

Region Seven Officers
Director: Craig Owens
Tournament Dir: VACANT
Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Owens
Youth Directors: Richard Woods
Victor Spence



Minutes of the January 11, 2023, President's meeting
7:00pm at The Glass Baron

Call meeting to Order – Craig called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
Roll Call – All clubs represented.
Last Meeting Minutes – Motioned, seconded, and approved as written.
Treasurer's Report – Motioned, seconded, and approved as written.

BASS Nation of Virginia Business:

First order of business was the turnover of the State Presidency to Sid Ryan. Sid presented Mike Bryant with a plaque for his many years of service as the State President.
Joan Blankenship also resigned. Melanie Barrow was nominated and voted in.

New BASS Nation tournament format basics:

- Virginia will continue with 4 tournaments per year.
- Scoring will be done by point system beginning at 200 for 1st, 199 for 2nd, 198 for 3rd and so on. A team will receive 25 points for fishing with no scorable bass.
- The teams are to be fixed teams meaning points accrue per team, not by individual. If you change partners (example Tom & Dick then Dick & Harry), this constitutes a new team and that team will accrue points starting at 0.
- At the end of the season, one tournament's points will be dropped. This will allow each fixed team some flexibility if there is a tournament they cannot fish. A fixed team will also allow one partner to fish alone for both days of a tournament.
- The best 3 of 4 point total will determine the top teams going straight to BASS Nationals. BASS is no longer having State Team Regionals. The number of teams Virginia will have is dependent on our membership percentage calculated across all states. Currently Virginia's number of teams is 5.
- The point system does create ties typically. Ties will be broken first by the weight of the drop tournament so it is in your best interest to keep your fixed team together and fish all four tournaments.
- This year's tournament had already been set: 2 on Kerr, 1 on Gaston and the 4th tournament on the James/Chick. The plan is for next year, 2024, no 2 tournaments to be on the same body of water.

In addition, the new BASS format has:

- converted their former State Team Divisionals into BASS Regionals. Each Regional will be a 250-boat field.
- The top 20 teams of each regional go to the Nationals. Nationals will be a minimum 250 boat field with top 3 earning berths to the Bassmaster Classic and 1 berth to the BASS Elites.
- BASS will provide each state with 20 (10 boater/10 nonboater) early bird codes to a regional and Virginia will award these early bird codes to our next 10 teams in the final point standings.
- BASS will then open registration to the new BASS Regionals to any state dues paid member whether they are in a club or not. All you have to have is a B.A.S.S. membership and pay state dues through the state you reside in. Virginia has an "At Large" roster already established. State dues just need to be sent to Susan.

Summary, the Virginia state format is now more consistent and minimizes the ability of anglers to "stack" the deck by switching partners. Remember, at the end of the season, the top teams go straight to Nationals. Each team must then determine who will be the boater and who will be the non-boater.

Region 7 Business:

A motion was made and seconded to amend our bylaws to be consistent with B.A.S.S. tournament rules relative to the maximum horsepower being 250 hp. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Tournament Report:

Wayne Hayes notified Craig that he will not be fishing this year and will not function as tournament director. Kevin Massie who previously agreed to assist Wayne, will not be assistant tournament director. Therefore the position of Tournament Director is now vacant. Craig will maintain the position until the position is filled. Duties of the tournament director will be to arrange hauling of the tournament trailer to each tournament site (free entry to the team that hauls the trailer), set up the trailer and breakdown the site at end of the tournament, and secure the tournament sites each year after the region votes on the bodies of water.

Changes in the Region 2023 tournament schedule:

March 11	Gaston/Holly Grove
April 15	Kerr/Eastland Creek
June 17	Pasquotank/Waterfront Park
July 29	Chickahominy River/Riverfront Park

Next meeting:

Next meeting March 8 for preregistration of the Gaston tournament. after the B.A.S.S. National Championship. BASS meetings to announce new things ahead.

Club Remarks:

Each club President was provided an opportunity to announce new members, recent tournaments, and events, and express any comments or complaints from their members to the R7 board. All announcements good.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Owens, Secretary/Treasurer