

MAINE B.A.S.S. NATION BYLAWS

By-Laws

Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, Inc. dba: Maine B.A.S.S. Nation

As of September 1997- Amended as of April 14th, 2005- Amended as of January 11, 2007- Amended as of July 16, 2009- Amended as of March 10, 2011- Amended as of December 18, 2011 - Amended as of May 10, 2012, Amended as of July 11, 2013,

I. Mission Statement

The mission of this corporation is to promote the sport of bass fishing within the State of Maine in accordance with the goals and purpose of our parent organization known as the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.). Additionally this corporation without bias will always put its members first with regards to decisions made by its Board of Directors.

II. Members and Meetings of Members

- A. The members of this corporation are the local fishing clubs who affiliate with this corporation in accordance with the articles of Incorporation.
- B. Individual Members of this organization must first be members in good standing of the Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society, must maintain membership in good standing of the B.A.S.S. Nation and must be a member in good standing of a local fishing club which has affiliated with this Corporation.
- C. Maine B.A.S.S. Nation meetings shall be held monthly or as agreed upon by the board of delegates. To receive from the board of delegates a monthly report of the corporation's activities. To do any other business which is appropriate or desirable?
- D. The members may have additional meetings as necessary, called at the discretion of the board of delegates.

III. Board of Delegates

- A. The corporation will be governed by a board of delegates composed of: A president and two delegates selected by each member club in good standing.
- B. Each member club of this corporation is expected to send two of its members to each nation meeting to serve on the board of delegates of this corporation.
- C. In addition, at the September meeting of the board of delegates, the delegates shall nominate from their peers, individuals to fill officer positions needed for the subsequent year. The officers elected at the October meeting shall assume office at the January meeting. The months of November/December shall be used as a transition period whereby the newly elected officers shall complete any year end business and the incumbent officers shall inform elected officers of any

- outstanding or ongoing/future business to ensure a smooth transition. With the exception of the offices of President and Treasurer, two individuals from the same member club may be considered for any office in the corporation.
- D. The delegates shall conduct the business of this corporation. In addition it is the duty of a delegate to convey the business of the member club that he/she represents to the board of delegates, and in turn, relay the business of the delegates to his club's members.
 - E. The board shall hold at minimum one presidents meeting annually, which will be held directly before a monthly board meeting. As needed, additional meetings may be called however will need the approval of the executive board. Presidents of members clubs are expected to attend these meetings.
 - F. The board of delegates shall Bi-annually elect, by secret ballot, the office position of: President/Secretary, Vice-President/Treasurer of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation. The president shall then appoint from the ranks of the member clubs as needed, chairmen for the Conservation, Tournament, Youth, Public Relations, and any other Special Committees. Nominations of officers will be accepted at the September meeting, additionally nominations from the floor will be accepted at the October meeting.

IV. Officers

- A. Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. Eligibility for office: General member shall be in good standing with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society of America, Inc., be a Nation member and belong to an active member club in this corporation. President must have served on the board of delegates in order to be elected or have assumed office due to vacancy. Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer must have served on the board of delegates, actively participated in a major project of the corporation, or otherwise demonstrated active interest in the efforts of the corporation.
- C. Terms of office: Officers will be installed at the January meeting and serve for two years, or such additional time as necessary for a successor to be installed. Removal of an officer: Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the board of delegates upon a 30-day prior notice. The office of the President and Secretary will expire upon completion of even numbered years while the offices of the Vice President and Treasurer will expire upon completion of odd numbered years.
- D. Duties:
 - 1. President: Presides over all of the meetings of the board or special meetings of the Maine Nation; direct all official business; supervise all corporation activities; appoint and be an ex-officio member of standing and special committees; be the official representative of the corporation in relationship to other organizations; delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the corporation.
 - 2. Vice-President: Assist the president upon request; preside in the absence of the president; assume office of president should it be vacated.
 - 3. Secretary: Record accurate minutes of all regular meetings; call meetings of the board, maintain regular correspondence with membership.

4. **Treasurer:** Receive and disburse moneys upon approval of the board; maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance at each regular board meeting. An audit may be conducted at the discretion of the incumbent Treasurer, if conducted it will be presented to the board at its December meeting. The yearly budget shall be presented to the delegates broken down by department and/or committee and/or office in line item form and is expected at the January meeting. No moneys shall be reimbursed without an expense report and submitting said report through the appropriate committee/department/office chairperson. The President of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation must then approve reimbursement.

V. Standing committees

The Maine Nation President shall appoint as needed the following four committees and such other special committees as may be necessary. Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be for such duration as deemed needed by the President to facilitate the desires of the Nation Business at hand. To be eligible for appointment candidates must be a member in good standing of B.A.S.S. and of a member club affiliated with the corporation.

- A. **Conservation Committee:** The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board. The purpose of this committee shall be to advocate for the protection of our natural resources. This includes, but is not limited to the following: Keep informed of newly introduced legislative bills that may impact fishing, water quality or our organization. Be prepared to take political action where appropriate. Document and report to the proper authorities' violations of local, state, and federal water quality and environmental laws and regulations. Promote and conduct informational and educational programs that bring greater awareness of the threats to our environment.
The Conservation Committee shall also be responsible for overseeing and providing assistance when able, for conservation projects conducted by Nation Clubs. In addition, the Conservation Committee, when directed to do so, shall work to form partnerships on a state-wide level with like minded conservation organizations and groups.
- B. **Tournament Committee:** The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and operate the annual state chapter championship tournament(s), which will determine eligibility to enter the national divisional championship and the BCWC: to select sites, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, set awards list, rule with final authority on proper conduct, procedures, qualifications and other conduct of an annual Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Championship Tournament. Provided however, that all such state chapter championship tournaments will be conducted within the spirit and the letter of current national tournament rules of B.A.S.S. All state tournaments will be open to Maine B.A.S.S. Nation members in good standing, 16 years of age and

older. It will be the primary duty of the tournament committee to conduct its affairs so that honor, integrity, sportsmanship, and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it and thus to each and every member of B.A.S.S. and the corporation. No Nation opens will be held during the catch, measure and release period of time imposed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries in an effort to protect spawning bass.

- C. **Youth Activity Committee:** The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board. The purpose of this committee shall be to introduce young fisherman to the goals of B.A.S.S. and to give them a basis for the respect of our natural heritage. Coordinate within the State of Maine Junior Championships and High School qualifiers. The committee will also provide an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play & good sportsmanship and introduce our youth to the sheer joy of bass fishing.
- D. **Public relations Committee:** The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board. The purpose of this committee shall be to inform the state legislature, general public, and fishing related organizations of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation's activities, events, and causes. The Public Relations Committee will be responsible for all communication between the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation and news organizations.
- E. **Arbitration Board:** (Special Committee) This board will be convened for the sole purpose of acting on a complaint or other problem that has been formally elevated to the State Nation President. The term of this board is unique, as it will exist only for the duration required to act on the issues at hand.
 - 1.) The number of members to serve on this board will be a minimum of three and a maximum determined by the Maine B.A.S.S. President.
 - 2.) The members of the board will include one elected officer and as a minimum, two delegates. In no case shall the board be comprised of persons directly involved with the complaint.
 - 3.) The board will provide its ruling in writing to the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation President. Once approved by the President, the ruling will be read at the next Nation meeting and will be considered as final.
 - 4.) The removal of any member or club from the Nation will be on a case-by-case basis. Poor sportsmanship, conduct, or actions bringing dishonor or discredit to the Nation in the public eye will be grounds for removal from the Nation. This process will be handled through the formation of an Arbitration board. The accused individual(s) and those individuals who witnessed the violation will be notified to attend any scheduled meeting(s) to explain their side of the story.
 - 5.) Any person or persons caught cheating in any Nation club tournament or any Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament shall be disqualified from said tournament and all future Maine B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments. This disqualification if determined to be valid will be for life. Cheating will be defined as any fraudulent action that will increase a person's standing in a tournament, such as bagging, stringering, caging of fish, snagging fish, fishing before legal tournament hours, transporting fish from a different lake, weighing in fish not caught by the individual/team or any

other fraudulent act. Determination of disqualification from future tournaments will be a case-by-case basis, and acted upon by an Arbitration board.

Special Committees: Special committees may be formed by the board, but only for the defined purpose formed, and in no way may the tenure of a special committee exceed 2 years from the date of appointment. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees or the Arbitration board.

VI. General Rules

1. Funds for the support and maintenance of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation are derived from the original funding from B.A.S.S. Headquarters, and from special projects to be sponsored by the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation. Decisions to assess member clubs for dues may be made by the board after a 30-day written notice to the Nation membership. Under no circumstance may the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation accept monetary assistance from individuals, business, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goal of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation. Dues are to be listed and any increase presented one year in advance of the annual November Meeting due date.
2. After all State Championship tournaments have been conducted, a national divisional team championship tournament will be conducted by the B.A.S.S. national tournament staff, with the goals of determining a divisional state team champion. Trophies, awards and banquets will be furnished by B.A.S.S. Rules, regulations and directions of the divisional team championship tournament shall be administered by the B.A.S.S. Nation's National Tournament Committee.
3. The number of entries from each state that will be permitted to compete in the divisional team championship tournament shall be administered annually by the B.A.S.S. Nation's National Tournament Committee.
4. Final authority for the interpretation of these bylaws shall rest with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society of America. Inc.
5. By Laws can be changed at any board meeting if written notice has been given a minimum of 55 days in advance. Ideally the by law change will have been type written, presented and discussed at a board meeting, discussed again at the next board meeting and only then, voted on at the following meeting. Standing rules can be changed by a majority vote of the delegates present during a monthly corporation business meeting. Whether By-Laws or Standing Rules, any and all changes will reflect the organizations future operations only. Changes will not in any way, be used to alleviate an individual, club or the organization from fulfillment of responsibilities in place prior to the change.
6. These bylaws and standing rules shall not be amended or otherwise altered without the express written consent of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc.
7. Horsepower limited to stock engines complying with the manufacturer's Coast Guard rating plate with a maximum of 250 horsepower will be allowed at Nation

Tournaments. A speed limit may be set at the discretion of the tournament committee.

Exhibit A: Members

There shall be one class of members. A member shall be a local fishing club, which desires to affiliate and does affiliate with this corporation. The qualifications for membership of a said local fishing club shall be as follows:

1. The club must hold or use a minimum of 3 qualifying tournaments in the state of Maine annually.
2. The club must participate in 75% of all Nation meetings. (Attendance criteria for the state fish-off will be based on July to July).
If a club fails to participate in 75% of federation meetings, the club in violation will forfeit state fish-off rights for one year. Nation business meeting attendance will mean a minimum of at least one individual club member will be present and sign in at the business meetings.
3. At the November meeting each member club must pay an association fee (non refundable) to the corporation. The amount of said fee shall be determined by the corporation's board of delegates. Member clubs not paying their fees shall not be allowed to participate in the business decisions of the corporation until such fees are paid. After the completion of the November Meeting members and clubs not affiliated will have to re submit membership applications to the Maine B.A.S.S. State Nation, Inc. The Maine B.A.S.S. State Nation, Inc. qualifies its divisional teams in the calendar year prior to the B.A.S.S. Nations Divisional tournament and any lapse in membership will disqualify the individual members from the current years State Team.
4. The club must keep an updated roster and inform the corporation of any changes in the club officers, expected delegates and tournament dates.
5. New clubs may submit and affiliate with the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation while their membership is affiliating with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. They will, however, have no voting rights nor fish off privileges until their charter has been approved by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and delivered, confirmed to the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation
6. Club members must be willing to serve on standing and other committees of this corporation.
7. To maintain affiliate status with the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc., each member club will elect or appoint a Youth Activities Chairman. The name of the Youth Activities Chairman must be submitted to the Nation. All Nation Youth Activities meetings will be called by the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc.'s Youth Activity Chairman.
8. To maintain affiliate status with the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc., each member club will elect or appoint a Conservation Chairman. The name of the Conservation Chairman must be submitted to the Nation.

All Nation Conservation meetings will be called by the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Inc.'s Conservation Chairman.

9. Each club in good standing will be able to send team/individuals to participate in the state fish-off/BCWC. Each member of said team will also be in good standing.
10. Any Nation member who is a member of more than one club must designate in January which club they pay their Maine B.A.S.S. Nation dues to and will if fishing in that seasons Fish-Off/BCWC fish for that club.
11. Associate members shall be Junior Bassmaster chapters or Maine B.A.S.S. Nation High School clubs sponsored by a member club of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation or shall be a club comprised of individuals (non anglers) who wish to help with tournaments or other Maine B.A.S.S. Nation events as a non-angler.
 - a) Associate members will pay no dues to the corporation.
 - b) Associate members will have no voting rights in the corporation unless specifically granted by the members and are ineligible to serve on the board of directors. Associate members will be allowed to attend corporation meetings and be recognized to speak at such meetings.
 - c) Junior Bassmaster & High School chapters must meet and maintain all requirements for affiliation with B.A.S.S.

Exhibit B. Voting rights for Member Clubs.

1. Each member club in good standing with the Corporation shall have present at board meetings, 2 persons (also in good standing with the Corporation), to serve on the board of Delegates. In addition, with respect to all other action taken by the members, each of these two delegates shall have one vote should a roll call vote be solicited.
2. Member clubs are encouraged to send as many members as desired to each Nation delegates meeting. Each member club in attendance is entitled to one vote per member with no more than two members from any one club voting. An exception would be the president who only votes in the case of a tie. No proxy voting will be permitted.
3. A majority of the board (member clubs) in attendance constitutes a quorum and action at a meeting is authorized by a majority of those present where a quorum exist.

Exhibit C. Standing Rules of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation

1. Any state team member who drops from the team after the uniforms have been purchased will be financially responsible for the outfitting of

his replacement and not allowed to participate in a subsequent Fish off until said funds have been collected.

2. If during the state fish-off, a participant with a physical handicap requires a person with knowledge of the handicap to be in the boat, an observer will be allowed to monitor the days fishing at the discretion of the tournament chairman.
3. Smoking is not allowed at Nation meetings. A break will be provided for this purpose. Drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of intoxicants or other illegal drugs will not be allowed at Nation meetings or tournaments.
4. Clubs not having 2 business card ads or the equivalent monetary donation by the deadline for ad submittal will forfeit fish-off rights for that year.
5. It is the expectation of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation that each member club will hold/participate in at least one youth activity annually.
6. It is the expectation of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation that each member club will hold/participate in at least one conservation activity annually.
7. A stipend of \$500.00 shall be paid to each of the four officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and treasurer. A stipend of \$500.00 shall be paid to the Youth Director, Conservation Director, and to the Tournament Director.
8. Each Junior Bassmaster chapter sending members to the Junior Bassmaster State Championship is responsible for providing a sufficient number of boaters for all of its members participating in the tournament.