# Article I. Name and Purpose

**Section 1. Name**

## This chapter shall be known as the “Johnson County Christian Bassmasters” of Greenwood, IN.

# Section 2. Purpose

1. We seek to proclaim the saving gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, disciple and mentor men and promote Christian fellowship through the great sport of Bass Fishing.

Jesus said: … “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matt. 4:19

1. Promote full adherence to all conservation codes and strongly encourage adequate water standards.
2. Improve our skills as Bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert Bass catching techniques and ideas.
3. Promote and encourage youth fishing especially as it relates to adult men mentoring younger men and boys in the Christian faith.

# Article II. Membership

**Section 1. Number of Members**

## The total number of boat owners as members of the JCC Bassmasters shall be limited to eighteen (18). The total number of non-boaters shall never be allowed to exceed the number of boat owners.

# Section 2. Requirements for Membership

To become a member a person shall:

1. Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership and agree to uphold all the standards of the club as stated in the Bylaws.
2. Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or can be sponsored by a parent or guardian who is a member.
* All minors participating in a club event *must be* accompanied by a parent, family member or legal guardian and must have a signed permission/release form from their parent(s) or a legal guardian. Minors will not participate in the draw for partners but must fish in the boat of the parent or legal guardian.

C. Prospective members must attend at least one meeting before being considered for membership. At that meeting the individual must share a short biography of himself/herself and state why they want to be a member of JCCB.

D. The prospective member will be given an enrollment form to complete and a liability waiver to be signed. He or she must read the club by-laws and sign a statement to that effect before membership dues will be accepted.

E. Prior to a vote for acceptance into the club the prospect will be required to fish at least one tournament, but no more than two tournaments.

F. If necessary, he or she will then meet with a club officer (or phone contact) for any further questions or clarifications. The officers will then present the prospective member to the club at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting and the club will vote by secret ballot to accept or deny membership.

G. If the individual is accepted for membership, all points that would have accrued from any meetings and/or tournaments will be awarded.

# Section 3. Membership Dues

1. The annual dues will be $45.00 per person and is due before the first club tournament of the season or at the point the new member is voted into the club. Five dollars ($5) of the dues will be kept in reserve for the Fall Classic cash awards payout.
2. To guarantee membership in the club for the upcoming season, a current member needs to pay his/her dues by the first club meeting of the year (January). After the January meeting it will be first come, first served until the club limit is reached.
3. All monies paid to the club treasury are non-refundable.

# Section 4. Removal of Membership

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

1. Any action that would bring dishonor or disgrace to Christ, this club or any member.
2. Voluntary resignation.

Before a membership can be revoked, it must be approved by the majority of the club members present during a regularly scheduled club meeting. The club Secretary will, at the direction of the club President, send to any member whose continued membership is in question a letter restating this section of the bylaws. Included in the letter will be the club’s request that the member contact the President, Vice-President or the Secretary by the next regularly scheduled club meeting stating his membership intentions. Should the club receive no response to the letter by the next meeting, club officials will recommend to the members that the person no longer be eligible to participate in club functions.

# Section 5. Reinstatement of Membership

1. Club members in good standing, who resign and later wish to rejoin, will be promptly reinstated into the club provided there is an open slot.

B. Any club member having been removed by a majority vote, will likewise require a majority vote to be reinstated

**Section 6. Meetings**

All regular monthly meetings of this chapter shall occur on the second (2nd) Monday of each month at a time determined by the club President. The meeting location will be posted on the website each month prior to the meeting. The only exceptions to this schedule will be in the event of a holiday falling on this date or schedule conflict with the meeting room. When this is the case, an alternate date will be selected at the meeting immediately preceding the date in question. There will be twelve (12) meetings each year unless the membership sees the need for additional meetings to plan for, or do, a special event or the like.

# Article III. Officers, Elections, Terms and Vacancies

**Section 1. Officers**

The officers of this club and their duties shall be:

A. President: Shall preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and direct committee functions. Supervise all club functions. Shall provide, or appoint someone to provide, a 10-15 minute devotional at all club meetings and ramp meetings.

B. Vice-President: Shall act as program chairman, assist the President in his duties and preside in his absence. Chair all committee functions.

C. Secretary-Treasurer: Shall maintain accurate minutes of all meetings. Maintain accurate financial records and report the status of each at each regularly scheduled meeting. Maintain a permanent record of all competitive events.

D. Tournament Director: Shall prepare the tournament schedule with the help of his committee. Shall have authority over competition and weigh-in. Any unsettled disputes will be taken up by the executive committee (Tournament Director, President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Media Director).

E. Media Director: Shall maintain the website; work with vendors for logos, banners and the like. Help the other officers with printed media such as brochures, tournament schedules and any other media necessary to promote the club.

 F. Chaplain: Shall give meeting devotionals, and ramp meeting tournament devotionals and any

 other opening and closing prayers as determined.

# Section 2. Elections

Nomination of officers will be conducted during the October meeting each year with elections to be held in November. Newly elected officers will be installed in December of each year and assume their duties on January 1st. Election will be by simple majority of members present. A maximum of four names will be put in nomination in a pool for President and Vice-President. The one getting the most votes will be elected President and the nominee getting the second most votes will become the Vice-President. A maximum of six names will be put in nomination for Tournament Director and Committee (two people). The person receiving the most votes will be the Tournament Director and his committee will consist of the two men getting the second and third most votes. The office of Secretary/Treasurer will be nominated and elected separately.

# Section 3. Eligibility to Vote

Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

# Section 4. Terms of Office

The term of office is for two (2) years, which shall begin at the regular meeting in January and will continue until the successor assumes the office during the regular January meeting at the end of his term. A limit of two (2) successive terms in any office by a member will be in effect (except for the offices of Secretary/Treasurer and Media Director). A member may be re-elected to those offices repeatedly if acceptable to the other members.

**Section 5. Vacancies**

1. In the event the President can no longer serve in his office, the Vice-President assumes the duties of the President and has the authority to appoint someone to become acting Vice-President.
2. In the event the Vice-President can no longer serve in his office, the President has the authority to appoint someone to become acting Vice-President.
3. In the event the Secretary/Treasurer can no longer perform the duties of his office, the President has the authority to appoint someone to become acting Secretary/Treasurer.
4. In the event the President and Vice-President both simultaneously vacate their offices, the Secretary/Treasurer has the authority to appoint someone (it may be himself) to become acting President and someone else (it may be himself) to fill the office as acting Vice-President.
5. In all cases, if the remaining officer and/or officers do not wish to assume the next higher office, it may be waived at his request. Someone else then may be appointed to that position with the authority being vested in the highest officer remaining.
6. For the purposes of the above process, officer rank will be as follows: 1) President 2) Vice-President 3) Secretary/Treasurer 4) Tournament Director 5) Media Director.

**Section 6. Eligibility to Hold Office**

To be eligible to hold office a member must:

1. Have been a member of the club for at least six (6) months.
2. Have attended at least 75% of all chapter functions for the last twelve (12) months or since membership was granted.

**Article IV. Method of Amending the Bylaws**

The Chapter Bylaws may be amended only once each year and will occur after the end of the club season. Anyone wishing to suggest changes may do so during the season by giving suggested change(s) in writing to any club officer. The officers will meet and discuss said proposals and determine what to bring before the club for a vote. The vote can take place at any regular meeting of the membership by a majority vote of the membership present, provided notice of proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one (1) regular meeting prior to the vote.

**Article V. Tournament Committee**

**Section 1. Committee Composition**

The membership will elect a three (3) member committee during the annual election of officers to serve under the leadership of the Tournament Director for the forthcoming year. The Vice-President will have general oversight of this committee.

**Section 2. Duties**

The duties of the tournament committee shall consist of:

1. Assist the Tournament Director in preparation of one or more possible tournament schedules, sites and dates for the membership to consider. Members will then vote on the schedule they prefer, with the schedule getting the most votes becoming the schedule for the new season.
2. Assist the TD in officiating the weigh-in of each tournament, including accurately measuring the length to assure compliance with the legal limits and accurately determining the weight of each angler’s catch.
3. Post all weigh-in results at each tournament on the white board.
4. Assist the TD in conducting the drawing for partners at the meeting immediately preceding each tournament.

**Section 3. Tournament Schedule**

The tournament schedule will consist of nine (9) Saturday events beginning in March or April. Highest total number of points in each division (includes meetings, special events and tournaments) will determine the Angler and Co-Angler of the year. There will also be the August Invitational and the Fall Classic (Non-points tournaments). Club season awards will be given at the annual December Christmas dinner.

**Section 4. Point Structure and Competitive Standards**

1. The point structure for determining the top angler awards at the end of the year will be:

50 points for a 1st place finish

45 points for a 2nd place finish

40 points for a 3rd place finish

35 points for a 4th place finish

30 points for a 5th place finish

25 points for a 6th place finish

Finishers below sixth (6th) place will be awarded one point less for each place in the proper order of their finish.

Anglers must earn a positive weight credit to receive points for their finish.

Those who fish the tournament, but weigh-in no fish, will be awarded seven (7) “appearance” points.

1. Bonus points will be added for new first time members only. Each such member will be awarded seven (7) points for each meeting missed since points began accumulating that season, up to a maximum of twenty eight (28) points, regardless of when they join.
2. Ties will be resolved by giving each member involved in the tie the full number of points for that finish. The next place (below the tied members) will be determined by adding one (1) place to the total number of members finishing ahead of him.
3. Seven (7) points will be awarded for attendance at each regular club meeting.  Accumulation of annual monthly meeting points for the next / following season will begin with the first meeting after the last point’s tournament of the current year.
4. Participation in any special event scheduled and voted on by the club, will result in ten (10) points being awarded to each member present for each day.

**Section 5. Tournament Entry Fees**

The entry fee for each season tournament is $30.00 per member of which $5.00 will go towards entry of the Big Bass competition.

**Section 6. Site Limitations**

Tournaments will not be scheduled at locations that are more than a two and half-hour drive from Greenwood, IN.

**TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Pairings/Rules for the Draw**

1. Each club tournament will be fished by a two-angler team as determined by the draw. These teams will be limited to a total of ten (10) bass at the weigh-in. Each individual angler must keep his fish in a separated livewell, or tag and keep track of his own fish, up to a limit of five (5). Each team member’s fish will be weighed separately for club points and “Big Bass” and then totaled together for the cash awards for that tournament.
2. All tournament entry fees must be paid and each individual must agree to abide by the JCC

 BASSMASTERS “Code of Conduct” as outlined in the Bylaws and other printed materials. No two- angler teams consisting of both being non-members will be allowed. The club reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual(s) into any tournament or club event.

1. All members who intend to fish a tournament must either be present during the drawing, which will occur during the regularly scheduled meeting preceding the tournament, or make their intentions known by notifying the Tournament Director or another officer of the club who will be present during the drawing.

4. Club members will be asked to declare if they intend to fish. The first drawing will be to determine boater starting positions only. The second drawing will be to match non-boaters up with boaters. If the number of non-boaters wishing to fish a tournament exceeds the number of boaters in the draw for that tournament, the number of non-boaters drawn will be limited to the same number as boaters already drawn for that tournament. After the draw, those non-boaters not selected will be drawn first for the next tournament scheduled, providing they are present for the draw and/or have notified the Tournament Director or another club officer of their intent to fish. Each non-boater previously unselected, who makes their intention to fish known, will be drawn first until all non-boaters who intend to fish have gone unselected an equal number of draws. \*NOTE: There may be occasions when non-boaters do not get to fish a tournament.

5. Non-boaters will be limited to fishing with the same boater no more than twice during any given season.

6. All boat owners (Anglers) must participate in the draw for starting spots and non-boater (Co-Angler) partners first. After that, Anglers without partners drawn are encouraged to take a guest. We encourage inviting a non-Christian or an unchurched person. Otherwise, Anglers who did not draw a partner may pair up with each other.

7. All members must have an opportunity to fish the tournament before guests.

8. Non-boat owners who wish to fish but are not paired with a boat owner, may do either of the following:

* 1. Obtain a boat and a guest if so desired.
	2. Invite a non-member boat owner and fish with him/her.

9. If the partner of a boat owner is unable to fish and notifies the boat owner, the boat owner may invite a guest or pair up with another boater. Fishing alone is an absolute last resort and abuse of this privilege may result in disqualification from that tournament and up to expulsion from the club at the discretion of the club officers.

10. If the boat owner is unable to fish the tournament, his drawn partner may fish if he is able to obtain a boat that meets club requirements (see pg. 8).

11. All members present at the meeting prior to the tournament, or who indicated their intention to compete, will be allowed to fish ahead of a guest.

12. Members who wish to fish a tournament, but did not make their intentions known to a club officer and were not included in the drawing, may be allowed to fish but will not be eligible for point accumulation for that tournament. Any exceptions must be approved by the club officers.

13. The last boat owner drawn will be the starter for that tournament.

14. A member who was not present for the drawing will be eligible to fish for points if the tournament is rescheduled.

15. Boat owners who wish to fish with their son, daughter or grandchild that are under 18 are encouraged to do so and will participate in the draw for starting position only. The age of the minor will be determined on January 1st of the current season and will not change even if the minor child turns 18 during that season. In addition, a boat owner is encouraged to fish with their husband or wife, and if they choose to do so, will participate in the draw for starting position only.

16. Those who do not participate in the draw may show up and fish the tournament [up to a maximum of fourteen (14) boats on DNR controlled waters – eighteen (18) on all others] but are not eligible for club points.

17. All entry fees must be paid before the ramp devotional begins. No checks will be accepted at the ramp – cash only and exact change preferred.

**Travel and Expenses**

Non-boaters will pay a fixed cost “Rider Fee” of $30.00 for each tournament. This $30.00 fee will be paid direct to the member collecting tournament entry fees, as their boater’s entry fee. Any ramp or park entry fee incurred will be split between the boater and non-boater.

**Type of Tackle**

1. Only casting, spinning or spincasting tackle may be used.
2. Each contestant may use only one (1) rod at a time. Additional rods may be rigged and ready for use as substitutes.
3. Only artificial lures and pork rind may be used – NO LIVE BAIT OR PREPARED BAITS.
4. NO TROLLING. (Strolling is allowed.)

**Rules for Competition**

1. The start of the tournament will be by number drawn – lowest to highest.
2. All contestants must adhere to common courtesy on the water and not encroach upon another fisherman’s spot. Do not cut in on another’s clear path if he is working a bank or small area. Everyone knows what is ethical and we must police ourselves.
3. If any member feels that they have been unfairly encroached upon he/she may petition the officers for a meeting with the officers and the principals involved for a full airing of the complaint. Of course, always remembering that we are Christians and should always solve conflicts Biblically.
4. All fishing must be done from the boat.
5. Any boat leaving the site before the tournament is over will be disqualified, and no participation points will be awarded unless the tournament director, one of the tournament committee members or an officer is notified.
6. There will be a five (5) Bass limit per person and a ten (10) Bass limit per team.
7. Specific rules apply for the annual Invitational and Classic tournaments. A total of five (5) bass in the livewell is the limit allowed for both team members together at any given time. When (if) a sixth (6th) bass is caught, both team members must cease fishing until a bass is culled and released back into the water. You cannot cull a dead fish. No culling will be allowed at the ramp. No culling is allowed after teams have checked in with the starter/check-in boat (Invitational only).
8. Partners must keep their fish tagged and separate from each other or in separate livewells.
9. It will be prohibited for any contestant to have in the livewell more than the legal limit of fish at any given time.
10. Fishing will be permitted anywhere on the lake except where “No Fishing” is posted or announced off limits at the ramp meeting. All fishing must be done from the boat you left the start position in. All fish must be landed by contestants from within the boat. All boats must stay in the water during fishing hours. No trailering of boats from one location to another will be permitted except as authorized by the tournament director.

**Rules for Weighing In**

1. Only legal limit fish will be weighed in.
2. There will be a one (1) pound penalty for anyone missing or being late for the devotional at the ramp.
3. There will be a one (1) pound penalty for presenting an undersized fish at the weigh-in and that fish will not be weighed.
4. Dead fish will be weighed, but with a .25 pound (4 oz.) penalty
5. A dead fish will not be eligible to win the big bass pot.
6. All fish under five (5) pounds must be immediately released back into the waters they were caught from after weighing in. Photos can be taken but any other exceptions must be approved by the Tournament Director.
7. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth or Spotted Bass will be considered for weighing in.
8. All fish will be measured (to establish legal length) and weighed by the tournament committee.
9. Penalties for arriving late at the tournament weigh-in site are as follows:
	* There will be a one-pound penalty for each minute that a contestant is late.
	* No credit if later than 15 minutes
	* This rule applies to all members in the boat that is late.
10. No fish caught before or after the tournament hours will be weighed.

**Boat Equipment and Operation**

1. All boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length, with rear deck and optional pedestal seat and have an aerated livewell.
2. All boats should be able to pass Coast Guard inspection and have Indiana registration.
3. Coast Guard approved flotation devices must be worn anytime the combustion engine is in operation.
4. A loose Coast Guard approved float cushion, with a minimum of 25 foot of rope attached, must be present in the boat to throw to any person having gone overboard.
5. Kill switches must be installed on all boats over ten (10) horsepower and must be connected anytime the combustion engine is in operation.
6. Metal cull tags will not be allowed – grip style only.
7. It is the responsibility of each boater member to have sufficient liability insurance at all times for boating activities. A copy of the insurance declaration page will be required from each boat owning member at the beginning of each season and before being allowed to fish his/her first tournament.
8. A release/waiver of liability form must be signed by all competitors prior to participation in club tournaments.
9. It is expected that all boat owners will demonstrate common courtesy to their non-boater partner by having not only Coast Guard required equipment, but such items as a quality landing net, a bump board, fish tags if the livewell is not separated and any other items that the boat owner might deem necessary to provide a quality fishing experience.

**Rules for safety**

1. No alcoholic beverages (or any other controlled substance) will be allowed neither during the tournament nor during the trip to and from the site or at any JCC Bassmasters event.
2. The tournament committee, club officers and the President will have the last word on starting in the fog or other threatening weather conditions.
3. All members and guests are expected to observe all water safety rules at all times.

**Tournament Committee Authority**

1. The Tournament Committee will schedule tournament dates and reschedule in the event of a cancellation.
2. If a Tournament Committee member catches fish, they will be weighed in by another committee member and the ranking officer present.
3. The President will intervene to settle all disputes.
4. The Tournament Committee will determine when a tournament is cancelled or terminated if already under way.
5. A tournament terminated once under way, will be considered a completed tournament and all legal fish caught, prior to termination, will be weighed.
6. The Tournament Committee will measure and record all fish caught and assign places of finish.

**Awards**

**Tournament Awards**

**Club Tournaments**

* The club will pay out 90% of all entry fees.
* First place receives 60% of the pot.
* Second place receives 40% of the pot.
* Biggest Bass receives 100% of the big bass pot. **Big bass pot winnings will be awarded to the angler who catches the fish whether boater or non-boater.**

 **August Invitational**

* The club will pay out 80% of all entry fees.
* First place receives 45% of pot and plaque.
* Second place receives 30% of pot and plaque.
* Third place receives 15% of pot and plaque.
* Fourth place receives 10% of pot.
* Biggest Bass receives 100% of pot if contestant paid entry fee and plaque.

 **Classic Tournament**

* The club will payout 100% of all entry fees and sponsorship funds (if applicable).
* First place team receives 50% of pot and plaque.
* Second place team receives 30% of pot.
* Third place team receives 20% of pot.
* Biggest bass receives 100% of big bass pot and plaque. In order to win, contestant must have paid into big bass pot prior to start of tournament.
* The plaques will be funded out of the $5 portion of the yearly membership dues. Any funds left over after plaques are paid for will be added to the total pot and distributed as specified above.
* In the event that only one team weighs fish, that “First Place” team would receive 50% of the entry fee pot, 50% of the sponsor money (if applicable), plaques and Big Bass pot plus plaque.
* If only two teams weigh fish, then 50% and 30% respectively of both entry fee and sponsor money would be paid out, and the Big Bass pot / plaque would be awarded to the appropriate fisherman.
* Money for any places not paid because there were no qualified winners would revert to the Club and sponsor in appropriate percentages, respectively.
* In the event no legal fish is weighed in, entry fees will be returned to the participants, Sponsor funds will be returned to the sponsor.
* Qualification: To fish the Classic a member must finish the regular season in the top 8 in total points of either the Angler or Co-Angler divisions.
* Initial entrants must be a member of the JCCB club.
* Pairings will be as follows: Angler of the Year (AOY) will be paired with the number 8 finisher on the Co-Angler side. Co-Angler of the Year (CoAOY) will be paired with the number 8 finisher on the Angler side. The number 2 finishing Angler will be paired with the number 7 finishing Co-Angler. This pairing method will continue until all qualifying members are paired.
* There will be one additional qualifying member from both divisions. This will be the Wild Card qualifier. This person will be the member (one from each division) that has 1) fished the most tournaments during the season. 2) If that qualifier is a tie, then the member with the most points will win the Wild Card entry 3) If the second qualifier is a tie then the person with the most total weight for the season will win the Wild Card.
* Once eligible team pairings are determined:
* If an angler/co-angler cannot fish this tournament or drops out prior to this tournament, they will be replaced with the next eligible angler/co-angler filling the vacant position. The position order will not change.
* Take off order will follow the order of the Anglers finishing position starting with the AOY.
* No non-JCCB members will be allowed to participate unless all other options are exhausted by the pairing methodology.
* There will be a 5 fish maximum number of fish per team/boat

**Final Awards**

 **Plaques**

1. First place member in points for the season in both divisions will receive “Angler of the Year” or “Co-Angler of the Year” plaques.
2. Second place members in points in each division for the season will receive “First Runner-up” plaques.
3. Biggest Bass of the season will receive “Big Bass of the Year” plaque.
4. In some seasons there will also be cash awards for both AOY and CO-AOY (dependent upon sponsorship).

Bylaws Approved by Membership

January 9, 2023

February 11, 2002

Amended & Approved

June 10, 2002

December 9, 2002

February 10, 2003

March 13, 2004

January 10, 2005

November 14, 2005

April 8, 2007

May 31, 2009

May 5, 2010

June 15, 2012

March 1, 2013

November 11, 2013

December 14, 2013

April 18, 2014

November 9, 2014

March 14th, 2016

April 11th, 2016

November 14th, 2016

February 12, 2018

June 10, 2018

January 13, 2020

March 8, 2021

February 12, 2024