

**Georgia Bass Federation, Inc.**  
(GBCF)  
**HANDBOOK**

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MEMO FOR: CHAPTER PRESIDENT/SECRETARY, GBCF

SUBJECT: GBCF CHAPTER HANDBOOK

This GBCF Handbook is provided and intended to be a single source reference for chapter officers, and considerable time and thought have gone into its preparation.

One of the purposes for compiling this handbook is to reduce postage expenses. Master copies of forms and other information are provided. These master copies require only photocopying or Downloading, eliminating the need for repeated mailings for GBCF.

This handbook contains copies of the GBCF Constitution and By Laws. These should be carefully read by all chapter officers both elected and appointed. There are also thoughts offered on chapter organization and officer function. These are a collection of “lessons learned” which we believe to be a valuable compilation of ideas.

The section on required reports provides a useful list of who, what, when, where and why. In this same section is a master copy of the report format that can be photocopied or downloaded when needed?

This handbook provides each chapter with the basic information needed to operate a bass club. This information will be supplemented at times by information posted on the Georgia Bass Federation Web Site (<http://www.gabassfed.org>), and by occasional meetings or Information memos.

The Board of Directors, GBCF, feels that this handbook is very important to the successful operation of your club. We suggest that the change of leadership of your club be symbolized by having the outgoing president hand the new president a copy of the Chapter Handbook.

LARRY S. LEWIS  
President, Georgia Bass Federation, Inc.

## GBCF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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# **Georgia Bass Federation, Inc, Inc**

## **FEDERATION CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I – Name, Purpose and Composition**

#### **Section 1: Name**

This Federation shall be called the Georgia Bass Federation, Inc. (GBCF)

#### **Section 2: Purpose**

The primary purpose of the GBCF shall be to preserve and further the sport of Bass Angling.

#### **Section 3: Composition**

The Federation shall be composed of affiliated chapters of The Bass Federation, Inc. (TBF)

### **ARTICLE II – Membership**

#### **Section 1: Number of Chapters**

The Federation shall consist of any and all chapters who qualify for membership. Total membership shall not be limited.

#### **Section 2: Active Membership Requirements.**

Chapters shall comply with the following to attain/maintain active membership. See Page 14

- A. Affiliate with TBF, Inc. See page 17, Para 4.
- B. All Club members must be a minimum of 16 years old, members of TBF and members of FLW Outdoors.
- C. Provide the GBCF Chapter Administrative Form from GBCF Website upon affiliation and within 30 days of any chapter elections or changes for other reasons. See page 17, Para 2.
- D. Pay chapter dues to GBCF upon affiliation and annually not later 31 December for the following year to qualify for chapter participation in GBCF functions.
- E. Submit Creel Census Reports from GBCF Website for every chapter tournament or tournament conducted by the chapter to the GBCF Creel Census Reports Coordinator no later than thirty [30] days after the tournament. See page 18.

- F. Complete a Youth Program involving six or more youth learning fishing and/or boating skills, or the preservation of the sport through conservation practices during the calendar year. Reports are due 30 days after the activity. See page 15-16.

### **ARTICLE III – Finance**

Funds for the support and maintenance of the GBCF shall be derived from an original grant from BASS and from special projects to be sponsored by GBCF. There shall also be annual dues required of chapters affiliated with the federation. Under no circumstances shall the GBCF accept monetary assistance from individuals, business, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goal/purpose of the GBCF.

### **ARTICLE IV – Organization**

#### **Section 1: Geographical Divisions**

The GBCF shall be organized into a Northern and a Southern Division by a general line running along the northern boundaries of Troup, Meriwether, Pike, Lamar, Monroe, Jasper, Putman, Hancock, Taliaferro, McDuffie, and Columbia Counties.

#### **Section 2: Governing Body**

The GBCF shall be governed by a twelve member Board of Directors, President and Secretary. The twelve member Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) Directors from the Southern Division and (6) Directors from the Northern Division. The 12 member Board of Directors will elect a President and Secretary each election year. The Board of Directors shall also elect a Northern or Southern Director-at-Large if the position needs filled to maintain the balance of (6) Directors in each division. The President and Secretary do not have to be an elected Division Director. The President shall appoint a Director during the election cycle (2 year) from any area in which the election of the President or Secretary created a vacancy in order to maintain a balance of six (6) Directors for each Division.

#### **Section 3: Officers and Duties**

The GBCF shall elect/appoint the following officers who shall perform the general duties listed:

- A. **President** – The President shall preside at all Board and / or membership meetings and direct all official business. Appoint, Direct, and provide guidance to all committees. Supervise all GBCF functions.
- B. **Secretary** – The Secretary shall act as the “Chief of Staff” for the President and shall assume the duties of the President in his absence. Maintain accurate minutes of GBCF meetings; conduct the general correspondence of the Federation. Is the “Office of Record” for all GBCF correspondence, contacts, and other communications for all Federation Activities. Be the Official Liaison between the Federation and TBF, Inc. To Direct and coordinate the activities of the Conservation Chairman, The Tournament Chairman, The Youth Chairman, The Communications Chairman, the Treasurer and Area Directors.
- C. **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget, collect and deposit all monies associated with GBCF activities, maintain a checking account in the name of GBCF at an appropriate banking facility, sign checks for approved expenditures, render financial reports and account and provide for the security of all property which shall come into possession of the Federation.
- D. **Area Directors** – Shall serve as members of the Board of Directors in directing the general business of the GBCF. They shall also be responsible for the supervision of

specific chapters assigned by the GBCF Secretary. In this supervisory capacity they shall provide guidance/assistance to their assigned chapters. Act as official liaison between the chapters and the GBCF Secretary. Perform special duties assigned by the GBCF President or Secretary.

## **Article V – Elections**

### **Section 1: General**

Beginning on September 1977, and continuing every other year, affiliated chapters shall be asked to nominate prospective members for the GBCF Board of Directors. Those nominated shall be placed on Area Specific ballots and returned to the chapters for a “VOTE”, each chapter voting only in its respective area. Those receiving the majority of the votes shall be installed in office at the first meeting in January of the following year. In the event that an insufficient number of nominations are received the Board will select a sufficient number of Directors to maintain the required balance from the membership at large.

### **Section 2: Eligibility**

- A. **GBCF Officer:** must be a member of an affiliated GBCF/TBF. Club for one year and that chapter must have been a member of the GBCF for one year.
- B. **Area Director:** must be a member of an affiliated GBCF/TBF. Club for one year and that chapter must have been a member of the GBCF for one year.

### **Section 3: Terms of Office**

All Officers shall serve a two-year term beginning in January of the first year. The President, Secretary, or any member of the Board of Directors may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 4: Vacancies**

Any office, other than the President, vacated before the expiration of their term may be filled by Presidential appointment contingent upon the approval of the Board of Directors. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office. Should the office of President be vacated, the Board of Directors shall conduct a special election, chaired by the Secretary to fill that office.

### **Section 5: Voting**

In general elections each chapter is entitled to one vote. In other elections conducted by the Board of Directors, each Director is entitled to one vote. The Secretary shall have one vote. The President shall only vote in case of a tie. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot. All decisions by the Board of Directors shall be by majority vote of those Directors present at any regular scheduled or emergency meeting. When Directors have previous notification or discussion of specific issues, written proxies shall be honored.

## **ARTICLE VI – Meetings**

### **Section 1: Board of Directors Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet during the month of January and thereafter in the Spring, unless otherwise stipulated by a majority of the board. The President may, at his discretion, call a special meeting at any time. Locations of the meetings shall be determined by the President.

### **Section 2: Conduct of Meetings**

Election of the State President and Chairman of the Board, and the Secretary shall be the first order of business at the first regular board meeting of the election year which in no case is to be held later than 31 January. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of all business of the GBCF including but not limited to: The appointment of standing committees and their chairpersons; Special Committees and their chairperson; establishment of procedures and qualifications for the affiliation of TBF Chapters within the GBCF; procedures and standards for severance of TBF Chapters from the GBCF; adherence to such goals as may be established by GBCF and TBF.

### **Section 3: Procedural Rules for Meetings**

The rules set forth in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Federation in all meetings in which they are applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of The Constitution and By Laws.

## **ARTICLE VII – Appointments**

### **Section 1: Offices**

The President of the GBCF shall appoint a Treasurer subject to the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors. This appointment shall be completed no later than 31 January of each year in which the President is elected. This appointment shall not exceed two years. The Treasurer should not be a Director as this requires more work than is deemed fair for one individual.

### **Section 2: Standing Committees**

The Board, by simple plurality vote, shall appoint the three following standing committees. Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be two (2) years or fewer, expiring on the second December 31<sup>st</sup> after appointment. To be eligible for appointment a Committee Candidate must be a member of TBF National Federation, a TBF affiliated Chapter and the GBCF.

- A. **Conservation Committee** – The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board. The purpose of this committee shall be: to protect our natural environment from harmful change, to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices; to suggest political action to improve our environment; and suggest legal action where necessary; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring to the public an awareness of threats to our environment; and above all, to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.
- B. **Tournament Committee** – The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board. The purpose of the committee shall be to plan, organize and

operate State Championship Tournament and Qualifier Tournaments which shall determine eligibility to enter the Southern Division Championship; to select tournament sites, determine eligibility of contestants, collect fees, set an award list, rule with final authority, on the proper conduct, procedures and qualifications and other matters properly relating to the orderly conduct of All GBCF Tournaments.

- C. **Youth Activities Committee** – The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and implement an annual statewide youth activities program; to introduce young fishermen to the goals of BASS and the GBCF; to give them a better basis for respect of our natural heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and good sportsmanship; and to give them an introduction to (the sheer joy) of bass fishing.

### **Section 3: Special Committees**

Special Committees may be formed by the Board but only for closely defined purposes, and in no case may the tenure of a special committee exceed two (2) years from the date of appointment. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees.

### **ARTICLE VIII – Method of Amending the Constitution and By-Laws**

Any chapter, officer, or member of the Board of Directors of the GBCF may recommend an amendment to the Constitution and By Laws. All amendments shall be presented to the Board of Directors in writing, E-mail, or Fax at least one month prior to the regular/special Board meeting prior to the vote of the amendment”

### **ARTICLE IX – Adoption**

This Constitution and By Laws shall become effective upon adoption by a two thirds vote of the Board of Directors present.

### **ARTICLE X – Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the GBCF, all liabilities of the Federation shall be satisfied. The remaining assets if any shall be disposed of in accordance with the decisions made by the Board of Directors of the GBCF.

# **Georgia Bass Federation, Inc**

## **BY LAWS**

### **Section 1: Behavior**

All members/chapters of the GBCF shall exercise rational and acceptable behavior at all GBCF functions. Firearms shall not be allowed at any function/activity of the GBCF. Alcoholic beverages shall not be allowed at Board or Chapter meetings unless alcohol is served with a meal and a formal meeting conducted after the meal. All GBCF members shall practice moderation in the consumption of alcoholic beverages during all GBCF functions/activities. No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed in boats during the conduct of GBCF Tournaments.

### **Section 2: Water Safety, Conservation and Pollution**

All members shall abide by the established rules of the GBCF, the “Rules of the Road” and shall comply with all applicable state practice fish conservation at all times by abiding by all GBCF and site regulations concerning creel and possession limits. Members should practice “Don’t kill your catch”. All members shall refrain from littering or polluting the waterways and contiguous areas. It is the responsibility of all members to report any members found deliberately not practicing good habits regarding pollution.

### **Section 3: Punishment**

Punishment (other than suspension or expulsion) of members for violation of the provisions of the Constitution and By Laws and other rules and regulations of the GBCF shall be determined and imposed by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 4: Suspension and Expulsions**

In the event of any infraction or violation by a member/club of the provisions of the Constitution and By Laws or other rules and regulations of the GBCF, or any other conduct on the part of a member/chapter which may tend to jeopardize and endanger the good order of the Federation, such member/chapter may be expelled or suspended by majority vote of the Board of Directors. In the event of suspension, the period thereof shall be specifically defined and the suspended member/chapter shall be notified in writing. In the event of a charge which warrants expulsion the member/chapter will be notified by written notice at least three (3) days prior to the vote thereon.

### **Section 5: Charges**

In the event any member/chapter shall present to the Board of Directors a charge against any member/club of a violation or infraction as set forth in these By Laws, the following procedures shall govern:

- a. All charges shall be presented to the Board of Directors in writing. A reasonable investigation concerning the charges shall be conducted by the Board of Directors prior to consideration.

- b. Prior to consideration of such charges against a member/chapter by the Board, an opportunity shall be given to the charged party in question to be present/represented at the meeting of the Board at which such charges against the party are considered. The charged party may submit written consideration in lieu of appearing.
- c. Prior to vote on the charges by the Board the charged party may make such defense against the charges as he desires provided it is lawful and reasonable.

### **Section 6: Expenditures**

All GBCF expenditures must have Board of Directors approval except normal operating costs which will be incurred and paid by the Treasurer. The minutes of the regular/special Board Meetings will reflect approval of anticipated expenditures. All Major expense checks (\$500 or more) shall be signed by two (2) officers of the Federation.

### **Section 7: Records**

1. Historical files of the following records shall be maintained by the Secretary of the GBCF:
  - a. Constitution and By Laws of the Federation.
  - b. Records of approval of the Constitution and By Laws of the Federation.
  - c. Records of all proceedings of all meetings of the Federation Board of Directors.
  - d. Results of all GBCF State Chapter Championship Tournaments. This requirement may be delegated to the Tournament Committee Chairman during his tenure.
2. Historical files of all financial transactions and reports shall be maintained by the Treasurer of the GBCF. If property is owned by the Federation, an historical file of records which provide for property accountability shall be maintained excluding that property classified as "expendable".

### **Section 8: State Qualifying Tournaments**

Northern and Southern Division Qualifying Tournaments will be held starting at the end of 2008 and Spring of 2009 to qualify teams to the State Championship Tournament. Each chapter may enter a six (6) person team, plus two (2) alternates in this tournament provided the chapter meets the requirements of Section 2. Article II, of the GBCF Constitution, the Club has at least ten (10) members in good standing and has conducted a minimum of six (6) Club tournaments during the preceding calendar year. An exception for good reason may be made by the Tournament Committee. Entries must also conform with requirements such as entry fees and due dates specified by the Tournament Committee.

### **Section 8: State Chapter Championship Tournament (TSC Championship)**

The GBCF shall conduct a State Chapter Championship Tournament each year which shall be open to all Club Teams that Qualify from one of the Divisional qualifiers. Each chapter may enter a six (6) person team, plus two (2) alternates in this tournament provided the club meets the requirements of Section 2. Article II, of the GBCF Constitution, the chapter has at least ten (10) members in good standing and qualified through a Divisional Tournament. Entries must also conform with requirements such as entry fees and due dates specified by the Tournament Committee.

The “Top 12” individuals shall constitute the GBCF Team which shall represent Georgia in the TBF, Inc. Southern Division Championship.

## **Bass Club Organization and Functions**

Is it a genuine pleasure to attend and participate in your bass club’s meetings, tournaments and other functions? If your answer to this question is “no” or “not as enjoyable as it could be”, your club may have some organizational problems. Such problems are common in too many clubs, but they can be easily prevented ---read on.

From experience a simple, common sense approach to the organization of a bass club has been developed. The approach is not unique but combines some tried and proven techniques which should result in a more effective and more harmonious operation of your club.

First let’s look at the organization. This should be specified by the club’s constitution and by-laws. The club should only have three or four elected officers –President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer or both a Secretary and Treasurer. Basically their responsibilities are the same as like officers in any club. However two important points need to be stressed. One, elect responsible, dedicated officers (the best fishermen don’t necessarily make the best officer) and two; insure that the Secretary is the strongest of the strong. He is the key to the successful operation and administration of the bass club. He is the chief operating officer of the club and without his time, talent and dedication the club will founder. The other key officials of the club such as the tournament chairman, the social chairman, the ecology chairman, the program chairman, etc., and their committees should be appointed by the president with the consent of the Board of Directors. Appointments allow more flexibility than elected officials with respect to changes required when an official isn’t doing his job, quits, etc.

The last, but most important fact in the organization should be the Board of Directors. This board should be comprised of the elected officers and no more than two (three if the club has both a Secretary and Treasurer) members appointed or elected from the membership at large. This will provide a board of five or seven members. The odd number is necessary because the President will only vote if there is a tie on an issue. This completes the organization.

Now let’s look at the functions of the officers and appointed officials and discuss a few time-proven techniques which they can use in the operation and administration of the club. As previously mentioned, the elected officers function generally as in any other club, e.g., the President presides over the general membership meetings and other official functions and most importantly over the meetings of the Board of Directors; the Vice-President functions similarly in the absence of the President by performing special functions as directed. The Secretary (Secretary/Treasurer) accounts for the membership, formulates the agenda for meetings, prepares correspondence, handles mail, and is the club recorder/minutes keeper. In addition, he is the official keeper of the constitution and by-laws and is responsible for the fiscal bookkeeping and is the general manager of the club’s monetary assets and liabilities. If property is owned, he is also normally responsible for that accounting and security.

The Board of Directors functions as the directive body which guides the general membership. The Board discusses and decides the club's courses of action on all business and other items which require decisions and do not require a vote of the general membership by the constitution and by laws. Decisions of the Board are presented to the membership and are final unless challenged by a member. If challenged, a vote of the membership decides the issue. Use of the Board avoids long,

heated membership arguments during regular meetings, thus allowing more time for pleasurable things like movies, guest speakers, etc. A word of caution for members of the Board ---considerable time and effort are required to do the job of the Board properly. If the Board doesn't conscientiously guide the club, then you're back to attempting to run the club during general membership meetings where frustration reigns.

Some other techniques to be considered by the officers of the club are as follows:

1. Provide a solid, all-encompassing Constitution and By-Laws for your club; it will save a lot of argument and confusion. Provide each member a copy.
2. Provide a full program for your club; don't just meet to draw for partners for the next tournament. Involve all members in your activities, including member's families when possible. Include an ecology program and stress good public relations.
3. Prepare an agenda for each meeting and follow it. Check in advance to see that those on the agenda are knowledgeable and prepared to provide their portion of the program.
4. Plan your club's activities on a calendar year basis and provide a fiscal plan to accommodate the planned activities. Block certain monies for specific purpose, e.g., set aside a specific percentage of the monthly tournament fees to support the "Top Six" entry fees and costs.
5. Provide a good orientation program for new members; take time to officially welcome them in meetings, provide those copies of the club's constitution and by-laws, tournament rules, etc. and explain to them the current and planned activities of the club.
6. Prepare a standard, detailed and common-sense set of rules for all club tournaments. Provide each member a copy. Stress ooze offs (no blast off) starts, wearing of PFD, use of kill switches and aerated live wells, don't kill your catch. limits of fish less than that authorized by the state, etc. Remember that your tournaments play an important role in your public relations. Suggestion---model your rules after the GBCF rules.
7. Don't price yourself out of business. Take a close look at your costs---membership dues, tournament fees, club uniforms (hats and jackets), etc. The price of joining and maintaining membership can easily become unreasonable and out of the reach of many desiring membership. Again, stress the importance of providing a sound fiscal plan mentioned in (4) above.
8. Appoint special committees to research, report on and offer recommendations on actions which require special attention and are beyond the capability, in a short period of time, of the Board or the membership to reach a valid decision.

**The keys to a good bass club are proper organization and dedicated performance by officials. If your club has the right keys, membership will be an enjoyable experience for everyone.**

## GBCF ANNUAL CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS

<b>ITEM DUE</b>	<b>PAGE REFERENCE</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>MAIL TO</b>
<b>CHAPTER OFFICER ROSTER AND CONTACT INFO.</b>	GO TO GBCF WEBSITE ( <a href="http://www.gabassfed.org">www.gabassfed.org</a> ) CLICK "CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION FORM" FILL IN INFORMATION AND CLICK "SUBMIT" BUTTON	UPON AFFILIATION OR 30 DAYS AFTER AN ELECTION OR ADDRESS CHANGE	SUBMIT FROM GBCF WEBSITE <a href="http://www.gabassfed.org">www.gabassfed.org</a>
<b>CHAPTER GBCF DUES \$ 90.00 PER YEAR OR (\$ 7.50 PER MONTH PRO-RATED )</b>	UPON AFFILIATION OR ONE TIME PER YEAR.	<b>DUE NO LATER THAN DEC 31 OF EACH YEAR.</b>  SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO GBCF.	GBCF TREASURER ( SEE PAGE 3 OF GBCF HANDBOOK FOR ADDRESS)
<b>TOURNAMENT CREEL CENSUS REPORTS</b>	SEE PAGE 18 OF THE GBCF HANDBOOK FOR INSTRUCTIONS  <b>(MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR RECORDS)</b>	FILL OUT CREEL CENSUS REPORT FROM GBCF WEBSITE <a href="http://www.gabassfed.org">www.gabassfed.org</a>  DUE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER CHAPTER TOURNAMENT	SUBMIT FROM GBCF WEBSITE <a href="http://www.gabassfed.org">www.gabassfed.org</a>
<b>ANNUAL YOUTH PROJECT</b>	MAKE COPY OF PAGE 15 FOR ALL OTHER PROJECTS OR MAKE COPY OF PAGE 16 FOR A GBCF CASTING TYPE EVENT	<b>DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR</b> MINIMUM OF ONE PER YEAR	YOUTH DIRECTOR ( SEE PAGE 3 OF GBCF HANDBOOK FOR ADDRESS )
<b>TBF NATIONAL FEDERATION DUES</b>	CLUB ROSTERS ARE TO BE UPDATES VIA THE "ON-LINE" SYSTEM. THE CLUBS ROSTERS ARE TO BE UPDATED BY DEC 31 EACH YEAR	<b>DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR</b>  PAY BY CHECK, \$ 15.00 PER PER ROSTER INVOICE. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE GBCF.  (CLUB INSURANCE, ETC.)	MAIL TO :  GBCF, INC. C/O VAN FOSTER JR 623 CHEROKEE TRAIL DALTON, GA 30721
<b>GBCF ELECTION FORM DUE EVERY 2 YEARS</b>	SEE PAGE 20 OF GBCF HANDBOOK	GBCF SECRETARY WILL SEND TO CLUB EVERY 2 YEARS	GBCF, INC. C/O VAN FOSTER JR 623 CHEROKEE TRAIL DALTON, GA 30721

<b>TOP SIX ENTRY FORM</b>	GO TO GBCF WEBSITE ( <a href="http://www.gabassfed.org">www.gabassfed.org</a> ) AND SEE INSTRUCTIONS PAGE 23,GBCF HANDBOOK	TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL PUT INSTRUCTIONS ON WEB PAGE AND TOP SIX MEMO	SEE GBCF WEB PAGE AND TOP SIX MEMO
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## HENRY A FERRIS MEMORIAL AWARD

In 1985 the Georgia Bass Federation established the HENRY A FERRIS MEMORIAL AWARD. This award is named in honor of Command Sergeant Major Henry Augustine Ferris, deceased past president of the Benning Bass Club and long time bass fisherman, conservationist, sportsman active in the service and support of his fellow man.

The award is presented each year to the GBCF chapter selected as most outstanding for the preceding year. The award recognizes service to the local community and is based on the contributions made in the areas of conservation, environmental efforts, youth programs, public services, charities, and other worthy causes.

**A chapter wishing to be considered for this award must submit a BINDER BOOK of the clubs activities, accompanied by such documentation as pictures and press clippings.**

All entries will be reviewed by the GBCF Youth Director along with a committee of three or more judges. Entries must be submitted no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. A decision is based on the Club activity during one calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31st.

There is no standard format for entries, they should however, address who, what, when, where, and how. Clubs may enter in any one or more of the activities listed above.

The award is presented each year at the TOP SIX CLASSIC TOURNAMENT. The Club Project judged most outstanding for the year will receive an appropriate plaque. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, additional awards may be given.

**Submit all entries to:**

**Ronnie White, Youth Director**  
**296 Highway 142 East**  
**Covington, Georgia 30014**  
**770-787-6037 Home**  
**678-230-6543 Cell**  
[whit954@bellsouth.net](mailto:whit954@bellsouth.net)

**GBCF YOUTH PROJECT REPORT  
(FISHING RODEO/OTHER)**

Date\_\_\_\_\_

TO: YOUTH DIRECTOR, GBCF (SEE PAGE 1)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
(CHAPTER NAME) (CHAPTER NUMBER)

SUBJECT: COMPLETED YOUTH PROJECT

\*ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, PARAGRAPH G

G. COMPLETE A PROGRAM INVOLVING SIX (6) OR MORE YOUTHS LEARNING FISHING AND OR BOATING SKILLS, OR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SPORT THRU GOOD CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM: (WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN)

\*INCLUDE PICTURES, NEWS PAPER CLIPS, ETC.

NUMBER OF CLUB MEMBERS INVOLVED \_\_\_\_\_ MANHOURS \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED \_\_\_\_\_

MEDIA COVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
(TV, RADIO, NEWSPAPER, ETC COVERING EVENT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF CLUB OFFICER)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. USE THIS FORM AS A MASTER TO PRODUCE REQUIRED COPIES.
2. IF A CASTING TYPE CONTEST PROGRAM, COMPLETE 16
3. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT ONE COPY TO THE GBCF YOUTH DIRECTOR, ANYTIME DURING THE YEAR, BUT NLT 31 DECEMBER.

**Georgia Bass Federation, Inc.**  
**(CASTING PROGRAM FORM)**

**Please complete the following information immediately after the GBCF Casting Contest:  
(PLEASE PRINT)**

Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**7 to 10 AGE WINNER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (as of August 31, \_\_\_\_\_)

**11 to 14 AGE WINNER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (as of August 31, \_\_\_\_\_)

Site of Contest \_\_\_\_\_  
Hours of Contest \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Contestants \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Manhours \_\_\_\_\_

\*Winners must be in the correct age group as of August 31, \_\_\_\_\_.

\*If this form is not completed and returned to the GBCF Youth Director the child cannot be notified of the state championship date.

\*Send a copy of the winners score sheet to the GBCF Youth Director.

**CLUB OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**  
**(SUBMIT FROM WEBSITE ONLY)**

TBF Chapter Nr \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

**President**

**Secretary**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Annual Election Date (Month) \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Day / Place / Time \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Go to GBCF website([www.gabassfed.org](http://www.gabassfed.org)) and click on “Chapter Administration Form”
2. Complete and submit one copy to the Secretary GBCF upon affiliation and within 30 days following ANY election, or CHANGE of Officer (President or Secretary), or Change of the Chapter Mailing Address.

3. Provide your AREA DIRECTOR with a minimum of one E-Mail Address for your chapter. This is for purposes of timely communications with the chapter.
4. Club Rosters received from GBCF in the OCT/NOV time frame each year should be corrected and returned to GBCF Secretary prior to 31 December each year with the \$15 TBF Federation Dues for each member. Remember, each member must also be a member of FLW Outdoors. **READ NEW DUES COLLECTION PROCEDURE ON THE GBCF WEBSITE. [www.gabassfed.org](http://www.gabassfed.org)**

## Georgia Bass Federation, Inc.

### CREEL CENSUS REPORT

#### TOURNAMENT CREEL CENSUS

( ) FIRST                      ( ) LAST TOURN. 20\_\_\_\_,    TOTAL TOURN/YR. \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER NAME _____	CHAPTER NR _____
LAKE FISHED _____	DATE(S) FISHED _____
TOTAL HOURS FISHED _____	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANGLERS _____
DAY _____ NIGHT _____	NR OF BASS WEIGHED IN _____
NR RELEASED ALIVE _____	TOTAL WEIGHT _____ LBS _____ OZ.
WINNING WEIGHT _____ LBS _____ OZ.	LARGEST BASS WEIGHED _____ LBS _____ OZ.
NR OF BASS 5LB or LARGER _____	NR OF ANGLERS W/1 FISH _____
NR OF ANGLERS W/5 OR MORE FISH _____	NR OF ANGLERS W/NO FISH _____
NUMBER OF LARGEMOUTH _____ SPOTTED BASS _____ OTHER BASS _____	
SUBMITTED BY: _____ PHONE: _____	
PLEASE PRINT	PLEASE SUBMIT W/IN 30 DAYS OF TOURNAMENT
THANK YOU Georgia Bass Federation, Inc.	

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. **The CREEL CENSUS REPORT must be submitted from the GBCF Website [www.gabassfed.org](http://www.gabassfed.org) no later than 30 days following each chapter tournament.**
2. Annotate Reports with an (X) for the first and last tournament of the year. On the report for the last tournament of the year list the total number of tournaments conducted by the chapter during the year.
3. Tournaments conducted on Lakes Walter F. George and West Point where the length limit for largemouth bass is 14" and all others is 12" must be carefully reported. The chapter must not arbitrarily change these length limits as it skews this very valuable data.

4. The reports will be forwarded to the Creel Census Report Coordinator from the GBCF Website automatically from the website.

### **BORROWED BOAT**

A “Borrowed Boat” presents a special problem because of the difficulty to provide Liability Insurance coverage for the boat! Most liability insurance policies do NOT provide coverage on the boat if it is loaned to someone else! Also the borrower’s boat liability policy normally does NOT provide coverage on the Borrowed boat. Therefore, to enter a “borrowed boat” in the TOP SIX CLASSIC or QUALIFIER, the borrower must obtain boat liability insurance for himself on the borrowed boat. Normally the best source for this short term policy is from the insurance company which provides the coverage on the borrower’s own boat. This policy must describe the borrowed boat, the period and the amount of coverage. The borrower must also provide a letter (Sample Below) from the boat owner (Individual or Company) describing the boat and stating the borrower has permission to use the referenced boat for a given period of time. It is imperative that all boats used in the TSC have liability coverage. If a “borrowed boat” is to be entered the procedure outlined above must be followed. Contact the Tournament Committee with any questions.

### **SAMPLE PERMISSION –TO-USE LETTER**

(FROM BOAT OWNER)

Georgia Bass Federation

ATTN: GBCF Tournament Committee

RE: Loan of my Bass Boat

MAKE: \_\_\_\_\_

MODEL \_\_\_\_\_

Registration NR: \_\_\_\_\_

ENGINE: \_\_\_\_\_

I, (Boat owners Name), am the owner of the referenced bass boat and have given my full and complete consent to \_\_\_\_\_ Borrowers Name \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_, to use this boat on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_.

\*Attached is a photocopy of my boat liability policy specification page and a letter from my insurance agent stating that \_\_\_\_\_ (Borrower Name) \_\_\_\_\_ will have \$300,000 boat liability coverage while using my boat.

\*OR

\* \_\_\_\_\_ (Borrower Name) \_\_\_\_\_, the borrower will have to provide his/her own \$300,000 of boat liability insurance.

The tournament committee may contact me at \_\_\_\_\_Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_, with any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Boat Owners Signature

## **GBCF NOMINATION FORM**

TO: Secretary, GBCF

FROM: (Chapter Name)\_\_\_\_\_Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Chapter Nominations for Area Director, **READ** the following rules that apply to each nomination.

## **AREA DIRECTOR NOMINATION**

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

Note: The person nominated as Area Director must be a member of an affiliated GBCF/TBF Club for one year and that chapter must have been a member of the GBCF for one year. The person should be someone that you would want to represent your chapter at GBCF functions and follow outlined duties in the GBCF Constitution, Article IV, Section 4, paragraph "D".

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Club President or Secretary)

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE GBCF SECRETARY NO LATER THAN THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER IN THE ELECTION YEAR.**

**AFTER NOMINATIONS ARE RECEIVED, AN AREA SPECIFIC BALLOT WILL BE MAILED OUT TO THE CHAPTERS TO "VOTE" IN NOVEMBER.**

**Georgia Bass Chapter Federation  
Tournament Committee  
BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION**

The Georgia Bass Federation [GBCF] relies on the Non-Boater Partner to insure her/himself that the assigned Tournament Boat is safe for a days fishing. The Non-Boater Partner should determine the location and condition as a minimum of the following items:

- [ ] **Fire Extinguisher**, Type B, C or A, B, C. Is it in the “Green”?
- [ ] **Bilge Pump(s)**, Is the sump free of litter? Turn pump ON - Is it running?
- [ ] **Throwable**, Know the location!
- [ ] **Sounding Device**, Is it operational?

[ ] **Location of the Master Switch**, Bilge Pump Switch and the Navigation Light Switch.  
Now the boat team may proceed to the dock by flight in numerical order for the GBCF Tournament Committee to inspect the boat for the following:

- [ ] **Navigational Lights**, **installed and operational**.
- [ ] **Live Wells**, open, clean and the Aeration System is operational.
- [ ] **PFD’s [Life Vests]**, USCG Approved - Type I, II or III Fit and will be zippered, hooked and or snapped secure.
- [ ] **Kill Switch** [Electrical Interrupt], Functional and is attached to the operator.

The Inspector will then ask the team for their flights time of return.

The boat will then idle to the designated Release Point to begin the days fishing.

**Safety:**

The GBCF TSC is attracting many new anglers each year whose only tournament experience is weekend pick-up tournaments. We are certainly happy to see these new TSC competitors. A few of these anglers seem unaware of our emphasis on safety. Unsafe or risky boat operation is unacceptable.

**The non-boater has RIGHTS** in the safe operation of the boat during the TSC. A safety point of emphasis for all competitors is the non-boater has the right and duty to tell the boater to slow down if he/she is concerned about her/his safety. This is absolute! No exceptions, NONE! This will be a point of emphasis in the TSC.

Boat - All boats offered for use in the competition will have a chair type seat in place on the back deck. This is an ADA requirement and the right thing to do. Exceptions may be granted in advance only by the Tournament Director. The boater will provide one large empty compartment for the use By the non-boater.

	<p><b>OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM</b>  <b>“TOP SIX CLASSIC”</b>  <b>(GO TO GBCF WEBSITE TO FILL THIS FORM AND SUBMIT. THIS FORM WILL BE USED IN QUALIFIERS ALSO)</b></p>
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CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER NR \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAPTER ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAPTER PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) \_\_\_\_\_

FLT	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	FLW CARD#
BOAT GRN				
BOAT GOLD				
BOAT RED				
No Boat GRN				
No Boat GOLD				
No Boat RED				
ALT 1				
ALT 2				

(BOTTOM PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE)

DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_ CK.# \_\_\_\_\_ CK DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR  
ENTRY FEE \_\_\_\_\_ BIG FISH POT \_\_\_\_\_ HATS \_\_\_\_\_ GBCF DUES \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED FROM LIST ON PAGE 13 OF GBCF HANDBOOK**

CHAP. ADMIN FORM RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ GBCF DUES PAID \_\_\_\_\_ TBF FEDERATION \_\_\_\_\_  
DUES \_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_ CREEL CENSUS REPORTS \_\_\_\_\_  
(THE CHAPTERS ENTRY FORM WILL BECOME OFFICIAL **WHEN** REQUIREMENTS  
ARE MET.)

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE GEORGIA FEDERATION TOURNAMENTS  
ENTRY FORM**

**NOTE:** Please go to the GBCF Website ([www.gabassfed.org](http://www.gabassfed.org)) and click on “TOP SIX ENTRY FORM”. Fill in the blanks and click “SAVE”. Entries can be SUBMITTED AS PER INSTRUCTIONS IN TOP SIX MEMOS.

- A. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT [ALL CAPS] ALL INFORMATION.
- B. LIST CORRECT NAMES AS PER EACH PERSONS TBF FEDERATION CARDS
- C. **Appoint** a TEAM CAPTAIN.
- D. Furnish a complete mailing address with zip code.
- E. Include the area code with the phone number. Please furnish the home phone number as most calls are made in the evening
- F. List the FLW card number as this is the only means for cross checking information.
- G. List the three personnel who are furnishing boats in the first three blocks marked “Boats – GRN, GOLD, and RED”. List the three personnel who are to be designated non-boater in the second three blocks marked “NO BOAT – GRN, GOLD, and RED”. If a designated non-boater or alternate will have a “legal” boat available for use at the tournament site annotate the individuals name by marking the correct box. Each chapter may slot its personnel into which ever flight it desires. Changes will be made by flight.
- H. **Alternates.** Many chapters are faced with the problem of penning down which six individuals will be able to fish. List minimum of two alternates in the blocks indicated. Additional alternates may be listed on the back.
- I. **Make checks or money orders payable** to the Georgia Bass Chapter Federation or GBCF. Please mark the check as to the funds purpose(s), entry fee, big fish pot, Hats, etc....
- J. Mail Application to:  
**SEE INSTRUCTIONS “TOP SIX MEMO” ON GBCF WEB SITE**  
**[HTTP://WWW.GABASSFED.ORG](http://www.gabassfed.org)**
- K. CHANGES TO THE TEAM: GO TO WEBSITE AND RE-SUBMIT ENTRY FORM.**
- L. REQUIREMENTS to REGISTER:
  - a. Valid fishing License

- b. TBF/FLW Membership Card
- c. Boat Registration Card
- d. PROOF of 300,000 Watercraft Liability Insurance
- e. “Borrowed Boats” require special coordination in advance with the Tournament Director!

**Georgia Bass Federation, Inc**  
**TOURNAMENT RULES and REGULATIONS**  
**20\_\_\_\_TOP SIX CLASSIC and QUALIFIERS**

1. **Rules:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The rules of this tournament are not subject to protest or change. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee and the Board of Directors of the Georgia Bass Federation Inc., [GBCF] and their decision shall be final in all matters.

2. **Participants and Eligibility:** Participation in this Tournament is open only to members of the GBCF and TBF/FLW members who are at least 16 years of age and members of a club, with a minimum of **ten** members, in the GBCF. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of prospective competitors. Each participant is required to present at registration a valid Georgia fishing license, a current TBF/FLW Federation Membership card, and if furnishing a boat, her/his boat registration and proof of \$300,000 of Watercraft Liability Insurance [WLI] or \$100,000 of WLI backed by a \$1 million “Umbrella” Liability Policy covering the boat and the designated operator. Only properly designated alternates shall be eligible to take the place of a participant during the Tournament. To enter the tournament, the chapter must be a member in good standing of the GBCF. These requirements are enumerated on GBCF Handbook, in Article II, Section 2 of the GBCF Constitution. To enter the TSC or Qualifier the chapter should then complete an Entry Form on the GBCF website in accordance with the instructions on page 23 of the GBCF Handbook and forward entry fees to the GBCF Treasurer. The tournament committee reserves the right to discontinue accepting entries prior to the deadline or to extend the acceptance date. Refund of the entry fee will be made only if proper notification is made to the tournament committee prior to the deadline.

3. **Registration and Drawing:** Registration is to be accomplished by teams. **Phase I** [Document Presentation] will be from Friday as per Website Instructions. During Phase I the team may appear as a group or the team captain may represent the team. If a team representative presents the documents, they must be **clear readable photocopies, properly highlighted.**

**Phase II** of registration shall be conducted as per Website Instructions. During Phase II of registration, it is required that the Chapter Officers and the Team Captain meet with their assigned Area Director. This meeting will be followed by a Federation Meeting with all competitors in attendance.

The drawing for flight order then the drawing for partners, by flights for both days will be conducted immediately following with no break. At the completion of day one pairings, the day two pairings will be posted on the bulletin board. All contestants are required to be present for the meeting. Exceptions are granted on a case-by-case basis by the Tournament Committee.

4. **Sportsmanship**: Competitors in all Georgia Bass Federation tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or a “drunken” condition exhibited by any competitor due to previous consumption of drugs or alcoholic beverages during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future GBCF tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who are on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the GBCF’s effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and sportsmanship shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

5. **Pairing of Contestants**: Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. No contestants from the same chapter shall be paired. Announcement of your fishing partner shall be made at the drawing. The second day’s partner will be posted on the bulletin board. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually-agreed upon location in time to check out through the official check point/inspection station and be started from the release point on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes be allowed for preparation, boat and equipment inspection and departure to the check-out/start point.

6. **Safety**: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved Chest-type life preserver (PFD). This Personal Floatation Device must be worn any time the combustion engine is operating. The PFD must be strapped, snapped or

zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches her/his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. The boat operator must have the “kill” switch attached to her/his person when the combustion engine is running. Boats shall be operated in a safe and sane manner. The non-boater partner has the right to demand safe and sane boat operation. Violations of this rule shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

7. **Pre-Tournament Practice:** During the three day practice period as per Website Instructions, a contestant will be allowed to fish only with another contestant, alternate, member of her/his family, except a guide, or you may fish alone if an official waiver is signed by the person fishing alone.

8. **Tackle and Equipment:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spin casting or spinning rods, not in excess of 8 feet in length, with appropriate reels may be used. All other types are prohibited. Only one rod and reel is permitted in use at any given time, however, other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready for use. Nets may be used to land fish but **NOT** gaffs or “grippers”.

**Underwater T V cameras may NOT be used during competition.**

9. **Boat and Motor:** All boats offered for use in a GBCF Tournament must meet the standards of the U S Coast Guard and the state of Georgia. All boats must be equipped with some type of Ignition “kill” Switch. All tournament boats must be 16 feet or more in length. Horsepower of the principal power source shall be within the USCG rating as designated on the manufacturer’s rating plate and shall not be less than 75 horsepower. Boats with “Stick Steering”, “barges” or similar cumbersome craft shall not be permitted in the tournament. Gas must be stored only in factory-installed tanks. A small electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. A competitor furnishing a boat and motor shall be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by him/herself and his/her daily partner. Competitors not furnishing a boat and motor shall be paired with those who are. Tournament boats must be equipped with a chair-type seat on the rear deck and a large empty compartment for the use of the non-boater partner

10. **Basic Boat Equipment:** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both fishermen using the boat. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether the aeration and capacity are “proper and adequate”.

11. **Boat Identification:** Each boat shall have a pair of numbered colored placards affixed, one to each side of the engine cowling only. The color identifies the flight and the number identifies the sequence within the flight.

12. **Boat Inspection:** The non-boater partner will assure her/himself that the boat meets USCG and Georgia safety requirements, knows the location of the fire extinguisher and the bilge pump switch. The tournament committee shall inspect each boat for functional navigation lights, aeration/live well system and an ignition “kill” switch. The partners must be wearing USCG chest type PFD’s that fit and are properly fastened.

13. **Boat Operation and Expenses:** A full discussion must be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to schedule of boat operation and fishing locations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor. If a contestant waives these rights he/she shall nevertheless retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half of that tournament day. Any contestant who in the judgment of the officials operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his/her partner shall be disqualified. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other competitors or to a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other’s catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of the day to be scored in the tournament. The momentary condition of being out of sight for restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, until partners are back together. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions due to an emergency or any other reason, his/her catch of the day shall not be counted in the tournament. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited. In view of the expense of operating a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-boater partner, as a minimum, assume the cost of gas and oil (\$40 min) for the competition day unless the Boater agrees to less money.

14. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted

Anywhere **Except in designated off-limits areas or within 50 yards of a marina gas docks or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat, regardless if the competitors boats is anchored or maneuvering.** All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Contestants must not leave the boat to land a fish. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.

15. **Official Checkpoints:** **Morning** - Each contestant must be in the water with his/her partner 30 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time for their flight.

**Evening** - The boater pair must check in with the tournament committee check-in Boat no later than the check-in time announced for their flight. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will proceed to the weigh-in site at a slow idle. Remain in your boat with the aerators running until you are handed an official TSC weigh bag by a tournament official; then place your fish in the bag and proceed to the weigh-in station.

16. **Scoring:** Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredths of pound of weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament. **Big Fish weight** will be penalized .25 if the big fish is determined to be deceased. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye, Shoal, or Smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five total of the above species. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. The Tournament Director will announce the length limits prior to the start of the tournament. At no time shall a competitor have in her/his possession more than the limit described above. **Culling of dead fish is NOT allowed.** In the event a competitor has more than five fish in his/her possession at weigh-in the tournament officials shall cull the largest bass first down to the limit described. Fish shall be measured on a flat board on the longest straight line. Fish which fail to measure the minimum length shall accrue a penalty of one pound and all such fish shall be disallowed. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Anyone attempting to alter a fish shall be subject to disqualification. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered shall be weighed and credited only at the discretion of weigh-in officials. Each competitor must present his/her catch to the weigh-in officials. The weight of the catch must be certified by the signature of his/her partner of the day. Contestants must not allow any bass they catch to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament. After the competitor has delivered his/her catch to the weigh master, he/she may not touch said catch until the weigh-in procedure is completed. The bass caught must not be put on any type of stringer, at any time. Individual identification markers are allowed.

Competitors will transport their catch from the boat to the weigh-in line in a water filled plastic bag provided by the Dock master.

17. **Don't Kill Your Catch**: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a properly-aerated live well. Do **not** clip fins or otherwise physically mark the fish for identification. The few bass that do not survive will be donated to a charitable cause.

18. **Bonus Points**: For each legal bass weighed in alive the competitor shall be awarded one-tenth of a pound of weight to be scored as ordinary weight as set forth in rule 16. All live fish shall be returned to the fishing waters except for a trophy fish (minimum 8 lbs) which may be kept for mounting.

19. **Late Penalty**: Any competitor who is not at the official check-in point as described in rule 15 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of her/his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "lunker" award. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for the day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". All fishing must cease upon check-in.

20. **Ties**: In the case of a tie for any place, the contestant with the greatest number of fish, or if still tied, the greatest number of live fish shall win the place in question. If the tie is yet unbroken, the contestant with the largest, if known, fish will win the place. A cut of the cards will resolve any yet unbroken ties. The next place will go to the person so eliminated.

21. **Communications**: There will be no communications, visually, vocally or electronically between contestants and non-contestants or electronically between contestants, during the competition hours concerning the fishing.

22. **None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time.**

23. **Protests**: Any protest must be submitted to the tournament committee **in writing** no later than 30 minutes after the protester has weighed in his/her fish.

### **TOP SIX CLASSIC AND QUALIFIER AWARDS**

**TEAM AWARDS** These awards shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS** These awards shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.

**BIG BASS** A trophy shall be presented to the individual catching the largest bass of the tournament.

**STATE TEAM** The GBCF Team shall be comprised of the Top Twelve (12) Individuals based on their catch in the State Championship (TSC). These individuals shall represent Georgia in the TBF, Inc. Federation Southern Division Tournament.