## September 8, 2021

## **MID STATE ILLINOIS BASS ANGLERS**

**BY-LAWS 2021 through 2023**

September 8, 2021 last revision

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of the organization shall be Mid State Illinois Bass Anglers of Belleville, Illinois.

**ARTICLE II-ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION**

II.1) Our Organization is not incorporated with any other organization but B.A.S.S.

II.2) The club will be a chapter in the Missouri B.A.S.S. Federation.

II.3) The club will attempt to maintain 100% B.A.S.S. membership.

II.4) The club will send a complete membership roster to B.A.S.S. Chapter Dept., in December of each year.

II.5) The by-laws will be reviewed for change every 3 years. Amending the by-laws must be done by a 2/3 vote of the members present, provided the change is presented, in writing, one meeting prior to the vote.

II.6) Only members whose dues are paid and have been a member more than three months may vote.

###### **ARTICLE III - OBJECTIVES**

III.1) To improve skills in fishing and fellowship with friends.

III.2) Learning bass catching techniques and sportsman-like conduct.

III.3) To promote and develop youth fishing.

###### **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

IV.1 All new members will be on a ninety-day probation period. At the end of this period, the member will be reviewed by the Executive Board for permanent membership. (Dues will not be refunded.)

IV.2) New members must be accepted by 75% vote of the members present.

IV.3) All members must be eighteen years old (or older.) Members under twenty one years of age must have a parent or guardians (*notarized*) signature. There is no age limit on guest, but under 18 years of age needs to fish with parent or guardian, or have written permission to fish.

IV.4) Annual renewal of dues must be paid by the December meeting. Dues are as follows: Club dues $30.00, plus State and National B.A.S.S. dues.

IV.5) To be a member in good standing you must have a current individual B.A.S.S. membership, and have the current years dues paid.

IV.6) Our meeting will be held each month of the year, on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. unless otherwise notified.

IV.7) The club will not accept more than 45% non-boaters.

IV.8) No member will be dropped from the club roster without written notice.

IV.9) Attendance will be taken at the monthly meetings. 2 points awarded per meeting (Jan to last Point Tournament fished for the year) toward “Mr. Bass. Dues must be paid before points toward “Mr. Bass” can be awarded.

IV.10 Anyone who works at or fishes the Midstate open tournaments will receive 2 points toward “Mr. Bass”. This includes Spring and Fall Opens.

IV.11) Members must conduct all activities in a SAFE and SPORTSMAN-LIKE manner. Abuse of tournament officials, alcoholic beverages or intoxicating drugs will not be tolerated during club functions.

IV.12) At the end of the year, the members that have 100% participation, for meetings and tournaments, will receive a plaque to that effect.

###### **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION**

The officers of this organization shall consist of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Federation Chapter Representative, Tournament Director, and Assistant Tournament Director and Open Tournament Director.

The Executive Board shall consist of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Federation   
Chapter Representative. The officers shall be elected by secret ballot annually in the month of October.  
Nominations are made in the month of September.

Eligibility for holding office. To be eligible for an office the member must be in good standing for 12 months.

Officers shall serve for a period of one year, assuming their duties at the close of the November meeting.

A vacancy occurring in any office, except President which is taken over by the VicePresident, shall be filled for   
the un-expired term by a member elected by the majority vote of the members present, notice of such election   
having been given.

**ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Shall conduct meetings, appoint committees and keep abreast of all activities concerning our organization.

# **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Shall preside when the President or any other officer is absent.

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Shall keep minutes of meetings, maintain files and correspondence for the club and give accurate readings of such at meetings or publish the minutes in the club newsletter.

**TREASURER**

Shall keep accounts of all deposits and expenses, maintain checking account and give accurate readings of such at each meeting. Shall maintain B.A.S.S. membership records & keep B.A.S.S. and Missouri B.A.S.S. Federation dues paid.

**FEDERATION CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE**

Shall be the Federation Chapter representative and as such will be responsible to attend the Missouri Federation quarterly meetings or in the event he is unable to attend is responsible for finding a substitute to go in his place.

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

The Tournament Director shall select two members and the Assistant Tournament Director shall select two members. Forming a tournament committee of six people to develop the tournament schedule. The committee of 6 will be responsible for officiating tournament weigh - ins. There should be a minimum of three committee members at each weigh-In. A committee member can appoint a club member in good standing to take his place before the weigh-in if necessary. Committee members will also be in charge of organizing any club members providing help at the weigh-ins. They shall submit all tournaments for the year, lakes to be fished and dates of such. They shall conduct drawing of partners and take off positions for each tournament. They are responsible for having scales and weigh-in bags and conducting official measuring and weigh-in at each tournament. They have the right to delay, shorten, or cancel any part of the official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. They shall maintain all club standings and give accurate reports of such at each meeting.   
They shall strictly enforce all tournament rules set forth in Article VIII Tournament Rules.

# **OPEN TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

The Open Tournament Director shall be the Chairman of all Open Tournaments. He is responsible, (with the help of Mid State members,) for securing a Lake Permit, getting Registration Flyer Sponsors, ordering the registration flyers, securing items for courtesy bags, distributing the flyers, securing the Polygraph Tester, getting the club trailer to the lake, determining pay-outs, determining disqualification’s, running the actual Tournament and anything else necessary to have a successful tournament.

##### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The executive board shall be the governing body of the club, rule on all disputes & appeals and render decisions. These disputes or appeals must be presented to the president in writing within seven days of the incident occurrence. The executive Board shall audit the club treasurer before the December membership meeting.

**ARTICLE VII AWARDS**

## **MR. BASS**

The top points leader for the year will be declared “MR. BASS” and shall receive a monetary award of $500.00 cash, a Plaque, and a “MR. BASS“ jacket. The culmination of results of tournament points, Midstate Open Tournament points and monthly meeting points will be the basis of the total points.

## **BIG BASS**

In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the total stringer weight from the tournament in which the Bass was caught. In the event of a double tie, Big Bass will be determined by total points for the year. $100.00 will be paid to the winner of Big Bass for the year.

## **CLASSIC AWARDS**

The top 20 in points and anyone who fished all regular club tournaments prior to the classic will qualify to fish the classic. The classic winner of the previous year will automatically qualify for the next year’s classic. Classic qualifiers must be members In Good Standing.

A plaque will be awarded to the winner only. The plaque will be awarded at the yearly club banquet.

## **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

The Executive Board shall select a member that has exemplified himself in service to the club and present him with a plaque for the Outstanding Service Award at the annual club banquet. The board selection must be by unanimous vote.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – TOURNAMENT RULES**

***\* ENTRY PROCEDURES, FEE, PAYOUT \****

1. Names and tournament fees for draw tournaments must be in prior to drawing, to fish that tournament. From the entry fee, $10 goes to Classic Fund, $5 goes to club treasury, and $50.00 goes to the payback. ($65.00 tournament fee.)   
The payback is as follows: 45% 1st place, 27% 2nd place, 18% 3rd place, 10% to 4th place.. Payout for Classic   
will be the top 4 places; 45% first place, 27% second place, 18% third place, and 10% to fourth place.

1a. After the drawing, entry fee refunds will be granted only to those teams/individuals which have to cancel because of vehicle/trailer/motor troubles, sickness, home emergency, etc. Such team/individuals must inform a tournament committee member of the cancellation before tournament takeoff. Teams/individuals failing to adhere to the above stipulation will not receive a refund.

1b. Buddy Tournaments are intended to be fished by 2 anglers, Only if extenuating circumstances arise at the “last minute” (as determined by the tournament committee) will a single angler be allowed to fish by himself and will be required to pay the full team entry fee.”

***\* PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING*** \*

2. There will be a pre-tournament meeting on the ramp or parking lot to discuss start times, any off limits and weather report if necessary. Livewell checks shall be done before take off. Boats launched after take off must find a Mid State Illinois club member for a livewell check before fishing.

***\* SCORING \****

1. Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces of the competitors catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Kentucky, and Smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 fish per competitor and length limit of 12 inches unless the lake limit is different, in which case the lake limit will prevail. Anglers may not share fish with their partners, i.e. once a limit is filled, they cannot give their partner a fish to fill their limit, they can only cull up their limit. Violation will result in disqualification. The official measuring board will be Mid State Illinois Bass Anglers rule board.

***\*LATE PENALTY*** *\**

4. Contestants (Boater and Non-Boater) who are not checked in at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute (To be deducted from legal stringer weight.) Any contestant (Boater and Non-Boater) will be disqualified after 10 minutes, except that for a contestant who is late because he has picked up the Bass of another contestant who had boat/motor problems, there will be a 10 minute grace period during which all contestants in that specific situation may weigh their Bass without a penalty. One person from the disabled boat will bring the fish to the weigh-in.

***\*TAKE OFF POSITIONS AND PAIRING OF PARTNERS \****

5. Take off positions and pairing of partners will be determined by a drawing of names by the tournament directors. (names must be in prior to the drawing.) The last boat out will be the start/check out boat. The first boat out will be the check in boat. If the check in boat fails his duty, he will automatically be the last boat out in his next tournament. Numbered chips are assigned to boaters and non-boaters and placed in separate containers. If the number of boaters is greater than non-boaters, Non-assigned numbered chips will be added to the non-boater chip container to make the containers each contain an equal number of chips. Drawing of chips pairs non-boater to boater. If a chip with a Non-assigned number is drawn for a boater he may fish alone, bring a guest or request the tournament chairman to continue to pull non-boater chips until he gets a assigned numbered chip (and thus a fishing partner.). Any non-assigned chips drawn for him will be returned to the non-boater chip container.

***\*WEIGH-IN AND TIES \****

6. Weigh-in sites will be designated by the tournament committee. Weigh-ins for tournaments will be conducted by the tournament committee. A courtesy duplicate measuring board will be available at the weigh-in. A competitor will be responsible for making the decision as to whether their fish is legal length (tournament officials will not give an opinion, no exceptions.) Once a competitor gives his fish to a tournament official for weigh-in he cannot measure nor have any competitor measure his fish. The decision of the tournament official measuring the fish will be final. Bass presented for   
weigh-in which fail to measure the prescribed length will be penalized at the rate of **the weight** of each such bass from legal stringer weight. If an angler’s only fish is deemed short, the angler will only receive 15 participation points instead of the normal 20. For a 2 day tournament, if an angler’s only fish for either day is short, it will be weighed and be deducted from the weight of the other day. All live fish will be returned to the water unless trophy size (over 6 pounds.) In the case of a tie, the tied places money and points will be divided equally. For example, there is a tie for first and second place, money is $600 for first, and $400 for second, money is added together = $1000 and then divided by 2 = $500 for each. Points are also divided, 100 for first and 99 for second added together = 199, and divided by 2 = 99.5 for each.

***\* LIVE FISH \****

7. Every effort must be made to keep fish alive by use of properly aerated live   
wells. **Five tenths (.50)** of one pound will be deducted, per dead Bass, from total stringer weight.

***\* POINT SYSTEM \****

8. The point system is as follows: First place 100 points with 1 point reduction for each additional place. Fisherman not catching any fish and present at takeoff or weigh-in will receive 20 points. Additionally, fishermen leaving prior to weigh-in must notify someone on the tournament committee, or a club officer, who is fishing the tournament that they are leaving early. Failure to do so will result in the loss of all points earned for the tournament.

***\* FISHING EQUIPMENT \****

9.No fishing from bank. No trolling. Artificial lures only. One rod in use at time, per fisherman. All fishing must be from a boat.

***\* BOAT EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY DEVICES \****

10. Each boat must have all required coast guard safety equipment. It also must have properly aerated live well space to maintain a limit catch of Bass by both fishermen. The driver must have working kill switch attached any time the internal combustion engine is running. Each contestant must wear an approved life saving device during take-off and any time the boat is on plane. Any boat used in a Mid State Tournament must have a 25 HP motor or larger. If it is necessary to use a rental boat the horsepower minimum is waived. Boat and motor shall be compatible to the boat BIA rating.

***\* TAKE OFF AND CHECK IN AREAS \****

11. All boats will leave and return to the same take off area. Trailering of boats is prohibited during tournament hours. The boat must remain in tournament waters during tournament day. Only in dire emergency cases and at the discretion of the tournament committee shall a boat be trailered.

***\* CLASSIC BERTHS \****

1. The top 20 in points or anyone who fished all regular Point Tournaments prior to the Classic will be able to fish the Classic. The Classic winner automatically qualifies for the next year’s Classic. Classic qualifiers must be members “IN GOOD STANDING.” If a non boater(s) qualifies for the Classic and is unable to borrow a boat, he will be paired with the boater in 20th position, and so on.

***\* FISHING WITH GUESTS \****

13. Boaters may fish alone or bring a guest only if that boater draws a non-assigned chip. No

exceptions.

14a For a Buddy Tournament or if there is an excess of non-boaters for a draw tournament a non-boater may bring a guest only if the guest has a boat that meets the Club’s requirements. Fishing must be done from the guest’s boat.

14b Guests may not fish more than one tournament per calendar year.

14c Guests may not take precedence over members. Guests may only fish for the optional Big Bass pot.

***\* NON-BOATERS \****

15. Non-boaters, will pay the boater the sum of $40.00 per tournament day to be paid each tournament day, (2 days = $80.00). This amount can be changed if the boater and non-boater both agree to the change.

***\* FISHING \****

16. If one club member does not show up for a scheduled tournament the remaining partner (club member) may fish the tournament.

1. Members may fish with the same buddy twice.

**\*OFF LIMITS and No Wake/Idle Only Areas\***

18. Off limits areas shall be determined by the tournament committee and announced at takeoff and will include the area within a 50 yard radius of a gasoline pump and all lake, state and federal regulated off limits areas. You cannot fish within 50 yards of a member’s anchored boat (trolling motor up and boat anchored.) Members must observe all posted no wake areas and should not pass another participant while in the no wake area.

***\* PROTESTS \****

1. If any tournament contestant wishes to lodge a protest concerning another contestant’s violation of tournament rules, he must do so verbally to the tournament chairman before the weigh-in. The protest will be announced to the rest of the participants, and the trophies and moneys of the affected places held up until the next regular meeting following the disposition of the protest. The protest will then be heard by the executive board. At that time, the protest must be presented in writing, and all involved parties and witnesses must appear. If the protest is upheld, the points, moneys, and trophies will be adjusted accordingly.

***Glossary***

*B.A.S.S. – Bass Anglers Sportsman’s Society*

*Boater – A member who has a qualifying boat (See tournament rules.)*

*Buddy – any other club member*

*Chip – a tag with a number on it.*

*Club – Mid State Illinois Bass Anglers*

*Classic – a fall tournament for qualified members (see tournament rules.)*

*Guest – not a club member*

*Members in Good Standing – To be a member in good standing you must have a current individual B.A.S.S. membership, and have current dues paid.*

*Mr. Bass – That fisherman that has the most points at the end of the year (Tournament points plus Meeting points.)*

*Non-Boater – member who does not have a qualifying boat (See tournament rules.)*

*Point system - used to determine “Mr. Bass.”*

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