

**Constitution of the Bowfishing Association of Mississippi (BAM)**  
*As Amended February 2010*

**Article I. Name**

The name of the organization shall be Bowfishing Association of Mississippi (BAM).

**Article II. Objectives**

A. The goal of the Bowfishing Association of Mississippi is to promote the sport of bowfishing by providing a forum for communication, to provide structural means of support for annual and semi-annual bowfishing tournaments, and to facilitate fellowship among like minded outdoorsman.

B. To establish and maintain:

1. Unity of purpose and action within and among Mississippi Bowfishers.
2. A high standard of ethics and sportsmanship among Mississippi Bowfishers.
3. Utmost respect for State and Federal hunting, fishing, and boating laws and regulations.
4. The biological and ecological integrity of any body of water to be fished by the BAM.
5. To actively inform and educate those unfamiliar with bowfishing of its usefulness as a management tool for non-native invasive fish species.

**Article III. Membership**

A. Charter Members: Chad Evans, Tyler Harris, Brian Turnbow, Dusty Keen, Roger Warren, Mark Garrison, Durrell Penick, Daniel Cole, Josh Boykin, Kemp Mosley, Will Tomlinson, Jeffrey Coon, Robert Belk, Bert Turcotte, Tony Stanford, Matthew Martin, Jimmy Dickerson, Michael Johnson, Jody Acosta, Dan Prevost.

B. General Membership: Membership is open to anyone interested in bowfishing in Mississippi, resident or non-resident, that is willing to abide by terms outlined in this Constitution.

C. Privileges: Members have the right to participate in all activities sponsored by BAM.

D. Dues: \$15 person/year. Dues will go towards website development and maintenance, conservation efforts, as well as youth events and annual tournaments. Dues will be collected at the first meeting of the fiscal year. Memberships will expire December 31 every year.

E. Membership may be terminated if 2/3 of total membership deems an individual to be guilty of unsportsmanlike or unconstitutional conduct. Two options will be available depending on severity of offense: 1) 1 year suspension of membership and all associated privileges. 2) Permanent expulsion.

## **Article IV. Officers**

- A. The leadership of BAM shall consist of a 5 Member Board of Directors:
1. President
  2. Vice-President
  3. Immediate Past-President (if president serves more than 1 term then this position may be filled by a general Board Member).
  4. Board Member (North)
  5. Board Member (South)
- B. Responsibilities:
1. The duties of the President shall be to:
    - I. Preside over all meetings of BAM.
    - II. Communicate with fellow officers to ensure the objectives of BAM are met.
    - III. Actively promote bowfishing in Mississippi by means of public media/venues.
  2. The duties of the Vice-President shall be:
    - I. Preside over BAM meetings when president is unable.
    - II. Collect all membership dues and keep accurate financial records.
    - III. Purchase needed supplies for the club.
    - IV. Record meeting minutes.
  3. The duties of the immediate past president shall be:
    - I. To provide leadership and guidance to the Board of Directors.
  4. The duties of the Board of Directors as a whole include:
    - I. Organize tournament committees and assist with tournament scheduling.
    - II. Actively research biological and legal issues and offer recommendations in regards to:
      - i. Conservation of dwindling or scarce fish species (e.g. alligator gar).
      - ii. Trespassing
      - iii. Legislative matters (e.g. legalization of catfish)
      - iv. Other similar matters
    - III. Promote and support BAM and its activities (extravaganza, youth events, etc)
- C. Requirements: To qualify as a Director, individual must have: Been an active, paying member of BAM for at least 18 months.
- D. Election and Tenure of Board of Directors: Nominations will begin November 1 and end November 25 for the following year's leadership. Elections will be held by sealed ballot to be mailed no later than December 1. All completed ballots must be received by December 31st. Directors will be elected by a 2/3 majority vote.

## **Article V. Meetings and Fiscal Year**

- A. Time of meetings will be voted on by the membership.
- B. Fiscal year is from January 1 – December 31.

## **Article VI. Tournaments**

- A. All tournaments must abide by the Official BAM Tournament Rules as established by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership.
- B. The Board of Directors will oversee the establishment of tournament committees.
- C. Duties of the Tournament Committees are as follows:
  - I. 2 or more members that volunteer their time to choose a lake and direct a tournament.
  - II. Tournament Committees may request input from membership concerning tournament format.
  - III. The Tournament Committee has final word in all decisions.
  - IV. If a member does not agree with the terms, they do not need to attend.
  - V. Fish disposal must be provided at every tournament.

Individuals interested in hosting a tournament should submit details in writing to the Board of Directors no later than February 15.

Details should include:

- Tournament Committee Members (provide qualifications)
- Lake (provide justification)
- Potential Format
- Potential Date(s)

## **Article VII. Disciplinary Actions**

- A. Violations of tournament rules and/or rules as defined by this Constitution shall be classified into one of the two following categories:
  - I. Negligent Actions - An honest mistake.
  - II. Intentional Actions - Willing and knowingly breaking the rules/law.
- B. BAM will determine by 2/3 majority vote which classification defendant(s) actions fall in to.
- C. Consequences for negligent actions shall include disqualification from tournaments and/or loss of points to be determined by 2/3 majority vote.

D. Potential consequences for intentional actions are 1 year suspension of membership or permanent expulsion.

**Article VIII. Amendment**

A. The constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership.