

# 2022 New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation Constitution and By-Laws

## **ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose**

### *Section 1: Name*

This organization shall be called the New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation (N.H.B.N.), a non-profit affiliate of Bass Angler's Sportsman's Society (B.A.S.S.).

### *Section 2: Purpose*

The N.H.B.N. is a non-profit organization established to preserve and promote the Sport of Bass Fishing, to practice and promote sound environmental policies to conserve our natural resources, to promote youth and public interest in sport fishing and conservation, to work for an abundant, healthy, and self-sustaining bass fishery; to act as an effective voice for the advancement of bass fisheries, to communicate effectively with organizations that impact on the sport of bass fishing, and to support local, state and national agencies and organizations whose objectives are to conserve and manage our national resources.

## **ARTICLE II: Membership**

### *Section 1: Number of Members*

The New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation shall consist of NO LESS than 6 CLUBS. A Club can have no less than six (6) members to be considered a Club. The minimum number of N.H.B.N. members shall be 36. The minimum number of N.H.B.N. members must be 60 in order to compete in the Divisional and National Championships.

### *Section 2: Requirements for Membership*

B.A.S.S. Nation Club: A Club affiliating with the N.H.B.N. will be required to actively support, promote and care for the N.H.B.N. that will be entitled to all rights and privileges. A Club must be a recognized B.A.S.S. Club and meet all B.A.S.S. Club requirements.

### *Section 3: Dues*

State dues shall be the same dollar amount as B.A.S.S. Nation National dues. These dues are to be paid at the December meeting for current Club rosters. Additional dues will be collected throughout the year as Clubs add new members.

### *Section 4: B.A.S.S. Nation Meeting*

The N.H.B.N. will hold general membership meetings during the third week of each month. The Board of Directors will meet at any time deemed necessary to conduct B.A.S.S. Nation business. The day of the week for all meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

### *Section 5: Club in Good Standing*

To be considered a Club in good standing, a B.A.S.S. Nation Club will be required to attend 75% of the monthly general membership meetings and hold at least one verifiable environmental project, such as a lake clean-up project before or after a club tournament. Any B.A.S.S. Nation Club failing to maintain 75% attendance at the general membership meeting and hold at least one verifiable environmental project, such as a lake cleanup project before or after a club tournament may be notified and Club in good Standing status will be suspended for a period of one year.

An excused absence from a monthly membership meeting will be given on emergency basis only. The B.A.S.S. Nation President must be notified within 24 hours of the nature of the emergency. If the B.A.S.S. Nation President cannot be reached the B.A.S.S. Nation Vice-President may then be contacted.

Additionally, each club will be required to support one Junior Bassmaster or High School event each year. Requirements/schedule/needs will be determined by the Youth Director. Failure to supply the minimum support (2 boats per club) will jeopardize the clubs "Club in good standing" status.

### **ARTICLE III: Officers, Club Representatives and Duties**

#### *Section 1: Officers and Their Duties*

The Officers of NH B.A.S.S. Nation shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors do not have voting rights except in the case of a tie, when the President may cast a vote as a tie breaker. The NH B.A.S.S. Nation Board of Directors cannot simultaneously serve on a competing organization's Board of Directors.

#### *Section 2: Duties of the Board of Directors*

**President:** The President will preside over meetings of the Board and open meetings of the N.H.B.N., supervise all N.H.B.N. activities, be the official representative of the N.H.B.N., votes as a tie breaker, prepares the following years' proposed budget (to be presented annually at the October meeting, discussed in November, and voted on in December), and serves as a liaison between the N.H.B.N. and B.A.S.S.

**Vice President:** The Vice President will serve as acting President in the absence of or vacancy of the President, and perform other duties as delegated by the President.

**Secretary:** The Secretary will serve as acting President in the absence of both the President and Vice-President, provide a record of meetings to all Board members and Club Representatives within the week following each N.H.B.N. meeting keeping current and accurate official records of the N.H.B.N., submit appropriate documents necessary for the N.H.B.N.'s compliance to state regulations, affiliation requirements with National B.A.S.S., also to perform other Secretary duties as delegated by the President or acting President.

**Treasurer:**

The Treasurer will serve as President when no other officers are present; be responsible for the receipt, disbursement and banking of all N.H.B.N. monies, maintain accurate records and providing a current financial statement to all Board members and Club Representatives at each regularly scheduled meeting; should be bonded; participate in an Annual Financial Report, and perform Treasurer related duties as delegated by the President or acting President.

#### *Section 3: B.A.S.S. Nation Club Representatives and Their Duties*

Each B.A.S.S. Nation Club will Appoint annually in January, a delegate, known as a Club Representative, to represent that Club at all B.A.S.S. Nation meetings. The Club Representative shall have the responsibility of carrying back to their Club an accurate verbal or written report of B.A.S.S. Nation meetings and voting results. Only B.A.S.S. Nation Club Representatives will have the authority to cast their Club's vote on all matters. Each B.A.S.S. Nation Club Representative will be entitled to one vote. A B.A.S.S. Nation Board Member can serve as their club's representative.

**ARTICLE IV: Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility**

*Section 1: Eligibility for holding office*

Be a member in good standing for a period of one full year.

*Section 2: Term of Office*

The terms of office shall be staggered as such:

President	2 Year Term
Vice-President	1 Year Term
Treasurer	2 Year Term
Secretary	1 Year Term

*Section 3: Vacancies*

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations will be called for from each Club. If more than one candidate is obtained, an election will be held. In the event a candidate is not obtained, a blind draw will be held of all clubs in N.H.B.N. The club drawn will supply an officer at the next meeting.

*Section 4: Election procedures*

Annually, in October, each N.H.B.N. affiliated Club will nominate and submit to the current Board of Directors, three candidates to fill the expired term of current officers. These nominees need not be from the respective nominations Club. The B.A.S.S. Nation Secretary will compile a list of nominees along with a declaration as to which office each nominee is seeking. Said list is to be returned to the Clubs prior to November 31st. In December, each Club will cast a vote for each expired office. These votes will be presented to the current Board in a sealed envelope marked "Election Results" and signed by the representative club President and Secretary. These election results will be tabulated by the current Board of Directors at the N.H.B.N. meeting held in December each year. The newly elected officers will be in their duties on January 1st to continue until term expires.

*Section 5: Proposed Changes and Voting Procedures*

Proposed changes to the B.A.S.S. Nation By-laws and Rules may be submitted only by Club delegates. By-laws may be changed once a year with recommended changes submitted in writing in October, discussed in November and voted on in December. These proposals can be adjusted based on the discussions in the November meeting if the submitting Club agrees with the proposed adjustments. In the event the submitting Club agrees with the proposed adjustments, they need to incorporate those adjustments into the final copy which will be voted on in December. Otherwise, the original submittal will be voted on "as is" at the December meeting. Approved changes will become effective January 1st. With the following exceptions, by-laws changes can be made under abnormal or extreme conditions during the year but require 100% agreement by all Club Representatives. The President will only vote in case of a tie. In which case, this decision will be final. Each Club Representative is entitled to one vote, majority rules.

**ARTICLE V: Standing Committees**

The Board, by simple plurality vote, will appoint the following standing committees, and such other special committees as may become necessary. The terms of appointment to the standing committees shall be one year.

To be eligible for appointment, a prospective candidate must be a member of B.A.S.S. and a B.A.S.S. Club affiliated with the N.H.B.N. Each committee chairman will be appointed by the Board of Directors.

#### *Section 1: Environmental Committee*

The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board. The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change, to document and report to the proper authorities, violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations ordinances and other regulatory devise, to take political action to improve our environment, to take legal action, where appropriate, to undertake informational and educational programs to bring to the public a great awareness of threats to our environment, and, above all, to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life giving water of America.

#### *Section 2: Tournament Committee and Tournament Director*

The Tournament Director is an elected position with a one year term of office. The Tournament Committee for all B.A.S.S. Nation Tournaments shall consist of the State Team members and the Tournament Director. The State Team members assigned to the committee will change each year after the new State Team is determined. The purpose of the Tournament Director is to oversee the committee and plan, organize and operate B.A.S.S. Nation sanctioned tournaments within the State of New Hampshire, and if appropriate, the surrounding states, to select sites, collect entry fees, determine eligibility, set an awards list and rule with final authority and proper conduct, procedures and qualifications on all sanctioned tournaments. Provided however, that all such state Club tournaments will be conducted within the spirit and letter of the current B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Rules and other applicable rules. Tournament rules conflicts will be resolved by the Tournament Director.

All state tournaments (STQT) will be open to NHBN members 16 years of age or older. It will be the primary duty of the state tournament committee to so conduct it's affairs that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideas of fair play will accrue to it, and thus to each and every member of Bass Angler's Sportsman's Society.

#### *Section 3: Youth Activities Committee*

The number of members to serve on this committee shall be a one-to-one ratio with the number of Clubs having a B.A.S.S. affiliated youth club. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and implement all B.A.S.S. Nation funded activities of their respective youth clubs.

#### *Section 4: Special Committee*

Special committees may be formed by the Board, but only for closely defined purposes. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees.

### **ARTICLE VI: Affiliations, Qualification, Responsibilities & Funding of the State Team**

#### *Section 1: Participation and Qualification*

Participation in the NHBN State Team Qualifying Tournament is open only to Members and Clubs in good standing within the New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation. Eligibility of individual Club member participants shall be determined by their respective Clubs.

If a participant was placed on the pairings for the S.T.Q.T. and does not complete both days of competition without a valid, verifiable reason will automatically forfeit their entry fee and is banded

from the following years S.T.Q.T. That individual will have seven (7) days from the first day of the S.T.Q.T. to submit, verbally or in writing to the Tournament Director or the B.A.S.S. Nation President, their reason for not showing up. The determination by the Director or President will be final.

At the meeting prior to the S.T.Q.T., each affiliated Club, through their Representative, will make known their participation level in the S.T.Q.T. The entry fee for the State Team Qualifying Tournament will be \$170.00 for Anglers and \$120.00 for co-anglers. Entry Fees along with a copy of required insurance will be collected at the meeting prior to the S.T.Q.T.

### *Section 2: The State Team and Funding*

If a member of the State Team does not fulfill his or her duties as a State Team Member they:

1. Will not be allowed to fish the S.T.Q.T. for one year.
2. Will not be allowed to fish the Eastern Regional Tournament.
3. Will be held accountable per the current signed state team contract.

Prior notification, to the State Team Captain and the President, of a good and reasonable situation, may allow the team member one exemption of his or her duties, but said team member must still have his/her work station covered by a member of his/her club. Any Club not fulfilling this requirement may be notified, after a majority vote of Club Representatives, that their "Club in Good Standing" status may be suspended for a period of one (1) year.

As an incentive for all participants on the NH State Team, the tournament team winnings awarded to them during the Eastern Regional will be divided as follows:

1. Twenty five percent (25%) of the tournament winnings will go the "general operating account" or "State Team account" for the following year. The Board of Directors will have discretion on where to use the funds.
2. Seventy five percent (75%) of the tournament winnings will be divided among the state team participants evenly. In the event that product only has been won by the state team, the team will have to wait until the product is either auctioned or sold in order to receive their winnings.
3. Any contingency money won by an angler due to the products they own will be one hundred percent (100%) allocated to the angler as well as the individual payouts.

In the event an angler qualifies for the Bassmaster Classic, N.H.B.N. will provide up to \$2,000.00 for the competitor based on the funds available in the Bassmaster Classic account. If the account has less than \$2,000, N.H.B.N. can provide an interest free loan from the operating account to the competitor for the balance. A promissory note will have to be signed by the angler to take advantage of the loan.

Any monies won by the competitor at the B.A.S.S. Nation National Championship and Bassmaster Classic will be 100% allocated to the angler.

Anglers competing in the Eastern Regional, National Championship, and Bassmaster Classic will be required to wear sponsor clothing as determined by the current contract commitments of N.H.B.N. In the event an angler chooses not to support N.H.B.N. in this manner, then all support to the anglers as outlined above will be voided.

The funding of the State Team and National Qualifiers will be based on a budget proposed by the President. Only Reasonable & Customary expenses should be taken into account when developing these general budgets; meaning that mileage, boat gas, hotels, launch fees, licenses,

etc should be based on what is reasonable & customary. Any additional funds needed beyond what is outlined in the budget are the responsibility of the individuals.

## **ARTICLE VII: State Team Qualifying Tournament**

### *Section 1: Site Selection*

Site selection will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director and the Board of Directors. Site selection will be made at the October meeting thereby allowing sufficient time to complete permit applications for Department of Fish and Game. The Tournament Committee is responsible for all tournament preparations, i.e. launching, over-night accommodations, scoreboard, public relations, and conducting the weigh in.

### *Section 2: Pre-Tournament Practice*

The tournament waters shall be off limits to all competitors starting:

1. Monday midnight prior to the first competition day.
2. There shall be no off limits period for STQT's held outside the state of New Hampshire.

The off limits dates can be obtained from your Club Rep. or by calling any board member. The competitor must know and observe these dates.

During the off limits period, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass unless that person is a fellow competitor in the tournament. A competitor may not be on the tournament water during the off limits period. Competitors may only travel on the tournament water (from other launches), before and after competition day launch & weigh-in.

### *Section 3: Tournament Rules*

The current Official Rules of Bass Angler's Sportsman's Society Nation Tournaments and the current N.H.B.N. Tournament Rules will serve as the Official Rules for the N.H.B.N. State Team Qualifying Tournament, as well as the rules for all sanctioned B.A.S.S. Nation Tournaments. In the event there is a conflict between these two sets of rules, the N.H.B.N. Tournament Rules shall take precedence. Proposed changes to of these tournament rules will be submitted by the Club Representatives at the January meeting, discussed at the February meeting, and voted on at the March Meeting. Proposed changes will be adopted by majority vote of the B.A.S.S. Nation Club Representatives and will be effect for the next B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament.

Club	Signature
Back Bay	
Forge Pond	
Granite State	
Grass Roots	
Lakes Region Bass Chasers	
Merrimack Valley Bass Club	
NEBA	
NH Basscasters	
NH Hawg Hunters	
NH Last Cast	
North Country	
Sail-em Bass	
Sunapee	
Upper Valley Weekend Warriors	