

**B.A.S.S. NATION OF VIRGINIA, INC.
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS (2/1/2024)**

Article 1 NAMES, ADDRESSES AND MEETING LOCATION

1.1 NAMES

1.1-1 NAMES

The B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as the Nation, also known as The Virginia B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, Inc., the Virginia B.A.S.S. Federation, the Virginia B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia, or any of several variations of the official corporate name which includes the term B.A.S.S. or BASS, the registered trademark of the Bass Angler's Sportsman's Society of America, Inc.

1.2 ADDRESS

1.2-1 PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

The principal address of the Nation shall be the residence of the President, or other address as he/she may select with the Board concurring.

1.2-2 OTHER ADDRESS

Elected members of the Board and Committee Chairpersons and other officials appointed by the President, may, as approved by the President, establish other addresses necessary for the timely and efficient discharge of their duties.

1.3 MEETING LOCATION

1.3-1 BUSINESS MEETING LOCATION

The business meetings of the Board shall be convened at a site selected by the President with the Board concurring. All Committee and other official meetings shall be held at sites selected by the chairperson or other presiding officials.

1.3-2 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LOCATION

All meetings are open to club presidents and the general membership and shall be held at a site selected by the President, which is suitable and convenient for attendance by a large number of members.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE AND GOALS

2.1 PURPOSE

2.1-1 PURPOSES OF THE NATION

The Nation is established to preserve and promote the sport of angling for largemouth bass (*Micropterus Salmoides*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus Dolomieu*), and spotted or Kentucky bass (*Micropterus Punctulatus*), herein known as bass; to introduce youth to the sport of; to conserve water and other associated natural resources; to work for an abundant, healthy and self-sustaining bass fishery

where a natural potential exists; and to support the local, state and national agencies which conserve and manage the freshwater sport fishery and other associated resources.

2.2 GOALS

2.2-1 GOALS OF THE NATION

The Nation, shall, in its operations, pursue the goals of organizing and conducting fishing events which adequately provide for the needs of the bass and the angler; to establish live release of bass to their habitat as an integral part of sport fishing; promote realistic conservation of natural resources and causing adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards; of educating the membership in citizen involvement in the processes of government; of supporting and cooperation with fishery management agencies and educational institutions in development of good fisheries for the future; of encouraging youth involvement in sport fishery and leading the clubs in organizing and conducting youth participation activities; of promoting public awareness of the Nation's purposes, goals and activities; of gaining new members and clubs to B.A.S.S. and the Nation; to generate revenues sufficient to conduct the programs of the Nation; of reducing the hazards of boat operation and sport fishing; of supporting the non-profit purposes and goals of B.A.S.S.; and other such goals as may be established for the clubs and the committees of the Nation.

ARTICLE 3 AFFILIATIONS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND FACTS

3.1 AFFILIATIONS

3.1-1 B.A.S.S. AFFILIATIONS

The Nation shall preserve and maintain in good standing its affiliation with the Bass Angler's Sportsman Society of America, Inc. and BASS, LLC herein known as in the State of Alabama with its principal office in Birmingham, Alabama.

3.1-2 VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE OF B.A.S.S. CLUBS

The Nation shall operate as the sole representative organization, other than B.A.S.S., of the various clubs, associations, and other organizations established in the Commonwealth of Virginia and duly chartered by B.A.S.S.

3.1-3 OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Affiliations with organizations other than B.A.S.S. may be initiated by the Nation to advance the purposes and goals of the Nation and the best interests of its members. Such affiliations shall not be maintained in conflict with the fishing non-profit purposes and goals of B.A.S.S. A written statement of conflict from B.A.S.S. shall be sufficient cause for dissolution of all such affiliations.

3.2 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND FACTS

3.2-1 AGREEMENTS, ETC. WITH ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN B.A.S.S.

Cooperative agreements, mutual aid pacts and other special agreements and joint operations may be initiated or agreed upon by the Nation to advance the purposes and goals of the Nation and the non-profit purposes and goals of B.A.S.S. A written statement of conflict from B.A.S.S. shall be sufficient cause for dissolution of all such agreements.

ARTICLE 4 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 CONSTITUENCY

4.1-1 CONSTITUENCY

The constituency of the Nation shall include the citizens of Virginia clubs who are members of B.A.S.S. The interests of the constituent members shall, within the purposes and goals of the Nation, be fully represented by the Nation and its officials. B.A.S.S. membership shall not alone constitute eligibility to hold elected or appointed office in the Nation.

4.1-2 MEMBERS

The members of the Nation are the members in good standing of any of the approved clubs of the Nation. In good standing shall mean that the member satisfies all the requirements for membership imposed by B.A.S.S., the Nation and the member's club. Members in good standing only shall be eligible to hold office in the Nation. Eligibility for office shall also be conditional upon satisfaction of all requirements and qualifications imposed in the Nation's Constitution and By-laws.

4.1-3 CLUBS

The clubs of the Nation shall include all clubs, associations and other organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia which have been duly chartered by B.A.S.S. and which satisfy all requirements for clubs imposed by B.A.S.S. Nation.

4.2 REGIONS

4.2-1 REGIONS ESTABLISHED

The area of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be subdivided into regions suitable for efficient administration of the Nation. The Board, in consideration of the needs of the members and the clubs, shall determine the total number of such regions. They shall be identified by numbers, which shall be assigned consecutively, one through the total of such regions.

4.2-2 AREA OF REGIONS

The area of the regions of the Nation shall include the following:

(a) REGION 1 shall include the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Clarke, Frederick, Prince William, Fauquier, Warren, Shenandoah, Stafford, Culpepper, Rappahannock, Page, King George, Orange, Spotsylvania, Madison, and Greene, and all cities within them, and the District of Columbia.

(b) REGION 2 shall include the counties of Rockingham, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Augusta, Highland, Nelson, Amherst, Rockbridge, Campbell, Bedford, Botetourt, and Buckingham, Appomattox, and all cities within them.

(c) REGION 3 shall include the counties of Caroline, Louisa, King William, Hanover, Goochland, New Kent, Henrico, and Charles City, and all cities within them, including Richmond City, and all of Chesterfield County except the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca, and Enon.

(d) REGION 4 shall include the counties of Bath, Allegheny, Bland, Craig, Giles, Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Roanoke, Montgomery, Pulaski, Wythe, Smythe, Russell, Wise, Floyd, Carroll, Grayson, Washington, Scott, and Lee, and all cities within them.

(e) REGION 5 shall include the counties of Franklin, Halifax, Pittsylvania, Henry and Patrick, and all of the cities within them.

(f) REGION 6 shall include the counties of Powhatan, Cumberland, Prince George, Amelia Surrv, Dinwiddie, Nottoway Prince Edward, Sussex, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Greensville, Brunswick, and Mecklenburg, and all cities within them, and the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca, and Enon in Chesterfield County.

(g) REGION 7 shall include the counties of Accomack, Northampton, Isle of Wight, and Southampton, and all cities within them, and the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Suffolk.

(h) REGION 8 - *CURRENTLY IN-ACTIVE* shall include the counties of Northumberland, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, King and Queen, Mathews, and Gloucester and all the cities within them, and the cities of Poquoson, Hampton, and Newport News.

(j) REGION 10 – *CURRENTLY IN-ACTIVE* shall include the counties of Bath, Allegheny, Bland, Craig, Giles, Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Roanoke, Montgomery, Pulaski, Wythe, Smythe, Russell, Wise, Floyd, Carroll, Grayson, Washington, Scott, and Lee and all cities within them.

B.A.S.S. Nation members may join any club in any region with that club's acceptance.

4.3 REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

4.3-1 REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Each region shall elect a Director to the Board, advise their director on issues of interest to the region and conduct the business of the region.

4.3-2 REGIONAL MEETINGS

The regional committees shall hold regional meetings at least quarterly. The Committees shall choose their meeting site and make all provisions necessary to their function.

4.3-3 REGIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Directors shall serve also as chairman of their respective regional committees.

4.3-4 CLUB PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Each club shall select from among its members in good standing a representative to the committee of its region. All clubs shall have equal standing in voting by their regional committees except that proxy voting and voting in absentia shall only be permitted if allowed by their regional committee. The director shall be the deciding vote in cases requiring a plurality, in which there is a tie vote by the committee.

4.3-5 DUTIES OF REGIONAL CHAIRMAN

Directors shall, as chairmen of their respective regional committees, preside at meetings of their committees, administer their regions, and coordinate their regional tournament programs, and appoint their assistants and such other regional officials as may be directed by their committees.

4.3-6 DUTIES OF APPOINTED REGIONAL OFFICIALS

Their respective regional committees shall define duties of officials appointed by their directors to serve their regions except that the assistant to the director shall, as directed by the director and in his absence, exercise his proxy at meetings of the Board.

4.4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.4-1 ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A duly elected Board of Directors, herein known as the Board, shall govern the Nation, conduct its business and act in the best interests of the clubs and members.

4.4-2 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Board shall meet at least four (4) times per year, preferably quarterly, in regular prior-scheduled business sessions. Additional scheduled and/or special called meetings necessary for timely and efficient conduct of the business of the Nation may be held as called by the President.

4.4-3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Board shall be the President, the Vice President, one director from each region, the conservation director, the tournament director, and the youth director. Members of the Board shall not hold more than one Board position at one time.

4.4-4 VOTING BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All bills and resolutions before the Board at regular and special meetings shall be decided by polling the Board members. Members of the Board shall have equal standing in all voting except that the President shall vote only in cases of a tie on issues requiring a plurality vote, and that any member shall be permitted to abstain. On routine procedural questions and in elections, the roll shall be called, and the voting recorded in the minutes of the meeting. All other questions shall be decided by the vote of a majority of the Board members present except as otherwise required by the Constitution and By-laws.

4.4-5 EXPENSES OF BOARD MEMBERS

The reasonable expenses of any Nation official shall be submitted to the Board no later than the next regular Board meeting following the incurred expenses. Objection by any Board member shall require an action by the Board to pay the stated expenses.

4.4-6 REMOVAL OF NATION OFFICIALS BY THE BOARD

A motion for removal of a regional committee chairman, a director or an officer of the Board shall be considered only after a finding by the Board in a prior action, that the subject official is guilty of bad conduct, acts against the best interests of the Nation, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. In the Board action on a removal motion, a majority vote shall constitute a censure and a two-thirds majority vote in favor shall affect the removal of the subject official.

4.5 DIRECTORS OF THE NATION

4.5-1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Each regional committee shall elect a director and the committee chairman to the Board. Directors shall be elected no later than the last regional committee meeting of the calendar year and shall assume their duties at the January meeting of the Board following the election. Odd numbered regions shall hold their elections in odd numbered years so that their directors' terms begin in January of an even numbered year. Even numbered regions shall hold their elections in even numbered years so that their directors' terms begin in January of an odd numbered year. Mid-term vacancies shall be filled by the regional committees through special elections conducted as soon as practicable after they occur, by the regional committees.

4.5-2 CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The official presiding at the election of a new director shall make written certification of the results of the election to the President. Certification shall include reporting the date of the election, the name of the director elected his address, telephone number, club name, and B.A.S.S. membership number. Certifications of elections shall be transmitted to the President within fifteen days after the elections.

4.5-3 TENURE OF DIRECTORS

Terms of office for the board of directors shall not exceed two consecutive terms unless no one other than the incumbent seeks the office.

4.5-4 QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS

Directors shall be elected from among the members. They shall remain in good standing as members of clubs in good standing throughout their tenure. Loss of good standing shall vacate the office of a director and require that a special election be held to fill the incomplete term as soon as possible.

4.5-5 INSTALLATION OF DIRECTORS

At the first Board meeting of the year, or at the first Board meeting after certification of a special election of a director, the President shall announce the certifications on hand, administer the pledge of office to the directors elect present and seat them on the Board. A certificate may be set aside, and the director elect found to be unfit for office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board. Such finding by the Board shall require the President to withhold installation and appoint a commissioner to resolve the issue of unfitness and assist the appropriate regional committee in the process of conducting a new election.

4.5-6 DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

The duties of directors shall include, but not to be limited to: attendance at meetings of the Board and other functions of the Nation, representing the Nation and the Board as authorized by the Constitution and By-laws or appointed by the President; representing their regions before the Board; attending the meetings of their respective regional committees and working with them on regional affairs; supporting the purposes and goals of the Nation; and other duties, not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws, as may be in the best interests of the clubs and the members.

4.5-7 RECALL OF DIRECTORS

Regional committees may recall their directors after a vote to recall by two-thirds of the chapters of the region and appropriate certification in writing to the President. Recall of a director shall vacate the office and require that a special election be held to fill the incomplete term as soon as practicable.

4.6 OFFICERS OF THE NATION

4.6-1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President and the Vice President shall be known as the officers of the Nation. The Board, at its November meeting, shall elect them, with nominations being held at the August meeting. The election of the Nation officers shall be by secret ballots collected from the Board members and counted by a commissioner selected and appointed by the President. The ballot of President shall be collected and marked by the election commissioner before the count so that it may be counted in case of a tie to achieve a plurality. Should there be only one nominee for each of the offices of the Nation, the election may be accomplished by voice vote or, the presiding officer may declare that each nominee is elected by unanimous consent or acclamation. This procedure can only be followed when there is only one nominee for the office of President and Vice President each. Absentee and proxy votes shall be allowed for the election of the President and Vice-President and shall be submitted to the election commissioner who shall be someone other than the one of the individuals nominated for the office being voted on.

4.6-2 TENURE OF OFFICE

The terms of office of the President and Vice President shall expire upon the installation of their successors. The terms of office of the President expiring in even numbered years and the Vice President in odd numbered years. The term of office shall not exceed two consecutive terms unless no one other than the incumbent seeks the office.

4.6-3 QUALIFICATIONS OF THE OFFICERS

Officers shall be elected from among the members. They shall be required to remain in good standing with clubs in good standing throughout their tenure. Loss of good standing by an officer shall vacate his office. Officers shall otherwise be qualified in the following manner:

(a) The President shall have served at least one full and complete two-year term as an officer (Vice-President) of the Board or at least one full two-year term as a region director, except that the Vice President shall ascend to the office of President whenever the duly elected President vacates his office or becomes incapacitated for further service. The President or his designee shall be permitted to attend the Bassmasters Classic Tournament or the Nation Championship traveling to and from the event at

Nation expense, conditional upon payment of all other expenses by B.A.S.S. and upon attendance of official functions for Nation presidents by B.A.S.S. during the event.

(b) The Vice President shall have served at least one year as a region director or as a standing committee chairman or a special committee chairman named in Chapter 4.7.

4.6-4 INSTALLATION OF BOARD OFFICERS

At the January meeting of the Board or immediately after a special election of a Board officer, the President shall certify the election, and seat newly elected officers on the Board. Such Installations of officers shall be conducted as the first order of business at installation meetings, and they shall be the last official act of the outgoing administration.

4.6-5 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The officers shall administer the Nation. Their duties shall include but not be limited to attendance at meetings of the Board and other functions of the Nation, representing the Nation as authorized by the Constitution and Bylaws and as appointed by the President, supporting the purposes and goals of the Nation, and other duties not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws, as may be in the best interest of the clubs and the members. In addition, the individual officers shall perform the following duties:

(a) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Board, appoint all committee chairmen, commissioners and other non-elected officials, operate as the chief administrative officer in the Nation, the chief representative of the Nation before all bodies, the final interpreter of the Constitution and By-laws, and the deciding vote only in cases requiring a plurality, in which there is a tie vote by the Board.

(b) The Vice President shall ascend to the office of President when it becomes vacant, or when the President is found to be incapacitated for further service through voluntary determination or through an act of the Board, or as authorized in the temporary absence of the President. He shall be the administrative assistant to the President performing other duties as directed by the President.

4.6-6 VACANCIES

Vacancy in the position of Vice President shall be filled as soon as practicable by special election. Vacancy in the position of President shall be filled immediately through the ascension of the Vice President.

4.7 APPOINTED OFFICIALS

4.7-1 STANDING COMMITTEES

4.7-2 DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The President shall propose from among the qualified members, the chairman of the standing committees who shall be elected by vote of the Board of Directors. The chairmen of standing committees shall serve at the pleasure, and under the supervision of the Board of Directors. The standing committees shall support the Constitution and By-laws, attend the meetings of the Nation and its functions as directed by the by-laws, represent the Nation within their assigned areas of special interests, and perform other duties as follows:

(a) The Conservation/Natural Resources Director will be an elected board member and shall support the Constitution and By-laws, attend the meetings of the Nation and its functions as directed by the by-laws, represent the Nation within their assigned areas of special interests, and perform other duties as follows: shall protect the environment from harmful change, encourage adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards, document and report violations of anti-pollution laws, take political and legal action wherever appropriate, to improve the environment, inform and educate the members and the public to create awareness of threats to natural resources, take leadership in repairing the harm already done to the environment, solicit the partnership of other organizations with similar goals and objectives, establish contact with the legislature and educate the members in citizen involvement in the process of government, cooperate and work with fishery management agencies and educational and research institutions toward improvements in fishery management for better future fisheries, coordinate the conservation activities of the Nation and recommend annual recognition of individuals and/or organizations that have achieved outstanding performance in conservation of fisheries and other associated natural resources. The conservation director shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors with the same privileges and responsibilities as regional committee chair.

(b) The Tournament Director will be an elected board member and shall support the Constitution and By-laws, attend the meetings of the Nation and its functions as directed by the by-laws, represent the Nation within their assigned areas of special interests, and perform other duties as follows: shall conduct the competitive fishing activities of the Nation, assist the regions and the clubs in development of tournament programs, coordinate the live release program, promote sportsmanship and respect for the fishing laws of Virginia, will recommend all Tournament Rules changes to the Board, with the Board's approval, enforce the Tournament Rules and in consideration of a fee set by the Board, assist other individuals and organizations with tournament activities found by the Board to be acceptable and not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws. The tournament director shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors with the same privileges and responsibilities as regional committee chair.

(c) The Youth Director will be an elected board member and shall support the Constitution and By-laws, attend the meetings of the Nation and its functions as directed by the by-laws, represent the Nation within their assigned areas of special interests, and perform other duties as follows: shall promote youth fishing activity, organize and implement an annual Youth Week which may be a partnership arrangement with another organization, teach honesty, integrity and sportsmanship, coordinate the Nation's youth programs, assist the regions and clubs in youth activities, teach youth the fundamentals of sport fishing, cooperate and work with other organizations in introducing youth to sport fishing, and recommend annual recognition of individuals and/or organizations that have achieved outstanding performance in youth fishing activities. The youth director shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors with the same privileges and responsibilities as regional committee chair.

4.7-3 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The President may select and appoint from among the qualified members, the chairmen and members of special committees. The chairmen and members of special committees shall serve at the pleasure, and under the supervision of the President. Special committee chairman are not members of the Board of Directors per articles 4.4-1 and 4.4-3 and therefore not voting members. Standing Committee members serve under the supervision of the Board. Special Committee Chairman serve under the President per this article.

4.7-4 DUTIES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The special committees shall support the Constitution and By-laws, operate as instructed by the President and perform other duties as follows:

(a) The Membership Committee shall work toward development of new club's members, seek solutions to the problems of the existing clubs relative to their good standing in the Nation and B.A.S.S., and cooperate with interested members of the public where no clubs or other constituents exist.

(b) The Finance Committee shall make recommendations relative to budget preparation, coordinate the fundraising activities of the Nation, and assist the regions and clubs in their fundraising activities.

(c) The Safety Committee shall promote safe operation of the equipment and the activities of sport fishing, coordinate the safety activities of the Nation, assist the Tournament Committee in equipment inspection and enforcement of rules at tournament events, distribute hazard notices, work toward effective marking of procedures for sport fishermen, encourage use of first aid training and first aid kits, and operate an inspection program for equipment voluntarily or involuntarily submitted by members.

(d) The Public Relations Committee shall promote public awareness of the Nation, its purpose, goals and activities, work with and assist the other committees by publicizing their programs, by maintaining contact with the public news media and operating a news service, work with other organizations and agencies within the purpose and goals of the Nation and publish a newsletter at least quarterly each year. The Chairman, as authorized and directed by the President shall attend all meetings and functions of the Nation as a necessary means of the timely and efficient discharge of his duties. The public relations director shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors with the same privileges and responsibilities as regional committee chair.

4.7-5 SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS, ETC.

The President may select and appoint to temporary service, special commissioners to represent him in resolving organizational issues and questions, and other problems that may arise. Commissioners and other such officials shall remain under the direction of the President, and they shall report directly and confidentially to him. Special commissioners are not voting members of the board of directors.

4.7-6 EXPENSES OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

The reasonable expenses of the appointed officials shall be submitted in writing to the President for approval, no later than the next regular Board meeting following the incurred expenses. The President shall submit all approved expense statements to the Treasurer for payment. Objection by a Board member shall require an act of the Board to pay the stated expenses.

4.8 EMPLOYEES OF THE NATION

4.8-1 SELECTION AND COMPENSATION

Once the need for a contracted official has been justified and approved by the Board the position will be opened to all qualified applicants. The selection of the final candidate must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. The Board will determine the rate of compensation for the employee.

4.8-2 DUTIES OF NATION EMPLOYEES

The duties of all employees will be to support and promote the efficient operation of the Nation.

(a) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Board meetings and the official records of the Nation, maintain the official correspondence of the Nation, maintain in good order and submit as appropriate the documents necessary to the Nation's compliance with the regulations of the Corporation Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia and with B.A.S.S., and perform other duties as directed by the President. The minutes of the last meeting shall be posted on the official web site within two weeks after the last board meeting.

(b) The Treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Nation, the keeper of the Treasury and the financial accounts of the Nation, and receiver and disbursing officer of all funds. He/she shall report the financial status of the Nation to the Board on request and at each Board meeting. He/she shall present all books and financial records or documents annually in November, and on other occasions as directed by the Board, to a person or a committee selected and appointed by the President for audit, and he/she shall cause to be prepared and submitted in a timely manner all documents required by the United States Internal Revenue Service and all other tax and dues imposing authority having jurisdiction over the Nation, and perform other duties as directed by the President.

4.8-3 TERMINATION

The term of employment will continue if the needs are justified, and the employee is satisfactorily accomplishing those needs. At any time, the position of an employee can be reviewed by the Board. Termination of an employee will require a majority vote of the Board. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall even inure to the benefit of any donor, director, officer, nor shall any private individual be entitled to share in the distribution of corporate assets. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities and obligations, shall distribute all remaining assets to such organization (s) as shall, at such time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations that are considered charitable, scientific or educational organizations, which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE 5, AMENDMENTS AND PROCEDURES

5.1 AMENDMENTS

5.1-1 AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 8

Articles 1 through 8 of the Constitution and By-laws may be amended by vote of a two-thirds majority of the Board after thirty days (30) prior notice of said amendment at any meeting scheduled thirty days or more in advance.

5.2 PROCEDURES

5.2-1 BILLS

Bills shall be the basic documents of the acts of the Board. They shall be submitted as written motions, distributed to the Board members thirty (30) days or more prior to and read to the Board immediately prior to voting upon them, except that upon a motion, seconded and voted for by a majority of the Board, an emergency may be declared and the thirty (30) days prior distribution of the bill waived to allow for immediate adoption or for shortened prior distribution periods. The prior notice requirements of Chapter 5.1 shall not be affected by emergency declarations. Bills shall be adopted by vote of a majority of the Board except as required by Chapter 5.1. Motions to amend bills, within their principal intent, shall be written and seconded by Board members. They may be adopted by the vote of a majority of the Board at any time prior to final voting on the complete bill.

5.2-2 RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions shall be expressions of the will, intent, or desire of the Board. They shall be adopted and amended in the manner and through the procedures provided in section 5.2-1.

5.2-3 SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

All bills submitted for amending the Constitution and By-Laws shall be submitted at the January board meeting of each year. These bills shall be acted upon at the next scheduled board meeting. Amendments of an emergency nature may be accepted at any time during the year.

5.2-4 RECORDING OF MOTIONS

Motions shall be written for the record on an official form, which provides for a voting record.

5.2-5 CERTIFICATION OF ELECTIONS

Elections shall be certified according to sections 4.3-6, 4.5-2, and 4.6-4. Certifying officials may use a standard form designed and supplied by the Nation to facilitate certification of elections.

ARTICLE 6 AMENDMENT

6.1 AMENDMENT

(a) No part of the net earnings, gains or assets of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its directors, officers or other private individuals or organizations organized and operated for a profit (except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as herein above stated).

(b) No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

(c) In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, the board of directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the lawful debts and liabilities of the corporation,

distribute all the assets of the corporation, as the board of directors of the corporation shall determine, to another organization that is exempt from federal and state taxation.

ARTICLE 7 BY-LAWS

7.1 NATION FUNDS

7.1-1 TREASURER RECEIVES ALL FUNDS

All funds received by the Nation or any of its agents on behalf of the Nation, except as provided in Sections 4.8-2, shall be turned over to the treasurer for deposit into the appropriate account.

7.1-2 ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN FUNDS PROHIBITED

No donations, gifts, or other funds, goods or services shall be accepted in the name of the Nation by the Board or any agent of the Nation from any individual or organization found to be in conflict with the purposes and/or goals of the Nation.

7.1-3 DUES

Fifty dollars (\$50.00) per member dues shall be due and payable to the Nation by each club on the first day of December of the preceding year. Clubs which have not paid their dues by February 15th will lose their eligibility for its members to fish the Mr. BASS Tournament. Clubs that have not paid their dues by February 28th will not be allowed to participate in any Nation activity of that year. There will be an official update of rosters to include all changes in club membership as of June 30. Any increase in the number of active club members requires an additional payment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per member due no later than June 30.

7.1-4 REVENUE GENERATION

Tournaments, other participation events, sales of goods and services and other business activities not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws may be operated by the Nation for the purpose of revenue generation in support of the Nation and in advancement of its purposes and goals.

7.2 CLUBS

7.2-1 CLUB FORMATION

The Nation shall assist persons desiring to form new clubs by providing information and contact with organizing officials of B.A.S.S. All new clubs that have submitted their club rosters and dues to the Secretary/Treasurer by February 15th will be eligible to fish that year's B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia tournaments.

7.2-2 ASSIGNMENT OF NEW CLUBS TO REGIONS

Each new club shall join any region they prefer if they are in an in-active area of the state or to a region in consideration of its geographical location, and the director of the region shall deliver its charter to

the new club. The director shall assist the new club in becoming a participant in the affairs of the region.

7.2-3 CLUB PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

It is the responsibility of each club to support all the Nation activities sponsored by its region. In order to remain in good standing in the Nation a club must participate in 50% of its region's meetings, 50% of its region's tournaments, which includes assisting with the tournament, and 50% of all other regional activities approved by the majority of the clubs in that region. The Regional Committee and the Nation Board must approve any exception to this requirement.

7.2-4 CLUB IN GOOD STANDING

Clubs that have paid their dues and submitted their official roster by midnight February 15th and participated in 50% of its regional activities during the past year are considered in good standing and can continue to participate in all Nation events. At the January Board meeting each regional director will submit a list of clubs in his/her region that have not satisfied the 50% participation rule during the previous year. Only those clubs declared in good standing will be allowed to fish the Nation events.

7.2-5 CLUB NOT IN GOOD STANDING.

Clubs that did not pay their dues by February 15th and/or did not participate in 50% of its region's activities during the preceding year are not in good standing and are not eligible to participate in Nation activities.

7.2-6 INSURANCE

All boats used in state and regional events of the B.A.S.S. Nation of VA must have current, valid coverage no less than \$300,000. watercraft liability insurance on these boats. In order to use a boat, proof must be available by paper or electronic documentation for all events.

7.3 NATION TOURNAMENTS

There will be three (3) state qualifier tournaments and a state championship fish off each year as stated herein to determine National berths and SE Regional code recipients. Scoring shall be on a pounds and ounces method per tournament.

7.3-1 MR. BASS TOURNAMENT

The first of three state qualifier tournaments known as the Mr. BASS Tournament will be operated annually by the Tournament Committee (Board of Directors) in either March, April or May with dates being set by the Tournament Committee. Dates are to be set by the Tournament Committee on or before September 1st, of the prior year (pending ramp approval after October 1). The tournament shall be a two-day tournament held at a site recommended by the Tournament Committee and approved by the Board. The tournament will be conducted as a unique team event compromised of two-man fixed teams from eligible clubs from the B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia. Each club in good standing (7.2-4) shall be permitted to enter a maximum of ten (10) teams of its eligible members and must provide one tournament approved boat (8.1-6) per team. The top thirty (30) finishing teams from the Mr. BASS

TOURNAMENT shall become eligible to fish the State Championship Fish Off for that year. Vacated top 30 team positions will not be filled. Entry fee for the tournament will be one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00) per two-man team which includes ten dollars (\$10.00) per boat for big fish award. The big fish award will pay back one hundred percent (100%) split equally between the two days of tournament. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or regional applicants once the Nation has accepted the fee except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board.

7.3-2 CHAPTER TEAM TOURNAMENT

The second of three state qualifier tournaments known as the Chapter Team Tournament will be operated annually by the Tournament Committee in either April or May with dates being set by the Tournament Committee. Tournament dates are to be set by the Tournament Committee on or before September 1st, of the prior year (pending ramp approval after October 1). The tournament will be a two-day tournament conducted as a unique team event compromised of two-man fixed teams from eligible clubs from the Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation. Each club in good standing (7.2-4) shall be permitted to enter a maximum of ten (10) teams of its eligible members and must provide one tournament approved boat (8.1-6) per team. The top thirty (30) finishing teams from the CHAPTER TEAM TOURNAMENT shall become eligible to fish the State Championship Fish Off for that year. Vacated top 30 team positions will not be filled. Entry fee for the tournament will be one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00) per two-man team which includes ten dollars (\$10.00) per boat for big fish award. The big fish award will pay back one hundred percent (100%) split equally between the two days of tournament. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or regional applicants once the Nation has accepted the fees except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board.

7.3-3 FALL CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

The third of three state qualifier tournaments known as the Fall Classic Tournament shall be operated annually by the Tournament Committee in either September or October with dates being set by the Tournament Committee. Tournament dates are to be set by the Tournament Committee on or before September 1st of the prior year (pending ramp approval after October 1). The tournament will be a two-day tournament conducted as a unique team event compromised of two-man fixed teams from eligible clubs from the Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation. Each club in good standing (7.2-4) shall be permitted to enter a maximum of twenty-five (25) teams of its eligible members and must provide one tournament approved boat (8.1-6) per team. The top thirty (30) finishing teams from the FALL CLASSIC TOURNAMENT shall become eligible to fish the State Championship Fish Off for that year. Vacated top 30 team positions will not be filled. Entry fee for the tournament will be one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00) per two-man team which includes ten dollars (\$10.00) per boat for the big fish award. The big fish award will pay back one hundred percent (100%) split equally between the two days of tournament. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or regional applicants once the Nation has accepted the fees except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board.

7.3.4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

The State Championship Tournament shall be operated annually by the Tournament Committee in either October or November with dates being set by the Tournament Committee. Tournament dates are to be set by the Tournament Committee on or before September 1st of the prior year (pending ramp approval after October 1). The tournament will be a two-day tournament conducted as a fixed team event compromised of two-man teams from eligible clubs from the Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation. Teams

for this tournament will come from the top thirty (30) finishing teams from the Mr. BASS Tournament, the CHAPTER TEAM Tournament, and the FALL CLASSIC Tournament who fished at least two of the three qualifying tournaments, and any unique fixed team that fished all three (3) qualifying tournaments without finishing in the top thirty teams of any qualifier. Each team must provide one tournament approved boat (8.1-6) for each paid entry. Entry fee for the tournament will be one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00) per two-man team which includes ten dollars (\$10.00) per boat for the big fish award. The big fish award will pay back one hundred percent (100%) split equally between the two days of tournament. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or regional applicants once the Nation has accepted the fees except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board. The top finishing number of teams as set by B.A.S.S. (7.5-1) shall have earned berths in the B.A.S.S. National Championship. The Nation shall contribute, if funds available, the sum of two thousand (\$2,000.00) per team toward each team's expenses associated directly with the B.A.S.S. National Championship.

7.4 INTERSTATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION (Deleted)

7.4-1 VIRGINIA STATE TEAM (Deleted)

7.4-2 VIRGINIA TEAM MANAGER (Deleted)

7.4-3 BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF VIRGINIA TEAM MEMBERSHIP (Deleted)

7.4-4 OBLIGATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF VIRGINIA TEAM MEMBERSHIP (Deleted)

7.5-1 THE 2024 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Nation shall qualify that certain number of teams as determined by B.A.S.S. each year, which number is based on a percentage of national B.A.S.S. Nation members on August 31st of the preceding year, through its tournament program to compete in the B.A.S.S. National Championship.

All National Championship team positions must be set by January 30th of the competition year. In the event a team declines their position or drops out 60 or more days prior to the date of the B.A.S.S. National Championship, the team vacancy will be filled by the next highest qualifying team. If a team vacates less than 60 days before the B.A.S.S. National Championship date, and the next highest qualifying team declines, that team position will be filled by the alternates as determined by the state president. Any additional team vacancies that occur after the teams have been set will be filled at the discretion of the State Board of Directors as recommended by the State President.

7.5-2 VIRGINIA RECIPIENTS OF REGISTRATION CODES FOR B.A.S.S. REGIONALS

Team members finishing in the top 6th through 15th places at the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FISH OFF Tournament will be offered an early registration code to the B.A.S.S. Southeastern Regional. Team members accepting registration codes who register and fish the tournament shall be reimbursed by the Nation for their tournament registration fees. B.A.S.S. regional entry fees are \$400 per boater and \$200 per non-boater. The top twenty (20) finishing teams in the SE Regional are eligible to fish the B.A.S.S. National Championship at their own expense.

7.5-3 VIRGINIA BASS NATION ELIGIBILITY FOR B.A.S.S. REGIONALS

Any Virginia Bass Nation club angler in good standing may apply for entry to the B.A.S.S. Southeastern Regional at their own expense within B.A.S.S.'s specified registration dates.

7.5-4 VIRGINIA BASS NATION TEAM TRAIL

If the Nation agrees and executes, with Board approval, the B.A.S.S. Team Trail Championship contract for that year, points scoring will be conducted simultaneously with each of the three (3) state qualifying events. The top team finishing in points standing at the end of the third qualifier tournament shall be offered a berth in the B.A.S.S. Team Trail Championship to be held in December of that year. Points shall be awarded to unique fixed teams 200 for first place of each qualifier, 199 for second place, 198 for third place and so on. Any team participating in a qualifier without scoring will receive 25 points. There will be no drops. If a qualifying team elects not to fish the Team Trail Championship, the next points finishing team shall be offered the berth. The Nation shall reimburse, if funds available, the entry registration fee for the team upon fishing the team trail championship tournament.

7.6 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING AND CITING

7.6-1 CONSIDERATION OF OTHER WATER RESOURCE USERS

The Nation shall consider the needs of and restrictions upon all other users of the waterway and adjacent resources upon which it intends to schedule or sanction an event. Special events of others, which are likely to be in conflict with anglers, shall be avoided if possible, if and only if they are scheduled prior to the Nation scheduling and/or B.A.S.S. LLC schedule related. Specific days to which other users are limited by law for their activities shall be excluded from the B.A.S.S. Nation scheduling for events or practice days to be cited upon tidal waters of the Commonwealth. When Nation scheduling conflicts with specific days of waterfowl Hunting season, Nation sanctioned events, including state, regional and chapter tournaments will not begin prior to 8:00 am on these days and must end not later than 4:00 pm.

ARTICLE 8 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

BASS NATION TOURNAMENT RULES – Updated 2/26/2023

1. **BASS TOURNAMENT DEFINED:** Bass tournament shall be defined as a competitive event in which the practices collectively known as fishing are skillfully applied by participants to catch bass and present them for scoring by weight, length or other criteria to determine a winner or winners who receive certain awards and/or other recognition.
2. **PURPOSE OF TOURNAMENT RULES:** Tournament rules are adopted for the express purposes of providing equal opportunity for all participants to successfully apply their fishing skills and abilities, of improving the safety of both participant and non-participant users of the tournament area resources, and of providing for proper handling of the fish.
3. **AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS:** Only the Tournament Committee of the B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia Inc. shall amend the Tournament rules. They are subject to interpretation only by the Tournament Committee, under the coordination and supervision of the Chairman. Decisions of the committee approved by the chairman shall be final. All tournament rules will be recommended to the Board for their approval or disapproval.
4. **BASS DEFINED:** Bass shall be defined as any of the species known as large-mouth bass (*Micropterus Salmoides*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus Dolomieu*), spotted bass (*Micropterus Punctulatus*), suwannee bass (*Micropterus Notius*), redeye bass (*Micropterus Coosae*), and

guadalupe bass (*Micropterus Treculi*), all of which are of the genus, *Micropterus*, in the family, Centrarchidae, the fresh water sunfish.

5. **ENTRY FEES:** Applications from otherwise qualified members; clubs of regions to enter and compete in tournaments shall be acceptable only when accompanied by the fee established by the tournament committee with approval of the Board. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or regional applicants once the fees have been accepted by the Nation except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board.

6. **ELIGIBILITY:** Fixed teams of clubs in good standing whose official application and entry fee are received by the secretary/treasurer prior to the published deadline for the Mr. BASS, Chapter Team, Fall Classic, and/or State Championship shall be eligible to compete, conditional upon acceptance by the Tournament Committee. Clubs in good standing are those clubs who submitted an official roster and respective National and State dues no later than February 15th. Thereafter, clubs in good standing may accept new members until June 30th. In order to be eligible to participate in a state qualifier, the team members must be in good standing and listed on that club's official roster at the time of registration for that qualifier. Any team member whose name is not present on the official roster submitted to the Nation Board will not be allowed to participate.

7. **REGISTRATION:** Each team must register in person at the tournament site. Registration will be held at times designated by the tournament committee prior to registration for the event. In an emergency situation where at least one team member cannot arrive before 12:00 noon one day prior to the event, he can register his team by telephone prior to the 12:00 noon deadline. Any team which has not officially registered by 12:00 noon Friday prior to the tournament, will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

8. **ETHICS~ SPORTSMANSHIP AND PERSONAL CONDUCT:** All participants shall observe high standards of ethics, sportsmanship and personal conduct. They shall obey all the laws, and the authorities having jurisdiction in the tournament area. They shall keep themselves informed and aware of the rules, laws and conditions applicable to the tournament. They shall yield to all other recreational users of the Tournament resource, sufficient distance or other courtesy to avoid interference with their activities. For example, duck blinds, which are occupied, on lawful duck hunting days, shall be given sufficient clearance to avoid interference with ducks approaching the blind in flight and to avoid danger from shot. Where a blind is situated in a narrow passage, boats shall move past them at no wake speed without stopping to fish. Drunkenness during the practice, competition and scoring activities will be cause for immediate disqualification. No alcoholic beverages shall be permitted in competition boats during competition hours. Participants shall yield to inspection by tournament officials at any time during the tournament.

9. **PRACTICE DAYS AND COMPETITION:** Tournament waters are open at all times, to all competitors. However, during any Nation sponsored tournament, no competitor may hire, buy or barter the use of a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day. Failure to comply with the rules will result in disqualification from the tournament.

10. **TOURNAMENT WATERS:** Tournament waters shall be defined as all public waters which are accessible by boat excluding such off limits areas as may be designated and announced at registration time by the Tournament Committee. All fishing by participants shall be done from a

boat on tournament waters and all participants and competition boats shall remain on tournament waters throughout the competition hours. Violators shall be disqualified for that day's competition.

11. **COMPETITION HOURS:** Competition hours shall be determined by the Tournament Committee and announced at registration. The hours may be changed by the committee as necessary because of changing conditions and with reasonable notice to participants during the tournament. Late arrival at the check-in point at the end of competition hours shall not be excused. No make-up time shall be granted for any reason to any participant who has been unable to compete during any part of the tournament.

12. **WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Tournaments shall proceed as scheduled regardless of weather conditions, except that competition may be suspended or terminated by the Tournament Committee whenever it finds weather conditions to be hazardous. Competitors shall not fish during periods of suspension or after termination of competition. They may decline to compete without penalty only after the Tournament Committee has accepted their notice, given prior to withdrawing, that they believe weather conditions to be hazardous.

13. **SAFETY AND INSPECTION:** Safety shall be the concern of first priority to all participants. All competition equipment shall be presented for inspection before the beginning of competition and all participants shall yield to inspection upon the request of tournament officials during the entire tournament event including scoring, award ceremonies, and the protest period and during the deliberation of any protests that may be registered by participants. Competition equipment found to be unsafe or unseaworthy by the Tournament Committee shall not be used in the tournament.

14. **SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Participants, throughout the official practice and competition hours, shall whenever their primary propulsion engine is in gear, wear a vest type personal floatation device, or life jacket, which is approved by the United States Coast Guard. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional device, known as a kill switch, which will terminate the operation of the primary propulsion engine when the operator leaves the controls. The kill switch shall be attached to the operator whenever the engine is in operation. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional power operated pumping device, which will remove water from the boat effectively, and in a manner acceptable to the Tournament Committee. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition.

15. **BOAT REQUIREMENTS.** Competition boats shall be sixteen feet or more in length and powered by at least a seventy-five-horsepower engine. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be **250 HP**. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must **not** exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by BASS. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine, to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from BASS tournaments. Posted speed

limits must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. The boat must also have an electric bow mounted trolling motor and sufficient live well capacity to maintain a limit of bass by both contestants in good condition during the tournament hours. No cumbersome craft or stick steering will be permitted. All boats must comply with all the applicable federal and state regulations. All boats that do not meet these requirements cannot be used in any of the state level draw tournaments conducted by the B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia. Boats built on or after November 1, 1972, shall display horsepower rating plates installed by the manufacturer. Boats built before November 1, 1972, shall display horsepower rating plates if plates were installed by the manufacturer. All boats used in state and regional events of the Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation must have no less than \$300,000.00/300,000 liability insurance on these boats. In order to use a boat, proof must be provided for all events. If you do not own the boat to be used in the event, a letter of permission to use the boat in that event must be provided by the owner (s) prior to use. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition. Any violation of these rules will result in immediate disqualification from that day's competition.

16. OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF BOAT AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Boats will be checked at tournament start for lights, life jackets, kill switch and live wells. Any non-operating equipment will send the boat to the end of the tournament launch line and must be corrected prior to release. Prior to being allowed to compete in a tournament each boat must be checked and approved by the Tournament Committee. Each boat must meet all guidelines specified in Regulation #14 and Regulation #15. Ample time prior to the tournament will be designated and announced for boat inspections. It is the responsibility of each competitor to make sure that his boat has been registered and officially approved prior to beginning the tournament. Any competitor who competes without an official boat inspection will be disqualified.

17. FISHING TACKLE: Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. During practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (17). No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time with or without hooks –is not allowed. Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these twin arm spinnerbaits or buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the line tie point. The "head and hook" portion of the lure must be even or trail behind where the blades attach to the wires. B.A.S.S. officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as

legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass to be counted in their daily catch. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

18. FISHING METHODS: Trolling as a method of fishing shall be prohibited. Participants shall hook, play and land any fish they catch in competition, using no devices other than a landing net, tackle as provided in section 8.1 - 17, and that participant partners or observers may assist in landing and bringing them into the boat. All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land the fish. Boats may not be trailered during tournament hours.

19. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except where posted or otherwise stated by the Tournament Director or President as otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee or within 50 yards of marina gas pumps or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored. Any such anchored boat shall have its trolling motor retracted from the water. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Violation will result in disqualification for that day's competition. It is the responsibility of the anchored boat to make other competitors aware that he is anchored.

20. FISHING PARTNERS: Participants shall fish with the team member from their club that they registered with for that tournament. Teams shall be fixed teams meaning the scored weight/points follow the team, not the participant. If a participant pairs with a different partner in a subsequent tournament, breaking the uniqueness of the original team, the weight and/or point values if this then new team shall begin that tournament at 0. A fixed unique team must fish at least two (2) tournaments to be considered for eligibility for B.A.S.S. National, SE Regional, and/or Team Trail Championship berths. In the event an entrant has to exclude himself / herself from the qualifying competition they shall report immediately to the Tournament Director or a member of the Tournament Committee and notify them of the situation. Upon the loss or absence of their team partner the remaining partner may fish both days of that tournament by himself for one tournament only. Weights/points of a second tournament with a lone boater shall not be considered for B.A.S.S. Nation, SE Regional, and/or Team Trail Championship berths. However, any team may still fish more than once with a lone boater for individual tournament winnings.

21. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES: Participants in the Mr. Bass, Chapter Team, Fall Classic, and State Championship tournaments compete as teams and shall share all boat expenses and operations as determined by that team.

22. CONTACT WITH OTHER BOATS: No fishing shall be permitted within fifty yards of the anchored boat of another participant. Anchored boats shall not restrict navigation through narrow channels to or from other tournament waters. Anchored shall mean trolling motor is raised and a deep or shallow anchor (power poles included) is in place. Participants shall not approach closer than necessary or otherwise make physical contact with other boats or persons during competition hours for reasons other than emergencies. Any competitors' boats seen in physical contact on the lake without the existence of an emergency will be disqualified from that day's competition.

23. EMERGENCY CONDITIONS: Emergency conditions are defined as conditions which subject persons or property to imminent danger or conditions which are deemed by the Tournament Committee to be of emergency nature. Only under emergency conditions, or in cases where boats are disabled, may participants leave their boats. Under such conditions (dire emergency or safety), they may ride in other boats and bring their fish to the tournament headquarters for scoring subject to all requirements otherwise applicable. Otherwise, they shall remain in sight of each other at all times until their fish are turned over to tournament officials. In such cases, both partners, or the non-boating partner alone may take their fish to the weigh-in in another contestant's or official's boat. The contestant or official providing the return ride becomes responsible for signing the weigh-in form on behalf of the contestant who remained behind... Except for this emergency situation partners must remain in sight of each other's catch for the catch to be scored. Violators are subject to the penalties provided in Regulation #30.

24. HANDLING OF FISH DURING COMPETITION: Competition boats shall be equipped with a functional, adequately aerated fish holding device, known as a live well, sufficient to maintain live bass of average size. All fish caught and retained in possession of participants shall be segregated for identification and kept in a live well. No stringers, ropes, or other devices, which would injure fish or subject them to unnecessary stress, shall be used. Dead fish large enough for scoring shall be kept by participants and submitted for scoring. Fish too small for scoring shall be returned to the water. No more fish than may be scored may be held in captivity at any time during competition hours. Fish shall not be mutilated or otherwise intentionally injured or mistreated. A swallowed single hook shall be cut free of other tackle and left in place whether the fish is to be kept or released. Lures may be extracted in the least injurious manner available.

25. CHECK IN AND LATE PENALTY: All competitors must check in with tournament officials at the official check-in site by the previously announced finish time. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of 1 pound per minute or portion of a minute deducted from the competitor's total weight of catch for that day. Any competitor who is more than 15 minutes late will lose all credit for that day's catch. There will be no acceptable excuses for tardiness.

26. HANDLING OF FISH AT CHECK-IN AND DURING THE WEIGH-IN: All fish present in a competitor's boat when he checks in at the check-in point become the property of the Tournament Committee. Discarding or transferring any fish will result in immediate disqualification. The practice of culling and measuring after check-in is prohibited. All fish shall be placed in containers supplied or approved by the Tournament Committee for transport to the scoring area. The containers may be placed in landing nets for added strength. Water shall be added to reduce injury. All fish that are alive at the completion of the scoring procedure shall be returned to the water by tournament officials except that the requests of governmental, education and research agencies may be honored, and trophy fish may be returned to the participants who caught them when they request them for mounting and display. Fish not judged by tournament officials to be alive shall be protected from spoilage, and disposed of as food, or otherwise in a manner which complies with the law if; they are unfit for use as food.

27. TOURNAMENT CREEL AND SIZE LIMIT: At no time shall a team have more than five fish in the live well. Possession of more than five fish will result in disqualification. The minimum acceptable length of fish will be 12 inches with the exception of those bodies of water with a slot

limit or a 14"/12" law (example 2 – 12" and 3 – 14"). Any fish which does not meet the minimum acceptable length will be removed from the competitor's catch and the competitor will be assessed a one-pound penalty for each short fish deducted from the total weight of his remaining legal fish. Any fish presented for weigh-in, which is judged to be dead will result in a four-ounce penalty for each such fish, deducted from the total weight of fish.

28. SCORING: For qualifiers, each team's score will be the weight of the legal bass, minus penalties, caught and kept during competition hours. The team with the greatest accumulated weight will be the winner of that tournament. Total weights will be arranged in descending order for other places. For team trail contract, if executed, each team's finish will be receiving points with the winning team receiving 200 points, second place receiving 199 points, third place receiving 198 points and so on. Any team participating without scoring shall receive 25 points. There are no drops.

29. TIES All ties will be determined first by the total weight, second by big fish caught and then by the flip of a coin.

30. VIOLATIONS. PROTESTS AND PENALTIES: Participants shall honor the letter and the intent of the Tournament Rules, or they shall be judged to have violated them. All judgments are reserved to the Tournament Committee. Participants who suspect that the Tournament Rules have been violated may protest to the Tournament Committee at any time during the tournament or within 15 minutes after arrival at the tournament sight followed with a written protest within 30 minutes after closing the scales. Protests shall be decided by the Tournament Committee through any means available within the Constitution and By-laws and Tournament Rules in consideration of the statements and other evidence presented by the concerned parties and witnesses. Polygraph examination, administered by a qualified examiner who is duly licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be included among the methods available to the Tournament Committee for consideration in their deliberations. All participants shall be presumed to be familiar with the Tournament Rules and to have implied their consent and agreement to submit to polygraph examination when they affix their signatures to the official registration list. Polygraph examination may be requested only by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee and shall be provided under his supervision and at the expense of the B.A.S.S. Nation. Refusal to submit to such examination reasonably requested and provided may be considered during protest deliberations. Participants held by the Board of Directors to have violated the principles of fairness, sportsmanship and ethical conduct explicitly or implicitly included in the Tournament Rules may be declared ineligible to compete in present and future tournament events. Participants held by the Tournament Committee to be in violation of the Tournament Rules shall be penalized as specified in the rules. When a penalty is not specified for a violator the Tournament Committee has the discretion of determining what degree of penalty is appropriate for the violation.

31. COMMUNICATION: During competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a cellular phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition.

32. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the warm-up period or competition day.

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