

BENT RODS BASS CLUB ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Whereas Bent Rods Bass Club is a family-friendly organization that strives to build up friendships and relationships through the sport of Bass Fishing, strives to make each other better anglers and citizens, strives to further the sport of Bass Fishing in the community and is comprised of individuals that serve the club on a volunteer basis out of goodwill without monetary compensation, a code of conduct is vital to create and preserve a positive atmosphere at BRBC meetings, tournaments, and other club-sanctioned events.

Members participating in any BRBC-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Members shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow members, tournament staff and volunteers and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on BRBC, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

Members competing in tournaments are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that members demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport. Members are also expected to conduct themselves with integrity, honor and respect towards guests, fellow members and club officials at club meetings and other events.

- (i.) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by members in BRBC events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
- Heated public disagreements with BRBC officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of BRBC rules or officials.
 - Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of BRBC, BRBC officials or its sponsors Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
 - Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
 - Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of members, tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a club event.
 - Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow members.
 - Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.
 - Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for membership or participation in an BRBC tournament.

- (ii.) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from competition and for rejecting any application for membership.

Any member who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, disqualification and suspension from participating in individual BRBC sanctioned events deemed appropriate by the BRBC board after a hearing. Particularly egregious offenses can be recommended by the board for a permanent ban from competition or forfeiture of membership which will take effect following a 3/4 affirmative vote by board members at the next available meeting or public gathering of the club.

CORE VALUES

- History** The future of our club is built on the past, that exists primarily due to the experiences and friendships that have developed as a direct result of fishing and meeting together.
- Knowledge** By sharing life and fishing experience we help to improve each other and provide a system of support.
- Friendship** We share our experience and create goodwill by belonging.
- Competition** It makes us better