

# **MISSOURI B.A.S.S. FEDERATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

*Amended June 2015*



# MISSOURI B.A.S.S. CHAPTER FEDERATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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## ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

### ***Section 1: Name***

This organization shall be called: Missouri B.A.S.S. Federation Nation. Herein referred to as the “Federation”

### ***Section 2: Purpose***

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our State Conservation Department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water quality standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to crime.

To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas, promote and encourage youth fishing and a love for this great recreation. To promote sportsmanship, courtesy and boating safety at all levels.

### ***Section 3: Affiliation***

The federation shall be composed of affiliated chapters of the National B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Nation

## ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

### ***Section 1: Membership***

Membership in the Federation is open to any organized bass Chapter (club) whose membership in B.A.S.S. is one hundred (100%) percent. Members shall maintain a roster of six (6) members or greater. All chapters shall have membership and approval of the National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.

### ***Section 2: Individual Membership***

Individuals that are members of more than one affiliated chapter in the National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation must annually declare which state is their “Home State”. This declaration must occur at the time dues are paid to the Missouri B.A.S.S. Federation Nation. A “Home State” is defined as the state the individual member will use to qualify for Divisional and National Championship Tournaments.

## **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES (Cont)**

### ***Section 3: Dues***

Funds for the support and maintenance of the Federation will be derived from annual dues of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per chapter member and from special projects to be sponsored by the Federation. Chapter Member's dues shall be paid to the Federation no later than January 1 of each calendar year. Chapter members joining an affiliated chapter after January 1 will be required to pay the thirty dollars (\$30.00) membership fee immediately upon acceptance by their chapter. (Newly affiliated members will receive a State Federation decal.)

### ***Section 4: Special Assessments***

The Federation may make a special emergency assessment to member chapters on a once per year basis with a maximum assessment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per chapter. This special emergency assessment shall be brought before the Board of Directors at a regular, special, or emergency meeting and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of Directors present.

## **ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

### ***Section 1: Directors***

Each chapter shall elect/appoint a member in good standing to serve as Federation Director. This member shall be a member of B.A.S.S.

### ***Section 2: Officers and State Board Members***

Officers shall conduct the affairs of the Chapter in a manner consistent with these Bylaws. To protect the Chapter, B.A.S.S. Federation Nation members and B.A.S.S., Chapter Officers may not hold positions higher than the club level within any federation-type organization including but not limited to TBF/FLW.

In addition, the State B.A.S.S. Federation Nation board is required to be comprised of members who are free to serve the State without a conflict of interest. B.A.S.S. Federation Nation State Board Members and Officers will not be allowed to hold positions within any other bass federation-type organization including, but not limited to TBF/FLW. Any State Board Member or State Officer, or an employee of any other bass federation-type organization will not be allowed to hold an office within the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation at any level.

### ***Section 3: Directors' Duties***

The Chapter Directors shall represent their chapters at all Federation and National Federation Nation meetings where required. They shall report to chapter membership the minutes of the quarterly Federation meetings. Directors shall have general Powers of administration of the offices of the Federation with the authority to act on and enable legislation, except where contrary to this constitution and except where expressly provided.

## **ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (Cont)**

### ***Section 4: Attendance Requirements***

Once chapters become affiliated with the Federation, the director of each chapter must attend all quarterly scheduled meetings with absenteeism allowed only for one meeting per year. In the event the director cannot attend the scheduled meeting, the Chapter may appoint an alternative director to attend the meeting.

In the event the attendance requirement is not met, the chapter shall be suspended from all Federation activities. Reinstatement will be subject to a two-thirds vote of approval of Directors attending the next meeting. This reinstatement vote will be by secret ballot.

### ***Section 5: Voting Rights***

The Director or alternate is the sole representative of the Chapter and is the only person eligible to cast the chapter's vote at a regular, special or emergency meeting. Each chapter is entitled to one vote provided that annual affiliation requirements have been fulfilled prior to the April board of Director's meeting. Directors must cast their vote in person, no proxy votes are permitted unless approved by the Board of Directors. Officers of the Federation may vote for their club, only if the chapter Director and/or Alternate is not present.

### ***Section 6: Officers***

The officers of the Federation shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Environmental Director and Immediate past President (not an elected office).

### ***Section 7: Officers Duties***

President – Shall prepare an agenda and preside over all scheduled, special and emergency meetings of the Board of Directors; direct all official business, supervise all Federation activities; appoint and be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees; to be the official representative of the Federation in relationship to other organizations; delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the Federation; maintain liaison with the National B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Nation and B.A.S.S.; and shall notify Directors of board meetings.

Vice President – Assist the President upon request; preside in the absence of the President; assume the Office of President shall it be vacated.

Secretary – Record accurate minutes of all meetings; preside in the absence of the President; assume the Office of President shall it be vacated.

## **ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (Cont)**

Treasurer – Receive and disburse all monies upon approval of the board; receive updated rosters with dues from affiliated chapters and forward copies of updated rosters to President and Secretary; maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance at each regular board meeting or upon request of a Chapter Director. All disbursements over \$500.00 shall be countersigned with the signature of the President of the Federation who will then forward the disbursement.

Environmental Director – Shall assume the duties; to protect our natural environment from harmful change; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring to public attention a great awareness of threats to our environment; to maintain liaison with the National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation and B.A.S.S. in matters relative to the environment.

Immediate Past President – Shall assist the President and Board of Directors in an advisory capacity for two (2) years.

### ***Section 8: Officers Voting Rights***

The Officers of the Federation shall not have voting rights with the following exceptions:

1. The President may vote in the event of a tie vote by the Board of Directors
2. Officers of the Federation may vote in the absence of their chapter's Director or Alternate.

### ***Section 9: Election of Officers***

Officers shall be elected bi-annually at the January meeting. The term of office shall be two (2) years with officers serving from January to January (effective January, 1998). Election of officers shall be done by secret ballot, and a majority of Directors present shall elect. In the absence of opposition, the vote shall be by acclamation. No proxy votes or votes by mail shall be allowed. Nominations shall be received one meeting prior to elections. A statement of the nominee's qualifications shall accompany the nomination in writing.

### ***Section 10: Removal from Office***

Any Officer/Director may be removed from office for the following:

1. Any action that would reflect dishonor and/or disgrace on the Federation
2. Misappropriation of funds.
3. Misconduct or legal violation.

Removal of an Officer/Director from their position shall be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of Directors present at a regular, special or emergency meeting.

## **ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (Cont)**

### ***Section 11: Vacant Office***

Officers that resign and/or leave a position before their term expires shall be replaced and a new candidate shall fill remaining term. Nominations shall be received one meeting prior to election. An interim officer may be appointed by President if required.

## **Article IV – MEETINGS**

### ***Section 1: Scheduled Meetings***

A schedule of events shall be planned in October for the following year, exact time and place to be selected by presiding officers.

### ***Section 2: Special Meetings***

Officers may call, from time to time, special meetings for Federation purposes, committee meetings, etc. Directors and Officers that are required to attend shall be given at least two weeks prior notice, in writing, of the special meeting.

### ***Section 3: Emergency Meetings***

An emergency meeting shall constitute a true emergency and every effort will be made to notify all Directors of said meeting, place and time to afford all Directors an opportunity to attend.

### ***Section 4: Rules of Order***

All meeting shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order and monitored by a Parliamentarian that has been appointed by Federation President.

### ***Section 5: Mileage Allowance***

In lieu of a mileage allowance MOBASS officers attending a regular, special or emergency meeting will be reimbursed for actual fuel used. Fuel expense will be reimbursed when on Federation business, upon submission of receipts requested for reimbursement. A travel allowance of \$500.00, in lieu of mileage, will be paid for those members/officers traveling to the Central Divisional Tournament, the National Tournament and the Classic when representing the Federation on official business. A travel allowance of \$750.00, in lieu of mileage, will be paid to the angler competing in the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship.

## **ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES**

### ***Section 1: Standing Committees***

The following shall be considered permanent standing committees unless changed by constitutional amendment.

- A. **Members of Committees** – The newly elected President shall appoint committee chairmen at the July Board of Director's Meeting.

## ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES (Cont)

- B. **Tournament Committee** – The number of members on this committee shall be determined by the President. The President shall appoint a Tournament Director who serves as chair of the State Tournament Committee. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and operate an annual State Federation Championship; to select sites, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, set an awards list and solicit prizes; to rule with final authority on the proper conduct, procedures, qualifications and other matters properly relating to the orderly conduct of annual Federation Championship Tournament. It will be the primary duty of the State Tournament committee to conduct its affairs so that only Honor, Integrity, Sportsmanship and the highest ideals of Fair play will accrue to it, and thus the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, and the Federation.
- C. **Youth Committee** – The President shall appoint a Youth Director, who will serve as chairman of the Youth Committee. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and implement a Federation Youth Project to introduce young people to the goals of B.A.S.S., to give them the basis for respect of our natural heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and good sportsmanship, and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of fishing. This Committee shall encourage affiliated chapters to conduct youth activities.

## ARTICLE VI – TOURNAMENTS

### ***Section 1: State Championship Tournament***

The Federation shall hold annually, a State Championship Tournament to determine eligibility for the Missouri State Team, which will compete in the BFN Central Regional Championship Tournament. The date, time and site of the State Championship shall be determined by the Board of Directors at the September meeting of the preceding year. Federation Chapters may elect to send one (1) team consisting of all eligible members to the State Championship providing they are members in good standing at the preceding June or third Board of Director's meeting. Chapters may send 100% of their membership with a minimum of a 4 man team and at least a 6 man club. Chapters must send an even number of Boaters and Co-Anglers. (All clubs must be affiliated by the preceding April Board of Director's Meeting to be eligible.) All contestants in the State Championship Tournament must be a member in good standing of the Missouri B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Nation, B.A.S.S. National Federation Nation, and The Bass Anglers Sportsman Society on/or before the June or third meeting of the same calendar year. The only exception is members of the military deployed at the deadline.

## ***Section 2: Other Tournaments***

The Federation shall from time to time schedule other tournament events for the purpose of fund raising, social events, etc. The tournament shall be approved by the Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting and a Tournament committee for these special tournaments shall be appointed by the President.

## **Article VII – General Rules of Operation**

### ***Section 1: General***

All functions and decisions must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Constitutions and By-Laws may be changed or amended by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present, provided that the changes have been presented to the Board of Directors at a board meeting. The proposed changes will be voted on at the next scheduled meeting or at least thirty (30) days later.

The President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer may endorse checks for valid expenses incurred from the operation and function of the Federation.

All monies paid to members who qualify to fish the Central Division Tournament shall be repaid by said members if they do not attend the Central Division Tournament. If said member does not repay these funds for any reason, said member is subject to immediate removal from the Federation by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present at the next regular meeting. Further, said member shall be barred from participating in any Federation function until such funds are repaid in full.

Under no circumstances shall the Federation accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations or government agencies if there is prima fascia evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goals of the Federation.

The secretary shall provide updated constitutions and by-laws upon written request by Directors/Presidents of Federation chapters and clubs. Also, a distribution of constitutions will take place every two years (1/92) to each Director.