



# FCBC Member Handbook 2018

# Fielder Church Bass Club Constitution, Bylaws & Tournament Rules

## CONSTITUTION

### Article I Name

The name of the organization established by this constitution is the Fielder Church Bass Club, herein after referred to as the association.

### Article II Membership

1. Membership is open to any adult (18 years of age or older) desiring to compete in FCBC tournaments. Membership or attendance at Fielder Church is **NOT** a requirement for membership.
2. All members of this association are required to read the constitution and bylaws as a condition of membership and complete and sign a membership application each year.

Only members will vote at meetings or elections. Each member will have one vote. Children of members are not allowed to vote.

### Article III Officers and Executive Committee

1. The officers of the association shall consist of:
  - A. **President:** The President will supervise and be responsible for all actions of the association and preside at all meetings. Must have been a member of the club for 5 consecutive years and previously served in another officer position.

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- B. **Vice President:** The Vice President will assist the president in his duties and will preside in the absence of the president. He is encouraged to provide appropriate instructional programs at scheduled meetings, i.e. movies, DVD's, guest speakers, etc.
- C. **Secretary:** The Secretary will keep the minutes of all meetings, maintain membership rosters, and provide club information.
- D. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is the custodian of the club finances and will keep an accurate record of all financial transactions. He will collect all membership dues and gain approval of the association officers before making any expenditure. Will act as president in the absence of both the President and Vice President. Membership at FC is a requirement for this office.
- E. **Past President:** The Past President will assist the newly elected President in transition of running meetings and club events.
- F. **Weigh-Master:** The position of WEIGHMASTER (formally listed as Tournament Director) shall be an elected position and will be considered part of the "executive board". The duties and responsibilities are outlined below.
- The Weigh-master's main responsibility is the coordination of all club Tournaments, including but not limited to: Kid's Tournaments, Christian Bass Club Top Six Tournaments (when FCBC is the host), club tournaments, special "open" tournaments, etc.
  - The Weigh-master will appoint two (2) tournament directors after elections are held; one of which must be a member that is appointed to provide results and track year to date standings. These Tournament Directors will work and assist in all club tournaments. These positions will be occupied for the duration of the tournament season. In the event additional

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members are needed to assist at weigh-ins, then the Weigh-master may require officers to work the particular tournament.

- The Weigh-master will be responsible for seeing that all materials necessary to properly conduct a weigh-in are available at each tournament.
- The Weigh-master will assign duties to each tournament director and oversee the weigh-in. He/she will tally the results, add up points, confirm results with the directors and announce the results to the membership.
- If, during a weigh-in there are challenges or questions regarding rules, then the Weigh-master will confer with both of the tournament directors, if present. If either Tournament Director is not present, or one of the TD's is involved in the rule challenge, then the highest ranking officer present will be chosen to fill out the 3 man committee. The committee will decide on a course of action and make a ruling. The Weigh-master is the final word on all tournament issues.
- The Weigh-master will keep on file all weigh-in documents until the next meeting. The weigh-master, or his appointee, will keep track of points only in order to provide accuracy of results reporting.

G. **Chaplain(s):** The Chaplain(s) are responsible for closing each meeting or tournament in prayer.

H. **Partner Coordinator:** The Partner Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that all members have a partner before the scheduled tournament.

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### Executive Committee

The above officers constitute the executive committee, which have all the powers of the association in the intervals between meetings. This committee will meet on the call of the President, or upon the request of any two members of the executive committee.

In case of a tie vote, the President has the deciding vote. Five members of the executive committee constitute a quorum.

*Officers will serve for a period of one year unless they leave the association or resign. The association officers at the start of the New Year will set the tournament dates and locations. Vacancies will be filled by appointment by the President or Vice President, in that order, until a membership meeting can be held to approve the selection.*

### Article IV

#### Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the membership will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, unless changed 30 days prior by officer or members vote and notification. The said start time of this meeting is **7:00 p.m.** One half of the membership will constitute a quorum for these meetings. Minutes will be prepared for each regular and special meeting. The President or Majority of the Executive Committee only can call a special meeting.
2. OFFICER ELECTIONS: All officers for the following year will be elected at the November meeting (last official meeting of the year). All nominations should have been made at the previous meeting.- All election procedures are outlined in the FC Bass Club Bylaws and Constitution. After the new officers have been elected, they will decide when the OFFICER'S meeting will be held and where.

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3. **OFFICERS MEETING:** An Officers meeting will be held after the election of officers and before the start of the next year's tournament season .All rules, tournament lakes/dates/formats, etc. will be discussed and decided upon for the up-coming tournament season. All decisions will be based on recommendations made by the club members. The outgoing President is requested to attend this meeting. She/he is allowed voting rights for this meeting only. Any Bylaw & Constitution changes and or amendments must then be accepted or denied by a majority of the membership present at the first meeting of the year. Once accepted by the membership No changes may be made without a special meeting of executive committee at the request of the President to discuss imminent club issues. Any subsequent changes will be communicated to all members and voted on by club members.
  
4. **AWARDS BANQUET:** In January, FC Bass Club will hold its annual awards banquet. Members are encouraged to attend and bring family members, as well as guests. Angler of the Year, Sportsman of the Year, Top Six, Big Bass of the Year, Heavy Stringer of the Year and Youth Angler of the Year will be awarded at this event, as well as any special awards to be presented. No points will be awarded for attending this event.

### Article V **Finances**

1. The association will be self-sustaining, primarily through dues, tournament fees, contributions, and special assessments of active members.

The Treasurer will:

1. Be the custodian of all funds, assets, and property of the association.

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2. Establish an accounting system for association funds and property in accordance with good business practices, and will submit a financial statement to the general membership monthly, or upon request.
3. Disburse funds and enter into contracts only upon approval of one half of the membership.
4. The association will not enter into any forms of contracts until such time that the Treasurer has confirmed that funds are in fact available to cover such expenses.

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## BYLAWS

### Section 1 Minutes

The Secretary will prepare written minutes of all general membership meetings.

### Section 2 Dues and Assessments

1. Annual dues are \$ 20.00 for each adult member. Spouses and children under the age of 18 are included in this fee.
2. Assessments must be approved by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the membership of the association.

### Section 3 Committees

The Executive Committee may appoint additional committees from the membership, and prescribe their authority, and responsibilities.

### Section 4 Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds majority vote of the active membership in attendance at any meeting.

### Section 5 Monthly Awards

Awards will be given for first, second and third places, Individual Heavy Stringer and Big Bass at each monthly meeting. Award plates will be given at the next regularly scheduled meeting whenever possible. Youth awards will only be provided for the first place finish in the youth division.

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### Year End Awards

- A. **Angler of the Year** will be awarded to the angler who finishes with the most total accumulated weight at the end of the season.
- B. **Sportsman of the Year** will be awarded to the angler who finishes with the highest total cumulative points through the season, based on the points-plus-pounds method (1 January through 30 November).
- C. **Big Bass of the Year** will be awarded to the angler who catches the biggest bass based on weight. The weight will be the adjusted weight based on the Monticello Conversion Chart.
- D. **Individual Heavy Stringer** will be awarded to the angler who catches the biggest 5 fish stringer by weight in any sanctioned FCBC Tournament. The weight will be calculated using the Monticello Conversion Chart.
- E. **Top Six awards** will be based on the points-plus-pounds method and will be awarded to the anglers who finish 1 through 6 in the cumulative point's standings. These anglers are eligible to fish in the Top Six tournaments. In the event that a designated angler cannot fish in the Top Six tournament, the next angler in the standings will take his place (#7, #8, #9, etc.) until all the spots are filled.
- F. **Special Awards**: Upon nomination and approval of the majority of the active membership, a special award can be presented to a member or members who have contributed immeasurably of personal time and effort in the association, its activities, and fishing conservation in general.
  - **Angler of the Year (shadow box)**
  - **Sportsman of the Year (shadow box)**
  - **Big Bass of the Year (shadow box)**
  - **Individual Heavy Stringer of the Year (shadow box)**
  - **Top Six (Plaque)**
  - **Youth Angler of the Year (Plaque)**
  - **Die-hard award for those with perfect attendance at all scheduled meetings and tournaments for the season. (Plaque or plate)**

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### Section 6 Active Membership

A paid member or honorary member in good standing.

### Section 7 Points Plus Pounds System

The points-plus-pounds system will be used to determine all positions in the yearly standings. It will be used to determine the Sportsman of the Year, and the Top Six. The following formula will be used: 1st place: 100 points + individual weight, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 98 points + individual weight, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: 96 points + individual weight, etc. with descending points until all anglers with fish to weigh have weighed in. Any angler, who has no fish to weigh, but has paid his/her entry fee, will receive 60 points for participation (or two points lower than the last person catching fish, if that would be less than 60). **All points will be carried to the 100<sup>th</sup> decimal place.** For example: A team finishes 1<sup>st</sup> with 12.38 lbs. Each angler in the team will receive 100 points PLUS his or her individual weight for the tournament. Weight will not be rounded off to the pound, either up or down. Team Weight will be used to determine the order of finish in each tournament i.e., 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.

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### TOURNAMENT RULES

**POLICIES:** All rules and tournament dates have been determined in advance of the current fishing season by the officers of the club. These are considered binding throughout the tournament season and cannot be changed unless agreed /voted upon by membership. All changes recommended by members will be tabled and considered at the officers meeting in December or at a specially called meeting of the officers. The President may request an officers meeting and approval to change the tournament Lake or date, start times, and weigh-in locations. The changes will ONLY be considered if situations warrant (safety, large functions at lakes, weather related incidents, etc.). Only then may these changes be made by a majority agreement of the executive committee.

**EQUIPMENT:** Any type of rod and reel may be used. Live bait is not allowed for adult members. Children may fish with live bait. Pork rind products are allowed. Live well additives to help keep fish alive are HIGHLY recommended and STRONGLY encouraged.

**METHOD OF FISHING:** All bass must be caught live, in a sporting manner. Only one rod may be used at a time, with a maximum of two (2) baits tied to the line. Alabama Rigs are limited to a max of five (5) wires and five (5) hooks. Nets may be used to assist in landing a fish. Trolling with the main engine is not allowed.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. Illegal drugs and alcohol are not allowed at any function and will be cause for disqualification and suspension from the club. Pre-fishing the tournament lake is permitted before the tournament, any pre-fishing on Monday through Friday before the tournament day, must be done **without** the services of a guide for the tournament lake. Guides are permitted to compete as guests or members if they have not received compensation for guide services on the tournament lake 30 days prior to the tournament date.

**SAFETY:** All state and local boating laws apply during FCBC sponsored tournaments. Anglers will wear a chest type life preserver anytime the big motor is in operation unless the boater is in the act of loading or unloading the boat. All boats should be equipped with an emergency shut-off device (kill switch), which must be secured to the driver's body whenever the big motor is in operation. (If boat is equipped with such device.) Any angler that sees another club member's boat or person in distress must stop and render aid to the best of their ability. **Failure to obey state, local, and club safety regulations are grounds for disqualification from the tournament, at the discretion of the Tournament Directors.**

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**ELIGIBILITY:** In order to be eligible to compete in a FC Bass Club tournament, an angler must either be a paid member before the tournament **or** have informed at least one of the FCBC officers of his/her intentions to join the club **before** and have completed and signed a waiver before they launch to fish the tournament. He/she must then pay all membership dues at weigh-in. Failure to do so may result in no points being awarded for that event. Guests may fish with members in team events but are not eligible for annual awards or big bass Calcutta money. It is recommended (not required) that members not fish with the same guest in more than two tournaments. All guests must also complete and sign a Guest tournament entry waiver prior to launching for that tournament.

**YOUTH COMPETING AS AN ADULT:** Participants under the age of 18, with Board approval, may elect; prior to their first tournament of the year, to fish the year as an ADULT. Should they elect this option, with Board approval, they will be subject to the \$20.00 entry fee and all tournament rules. They will be eligible for all tournament winnings and participate in the Point/Weight standings, just like adult anglers. (See DRAW exception)  
To obtain Board approval, A parent or legal guardian participation not only in FC Bass Club Meetings or in a FC Bass Club tournaments is required. This track record must extend back over the previous full year. The Youth moving to the Adult category will not be allowed to participate in DRAW's until reaching Adult age, as defined in the Club rules.

**WEIGH-IN:** All tournaments will start at 6:00 a.m., unless special hours are announced prior to tournament day. Last Cast will be at 3:00 p.m., unless special hours are announced prior to tournament day. Weigh-in Slips and Tournament Fees must be turned in no later than 45 minutes after Last Cast. At the tournament directors' discretion, each minute past the 45 minutes that the weigh-in slip is late, the angler will have .5 pounds deducted from his/her weight. Any angler turning in a weigh slip more than 50 minutes late will have his/her weight disqualified, but allowed to retain their participation points (**60**). It is recommended that anglers be at the ramp at 3:00 p.m. to allow plenty of time to retrieve their boat, prepare fish, store gear, etc. Fish or weigh-slips and tournament fees can be turned in as soon as the tournament director opens the weigh-in. All anglers **MUST** check in; in person or by cell phone, at the weigh-in line regardless of if they caught fish or not. Failure to do so can result in loss of participation points for that event.

**PAPER FISH:** All lakes will be fished under the paper format. There will be a 10" minimum length limit on black, Smallmouth and Kentucky bass. **All fish must be measured on a measuring stick with a bumper on one end and marked with 1/8 inch increments.** Lengths are to be recorded to the lowest measured 1/8 of an inch. Fish should be measured with their mouth closed and touching the bumper. Measurements are to be observed, called out and agreed correct by both anglers on a team before recording on the FCBC weigh sheet. The prize tournament will be fished under these same rules.

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**BIG BASS AWARD:** A plaque and/or name plate will be awarded to the anglers who catch the largest bass at each tournament, either paper or live, depending on the lake fished. The angler who has caught the largest bass for the year, either paper or live, will receive an end-of-the-year award for his/her achievement. In the event of a tie (tournament only) the angler with the most weight will break the tie. If there is a tie for the largest bass of the year, all anglers tied will receive an award.

**CASH POT** - Five dollars of each person's entry fee will be put in the Cash Pot. The Cash Pot will be divided 60% to the First Place team and 40% to the Second Place team.

**BIG BASS CALCUTTA:** One dollar of each person's entry fee will be applied toward a Big Bass Calcutta. To win this cumulative pot, an angler must catch and weigh-in (paper DOES apply where applicable) a bass over **9.00 pounds**. This fish can be a paper fish. After a Calcutta has been won, the pot will start to re-accumulate at the next tournament. Calcutta money left over at the end of the year will be awarded to the Big Bass of the Year at the Annual Banquet. A new member must have fished at least one tournament as a paid member before they will be eligible to win the Calcutta pot. Youth anglers, not fishing as a qualified adult, cannot win the Calcutta.

**TOURNAMENT FEES:** The entry fee for all tournaments will be \$20.00 per competitor. All adults in a tournament boat will be considered competitors and are required to pay the entry fee. This is to be paid to the Treasurer at the end of each tournament; during weigh-in. Failure to pay the entry fee will result in no points being awarded for the event. **Kids do not pay an entry fee.** Tournament fees are broken down as follows:

\$5.00 – Cash Pot

\$1.00 - Calcutta (cumulative)

\$14.00- General club funds (missions, awards, prizes, expenses)

\$20.00 - TOTAL ENTRY FEE

**POINTS:** Points will be awarded for each event and accumulate over the year to determine the Sportsman of the Year and Top Six finishers. These points will be awarded as follows:  
**30** points for participating in a meeting. No walk-in and leave allowed.

### **TOURNAMENT POINTS:**

Each pound of weight is equal to 1 point, rounded to the 100<sup>th</sup> place

100 points + weight = First Place

98 points + weight = Second Place

96 points + weight = Third Place

94 points + weight = Fourth Place

92 points + weight = Fifth Place

90 points + weight = Sixth Place

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Points continue to decrease by two + weight until all fish are weighed in. In the event an angler does not weigh in a fish, he/she receives **60** participation points (or two points less than the last person catching fish, if that is lower than 60). Participation points are awarded only if you fish on the tournament days. Points will accumulate throughout the tournament season. FCBC allows members to drop TWO (2) tournament point totals and TWO (2) meeting point totals during the course of the year. Drops do not carry forward into the Prize Tournament. The Tournament Director will record and tally all points during the year and will keep the members updated monthly on their standings.

The Weigh Master will have copies of the weigh-in sheets, until the next meeting, in case of point discrepancies and disputes. In the event of a tie at the end of the year, the angler who caught the most fish between the tied anglers will be declared the winner in the dispute. If a tie still exists, the angler with the most weight will break the tie.

**AWARDS:** Awards will be given after each tournament for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes in the tournaments. An award for Big Bass will be given for the biggest bass caught in any normal format tournament. An Award will be given for the Individual Heavy Stringer of the tournament.

**PRIZE TOURNAMENT:** To be eligible for the prize tournament, and compete for prizes, a member must participate in 5 FC Bass Club tournaments during the year, inclusive of the Prize Tournament.

Children are eligible to compete for a group of kid prizes as long as they, too, meet the Prize Tournament requirements. Prize distribution will be based upon the tournament standings for that day: 1<sup>st</sup> place chooses first, 2<sup>nd</sup> place chooses second, and so forth until all anglers who participated in that tournament have chosen. For those who did not weigh a fish, point standings BEFORE the prize tournament will determine who chooses next. A prize committee will be appointed at the meeting in October to purchase prizes for this tournament.

**TEAM TOURNAMENTS:** During the season, FC Bass Club will have eleven (11) team-format tournaments. During these events, anglers pair up and combine weight to compete. A total of 5 fish per boat are allowed during these events and each angler gets the total points + his individual weight, according to where they place in the event. All teams will be determined by some type of draw or selection method including; pick your own partner and random draw. All team discrepancies will be cleared up by the Tournament Directors. Any member who wants to fish with their kids, spouse or those persons with special needs will be exempt from mandatory draw tournaments. Their weight (kids, spouse and special needs person) would count toward the tournament unless they are paid members of the club. The youth's weight would count in the youth division also. Any boater who fishes with three (3) anglers in the boat will be paired with each non-boater for team weight. Boater's team points will come from the highest placing team. If one of the three (3) is a youth, the youth weight counts both for the youth division and the team weight. Each adult non-boater is paired with the boater for their team weight and points.

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**PARTNERS:** Anglers are expected to find their own partners for each tournament, except for the random draws. At each meeting, a sign-in sheet will be passed around asking who is fishing and whether they are boaters and have or need a partner. At this time, we will ask the anglers needing partners if they would like to pair up. After the meeting, if an angler hasn't found a partner, it is up to the angler to call the Partner Coordinator and have them list their name as needing a partner and whether they are boaters/non-boaters. The Partner Coordinator is only a central location; he/she does not pair anglers.

Anglers under the age of 18 must have written permission from their parents or adult guardian to participate. They must complete a waiver of liability and medical permission form prior to fishing any tournament.