

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
NORTH ALABAMA TOURNAMENT ANGLERS (NATA)
2010**

ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

SECTION 1. Name

This organization shall be called the North Alabama Tournament Anglers (NATA), hereafter referred to as the Club.

SECTION 2. Purpose

The purpose is threefold:

1. To provide a means by which Club members can improve their angling skills and knowledge; and
2. To provide a means by which the sport of bass fishing can be enjoyed in a friendly, competitive, and sportsman-like manner; and
3. To promote participation in the Alabama Bass Federation activities at the local, state, and national levels.

ARTICLE II - Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility

Membership in the Club is open to persons 16 years of age or older.

SECTION 2. Requirements for Membership

To be a member of the Club, a person shall:

1. Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership, as determined by the officers.
2. Pay annual membership dues (as determined by the Board of Directors) prior to the beginning of the tournament year, or before participating in the draw for any club tournament.
3. Abide by all Club rules and conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner at all Club functions.

SECTION 3. Removal of Membership

Members that do not meet the requirements for membership may be recommended, by any member, for a judgment of “not in good standing”. Upon such a recommendation, a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a pre-tournament meeting will be required to place the member in a “not in good standing” status. Such members shall be notified in writing by the Club Secretary. After a period of thirty days, any member “not in good standing” may be recommended for dismissal from the Club by any member in good standing. Such a recommendation may be made at any pre-tournament meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at such a meeting will result in the dismissal of the member from the Club. If the dismissal motion is defeated, or is not called for, at the first pre-tournament meeting after the 30-day waiting period, the member shall return to the status of “good standing”.

ARTICLE III - Club Officers

SECTION 1. Officers

Officers of the Club shall be:

1. President - shall preside over all Club meetings and direct all official business. He shall appoint all unelected committees and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
2. Vice President - shall assist the President in all of his duties and act for the President in his absence. The Vice President will serve as the Tournament Director for all Club tournaments and will be responsible for all publicity.
3. Secretary - shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of all meetings, shall maintain an accurate account of all points awarded to each member, and shall maintain all tournament records.
4. Treasurer - shall maintain the Club’s finances, accounts, and financial statements.

SECTION 2. Elections

1. Election of officers will occur during the annual Organization Meeting. Election of officers shall result from a simple majority vote of the members present. Proxy votes, in writing, will be permitted. Only members in good standing are permitted to vote in Club elections.
2. In the event an elected office becomes vacant, nominations will be taken and a special election held at any pre-tournament meeting.

SECTION 3. Terms of Office

1. All elected officers will serve terms of one year. Newly elected officers will assume the duties of their elected position immediately following the conclusion of the current year's annual awards banquet and will relinquish them at the conclusion of the following year's annual awards banquet.
2. As an exception, officers who are elected to fill a vacancy through a special election, as described above, will serve only the remaining portion of the one year term from the date of their election until conclusion of the next annual awards banquet.

SECTION 4. Grievance Committee

1. There shall be a Grievance Committee consisting of three members at-large. These members will be elected at the annual Organizational Meeting. In the event a member of the Grievance Committee can not be present at any session called, an alternate will be appointed by the Officers present.
2. The Grievance Committee shall resolve all disputes or conflicts arising as a result of the interpretation of these bylaws by means of a simple majority vote. Additionally, the Grievance Committee shall accept petitions for specific exceptions to these bylaws on a case-by-case basis. The ruling of the Grievance Committee is final and without appeal or recourse.
3. When present at tournaments, members of the Grievance Committee shall assist with Club tournament weigh-in activities.

SECTION 5. Board of Directors

The officers and the elected members of the grievance committee will comprise the Board of Directors. The purpose of the Board of Directors is to handle all club business. Any business requiring a vote carries with a simple majority of the Board members present.

SECTION 6. Website

The president will appoint a Webmaster for the year. Any member that wishes to help with the club's website may ask to assist the Webmaster. However, it is the Webmaster's responsibility to coordinate and approve all changes to the Website.

SECTION 7. Discretionary Budget

1. The officers of the Club shall have a maximum budget of \$50 to be used for Club purposes at their discretion. Any use of these funds will be reported to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting after the expenditure.

2. After receiving a report from the officers on the utilization of the discretionary funds, the Club may replenish the budget to a maximum of \$50 with a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

SECTION 1. Pre-Tournament Meetings

Pre-Tournament meetings will be scheduled for a day during the week preceding each Club tournament. The purpose of this meeting is to read the minutes from any Board meetings since the last meeting, perform the tournament draw, and vote on times.

SECTION 2. Board Meetings

The Board meetings will be scheduled by the Board with 1 week's notice to the membership. Any member is welcome to attend the Board meetings.

SECTION 3. Annual Organization Meeting

The Board of Directors will schedule the annual Organization Meeting during the month of October. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the next tournament season.

SECTION 4. Special Meetings

Special meetings may also be required. These will be scheduled and conducted at the call of any elected officer of the Club.

SECTION 5. Annual Schedule Meeting

The Board of Directors will schedule the annual Schedule Meeting during the month of September. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the schedule for the next tournament season with the general membership.

ARTICLE V - Tournaments

SECTION 1. Tournament Director

The Vice President will serve as Tournament Director and will coordinate and supervise all aspects of Club tournaments. A Tournament Committee will be appointed to assist him in tournament duties.

SECTION 2. Regularly Scheduled Tournaments

The Board of Directors shall jointly develop the tournament schedule. After appropriate discussion and modification, the schedule will be voted on and approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. If conflicts arise during the year with scheduled tournament dates, the Board of Directors has the authority to make changes to the dates. Scheduled launch sites and times cannot be changed after the pre-tournament meeting except for circumstances beyond the clubs control. (ex. A launch ramp closed for repair or a large tournament using the ramp at the same time)

1. The Tournament Director has final decision.
2. Tournament cancellation decisions will typically be made at the ramp, at the originally scheduled time, and the Tournament Director shall have the final decision.
3. All tournaments will be designated as DRAW tournaments. At the meeting prior to the scheduled tournament, a draw will be made to determine pairings for that tournament. In cases where someone was not paired in the drawing, that person may either fish alone or find a partner to fish with for that tournament without being charged a guest pass. NATA dues must be paid in advance of entering the draw. Unpaired boaters will have the following options regarding their status as a participant. Unpaired boaters must elect an option by 5pm on the Thursday before the tournament or default to option (b) below.
 - a. Boater / non-boater – \$40 combined entry fee (regular draw partner).
 - b. Boater without partner, 5-fish limit – \$20 entry fee (regular unpaired boater). This includes the big fish fee, the regular club holdback, and the tournament placement entry fee for one angler. You will be allowed to keep 5 fish.
 - c. Boater without partner, 10-fish limit – \$35 entry fee. Must enter the draw and not use a pass. This includes the big fish fee, the regular club holdback, and tournament placement entry fees for two anglers. You will be allowed to keep 10 fish. At weigh-in, you must clearly present two separate groups of fish. You must clearly state which group will be considered for AOY points and big fish, and the other group will be combined with the first group for tournament placement purposes only.
 - d. Boater without partner, 5-fish limit – \$10 entry fee. Must enter the draw and not use a pass. This includes the big fish fee and \$5 for the club. You will be allowed to keep 5 fish. The boater will be competing for the big fish cash prize and for AOY points, but not for the tournament placement cash prizes.
4. In the event that there are more non-boaters than boaters in the draw, the unpaired non-boaters will be required to find a boat/boater, but will not be charged a guest pass. If the non-boater is unable to find a boat/boater for the tournament and is therefore unable to fish the tournament, they will be drawn first from the non-boater stack for the next tournament.

SECTION 3. Tournament Passes

1. Each member will be allowed 3 guest passes per tournament year. If a member went unpaired at a tournament draw and chose to fish with a non-member or member, it would not count against their guest passes. Any member who is not in the Draw and decides to fish a tournament, either alone or with a buddy, will use a guest pass. It will be up to the Club Secretary to maintain records that show each persons usage of guest passes.
2. Each member will be allowed to use one of their guest passes to fish with a prospective member. In the event the prospective member joins the Club, the sponsoring member will not be charged with using that guest pass.
3. Any member may fish with an immediate family member (spouse, sibling, parent, child, grandparent, or grandchild) without being charged with the use of a guest pass. This must be done at the pre-tournament meeting immediately preceding the tournament.

SECTION 4. Placement Prizes

The following scheme will be used for all regular season Club tournaments:

FIRST Place	45%
SECOND Place	25%
THIRD Place	15%
TOTAL	85%

Fifteen percent (15%) will be retained by the Club to help defray expenses. Payouts for a tournament may be changed by a two-thirds majority vote of all members present at a meeting prior to the tournament. All placement prizes are awarded to the boat/team based on the combined weight of the fish weighed by the boat/team. A Big Fish pot is incorporated in the tournament entry fee, with a 100% pay back of all moneys collected. Big fish will be determined by the actual weight of a measuring fish after application of any dead fish penalties. Late penalties will not apply to big fish determination. In the event that an error is made at the ramp all payouts remain final.

SECTION 5. NATA Point System

The following system will be utilized to award points and weight to Club members competing in regular season Club tournaments who compete without disqualification:

1. All fish will be weighed in pounds and fractions of pounds. Each boat/team member is responsible for his/her own fish. Fish will be weighed on an individual angler basis with the total boat/team weight being the basis for tournament placement determination.

Culling of fish will be on an individual basis. Decisions of the Tournament Director or designated alternate are final.

2. The angler with the highest individual weight will receive 25 points with each place thereafter receiving one point less. In the event of a tie, all "tied" anglers will receive the average of the points for their positions. For example, if there was a tie between the two anglers with the highest weight, 25 and 24 are averaged to give each angler 24.5 points. An angler must weigh-in at least one fish to receive a point or points.

3. Weight will also be maintained for all contestants in each tournament based on their catch.

4. For tournaments with multiple weigh-ins (2 day tournaments), weights will be totaled but points will not be doubled in the AOY standings.

The Club will use the following system to determine its Angler of the Year (AOY) rankings:

1. Points and weight will be documented and tracked in separate columns for each member. Both columns will be sorted accordingly.
2. Members will be ranked by their highest position from the points column. Ties in the points column will be broken by awarding the contestant with the highest weight with the higher AOY position.
3. All tournaments will be applicable (no throw-aways).

Example of standings after several tournaments:

Name	Points	AOY rank	Name	Weight	AOY Rank
Clunn, Rick	27	(1)	Brauer, Denny	30-3	
Nixon, Larry	25	(2)	Nixon, Larry	28-9	
Brauer, Denny	20	(3)	Clunn, Rick	27-6	
Fritts, David	15	(4)	Fritts, David	25-2	
Cochran, George	15	(5)	VanDam, Kevin	20-0	
VanDam, Kevin	10	(6)	Yelas, Jay	17-7	
Davis, Mark	7	(7)	Davis, Mark	12-12	
Bitter, Jim	6	(8)	Cochran, George	11-4	
Yelas, Jay	4	(9)	Bitter, Jim	10-1	
Cook, Ken	0	(10)	Cook, Ken	9-8	

() indicates Angler of the Year ranking

SECTION 6. The John Coyle Harrison Memorial Classic

The Club will hold one additional tournament at the end of the regular season known as the "John Coyle Harrison Memorial Classic". The guidelines for this tournament are located in Attachment 2 of these by-laws. Any changes voted on by the Board of Directors go into effect at the same time all by-law changes go in to effect per Article IX. Subsequent changes to the guidelines may be made at pre-tournament meeting preceding the Classic with a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

SECTION 7. Open Tournaments

The Club may sponsor Open Team Tournaments. Such committees, as necessary, will be appointed to accomplish this sponsorship.

SECTION 8. Tournament Rules

All Club tournaments will be governed by a set of Tournament Rules (Attachment 1). Changes to the rules may be made at any Board meeting with a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VI - Awards

SECTION 1. Award Categories

The following awards/designations will be made annually to Club members. These will normally be presented at a banquet/dinner organized by the Awards Committee and conducted at the conclusion of the tournament year.

1. Angler of the Year - This award will consist of a cash prize and a suitable trophy and will be presented at the completion of each tournament year. Angler of the Year award will be presented to the Club member having the most points in the NATA Point System.
2. Big Fish Award - This award will consist of a cash prize and a suitable trophy or plaque which will be presented at the completion of each tournament year. Big Fish Award will be presented to the Club member catching the biggest (by weight) fish during a regular season Club tournament.
3. Classic Winner - This award will consist of a cash prize and a suitable plaque or trophy.
4. Classic Runner Up - This award will consist of a cash prize.
5. Five AOY Runners-up - A suitable plaque or trophy will be awarded to the top five runners-up in the Angler of the Year rankings.

6. Rookie of the Year - This award will consist of a suitable trophy or plaque to be awarded at the completion of each tournament year. It will be awarded to the Rookie club member highest in standings in the NATA Angler of the Year rankings. However, it will only be awarded if at least two Rookies competed in at least 6 tournaments each. (A Rookie is defined as a member who joined the club after June 30th of the previous year, but before July 1st of the current year. For example, a member who joined the club on August 7, 2001, would be considered a Rookie in 2002. A member may not be a Rookie more than once.)

SECTION 2. Cash Payout

After all club expenses have been paid the following percentages will be used to determine the cash payout of remaining funds.

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|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Angler of the Year | 20% |
| 2. Big Fish | 10% |
| 3. Classic Champ | 10% |
| 4. Classic Runner Up | 5% |

ARTICLE VII - Special

SECTION 1. Disbursement of Club Funds

Disbursement of Club moneys will be in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws. Any disbursement not specifically addressed by this document must be authorized by the Board at a scheduled Board meeting and approved by a majority vote of the Board members present.

SECTION 2. Excess Treasury Funds

The Club will carry over a sufficient balance in the treasury at the end of the tournament year to pay the entry fees of the six-man Federation team at the designated qualifier event the following year. After all expenses have been paid, any excess money can be used by the awards committee to pay for draw prizes and other expenses for the annual Awards Banquet/Dinner.

SECTION 3. Fundraising

The club may participate in any Federation fundraising event. If any member wishes to sponsor a club fundraising event they can present it at a Board Meeting for approval. It will be the responsibility of the club member presenting the idea to organize the volunteers necessary to run the event. Any funds generated will be put into the club treasury.

SECTION 4. Annual Awards Banquet/Dinner

An awards banquet/dinner will be held at the conclusion of the tournament year for the express purpose of honoring those Club members that demonstrated their excellent fishing abilities, specifically the Angler of the Year, Big Fish Award, the Top Five Runners-up in the AOY standings, the John Coyle Harrison Memorial Classic Champion, the Classic runner-up, and the Rookie of the Year. The awards banquet/dinner will be organized and conducted by the Awards Committee. Merchandise to be used as draw prizes at the awards banquet/dinner will be solicited from fishing supply vendors and/or purchased with the funds listed in Article VII, Section 2.

SECTION 5. Unexpected expenses

In the event that the club runs into unexpected expenses, the Board of Directors can call for an assessment of the membership to cover the expense.

ARTICLE VIII – Alabama Bass Federation Chapter

SECTION 1. Federation Sponsorship

The Club will sponsor a Chapter of the Alabama Bass Federation for the purpose of promoting participation in bass fishing and for the activities endorsed by the Alabama Federation at the State and National levels. A Federation Point-of-Contact will be appointed by the President to be responsible for all communications, transactions, and correspondences with the Alabama Bass Federation.

SECTION 2. Federation Membership

Each Club member will be entered into the roster of the Alabama Federation Chapter unless a specific request is made to the Federation POC. Membership fees for the Alabama Federation will be paid out of the Club treasury.

SECTION 3. Federation Team

Each year, the Alabama Federation provides regional tournaments in which members may compete to qualify for the State Championship. The Club is permitted to sponsor a team of six anglers at each one of the regional tournaments. The Team members will be selected based on the previous year's Angler of the Year ranking. The top six anglers will comprise the Club's 1st Federation Team (C1FT). The remaining Federation members, in order of Angler of the Year ranking, will serve as alternates in the event that one or more of the regular Team members can not participate or become members of any additional teams entered into the remaining regional tournaments. The Federation Team members will select which regional tournament they will attend as a team. It will be the responsibility of the team members to pay their own expenses;

however, in years where excess club funds are available the Club can elect to provide the C1FT members with funds for their entry fee and/or additional funds to offset their expenses. A C1FT members' eligibility to receive a paid entry fee and/or the additional funds will be based solely on each individual's participation at Club fundraising events. If a C1FT member does not participate in Club fundraising events, then the additional funds will not be provided. The Club BOD must approve, by majority vote, the eligibility and distribution of these Club funds.

ARTICLE IX - Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

Any changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be coordinated and approved by the Board of Directors for presentation to the membership at the annual Organizational Meeting and will remain in effect throughout the following tournament year.

ARTICLE X – Lifetime Members

There may be rare occasions where an individual has contributed so significantly to the welfare of the Club, to the sport of bass fishing, and the preservation of our resources, that the BOD (by a unanimous vote) can entitle an individual to lifetime membership in the Club.

Current Lifetime Members

Sam Smith

ATTACHMENT 1

Tournament Rules

The following rules apply to all Club tournaments:

1. All participants must be legally licensed to fish, and, if operating the boat during the tournament, must meet all the requirements of a boat operator, in the State where the tournament takes place.
2. All boats must possess the required safety equipment. Kill switches must be attached, if installed, and contestants must wear life jackets whenever the boat is on plane.
3. The creel limit will be five (5) largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass group in aggregate, each of which is at least twelve (12) inches in length measured in accordance with state law for each contestant. If these limits are not in compliance with regulations for any specific tournament site, the Tournament Director will advise the membership of the specific rules that will apply. Upon catching the 6th fish, an angler must cull before resuming fishing.
4. To conserve limited resources, the Tournament Director can recommend a reduction in the 5 fish limit to the BoD for any tournament during the year. A majority vote of the BoD can approve the recommendation. If implemented for any tournament, the reduced limit must be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.
5. All fish will be considered "officially submitted" upon transfer from the weigh-in bag to the weigh-in basket. The Tournament Director will then perform any necessary measurements for short fish using a "flat board."
6. Any contestant presenting "short fish" will lose the short fish and be penalized one (1) pound. Any contestant presenting two (2) short fish will be disqualified. The Tournament Director will, at his discretion, measure a fish if it appears to be short. Any contestant presenting more than a full limit of fish to be weighed will be penalized 1 pound and have his/her catch culled starting with the biggest fish.
7. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed by any contestant before or during official tournament hours. Violation will result in automatic disqualification.
8. All contestants must be present for weigh-in at the announced time unless approved by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament. A penalty of one (1) pound per minute per contestant will be assessed for any late boat/team. Any boat/team more than fifteen minutes late for weigh-in will be disqualified and will lose all participation points. In the event that a boat/team

must quit the tournament early, a note must be left on one of the remaining Club vehicles or the boat/team will be disqualified.

9. The Tournament Director shall designate the weigh-in location, and procedures.

10. Catch and release is mandatory. All fish must be handled to ensure their survival. Fish presented for weigh in must be kept in a water filled bag, provided by the club or approved by the Tournament Director, when they are transported to the scales. An exception will be made for a fish that the contestant wants to have mounted. The use of nets for fish transportation is expressly prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification.

11. Ties for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or "big fish" will result in a pooling of the available money for the contested prize and a splitting of the prize.

12. Only one rod per contestant may be in used at any one time. Other rods may be rigged and ready for use. Only casting, spin-casting, or spinning reels may be used.

13. Only artificial lures/baits, to include pork rind, may be used. Live baits or prepared baits are not allowed. Lures must be cast and retrieved -- trolling is prohibited during tournaments.

14. An eight-ounce penalty will be imposed for every dead fish presented at weigh in.

15. A boat/team may not fish within fifty yards of any other Club tournament boat/team.

16. Good sportsmanship is expected of all contestants. Disorderly conduct will result in for disqualification. Complaints must be made to the Tournament Director within fifteen (15) minutes of the conclusion of weigh-in. Decisions are FINAL.

17. Boat/team members are responsible for arriving at an equitable agreement for expenses and fishing locations.

18. Communication between contestants during tournament hours for the purpose of locating and/or catching fish is prohibited.

19. Normal entry fees for all Club tournaments will be \$20.00 per person, with \$5.00 of that being designated for the Big Fish pot.

20. The Club, and Club Officers, shall not be held liable for any property damage and/or injury, to include death that may occur during a Club tournament or function.

21. In the event of a rule violation or disqualification, as determined by the Tournament Director, is contested, the Grievance Committee will be called into session to resolve the issue prior to the final disbursement of funds and points.

ATTACHMENT 2

The John Coyle Harrison Memorial Classic Guidelines

The Club will hold a tournament designated as the "Classic" defined as follows:

1. The Classic is a one-day event for the following members:
 - The twelve highest ranked Club members based on the Angler of the Year standings.
 - Any member having participated in at least 3/4ths of the regular season tournaments. If a non-boating member does not draw a boater in a regular season tournament, and is unable to find a boater to fish with and, therefore, cannot fish the tournament, the member will receive credit for fishing the tournament for purposes of Classic qualification. Likewise, if a tournament date is rescheduled (after the draw) due to circumstances beyond the Club's control (e.g., weather), and this causes a member to be unable to fish on the rescheduled date, the member shall receive credit for fishing the tournament for purposes of Classic qualification.
2. The Classic is a solo event where the qualifiers may, at their discretion, fish alone, with a guest of their choice, or with another agreeable qualifier. Any non-boater who qualifies for the Classic will be responsible for borrowing a boat for their use, fishing with a guest of their choice who has a boat, or pairing with a qualifying boater.
3. A pre-tournament meeting will be held after working hours on the Tuesday before the Classic to determine the lake, ramp, and tournament times. To determine the location, each Classic qualifier will submit the lake of their choice into a 'pool' and the lake will be drawn from the collection. The chosen lake will be off-limits to all participants until the Classic begins on Saturday morning. The lakes are restricted to those used during the tournament year and must be within a 150 mile radius of downtown Huntsville.
4. The Classic tournament ramp and times will be determined by majority vote. The Classic blast-off order will be conferred consistent with the final AOY standings.
5. The limit for Classic qualifiers will be five bass that measure at least 12 inches in length, unless limited by local or state regulation.
6. No fish caught during the Classic will be eligible for the annual Big Fish competition.
7. All other Club rules will apply.
8. In all matters of dispute, the Tournament Director's decision is FINAL.
9. A tie in weight will be broken by angler's big fish weight. Subsequent ties are broken by next biggest fish and so on.