



Western Bass Club

Since 1938

Member

Handbook

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Introduction

Welcome to **Western Bass Club**, The oldest bass club in America. Our club is a family-oriented fishing club that meets the third Wednesday of every month (excluding December) at 6:30 PM.

Our current general membership meeting facility is located at:

Round Table Pizza
4002 A St. SE
Auburn, WA 98002

Our club promotes quality bass angling through education. We also support sound, scientific warm water management, which includes the idea of “Catch and Release” where it is needed to help perpetuate the species. Club members were involved with the impletation of Washington State’s first fresh water preserve, Lake Kapowsin. Including the family in all outdoor activities is always a priority of the Western Bass Club, and special care is taken to expose youngsters to the wonderful world of angling.

About the Western Bass Club

History

In 1938 a small group of local fishing friends that shared the love of bass fishing met with the intent of forming a club that would address issues concerning the states warm water fishery. The club was to be known as the "Western Bass Club" and was the only organized club in the United States dealing exclusively with Bass, Crappie, Perch and other spiny ray fish. It was founded by Ed "Mr. Bass" Frederich, Owner of Rainier Tackle Company in Seattle. He was also the clubs first president.

The name "Western Bass Club" was selected because most of the initial members lived in western Washington. But it wasn't long before its membership grew to include residents in Oregon, Idaho and northern California.

On July 17, 1939, Ed T. Frederich, Frank C. Kelly, Ralph Higgens, and Earl Van Vleck filed the Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State's office in Olympia. Those articles singled out the primary purposes of the club to include:

1. To perpetuate warm water fish in waters adaptable to those fish.
2. To assist in the propagation of these fish by restocking and planting of suitable habitat in our lakes.
3. To assist in the formation of other clubs having similar objectives.
4. To assist in the observance and enforcement of game laws.
5. To cooperate in the fullest measure with other sportsmen organizations interested in the conservation of game fish, game birds and game animals.
6. To fight pollution in all waters of the state of Washington.

In 1939 the club paid for and took delivery of a tank full of six-inch long bass fingerlings that were planted in various waters approved by the game department. Many of the bass in Washington today are descendants of this initial planting. The club also took an active part in the fight against water

pollution and installed bass and panfish habitat in local lakes. This tradition carries on today as the club actively participates in habitat restoration projects when opportunity arises.

The Western Bass Club continued as the states only organized bass club until 1976. The club has been instrumental in the growth of bass fishing in Washington and has helped to establish and set up many of the states existing bass clubs.

Over the years, club members put on many educational how-to bass clinics, resulting in the publication of the "Washington Bass and Panfish Guide", the true warm water angler's bible for this part of the country. Originally published in 1978, it enjoyed over a decade of popularity.

In 2013 the club celebrated its 75th anniversary as the "oldest chartered bass club in the United States". The club was so honored by the Washington State Department of Game, which is only five years older.

The club attributes its longevity to the quality members it attracts and the ability to adapt to changing times. Through the years, many creative and innovative programs have been incorporated into the club. These include monthly fish-ins, tournaments, ambassador program and special guest speakers. These programs make the Western Bass Club unique and appealing to new and old members alike.

Today Western Bass Club has focused on promoting bass fishing education and creating better anglers through monthly guest speakers, fish-ins and tournaments, all in a family friendly atmosphere.

America's Oldest Bass Club

By Dick Streater

When you think of fishing and Seattle, what comes to mind? If you're like most folks, salmon fishing is your answer, followed in the distance by fishing for either trout or steelhead.

Bass fishing probably wouldn't be on the list. But Seattle is the unlikely home of what may be the oldest bass club still in existence. Back in 1938, a small group of bass fishing enthusiasts founded the Western Bass Club at a meeting in downtown Seattle. Club research has turned up information about several "Fin and Feather" clubs,

and community "Sportsman's" clubs older than that, but no pure bass clubs prior to that date. All of the charter members are now gone, but Chuck Cleveland, an early club member, past president and long-time secretary of the club, recalls the earlier years vividly, and has researched the club's beginnings.



Western Bass Club members applaud the tournament winner, who was allowed first pick among a table full of prizes.

According to Cleveland, the club has its roots in what was a combination restaurant-sporting goods store in the basement level of a downtown office building. It was named Ben Paris after the owner, a widely respected sportsman in the community, and was a magnet for the local business people.

Patrons would gather for lunch and swap fishing stories. Ed Frederick came up with the idea to start a bass club, and he was elected the club's first president. In his later years, Frederick became known as "Mr. Bass, a title he earned because of his tireless efforts to promote warm-water fishing in this cold-water state. The founding members were business, owners, doctors and lawyers and the first roster had about 30 members. Dues were \$1 per year to cover postcard postage.

According to one anecdote, the Ben Paris restaurant had a big glass tank with several nice bass swimming in it. Club members would come in for lunch and feed the fish an assortment of worms, nightcrawlers and crawfish. One enterprising member went to the local pet store and bought some cheap gold fish and tossed them in. This practice quickly was halted when one of the women present witnessed the feeding frenzy and threatened to write a letter to the editor of The Seattle Times



Club members fished from wooden boats and with crude tackle. Yet they caught plenty of bass in their competitions.

- Among the favorite waters for these western-Washington anglers was Silver Lake in Cowlitz County, a 3,000-acre lake that had everything needed for that era - a population of huge bass and resorts with cabins and boats and motors for rent. It is located on Spirit Lake Highway and quite close to Mount St. Helens, which erupted violently a few years ago.

- It must be in the genetic makeup of bass fishermen to hold contests and give out prizes and awards, as the club held a bass

tournament during its first year. Fishing derbies always started at noon on a selected Saturday in spring, usually in May, and they ended at noon on Sunday. There were no restrictions on pre-fishing, so most of the participants would drive down Friday, fish that evening and next morning, and then start the real action at noon. The winner was the one who caught the biggest bass - not the heaviest total weight, as is customary in club tournaments today. The big bass were taken to the scales and, sometimes, to the taxidermist; small ones went directly to the frying pan.

- Sunday fishing could start anytime after midnight, if contestants were so inclined, but Silver was tough enough to fish in the daylight with all its stumps, trees, bushes and weeds. Most would try night fishing once, and then opt for the extra hours of sleep. Rules apparently were rigidly enforced. According to an anecdote from the club's historical records, one member had just gotten a new fly rod the day before a bass derby and decided to try it out the morning of the contest. He came back to the dock 15 minutes before start time with an 8 1/2-pounder. The bass would have won first place, but the angler caught it a bit too soon. There were no livewells in the boats, of course - just stringers - and no penalties for dead fish. One of the few regulations that they did establish was the strict prohibition on the use of any form of live bait. This was quite a revolutionary restriction back then, and there was some grumbling about it, but "Mr. Bass" and his club stuck with it all the way.

- Other annual awards that were instituted by the club were: Biggest Bass Of The Year, Biggest Bass By A Lady Member, and Member Of The Year (for outstanding service to the club and to bass fishing in general). It was easy getting valuable donations for the contest prizes. Being perhaps the only bass club writing to the manufacturers, distributors and retailers, the Western Bass Club collected piles of booty. One year, Johnson sent a new 5-horsepower motor. Shakespeare provided new reels, as did Pflueger. Heddon provided the company's finest rods. And Creek Chub sent dozen-packs of baits, while Martin, a local tackle maker, named its diving crab-type bait the "Western Bass Plug" and always sent packs of them to the contest chairman. Now, with the proliferation of bass fishing and bass clubs driven by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, there is much more competition for prize donations.

- With the advent of World War II, Seattle became a huge war-production center, including The Boeing Co., shipyards and expansion of other port facilities. This brought in workers from all over the United States, and many newcomers, especially those from the South and Midwest, were already dedicated bassers. Interest in the club and in bass fishing in the region took a great leap forward. By necessity, early anglers had to get by with limited equipment. When I compare my Lund Bass Boat with those in pictures from club archives, the flat-bottom wooden boats with 3- to 6-hp outboards or perhaps just a pair of oars - seem crude. But photos and records show that the anglers who fished from them caught some nice bass. The fishermen used steel or bamboo casting rods with basic levelwind reels and nylon line. Most had only a limited assortment of lures, but as a tackle collector, I wish I had access to some of those old tackleboxes and their contents. A short list of the most popular baits of the time includes the Johnson Silver Minnow, Foss Shimmy Wiggler, Rex Spoon, Shannon Twin Spinner, Creek Chub's Pokie and Injured Minnows and Heddon's Vamps, Bassers and Crab Wigglers. Also in this list should be jars of pork rind strips and chunks.
- The club has always taken its responsibility to promote and improve bass fishing in the Northwest very seriously. It published some of the first small books listing the bass and panfish lakes in the area, using proceeds from their sale for projects enhancing the fisheries. One year, the club pooled its earnings and contributions to purchase a tank carload of bass fingerlings from a Montana hatchery. With the cooperation of the state fisheries department, members planted the fish in selected lakes throughout Washington State. Bassmasters are fishing for the descendants of these bass today.

Honorary Lifetime Members

Stan Fagerstrom – Stan is one of the early pioneers of bass fishing in the western United States. Stan is an award-winning outdoor writer who has written for a variety of prestigious publications including Bassmaster, Bassin, Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, Sports Afield and many others. Stan is equally recognized with his artistry with a rod. Known internationally as “The Master Caster,” he has been featured in outdoor shows since 1952. Stan was the only writer from the Pacific Northwest invited to the first Bassmasters Classic at Lake Mead. Stan has been inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. In 2001 he was presented with the National Professional Anglers Association’s Honorary Lifetime membership award.

R. L. Moose Streater - Richard has been recognized by the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, Hayward, WI in 1982 for the first published research into the history of the early lure makers of the United States. Member of the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club (NFLCC), having served as Vice President of Region 1 in 1977.

Jeff Boyer - Jeff Boyer holds a Master’s Degree in Education and was a public educator for 15 successful years. Yet, his fishing passion led him into a fulltime fishing career in 1985, when he qualified for his first of three Bassmaster Classics. (His last Classic appearance was 2004 in Charlotte, NC.) . In addition to his tournament success, Jeff’s career includes many roles (guide, writer, magazine editor, television host, photographer, consultant), but his favorite is seminar speaker and instructor. Jeff is especially known for his expertise with marine electronics. Having been with Lowrance since 1983, SONAR and GPS are vital elements of his personal fishing success.

Glenn May - Founder/Owner/CEO at BassResource.com. The Ultimate Bass Fishing Resource Guide is the largest and most popular bass fishing site on the Web, with all the information you need to become a better angler, even for advanced anglers. Glenn was very instrumental in the establishment of the Western Bass Club web site as well as the Ambassador Program.

Cliff Kuppinger

Dave Altier

Les & Wanda Pickle

Harvey Musselman – Region 9 Vice President of the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club (NFLCC) a non-profit, educational, international organization founded in 1976. The primary objectives of the NFLCC are to foster an awareness of fishing tackle collecting as a hobby and to assist members in the location, identification, and trading of vintage fishing-related equipment. Harvey is also a member of the Old Reel Collectors Association (ORCA).

Jim Smith “Dune Hopper” – “Smitty” a US Marine retired with a Southern charm and storytelling ability. Served as club President and always active within the club. Jim earned his nick name after his long run up a sand dune at Potholes Reservoir.

Jim & Sue Owens – Active in Washington State bass fishing in numerous clubs and organizations. Jim’s favorite quote, “If it is to be, it is up to me.” Jim and Sue dedicated themselves to bring joy of fishing to the youth of America. Most notably in 1991 Jim formed the C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill) for Kids Foundation to join volunteers who love to fish with disabled and disadvantaged children for a day of fishing. Jim and Sue are also actively involved with the Kiwanis Club of Renton.

In 1996, the Fishing Kids Program was developed to introduce and engage urban youth in the sport of fishing.

Established in 2011, the Take A Warrior Fishing Program is designed to support military personnel and their families.

John Harris – The Harris Family: John, his Wife Gillian and Son Adam have been very involved Western Bass Club members since the 70's and had participated in all aspects of club activities and board positions. John was retired as a racing mechanic and has always offered assistance when any club member was in need. The Harris Family resides now in Moses Lake and sadly, Gillian passed away in 2017 but John and Adam still participate in club events to this day. Their long-time membership to Western Bass Club and their untiring commitment to teaching and stewardship made them an easy choice for Life Membership and they were awarded that honor in 2012.

Bill Rohr – Bill has been bass fishing for 55 years, plus. His bass fishing started in 1965, while he was still in the Navy, stationed at Whidbey Island.

Bill's brother, Jerry Rohr, and his family lived in Lacy, which they visited many times as his duty would allow. Back then, Jerry and Bill were bank fishermen, trying to catch whatever would bite on live worms and bobbers.

As soon as Bill got out of the Navy, in October 1966, he joined the Western Bass Club. Bill was an active member for the next several years. Bill also held a couple positions on the board, over the years, including contest chairman.

Bill's most memorable moment is when he qualified as part of the 6-man team to represent Washington state in the National Federation Bass Tournament, on Kentucky Lake in 1976.

Club Events

Swap Meet Western Bass Club sponsors a tackle sale and swap meet that traditionally occurs at the March general membership meeting. Individual members, as well as some local tackle representatives, bring fishing tackle or other outdoor related gear to sell or swap. The meeting is open to members and non-members alike, this is an ideal time to buy and sell or trade tackle and gear.

Club Tournaments Western Bass Club sponsors seven tournaments throughout the year and they are usually two-day events. April, July, and October are team tournaments. May, June, August, and September are traditionally point tournaments where individual anglers earn points towards the "Angler of the Year" award. Plaques are awarded to the top three finishers, as well Big Fish of the Tournament. A raffle is provided for all who don't receive a trophy. Angler of the Year is determined by an individual's three highest finishes in the point tournaments. Detailed tournament rules can be found in this packet. Each member is expected to know and abide by all tournament rules.

Green Slips The monthly Green Slip program is open to all members of Western Bass Club. No preregistration is required. Each member may enter as many fish as

they wish, and the bass must be caught in Washington on a public lake or stream with an artificial lure and weighted on a club certified scale. All entries must be submitted to the Ambassador Director by the monthly meeting following the period it was caught or posted in the Members Only section of the web site under Green Slips/Big Bass by end of month. In order to qualify for the monthly recognition or Big Stringer of the Year (see Annual Awards), entries must be on a Green Slip.

Perch, walleye, bluegill, and crappie can also be entered to qualify for the Grand Slam Award (See Grand Slam Award). Entries submitted will qualify for Big Fish of the Year, Annual Certificates, and Grand Slam Award. Although a member's fish may not be the biggest fish of the month, it is still important to turn in Green Slips. Certificates are handed out at the Awards Banquet for all smallmouth bass caught over four pounds, all large mouth bass over five pounds, and all submitted and qualifying Grand Slam fish. The certificates are your proof of qualification for the Grand Slam Award.

Grand Slam Award The Grand Slam Award is open to all members of Western Bass Club. It requires members to become proficient at catching a variety of warm water species, not just bass. To qualify for the Grand Slam Award, you must catch six warm water species over the specified weights:

- Large mouth Bass 5 pounds
- Smallmouth Bass 4 pounds
- Yellow Perch 1.5 pounds
- Walleye 6 pounds
- Bluegill 1 pound
- Crappie 2 pounds

These fish may be caught in any state, but they must be caught on artificial lures, weight on an certified scale, and submitted to the club on a Green Slip or on the web site.

Awards Banquet The Awards Banquet wraps up the club's annual events. It is open to Western Bass Club members, families, and guests. It is held at a prearranged location. Following dinner, the annual awards are presented, and new officers and board members are introduced. A Gigantic raffle concludes the

evening. Raffle items are donated by members and purchased by the club. A crank bait tree is also raffled. When a member adds a crank bait to the tree, that member receives a ticket for each crank bait added. More crank baits added amounts to more chances to win.



Grand Slam Award Recipients

Larry Gonczy

1950 -



2005

Larry Gonczy
December 21,
Western Bass

passed away
2005. He was
Club Board

member, a member of the Western Washington Walleye Club, a Pro Staff Member for G-Loomis, Kalin, Gamakatsu, Normark and Lund Boats, and a Pro Tournament Fisherman.

Larry Gonczy received the Western Bass Club's Grand Slam Award for catching one of each species above a set weight minimum. He is the only Western Bass Club member to receive the award.

Annual Awards

Angler of the Year award is determined by adding each member's points acquired in his/her best three out of four tournament finishes.

Female Angler of the Year award is determined by adding each female member's points acquired in her best three out of four tournament finishes in the ladies division. (A minimum of 6 anglers is required)

Junior Angler of the Year Divisions – Two age groups, 10 years old and under, 11 to 16 years of age.

Big Tournament Stringer is given to the member with the largest one-day tournament weight.

Big Bass of the Year All rules under the monthly Green Slip program apply.

Stringer of the Year award is determined by your five biggest monthly Green Slips of the year. Be sure to enter your monthly Green Slip even if you don't think your fish will take big fish for the month, it could add up to win this award.

Ambassador of the Year award is awarded to the person who does an outstanding job helping out the new members become acclimated to the club.

Member of the Year award is determined by a vote of the officers and board members. It is awarded to the member they determine most helped promote the club and its goals throughout the year.

President's Award is determined by the current club president. It's awarded to the member he/she feels most helped him or her with club activities throughout the year.

Constitution and By-Laws of Western Bass Club

Revised March 2018

Article 1. Name

1. This organization shall be known as Western Bass Club.

Article 2. Purposes

1. To perpetuate warm water fish in water adaptable to these fish.
2. To assist in the propagation of these fish by re-stocking and planting of suitable food in our lakes in accordance with current Game Department laws for the State of Washington.
3. To assist in the formation of other clubs having similar objectives.
4. To assist in the observance and enforcement of game laws.
5. To cooperate in fullest measure with other sportsman's organizations interested in the conservation of game fish, game birds, and game animals.
6. To fight pollution in all waters of the State of Washington.

Article 3. Membership

1. The membership of this club shall be limited to warm water anglers who shall be at least (18) years of age.
2. All applications for membership shall be in writing, signed by the applicant and accompanied with the paid dues.
3. Any person who shall have performed a conspicuous and outstanding act toward the purposes for which this club is organized, upon the recommendation of the board of directors, may be elected to **honorary membership** in the club.

Article 4. Fees and Dues

1. The annual dues for membership will be determined by a majority of voting members at any monthly meeting. Announcement of a proposed change in dues must be made 30 days prior to the vote, utilizing the Website. If no change is proposed for the following year, it shall remain at the previous year's rate. The annual dues shall entitle the holder thereof to all of the rights and privileges of the club, including the right to participate in all club activities.
2. The spouse of a member of this club, and all of their children and grandchildren under (18) years of age, shall be entitled to all of the rights and privileges of the club, provided however, that the said children shall not be entitled to vote in the said club.
3. The dues shall be payable on the first day of January of each year and said dues shall expire on the 31st day of December of each year.
4. A member whose dues have not been paid on or before the first day of March shall be automatically suspended and shall not be eligible to any rights or privileges of the club until same have been paid.

Article 5. Officers

1. The officers of the club shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six (6) directors. The officers of the club, together with the immediate Past President, shall constitute a nomination committee whose duties shall be to nominate one candidate for each of the several offices of the club. At the August meeting, other nominations may be made from the floor.
2. Election of officers shall be at the October meeting and a majority vote of the members present shall elect. All officers so elected shall hold office one year with the exception of the directors, who shall be elected for a term of two years. Two or more are to be elected at each annual election, provided however, that where a member has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the said board of directors, an election to fill this office shall be held at the October meeting.
3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and board of directors, and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office of President of similar organizations. He shall designate and appoint appropriate board positions and committees.
4. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the board of directors. The secretary shall collect all dues of the members and forward to the Treasurer for deposit.
5. The Treasurer shall collect all funds of said and deposit in such bank as may be selected by the board of directors and shall pay such bills of the club as are approved by the board of directors, provided however that all checks for the disbursement of funds of the club shall be signed by the President and/or Treasurer, and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to the office of the Treasurer.
6. The board of directors shall constitute the advisory board and grievance committee for the club. Matters pertaining to policy, management, and administration of the affairs of the club shall be referred to the directors before being acted upon by the club.

7. The board of directors shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, six (6) elected directors, and the immediate Past President. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.
8. The board of directors shall have the power to drop from membership of the club, any member, for any cause. The board shall also act as an investigating committee on all complaints that have been presented in writing over the complainant's signature.
9. Any vacancy occurring on the board of directors shall be filled by an appointment of the President with the approval of the board. Said appointee shall serve until the next regular election.

Article 6. Meetings

1. Meetings of the club shall be held monthly on the third (3) Wednesday of the each month.
2. Members in attendance constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Absentee and web based voting are permitted, from members in good standing, on specified items, as determined by the board, coming up for vote, providing the specified items have been posted on the club website at least (14) fourteen days prior to the regular meeting that the specified item be voted upon. All absentee and web based votes must be submitted at the opening of the regular meeting and recorded in the minutes. Only one vote per member, live vote takes precedence.
3. When not otherwise provided for, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all business proceedings of the club.
4. The annual election of officers and directors shall be held on the third (3) Wednesday of October of each year with notice of said election to be posted on the club's website. Only paid members in good standing shall be privileged to vote at the said election.
5. Special meeting of the board shall be called by the President upon written request of five (5) members in good standing, and the secretary shall contact the board at least three days before the said meeting. Only such business shall be transacted at said meeting as is set forth in said notice.

Article 7. Amendments

1. This constitution and the by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any meeting, provided however, the proposed amendment has been presented in writing, posted on the website, and read at the preceding regular meeting.
2. Changes to tournament regulations can only be made during any non-tournament month.

Article 8. Club Equipment

1. All equipment owned by Western Bass Club shall be used for official club functions only.
2. The board shall be the sole judge of what constitutes an official club function.

Article 9. Club Trophies

1. Trophies may be awarded to winners only at an official club function of the Western Bass Club. Cases in which this would impose a hardship may be applied to, and acted upon, by the board of directors.

Article 10. Website/Facebook Guidelines

1. "Views and opinions expressed by individual members do not necessarily reflect those views of the Western Bass Club."
2. All posting should refrain from any references that could be construed as racially or sexually biased. Such postings will be removed.
3. Any article submitted for publication should deal with specific issues related to warm water fishing, environmental, or outdoor-related activities.
4. Contributors should refrain from making political statements in reference to specific political candidates that can be construed as endorsements by the entire membership.
 - a. If the membership wishes to endorse specific issues, candidates, or causes, and have these endorsements published in the Western Bass Club website/Facebook page, the specific issues should be submitted in writing before the club's board of directors for discussion.
 - b. If the board deems the issue worthy of endorsement, they will submit the issues for discussion and affirmation by the general membership.
 - c. If the measure passes with a majority vote, the individual responsible for the original endorsement will author the document for publication.
 - d. Said document will include a statement which signifies that the noted document has the endorsement of the Western Bass Club.

The **Managing Editor** will have the authority to edit any and all submitted material for publication with regard to content, spelling, and/or grammatical errors and that which does not meet with the provisions contained herein as established by the Western Bass Club.

Official Western Bass Club Tournament Rules

Revised March 2018

- Interpretation
 - Interpretation of the rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director.
 - In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose any sanction that he/she deems appropriate, including, with no limitation, disqualification.
 - The decisions of the Director shall be final and non-contestable in all matters.

- Eligibility
 - Only anglers who are current members of the Western Bass Club may fish club tournaments for prizes, trophies, and points.
 - All entry fees must be received prior to the start of the tournament.
 - All boaters must show proof of insurance with the required liability limits before the tournament start time on the first day.
 - Non-participants may occupy a tournament boat during contest hours, provided:
 - That they are present with the knowledge and approval of the Tournament Director.
 - That they are not allowed to participate in the tournament.

- Fees
 - Main Tournament: \$40 per contestant, (\$2 Big Fish, \$10 raffle).
 - Junior's Division: \$0 per contestant.
 - Women's Division: \$5 per contestant.
 - Couples' Division: \$5 per couple.

- Off-Limits
 - The tournament waters shall be off-limits to all participants beginning at 12:01 a.m., five days prior to the tournament start date (Mon. 12:01 AM) and re-open at 12:01 AM Friday prior to the event start for pre-fish day.

- Start/Finish times
 - The Tournament Director shall determine the tournament start time and weigh-in time.
 - Start times for both Saturday and Sunday will be at “first safe light” as determined by the Tournament Director.
 - The Tournament Director sets the official time of day.

- Driver's meeting
 - Prior to the start of each tournament, a driver's meeting will be held at the official launch site.
 - Drivers failing to attend this meeting shall be last out at the tournament start.

- **Launching**
 - You may trailer your boat to another launch site on the tournament waters, but you may not leave the official start site until the start time of that tournament day.
 - You must arrive at the official weigh-in site by boat. You cannot trailer your boat to the weigh-in site.

- **Required equipment**
 - All boats must be equipped with all required U.S. Coast Guard equipment, including, but not limited to, flares.
 - Contestants and passengers must wear a chest-type life preserver whenever the main engine is running.
 - All boats must display a “Contest” banner meeting the regulations of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - All boats must have a functional ignition kill switch for the internal combustion engine. The driver must be securely connected to the kill switch any time the internal combustion engine is running.
 - **NO ALCOHOL** is allowed on any boat during tournament hours.
 - All boats must be equipped with a functioning, aerated live well.

- **Limits**
 - The Tournament Director will determine limits.
 - Only large mouth and smallmouth bass will qualify, the minimum size limit to be set by the Tournament Director.
 - Fish will be measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail in any direction.
 - Each fish the Tournament Director judges to be dead or unlikely to survive release will be penalized four (4) ounces.
 - The Tournament Director is bound by law to end the tournament if more than ten (10) percent of all weighed fish are dead at the first day’s weigh-in unless the cause of mortality can be identified and resolved.

- **Restricted areas**
 - Any closed waters and off-limit areas for the tournament will be determined by the Tournament Director.
 - All fishing must be done from a boat.
 - You may exit the boat to push or pull into an area you want to fish.

- **Tackle/Equipment**
 - Only artificial lures shall be used with the exception of prepared pork strips, etc.
 - Live bait is prohibited.
 - Only one casting, spinning, or spin-casting rod and reel may be used at one time.
 - All bass must be caught in a conventional and sporting manner.

- **Licenses**
 - Every contestant must possess a valid Washington State fishing license and all other permits (equipment, personal, etc.) as required by law.

- **Sportsmanship**
 - All contestants shall obey all State and Federal laws and follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.
 - Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be cause for disqualification.

- **Drunkness** by any contestant during tournament hours **will not be tolerated** and will result in immediate disqualification.
 - All courtesies shall be extended to contestants and non-contestants alike.
 - Any act which reflects unfavorably on the Western Bass Club or its goals may result in disqualification.
 - Any infraction resulting in a citation by a Law or Wildlife Officer may result in disqualification.
- Weigh-In
 - There will be only one official check-in point as designated by the Tournament Director.
 - All contestants must reach the check-in point by the specified finish time or be penalized eight (8) ounces for every minute late.
 - Contestants over fifteen (15) minutes late will not be allowed to weigh-in fish for that day.
 - All culling and fishing must cease by the official weigh-in time.
 - All culling tags must be removed before fish are weighed.
 - All anglers must check in with the Tournament Director, with or without fish.
- Scoring
 - Only bass determined by the Tournament Director to be eligible, per the contest rules, shall be weighed.
 - Each contestant's score shall be based on the pounds and ounces of the official weight, minus any penalties.
 - Any ties will be decided by those contestant's big fish. A coin flip will settle any secondary ties.
 - All uninjured bass must be released unharmed.
- Protests
 - All protests must be delivered to the Tournament Director, in writing, within thirty (30) minutes of that day's official check-in time.
 - The Tournament Director will make a final decision on any protest before the awards ceremony.
- Points
 - Points awarded toward Angler of the Year as distributed as follows:
 - 1st Place: 101 points.
 - 2nd Place: 95 points.
 - 3rd Place: 90 points.
 - Points will then drop by five-point increments (85, 80, 75, etc.) in order of finish down to 10 points.
 - All anglers finishing below a 10-point finish will receive 5 points for attending.
 - Big fish of the tournament does not accumulate Angler of the Year points.
 - In the event of a tie for Angler of the Year, the sole winner will be determined by the total weight of bass caught in the point tournaments that the anglers who tied fished in together.
- The Women's Division

- Solely for female participants to compete against each other for a Female Angler of the Year trophy, awarded at the year-end awards banquet. Prizes may also be awarded if we receive enough participation.
- The Couples Division
 - Works the same as the Women's Division, only couples compete as a team for a Couples Team of the Year trophy (and possibly prizes).
 - Neither division affects our current regular tournaments. Both are treated separately and independently of the regular tournaments, and one another. However, they are not exclusive to each other, meaning you may compete in as little or as many as you qualify for at the same time. Women can compete in all 3, while men can compete in 2 (Couples and the regular Main Tournament). This means you can be fishing up to 3 different "tournaments" during the same events!
 - You do not need to catch a different limit for each division. Rather, your single limit will apply to each of the divisions you enter.
 - For instance, let's say a couple enters the Couples division. In addition, she enters the Women's division and he enters the Main Tournament. She weighs in an 11 pound limit; he weighs in an 8 pound limit. She now has 11 pounds in the Women's Division and he has 8 pounds in the Main Tournament. They also have 19 pounds together in the Couple's division (both limits combined). If she had decided to enter the Main Tournament as well, she would have had 11 pounds in that division as an individual contestant.
- Entry Fees
 - The entry fees collected in the new divisions go towards purchasing trophies and prizes awarded at the end of the year.
- Team Tournaments
 - The 3 non-points tournaments are now team points tournaments.
 - A team maybe one single angler or two anglers.
 - Anytime and angler competes with a different partner that is a new team.
 - There are no substitutions to team members.
 - Points are awarded to the team that participates at each event and cannot be transferred to a different team. The only exception is if an angler competes in an event by alone and request that the points be transferred to a team that they are the member of.
 - Each angler can do this two out of the six days. However, if an angler decides to fish solo as a team he is only allowed to weigh five fish.
 - Each two-angler team is allowed to weigh six fish.
 - First and second place team winners will receive trophies.
 - Big fish will still win the big fish money.
 - A teams best two finishes in a single season will count towards their year and final points.
- Regular tournament rules apply with the addition of the following:
 - The Women's and Couple's divisions are available only during regular point's tournaments.
 - Entry fees and points for Women's and Couple's divisions accumulate separately.

- Standings, trophies and prizes will not be awarded at individual tournaments for Women's and Couple's divisions.
- Standings for all 3 divisions will be updated after each tournament, and announced in the newsletter and website.
- A woman can compete in 1, 2 or all 3 divisions; a male can compete in 2 (Main and Couple's).
- Each couple will consist of one person and their significant other. Both must compete in the same tournament in order to be eligible. (No person is allowed to compete in the Couple's division without their partner also competing in the same tournament).
- Definition: The two people in a Couple's division entry are a "Couple" and will accumulate points as such for the remainder of the year in subsequent tournaments.
- Partner substitution: Only ONE (1) substitution of a partner, per year, will be allowed during the tournament season and still qualify in the Couple's Team of the Year award. Two or more roster changes or substitutions will create a new Couple and points will be awarded separately. Points cannot be carried over from one Couple to another.
- Couple partners do not need to fish from the same boat (both can be "back seaters").
- Assistance: Contestants may not ask for or accept fish from another person, including their partner, nor may they offer their fish to another contestant. Each contestant must weigh in only the fish he/she catches. Contestants may not have other persons hold spots/waters for his use.
- Each person in a Couple may weigh in a single limit of fish (as determined by the tournament director) for a total of 2 limits per couple.
- Points will be awarded in each division as follows: 1st Place: 101 points; 2nd Place: 95 points; 3rd Place: 90 points; Points will then drop in 5 point increments in order of finish.
- Year-end awards will be determined by adding acquired points in the best 3 or 4 tournament finishes in each division.

FISHING LOG

Location: _____ Date: _____ Day of Week: _____
County: _____ Time Started: _____ Time Finished: _____
Water Temp Start: _____ End: _____ Air Temp Start: _____ End: _____

STRUCTURE TYPES:

Docks Stumps Brush/Trees Rocks Rip - Rap Hump Rock Piles
 Points Road Beds Rock Cliffs Mud Flats Gravel Banks Flooded Timber
Other: _____ Other: _____

AQUATIC VEGETATION:

Lily Pads Cattails Milfoil Dollar Pads Bulrushes Elodea Coontail
 Maiden cane Cabbage Hydrilla Other _____ Other _____
Growth Stage: Submerged Emergent

WEATHER:

Bright Sun Partly Cloudy Overcast Showers Rain Other _____
Wind MPH: _____ Direction _____

WATER CLARITY: Clear Stained Murky Muddy Other _____

WATER LEVEL: Normal High Low Rising Dropping

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS: Baitfish Insects Crayfish Other _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH: _____

FISH OVER TWELVE INCHES:

	L/M	S/M	LENGTH	WEIGHT	TIME	LURE TYPE/COLOR/WEIGHT/NAME
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

NOTES: _____

MOON PHASE: 1ST Quarter ½ Moon 3rd Quarter Full Moon
 + ___ days + ___ days + ___ days + ___ days

FISHING PARTNER: _____ PAGE _____ OF _____

WESTERN BASS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

(ONLY NAME AND MEMBERSHIP# ARE NEEDED FOR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS IF LAST YEARS INFORMATION IS CURRENT.)

Name:		Membership # for Annual Renewal:	
Date of birth:	Phone:	Email:	
Current address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
New Member <i>(Please circle)</i>	Renewal Membership	Membership for the Year:	Website screen name:

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Name:		Date of birth:	
Phone:	Email:	Website screen name:	
Joint Membership?		Yes	No <i>(Please circle)</i>

2ND EMERGENCY CONTACT OTHER THAN SPOUSE

Name:		Date of birth:	
Address:		Phone:	
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Relationship:			

BOAT INFORMATION FOR CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Year:	Manufacturer & Model:	HP:	
WA State Hull Identification Number:			
Current \$300,000 liability insurance coverage for boater.	Issue Date:	Expiration Date:	
Insurance Company:	Policy #	Verified by:	
Washington State Boaters Education Card	Boaters EC #	Verified by:	

MAIN INTRESTS IN CLUB MEMBERSHIP (PLEASE CIRCLE OR WRITE IN ALL THAT APPLY)

Conservation of fish and Lakes	Fishing Learning experience	Cast for Kids – Wounded Warrior events
Fish in Events	Tournaments	Meet and Greet Events
Other:		

CHILDREN AND DATE OF BIRTH IF MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES ARE DESIRED FOR THEM

Name:	Name
Name:	Name

SIGNATURES

By signing this application, you are acknowledging that there are inherent risks associated boating and participating in fishing club events and are here by willfully releasing Western Bass Club of having any liability what so ever associated with your participation in a Western Bass Club event and that any and all claims of injury or damage be it personal or property that you or any family member or guest may sustain or cause during a Western Bass Club event shall be your sole responsibility.

Signature of applicant:	Date:
Signature of spouse <i>(only if for a joint membership):</i>	Date:

Membership Dues are \$60.00 per year and expire on Dec. 31st

Dues Paid by *(Please circle)* (Cash) or (Check# _____) Received by _____ Date _____

Membership # _____