**ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall henceforth be known as “Gator BassMasters.”

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, Gator BassMasters is considered a University Sponsored Student Organization (USSO). As a USSO, this organization is considered an extension of the Department of Student Engagement and operates within the scope and function of it. As such, Gator BassMasters is governed by and under the jurisdiction of internal University policies, standards, and business practices as well as gains access to exclusive university resources through our sponsoring University unit. USSOs are not eligible for Student Government funding.

**ARTICLE III. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of this organization is to allow students of the University of Florida to meet and perpetuate the growing sport of bass fishing. Full membership entails the benefits of voting and holding office, in addition to participation in activities.

**ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT & UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, Gator BassMasters shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Gator BassMasters shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

*Section A. Non-Discrimination*

Gator BassMasters agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

*Section B. Sexual Harassment*

Gator BassMasters agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment.  Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

*Section C. Hazing*

Gator BassMasters agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

*Section D. Responsibility to Report*

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If Gator BassMasters becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

*Section E. Officer Eligibility*

Gator BassMasters understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the [Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy](https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/rso-classification-officer-eligibility/).

**ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff are prohibited from holding membership, office, or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR GATOR BASSMASTERS**

Gator BassMasters may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement’s constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). Gator BassMasters agrees to provide all unaltered by laws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

**ARTICLE VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR**

Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The advisor and RecSports holds the responsibility to oversee the day-to-day functions and operations of Gator BassMasters, including the management of its finances, the selection of its members, and ensuring the organization adheres to University and department policies.

The duties of the faculty advisor are to overlook the activities of the organization, and to ensure all actions of the club comply with the standards of the University of Florida. The faculty advisor is chosen by the executive office, determined by a simple majority vote. It is preferred that the faculty advisor serves for the term of his/her tenure, but ultimately the advisor’s term is at the discretion of the organization. If deemed necessary by the members of the organization, a vote may be taken to elect a new faculty advisor by simple majority.

RecSports Liaison:

· Duties & Responsibilities:

* Sport Club Liaisons are responsible for advising the club on operations, finance, event planning, risk management, etc. Liaisons will meet with Club leadership once per month at minimum and can meet more regularly at the Club’s request.

· Selection Method:

* Sport Programs Professional Staff will assign the club their Liaison for the Academic Year. If the liaison is no longer able to perform their duties, a new one will be assigned.

· Term:

* The Academic Year in question, spanning from July 1st to June 30th.

· Process of replacing the organization’s student organization advisor:

* If a club wishes to replace their advisor, they must reach out to Sport Programs Associate Director Jason Darby providing a detailed explanation for requesting the replacement.

**ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

Registered student organizations are required to have a minimum of a President, Treasurer, and Vice President as elected officers. These officers must abide by the [Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy](https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/rso-classification-officer-eligibility/).

Section A: The elected officers of Gator BassMasters shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The duties of the executive officers are as follows:

* President – The President shall preside over all organization meetings. The President shall also superintend and govern all members of the organization. The President is responsible for managing the members of the executive board. The President shall also be the point of contact for all relations considered external to our organization. The President may appoint Directors (i.e. Tournament Director, Sponsorship Director, Media Director, etc.) when necessary. Directors must be in good standing with the club and be confirmed by a two thirds majority vote in a General Meeting. Term is 1 year. The President shall perform the following duties:
	+ - Ensure that organization operations are handled in a timely manner.
		- Keep the organization in good standing with the university.
		- Keep the executive board members accountable.
		- Register annually with Student Engagement
		- Register with BASS, MLF, and other tournament entities by the published deadlines.
		- Keep the constitution and by-laws up to date and make them accessible to the members.
* Vice President – The Vice President shall officiate in the absence of the President with the same powers and privileges as the President. The Vice President acts as the parliamentarian of the organization and is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all relations considered internal to our organization. Term is 1 year. The Vice President shall perform the following duties:
	+ - Meet with directors as needed to ensure that deadlines are met.
		- Plan and coordinate a minimum of two (2) club outings per semester.
		- Report to the President on internal club issues.
* Secretary – The Secretary shall keep a listing of all names of the members of our organization, as well as other auxiliary information deemed important by the President. He/she shall also oversee the official designs and emblems of the organization. Term is 1 year.
* Treasurer – The Treasurer shall collect all fees necessary, which may include apparel and trip fees voted on by the members of the organization. Term is 1 year. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following duties:
	+ - Submit annual budget allocation request to student government by the deadline.
		- Allocate finances for all club travels from the annual budget.
		- Reimburse members for tournament expenses to be covered by the organization, i.e. fuel, lodging, oil.
		- Keep an accurate account of all club expenditures.

Section B: The term of each executive position will last one year, with officers assuming their duties at the last general meeting of the spring semester.

Section C: Officers may be removed or replaced through the following process:

* A written request by at least four voting members of the organization shall be submitted to either the President or Vice President. Written notification shall be sent to the officer in question asking that officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to respond to the removal request.
* A two-thirds majority vote of members present is necessary to remove any officer.
* If an executive position becomes vacant, the remaining executive board members shall select an interim officer to uphold the expected duties of the position until the next election is held.

**ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS**

Elections for all officers will be held annually at the last general meeting in the spring semester and nominations for all officers will take place at the prior general meeting. Any member may nominate any other voting member, including him or herself. To be eligible to hold office, an individual must be an active member of the organization for the four months prior to the election. This requirement may be waived if there are not enough active members to fulfill four officer positions.

Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. Only official members of the club present at that meeting are allowed to vote. Vote tallying will be performed by the President and Secretary. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the two top vote recipients.

In the absence of clear direction on election, amendment, and /or voting procedures, Gator BassMasters agrees to follow the guidance and instruction of Robert's Rules of Order for the election or amendment process.

**ARTICLE X. FINANCE**

As a University Sponsored Student Organization, Gator BassMasters does not receive any funding or resources from Student Government, rather, this organization is eligible to be funded by RecSports and/or:

This organization is of a non-profit nature. Membership in this organization is open to all registered students of the University of Florida. There will be no dues charged to members, but members will be asked to pay for their own team jersey each semester and pay for tournament fishing memberships.

* An annual budget shall be established by the executive board of the club and approved by a simple majority vote of the club. The budget should be presented and approved.
* Operating funds shall be distributed on a reimbursement basis. The executive board and tournament participants should agree upon a reimbursement amount prior to the event. At tournaments with individual prizes (no winnings going towards the club), expenses should be covered from any tournament winnings that may occur. Remaining expenses may be reimbursed up to the previously agreed upon amount.
* The distribution of tournament winnings won by club members shall be discussed at the time they are won, with regards to amount won and amount of money still needed to be fundraised for the expenditures of that year.
* Fall fundraiser tournaments, t-shirt sales and deals with sponsors will be the main sources of funds raised by the club. Participation in fundraising activities is expected of members and shows which members are active within the club. Fundraised money will be used to fund teams to fish national tournaments, as well as year-to-year expenditures due as needed such as new weigh-in equipment, banners and boat wraps. Funds may also be used for yearly projects such as covered locations for boat storage. Spare funds could be used towards jerseys and additional fishing equipment for competing teams.

As a USSO, Gator BassMasters will comply with UF Finance and Accounting policies on purchasing, funding and fundraising.

**ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

Upon dissolution, student organizations are prohibited from leaving their organizational assets to any individual or any other student organization. Rather, student organizations may designate a specific charity that will receive such organizational assets. At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, Gator BassMasters will leave any assets and outstanding funds to the “C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation”.

**ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Student Engagement has established a process through which constitutions may be amended, reviewed, and approved. Student organizations wishing to amend their constitutions must utilize their constitution on file listed on GatorConnect to make amendments and submit those changes to Student Engagement.

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of Gator BassMasters by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting; provided that notice of the proposed amendment was given at the previous meeting and that the proposed amendment shall be subject to approval by Student Engagement.