times.

ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS, DUTIES, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Officers – Board of Directors

A. The officers of this organization (also known as the Board of Directors) shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Club Chaplain and a Trustee (previous President)

B. All officers shall also serve as directors, members of the board of directors, and tournament committee members. The Tournament Director shall be in charge of the tournament committee. One officer (or club designate) shall serve as the liaison between the Austin Reel Bass Club and any club affiliations or other dual club events.

C. The Board of Directors will meet as deemed necessary.

Section 2. Elections

A. Nominations will be held at the November regular monthly meeting.

B. The election of officers to the Board of Directors shall be held at the last December meeting by secret ballot. Elections shall be by a simple majority of members present. Actual positions of Board of Directors shall be voted on and determined by the Board itself. Only voting for a position to the Board will be held whereby President, Vice-President, etc. shall be voted upon within the Board and all positions will be made public to club and BASS membership as required.

C. Each membership is limited to one vote.

D. The term of office is one year beginning on the first day of January and ending the last day of December. All board positions will expire at the same time.

E. The Chaplain positions are an appointed position by the Board of Directors and that position shall be filled until the Chaplain(s) chooses to resign at which point a new one can be appointed. There can be two Chaplains.

Section 3. Vacancies

A. In the event that an office becomes vacant,

(1) Nominations will be submitted by the board, to the club, and the election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

(2) Term of office runs through the last day in December and is considered the first year of service.

(3) Rotation off the board will follow the guidelines detailed in section D.

Section 4. Eligibility

To be eligible for an office, a member must have been an active member for a period of six months.

Section 5. Duties of the officers

A. President

(1) To chair all club and board meetings

(2) To call special board meetings as deemed necessary

(3) Assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins

(4) Assist any board member as deemed necessary

(5) Breaking any tie votes.

B. Vice President

(1) To provide the entertainment at club meetings

(2) Assume the duties of the President in his absence

(3) Assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins

(4) Assist any board member as deemed necessary

(5) Responsible for securing all door prizes

C. Secretary

(1) To keep written records of all club activities

(2) To keep attendance records of all meetings and tournaments

(3) Be responsible for writing a monthly newsletter informing membership of all club activities and mailing each member a copy either by email or physical mailing.

(4) Provide up-to-date mailing lists for each member

(5) Keep all rule changes up-to-date in club By- Laws

(6) To assist the Treasurer in collecting dues and keeping a correct record of such transactions

(7) To assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins

(8) To assist any board member as deemed necessary

D. Treasurer

- (1) To collect all dues and provide Secretary with correct records of such transactions
- (2) Assist Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins
- (3) Assist any board member as deemed necessary.

E. Tournament Director

- (1) To chair the Tournament Committee
- (2) To direct all weigh-in activities
- (3) To present all trophies and awards at the club's monthly meeting
- (4) Responsible for keeping records of all tournament results and giving information to Secretary and Treasurer
- (5) Responsible for scales at weigh-ins
- (6) Responsible for securing all trophies and awards
- (7) Assist any board member as deemed necessary

F. Club Chaplain

- (1) To lead all club prayer before and at the end of the closing of all club meetings.
- (2) To lead closing prayer at the end of all club tournaments

Section 6. Duties of other Lead Role (non board) positions as required

A. Public Relations Director

- (1) To officially represent the Austin Reel Bass Club in matters of member recruitment and any other public relations matters deemed necessary by the President
- (2) To assist the Vice President in entertainment needs of the club when needed
- (3) Assist any board member as deemed necessary

B. Youth Director

- (1) To direct all youth and children activities
- (2) Work with the State and Regional Youth Directors.
- (3) To assist the Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins.
- (4) To assist any board member as deemed necessary.

C. Conservation Director

- (1) To officially represent the Austin Reel Bass Club in matters of conservation
- (2) To direct all conservation activities.

- (3) Work with the State and Regional Conservation Directors.
- (4) To assist the Tournament Director at all tournament weigh-ins.
- (5) To assist any board member as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 5: RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Procedure for rule change

- A. The suggested change must be submitted in writing to the board prior to a regular meeting at new business. The Board reserves the right to reject any rule change based on the best interests of the club.
- B. The club will vote at the next meeting based on a 2/3 vote of members present providing written notice of the proposed change has been presented to the membership in the monthly newsletter or email to give all members proper time to show up and vote on the change.
- C. By-law changes may be submitted ONLY twice a year. Once during the May meeting to be voted on during the June meeting, and next during the November meeting to be voted on during the December meeting.

ARTICLE 6: TOURNAMENT RULES AND AWARDS

Section 1. Tournament Awards

- A. Tournament fees will fund awards and tournament payouts and End of Year Championship.
- B. Tournament awards can consist of appropriately engraved trophies or plaques and/or award money or something appropriate to the award.
- C. Awards shall be presented for each tournament based on aggregate weight of team's best five fish caught by properly constituted teams. This team's best five will be either paper measured or weighed fish. **(Note each team member must still maintain paper weights of their best five fish to be submitted to tournament directors for Angler of Year standings)**. These awards shall be issued at the regular monthly meeting after each tournament. If a team has only 1 member then only ½ a total fee is required (\$20) and only ½ of a team prize shall be paid out to such a team but optionally a 1 member team can pay the full \$40 entry fee if they think they can win a larger prize such as first place.
- D. First, Second, and Third awards shall be presented for tournament participation of up to twenty members. For twenty-one to thirty members fishing, a fourth place award will be issued. For thirty- one to forty, a fifth place award will be issued.

E. Big Fish of each tournament regardless of size (but being a legal catch) shall receive a "Big Bass Pot check" (Big Bass Pot is basically the number of anglers in the tournament times 2 minus \$5 which is for small fish award; whereas \$2 of each entry fee goes towards this big/small bass pot) award.

F. Small fish of each tournament regardless of size (but being a legal catch) shall receive a "Small Bass of Tournament" check. This shall be \$5 which is taken from total big bass pot above (section E).

Section 2. Annual Awards

A. Membership Awards

(1) Awards will be presented to the "Top Eight". They are the top eight club members amassing the greatest total points in the calendar year prior to the annual awards banquet with three (3) throw-aways (dropped tournaments). For example, in a year in which twelve (12) monthly tournaments are held, the best nine (9) tournaments from each participant would be included in the total points for the year (lowest three tournament points or zero points would be dropped).

a. Members can represent the Austin Reel Bass Club at any Championships provided they fish at least 6 tournaments during the club year. A \$20 extra buy in fee (in addition to the Championship tournament fee) can occur if only 5 (or 4 if a tournament or two are canceled during a year) tournaments were fished for the Championship.

(2) The status of the top 8 will be acknowledged by appropriately embroidered items, trophies, gift cards and/or plaques.

(3) The Club Champion (Angler of the Year) award will be presented to the club member amassing the greatest number of points in club tournaments with three (3) throw-aways (dropped tournaments). For example, in a year in which twelve (12) monthly tournaments are held, the best nine (9) tournaments from each participant would be included in the total points for the year (lowest three tournament points or zero points would be dropped). In addition, the Angler of the Year shall be awarded the following year's full club dues paid by the club.

(4) The "Backseater of the Year" award will be presented to the club member amassing the greatest number of points in club tournaments as a non-boater in the calendar year prior to the Awards Banquet with three (3) throw-aways (dropped tournaments). For example, in a year in which twelve (12) monthly tournaments are held, the best nine (9) tournaments from each participant would be included in the total points for the year (lowest three tournament points or zero points would be dropped). The club member will not be eligible for the award if he has fished as a "boater" in any club tournament.

(5) The "Big Bass of the Year" award will be presented to the club member catching the largest bass over five pounds during a club tournament in the public waters of the State of Texas in the calendar year prior to the December Awards Banquet.

(6) The "A.R.B.C. Sportsman Award" will be presented at the annual banquet to the club member receiving the most votes cast in a secret ballot at a November meeting. The results of the balloting will be known only to the Board of Directors until the presentation of the award.

Section 3. Misc Tournament Information

- A. Club tournaments shall be voted on a monthly basis with voting happening at the Monday meeting (right after a tournament Saturday) of the month prior to the next month tournament. Voting will be for lake, weigh-in location (if required), and tournament times. For voting of Travel Tournaments 3 months advance voting may be required to secure accommodations, etc.
- B. In order to foster fellowship and friendship amongst the club, monthly tournaments in that are at the end of a quarter (March, June, Sept., and Dec.) will be draw tournaments to be administered by the Tournament Director unless a change due to a traveling tournament or other change occurs at which a double up on draw tournaments shall occur to guarantee a minimum of 4 draw tournaments per year. This may be suspended due to special circumstances.
- C. Tournament fees will be \$40 a team or \$44 a team for two day tournaments where two big/small bass prizes are paid out for each day (that includes a boater and non-boater) or \$20 (or \$22 for two day tournaments) a person. The non-boater should pay their own tournament fees (currently \$20 or \$22) and the boater is expected to pay his own share of tournament fees (also \$20 or \$22) and it is customary that non-boaters pay half of the boater's cost per day to the boater for operating expenses (\$30-\$40 is suggested per day). Certain cases may require pairs to work out other arrangements.
If a member happens to fish alone (not encouraged) that member shall only be entitled to half of any team winnings unless that member chooses to pay the full team entry fee of \$40. Big Bass pot and Big Bass of Tournament are individual awards and are not affected.
- D. Tournament fees received at each monthly tournament from each members/team will be distributed/collected as follows:
 - a. \$2.00 will go to Big/Small Bass Pot (per person) awarded at each tournament (per day).
 - b. \$2.00 will go towards the Annual Awards Banquet Fund (per person).
 - c. Future use
 - d. Future use
 - e. .128334 of total monthly tournament fees (after a,b,c, and d above

are paid out) will be placed into the club treasury.

f. Remaining of total monthly tournament fees (after a,b,c, and d above are paid out) will be paid out to the tournament TEAM winners (awards awarded to team ½ of place winnings to each team member) as follows:

1. 50% for first place.
2. 30% for second place.
3. 20% for third place.

In the case of four paying places (21-30 anglers in a tournament) the same items apply as above except team payout is as follows:

1. 50% for first place.
2. 25% for second place.
3. 15% for third place.
4. 10% for fourth place.

In the case of five paying places (31-40 anglers in a tournament) the same items apply as above except team payout is as follows:

1. 45% for first place.
2. 25% for second place.
3. 15% for third place.
4. 10% for fourth place.
5. 5% for fifth place.

** see addendum at bottom for payout full payout schedule disclosure
Teams or individuals can choose to donate their winnings back to club for outreach uses, etc. by simply letting Secretary or Treasurer know.

- E. \$10 from each team's tournament fees after the payouts described above will be sent in escrow to treasurer in Cowboy Church Bass Club towards the Championship with fish together in for 8 tournaments of ARBC's season to match the 8 that Cowboy Church currently fishes.
- F. All tournament sign-ups and fees may be collected at the tournament weigh-in site the day of the tournament. It is the team's responsibility to find the Treasurer to pay the fees. It is encouraged to pay fees online on the ARBC website.
- G. If a member or team cannot sign up for a tournament during regular before tournament sign up time they need to call the Tournament Director or another member of the Board of Directors no later than 9pm the night before the tournament stating their intention of fishing the tournament with entry fee payable at weigh-in. This does not apply to draw tournaments.
- H. If a member or team signs-up to fish a tournament and an emergency arises prohibiting them from fishing, they shall need to notify the Tournament Director or another member of the Board of Directors by 9pm the night before the tournament and entry fees will be refunded if paid previously.

- I. A member must attend weigh-in to check in even if no keeper fish are caught to be able to receive participation points for that tournament. If a member does not attend weigh-in for any other reason such as an emergency, the member is asked to contact any tournament participant or Board of Director member as soon as possible as a safety/well being check. Weigh in attendance may be suspended due to certain events.

Section 4. Tournament Guidelines

See Tournament Handbook for Rules and Guidelines

ARTICLE 7: REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Reasons for removal

A member shall be dropped from the club roll for any of the following reasons:

A. Failure to pay dues.

B. Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace to the Club.

(1) Should a problem arise involving item "B" above, the board will investigate the problem.

(2) A hearing will be granted upon the request of the individual involved, with continuing membership contingent upon a unanimous approval of the board. Such individual, if removed, will receive a refund of their club annual dues.

C. It will be the purpose of the Club to strive for a full, active membership. Upon a full membership, an inactive member may be removed from the club's roll at any time; membership fees will not be returned.

ARTICLE 8: AFFILIATION

Section 1. Club Affiliation

Requirements for Affiliation with Cowboy Church Bass Club

A. Club membership for Austin Reel Bass Club shall have membership in Cowboy Church Bass Club and vice-versa;

B. Update Cowboy Church Bass Club with a chapter membership roster once each year;

C. Provide part of tournament entry fee as described in Article 6 Section 3 in escrow to Cowboy Church Bass Club towards the Championship Fee.

E. Members of each club (Austin Reel Bass Club and Cowboy Church Bass Club) can fish in each other's tournaments;

F. Austin Reel Bass Club would remain the same and rules and tournament would not change.

G. The two clubs will fish together in one to two midway tournaments. These tournaments will be 3 fish tournaments and these combined tournaments with Cowboy Church will be \$60 entry fee. Austin Reel Bass Club would weigh teams using the best three fish of all team members fish but also weigh using paper tournament sheet submission to ARBC tournament directors no later than 30 mins of last call for weigh in line for individual's fish since Austin Reel Bass Club tracks that way too. The Team weight would simply be the best 3 to compete against Cowboy Church teams since they do not track individuals.

H. These combined tournaments with Cowboy Church Bass Club should be pick your partner.

I. Classic Championship Tournament.

- (1) Any team that has fished 6 or more ARBC tournaments during the year is eligible to fish in the classic or less with a buy extra buy in fee.
- (2) Pro-rata entry fee is as follows: \$50 entry fee per team if the team has fished in 6 or more tournaments.
- (3) \$10 from each of the team's entry fees throughout the year will be set aside to help fund the Classic Tournament.
- (4) There will not be an entry fee for the Top teams based on AOY points and club participation.
 - 035 total club entries throughout the year = the top 1 team gets free entry
 - 070 total club entries throughout the year = the top 2 teams gets free entry
 - 105 total club entries throughout the year = the top 3 teams gets free entry
 - 140 total club entries throughout the year = the top 4 teams gets free entry
 - 175 total club entries throughout the year = the top 5 teams gets free entry

210 or > total club entries throughout the year = the top 6 teams gets free entry

- 5) This is a two day tournament.
 - Day 1 - 3 fish limit
 - Day 2 - 5 fish limit

- J. For the free entries granted based on club entries throughout the year these will align via Austin Reel Bass Club's Top 8. The boater in Top 8's team will get the free entry according to Top 8 order (since we do not have permanent teams like Cowboy Church Bass Club)

Tournament Rulebook

last modified Monday, December 04, 2006

(1) Rules Changes:

The following rules shall remain unchanged throughout the events, but the Tournament committee (board of directors) shall have the right to make changes for safety considerations. All decisions of the board of directors (by simple majority vote) are final in all matters.

(2) Participation & Eligibility:

Anyone who is a member in good standing with AUSTIN REEL BASS CLUB. A club member may fish in a tournament with an invited guest or alone providing that no member of the club wishing to fish will be prevented from fishing. This may not apply to draw tournaments.

(3) Alcoholic Beverages:

The consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or mind-altering substances (except medication prescribed under a doctor's care that will not impair the operation of a boat) is prohibited at all Austin Reel Bass Club functions, and all other functions at which membership is representing Austin Reel Bass Club.

(4) Sportsmanship:

Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified and shall forfeit points. This will be brought by tournament director to the Board of Directors for action if necessary.

(5) Boat & Motor:

All boats and motors must meet all U.S. coast Guard and State regulations. No motors shall exceed the BIA rating for that boat. All boats must have a working kill switch unless the boat was not originally equipped and an adequate aerated and working live well.

(6) Safety:

A U.S. Coast Guard Approved chest type life preserver must be worn and fully fastened by all boats members at all times that the combustion engine is in operation and the kill switch must be attached to the operator unless the boat was not originally equipped.

(7) Emergency/Leave Early:

If a contestant or team wishes to leave the lake prior to weigh-in, that contestant **MUST** notify the tournament director or a tournament committee member, leave a note at the designated check-in area, or notify another tournament contestant that will be present at the weigh-in. This is a safety requirement we all should adhere to.

(8) Tackle & Equipment:

All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner on artificial lures. No trolling with the combustion engine or snagging of fish is permitted. Trolling motor may be used for boat positioning only. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rind. Only one rod may be used at one time. A cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. Only rods shorter than 8 feet in length may be used. Nets will be allowed

(9) Protests:

All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director or any tournament committee member within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.

(10) Teams: (Standard tournaments)

Teams will consist of two members (can be one fisherman if there are an add number of anglers or there is a late back of the boater cancellation) or a member and a guest who pair together under mutual agreement. There is no limit to the number of tournaments a pair can fish together other than draw tournaments. Both members and guest must have signed the waiver of liability to compete. The pairing must contact the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament for the points to count. Members must have dues paid for the year for points to count toward top six. Guests are allowed to fish twice a year without dues, but points don't accrue until dues are paid. Tournament Director may ignore guest limit to create equal teams if a guest is available.

(10.1) Teams: (Draw tournaments)

Non-boaters and boaters will notify the tournament director of their intention of participation previous to 6:45 pm of the meeting prior to the tournament. **There will be few to no exceptions to late requests of participation unless approved by the tournament director and in the interest of helping pair fishermen.**

A member may choose to fish with a minor and not be included in the draw. This covers a member related to minor OR a member not related to the minor. If the member is not related to the minor then that is solely a decision between the minor's parents and the club angler and not related in any way to ARBC. This "few to no exception" rule is simply to ensure all fairness in draw

tournaments so that no potential abuse to the draw system occurs. The members name will be placed in the appropriate draw box or computer draw. During the meeting a boater will be drawn then a non-boater will be drawn until the boater box is empty. If available a computer draw can occur whereby those wishing to fish can be drawn by computer in the witness of the club at a meeting but if no meeting occurs before tournament by at least another club member as witness. If there are more boaters than non-boaters the remaining boaters may fish as boater, chose to be non-boater, or invite a guest to fish in ARBC tournament as their non-boater tournament partner. In the spirit of club friendship/fairness please ensure that your guest is not a licensed guide on lake you are fishing on or some other professional fisherman that derives more than 60% of their income from fishing. This guest option to boaters not picked in draw shall not supersede a club member that wants to fish in an ARBC tournament and has no partner and wants or is a non-boater. An effort to have enough boaters will be made if non boaters out number boaters, so contact the director as early as possible. Both participants must have a written waiver of liability signed. Members must have paid dues to have points count for top 8.

(10.2) Special Situations:

Fellowship is the overriding rule of the Austin Reel Bass Club. Special circumstances may arise which require three to a boat or a member to fish alone. These will be allowed only with tournament director approval prior to the beginning of the tournament and with no protests filed. It is incumbent on each member to notify the tournament director if they cannot fish a tournament after having been selected; If the member is a boater it is also their responsibility (with assistance of the tournament director) to find their partnered non-boater a ride. The tournament director will assist in the goal of everyone being able to fish who desires to fish.

(11) Lake Selection:

Lake selection shall be voted on a monthly basis in the month prior to that tournament. Combined Tournaments with Cowboy Church may override the Lake Selection. It should be the Monday monthly meeting in the month prior to a tournament and should include Lake, weigh-in location (as required), and tournament time. For example, in March we will vote as a club the April tournament. Time of tournament, time and place of weigh-in will be decided at the monthly meeting with the Tournament Director presiding over this portion of the meeting. Special circumstances may arise where it is necessary for the Tournament Director to change any of the above. The 2nd place lake during voting shall also be recorded and deemed officially the backup lake should fishing not be deemed safe on the primary voted in lake (deemed unsafe by tournament director). If the backup lake is chosen due to a decision by the Tournament Director then the board and the Tournament Director shall change

the weigh-in location leaving the previously voted in hours of the tournament in place.

(12) Officials:

All contestants are required to cooperate with all requests from all tournament committee members on and off the water.

(13) Official Check-in:

Contestants may launch from anywhere on tournament waters, and trailer or come by water to the designated weigh-in as required.

(14) Rules Infractions:

Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for disqualifications and forfeiture of points for tournament infractions.

(15) Tournament Guidelines:

A. All tournaments of Austin Reel Bass Club shall be catch-and release format. Austin Reel Bass Club declares itself a catch-and- release club for all purposes. Dead fish is defined as not likely to live and is up to the tournament director's discretion.

B. Tournament fees shall be paid at or prior to weigh-in.

C. Tournaments are to be on the first Saturday of the month (unless a major holiday conflicts with this Saturday) excluding any traveling tournaments. The tournament schedule approved for the year shall not be changed during the year, except at the Tournament Director's recommendation per some safety issues to the Board of Directors for a vote by simple majority or if some club activity requires a date change of which the whole club will be consulted and voted upon. This decision is final. During that vote the Board of Directors (of which the Tournament Director is a Board member) it shall be determined whether that tournament can continue at a later starting time for safety reasons or cancelled all together. If a later starting time cannot be safely accommodated, the tournament shall be canceled and not be made up.

D. State, Federal and local game laws will be obeyed at all times.

E. Lake rules pertaining to restricted areas as marked will always be observed.

F. Only largemouth, Kentucky spotted, Guadalupe, or smallmouth bass may be weighed.

G. A Club Limit is considered to be five fish bass per person (for AOY standigns) and best five from team per weigh-in. (or three for combined Cowboy Church Bass Clubs tournaments) Teams may not pool their catches. The Club Limit can be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director but shall never exceed the local or state regulations for that lake.

H. Each participant shall keep his fish separate to facilitate individual point scoring but cash awards shall be awarded by team best five total.

I. When a bass is caught it is to be measured immediately using the current measuring method prescribed by law (The Pro Rule Stick will be the official tournament measuring board). Once its length has been determined:

(1) All fish must measure 14 inches (only 14 inches min. for combined with Cowboy Church Bass Club tournaments) or longer or 10 inches for Guadalupe/Spotted Bass species (or 10 inches minimum for a paper tournament). Local lake regulations may supersede these fish size restrictions. The tournament director shall arbitrate any questions as to fish species. Such a fish will be referred to as a "Keeper" fish. All other fish are to be immediately returned to the lake. On exception to the size limits for weigh-in fish will be lakes with slots or creel restrictions. If that is the case those local lake laws prevail. This does not pertain to paper tournaments on those lakes.

(2) On some area lakes where there are slot limits, a paper tournament which utilizes TPWD weight estimates based on length of fish shall/may be conducted. In this case a minimum of a 10 inch fish can be weighed on paper tournament. Only largest five fish weights can be entered for tournament from team best five and best five for individual. For Big Bass of the Year it may be a Tournament paper weighed fish.

(3) Culling is permitted. Should a member already have in his possession a legal limit of Keeper fish and then catch another fish of keeper size which is larger than the smallest fish in his live-well, he can return the smaller fish to the lake and put the larger fish in his live-well. In accordance with newer and fish friendly tournament rules no dead fish can be culled. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of that tournament.

J. At weigh-in time the member will present all Keeper fish in his possession to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will weigh the fish presented to him and assistant or Secretary will record the number and weight of those fish.

K. Due to safety concerns with boats coming and going at ramp areas no fishing shall occur within the greater of the ramp no wake buoy area or 200 yards of ramp in any directions within the following time periods:

1. 30 minutes after start of tournament time.

2. 30 minutes prior to end of tournament time.
3. Fishing in any other timeframe other than described above where legal by state local regulations is permitted.
4. Disqualification may occur at the tournament director's discretion only.

L. If a team has keeper fish to weigh, one member of each team must be present at the weigh-in to qualify their team's catch. If a team has only paper fish to weigh and must leave a tournament early it is their responsibility to get their tournament results slip to the Tournament Director. For paper tournaments the format may allow for texting of picture of paper slips to tournament directors but must be sent in no later than 30 mins after lines out at end of tournament. Late penalties per minute are assessed at 1 pound per minute late until 15 minutes where weight is zero. This is assessed against indiv and team weights.

O. The non-boater should pay their own tournament fees (currently \$20) and the boater is expected to pay his own share of tournament fees (also \$20) and it is customary that non-boaters pay half of the boater's cost per day to the boater for operating expenses (\$30-\$40 is suggested per day). Certain cases may require pairs to work out other arrangements.

P. The Tournament Director is the final arbiter of disputes at tournaments.

Q. Traveling tournaments can be voted on to lakes inside Texas and should not exceed three per year. In addition they must be voted in on non – draw tournament months. This can be changed if traveling tournaments are voted on and a draw tournament is agreed upon for that traveling tournament or any combination where the club votes on the change.

(15) Scoring:

A. Each pound of bass caught during a regular club tournament will be recorded and maintained in a separate standing chart and shall be used as a tie breaker in the event of a tie for any of the top six places.

B. Points will be awarded according to place finished in a regular club tournament.

The point system for place finished will be as follows:

1st Heavy Stringer 100 pts
2nd " " 99 pts
3rd " " 98 pts
4th " " 97 pts
5th " " 96 pts
6th " " 95 pts ...

and so on until the final place is awarded.

C. If an angler does not catch a fish he will receive 7 points less than the lowest finishing stringer.

D. No points are awarded for not fishing a tournament.

E. 1 point is awarded for each regular club meeting.

F. Though points are tallied and maintained as the year progresses, for final year-end standings, each participant is allowed three (3) throw aways/drops whether they fish that tournament or not.

(16) Penalties:

A. Dead Fish: 0.25lb penalty for each dead fish weighed in.

B. Illegal Fish: Bass presented at weigh-in, which is an illegal fish by the State of Texas laws for the tournament waters, shall be penalized 1 pound per illegal fish and those illegal fish shall not be weighed in with the remaining legal fish weighed in minus the 1 pound deduction per illegal fish. (Courtesy check is allowed if requested to tournament director and must be requested before fish are presented for weigh-in).

C. Tardiness: A penalty of 1 pound per minute will accrue up to 15 minutes. After 16 minutes no weight will be allowed, contestant will receive his "no fish/participation points" though. You must be in eyesight of the tournament director at the boat launch or wherever the weigh-in is. For current mass gathering restrictions we allow for texting of picture of paper slips for paper tournament to tournament directors but must be sent in no later than 30 mins after lines out at end of tournament. Late penalties per minute are assessed at 1 pound per minute late until 15 minutes where weight is zero. This is assessed against indiv and team weights.

(17) Off Limits: There are currently no off limits periods for any tournament whether traveling or local.

Addendum 1: Tournament payout worksheet

anglers	Big Bass	Little Bass	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Tournament payout	Banquet Fund	To Club	Total entry fees
8	11.00	5.00	26.87	16.12	10.75			123.47	16.00	20.53	160.00
9	13.00	5.00	30.22	18.13	12.09			138.90	18.00	23.10	180.00
10	15.00	5.00	33.58	20.15	13.43			154.33	20.00	25.67	200.00
11	17.00	5.00	36.94	22.16	14.78			169.77	22.00	28.23	220.00
12	19.00	5.00	40.30	24.18	16.12			185.20	24.00	30.80	240.00
13	21.00	5.00	43.66	26.19	17.46			200.63	26.00	33.37	260.00
14	23.00	5.00	47.02	28.21	18.81			216.07	28.00	35.93	280.00
15	25.00	5.00	50.37	30.22	20.15			231.50	30.00	38.50	300.00
16	27.00	5.00	53.73	32.24	21.49			246.93	32.00	41.07	320.00
17	29.00	5.00	57.09	34.25	22.84			262.37	34.00	43.63	340.00
18	31.00	5.00	60.45	36.27	24.18			277.80	36.00	46.20	360.00
19	33.00	5.00	63.81	38.28	25.52			293.23	38.00	48.77	380.00
20	35.00	5.00	67.17	40.30	26.87			308.67	40.00	51.33	400.00
21	37.00	5.00	70.52	35.26	21.16	14.10		324.10	42.00	53.90	420.00
22	39.00	5.00	73.88	36.94	22.16	14.78		339.53	44.00	56.47	440.00
23	41.00	5.00	77.24	38.62	23.17	15.45		354.97	46.00	59.03	460.00
24	43.00	5.00	80.60	40.30	24.18	16.12		370.40	48.00	61.60	480.00
25	45.00	5.00	83.96	41.98	25.19	16.79		385.83	50.00	64.17	500.00
26	47.00	5.00	87.32	43.66	26.19	17.46		401.27	52.00	66.73	520.00
27	49.00	5.00	90.67	45.34	27.20	18.13		416.70	54.00	69.30	540.00
28	51.00	5.00	94.03	47.02	28.21	18.81		432.13	56.00	71.87	560.00
29	53.00	5.00	97.39	48.70	29.22	19.48		447.57	58.00	74.43	580.00
30	55.00	5.00	100.75	50.37	30.22	20.15		463.00	60.00	77.00	600.00
31	57.00	5.00	93.70	52.05	31.23	20.82	10.41	478.43	62.00	79.57	620.00
32	59.00	5.00	96.72	53.73	32.24	21.49	10.75	493.87	64.00	82.13	640.00
33	61.00	5.00	99.74	55.41	33.25	22.16	11.08	509.30	66.00	84.70	660.00
34	63.00	5.00	102.76	57.09	34.25	22.84	11.42	524.73	68.00	87.27	680.00
35	65.00	5.00	105.79	58.77	35.26	23.51	11.75	540.17	70.00	89.83	700.00
36	67.00	5.00	108.81	60.45	36.27	24.18	12.09	555.60	72.00	92.40	720.00
37	69.00	5.00	111.83	62.13	37.28	24.85	12.43	571.03	74.00	94.97	740.00
38	71.00	5.00	114.85	63.81	38.28	25.52	12.76	586.47	76.00	97.53	760.00
39	73.00	5.00	117.88	65.49	39.29	26.19	13.10	601.90	78.00	100.10	780.00
40	75.00	5.00	120.90	67.17	40.30	26.87	13.43	617.33	80.00	102.67	800.00
41	77.00	5.00	123.92	68.85	41.31	27.54	13.77	632.77	82.00	105.23	820.00
42	79.00	5.00	126.94	70.52	42.31	28.21	14.10	648.20	84.00	107.80	840.00
43	81.00	5.00	129.97	72.20	43.32	28.88	14.44	663.63	86.00	110.37	860.00
44	83.00	5.00	132.99	73.88	44.33	29.55	14.78	679.07	88.00	112.93	880.00
45	85.00	5.00	136.01	75.56	45.34	30.22	15.11	694.50	90.00	115.50	900.00
46	87.00	5.00	139.03	77.24	46.34	30.90	15.45	709.93	92.00	118.07	920.00
47	89.00	5.00	142.06	78.92	47.35	31.57	15.78	725.37	94.00	120.63	940.00
48	91.00	5.00	145.08	80.60	48.36	32.24	16.12	740.80	96.00	123.20	960.00
49	93.00	5.00	148.10	82.28	49.37	32.91	16.46	756.23	98.00	125.77	980.00
50	95.00	5.00	151.12	83.96	50.37	33.58	16.79	771.67	100.00	128.33	1,000.00