

**MASSACHUSETTS BASS FEDERATION INC.  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AS ACCEPTED FOR FISCAL 2009**

Last Revised January 2009

The MASSACHUSETTS BASS FEDERATION INC., composed of affiliated chapters of The Bass Federation (TBF), does hereby adopt the following Constitution and By Laws.

**ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION**

**SECTION 1: NAME**

This organization shall be called the MASSACHUSETTS BASS FEDERATION INC, also referred to as Mass Bass.

**SECTION 2: PURPOSE**

- A. To organize the affiliated TBF chapters of this state into a strong and effective federation.
- B. To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major participation sport.
- C. To preserve and further the sport of bass angling.
- D. To offer our state conservation departments our organized moral support and encouragement.
- E. To demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards.
- F. To encourage private and governmental study to restore and maintain top bass fishing for our children and ourselves.
- G. To promote and encourage Youth Fishing.
- H. To present a State Championship Bass Fishing Tournament. Leaders of this to compete in a Regional TBF Championship Tournament underwritten by TBF.
- I. Each club shall send a team to the State Championship supplied with boaters and non-boaters with the total not to exceed one half of the paid members in the club in good standing with the Federation and TBF at the April meeting. A club may not send more than 8 unless that clubs membership is more than 24 at the April meeting. A club of 30 may send a team of 10, a club of 36 may send 12 and a club of 42 may send 14. All dues must be paid at the April meeting. Clubs

may qualify additional members by holding extra Kids, Youth and other activities approved by the Federation Board of Directors.

J. The State Championship shall be scheduled no earlier than the month of June and no later than the month of September. Date and site to be voted by the Directors in June the year prior to the Championship. Chapters will leave this date off of their schedules.

k. All Mass Bass clubs will hold at least 3 tournaments, with not more than one tournament on the same site in any state in a calendar year or more than 6 on Massachusetts's waters between April and September.

L. Each Chapter shall conduct a Youth activity or an Environmental project (Adopt a Ramp or lake cleanup).

1. The time frame for a Youth Activity or Environmental Project or both shall be August 1st of the previous year to July 31st of the current year. In order to qualify for the Championship.

2. Documentation such as photographs, newspaper articles, etc. shall be submitted to either the Youth Director and/or the Conservation/Natural Resource Officer.

### **SECTION 3: DUES**

A. Funds for the support and maintenance of the Mass Bass Federation will be derived from membership dues from each chapter, and special projects to be sponsored by the Mass Bass. The Board of Directors shall establish the dues and amount and deadline date. Any assessment of the state chapters made by the Board of Directors shall require 30 days written notice. Additional dues can be paid at any time.

B. The price for dues for the following year shall be set by the November meeting.

C. Dues shall be collected starting at the November meeting.

D. All clubs must have dues paid for the minimum amount of members at the December meeting.

E. To be eligible for the State Championship in a club a member must have his dues paid for that club at the April Directors meeting.

### **SECTION 4: REMOVAL OF A CHAPTER FROM MASS BASS**

A. A Chapter may be considered for removal from the Federation for:

1. Any violation of Article II Sections 1 and 2 (Membership and dues requirements).

2. Any action by an affiliated chapter, which would disgrace or discredit the Mass Bass.

B. The Board of Directors shall vote on removing the chapter by secret written ballot and the decision will be based on a majority vote (2/3) with the vote of the chapter being considered for removal non-eligible to vote. In no cases shall dues be refunded to the removed chapter, unless there is a vote to refund the dues and it is passed by a 2/3-majority vote of the Directors.

C. A chapter that has been removed from MASS BASS due to attendance shall be removed for the balance of the year in question and will not be allowed to join the following year. Members of clubs removed for attendance shall not be allowed to fish that year unless they were previously in another club.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

TO BE A MASS BASS MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, A CHAPTER MUST:

A. Submit to the Federation Vice President and Secretary a complete typewritten list of all officers, members, chapter Director and Alternate, including name, address, phone number, and TBF membership ID number. This list must be 100% of the membership of the chapters. Club membership and dues must be paid for each member of the club regardless of whether or not the member fishes the MASS BASS Trail. Any violation of this paragraph will result in expulsion from MASS BASS. This list must be submitted at every November MASS BASS meeting and at any other time deemed necessary by the officers of MASS BASS. No Chapter shall hold more than six club Tournaments on Massachusetts's waters from April through and including September and that no Chapter shall conduct more than one Tournament on the same body of water during a calendar year in any state.

B. The chapter must not miss four regular Federation meeting during the calendar year or three consecutive monthly meetings during the same year. The MASS BASS Secretary will send a letter after a chapter has missed three meetings or two consecutive monthly meetings, notifying both the Director and President of the chapter of possible future membership violations and asking for a replacement for the Director.

C. No chapter shall hold a chapter tournament or event on the same site or during any off limits period of a MASS BASS event on that site. Chapter tournaments, in state or out of state and any functions may not be scheduled on dates of any MASS BASS Open, Point Trail, Championship, Pro-Am, Benefit Tournaments, and the MASS BASS Youth Tournament. The penalty to be imposed for violations of this by law shall be barring the chapter members of record for a period of one year of the infraction.

D. A chapter must have a minimum of 6 members.

E. Must abide by all TBF Chapter requirements. All members/clubs must have paid their TBF National Federation dues to the Mass Bass Federation no later than the time set by the Federation.

F. No Chapter shall hold an open tournament except those granted permission by Mass Bass..

G. To be eligible to fish the State Championship, a new chapter must have paid dues by the April meeting date or a date set no later than the December meeting date.

H. A new chapter must have 12 eligible members to fish the Championship or be known as an existing club for one-year prior. Must have dues paid no later than the April meeting. No Federation member that was on another clubs roster that was suspended from the Championship maybe added to a new clubs roster. That member is only eligible for the championship if he was on another clubs roster prior to the suspension.

I. The State Championship shall not be held on the same body of water two years in a row. Unless no other suitable site is available.

J. Individuals may be accepted as associate members. Associate members will join MASS BASS upon payment of the dues rate, and be subject to Board approval. Associate members will be allowed to fish the MASS BASS Trail Tournaments closed to the public, with the exception of the State Championship. Associate members shall have no vote nor attend MASS BASS meetings. The Board of Directors shall vote each year on whether to accept associate members during that fiscal year, and for which tournaments, other than the Championship, they shall be eligible.

K. All Mass Bass clubs will hold at least 3 tournaments, with not more than one tournament on the same site in any state in a calendar year or more than 6 on Massachusetts's waters between April and September.

## **ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mass Bass will be governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of a Director from each affiliated chapter, a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Conservation/Natural Resource Officer. In no case shall a Director represent more than one affiliated chapter.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Must be a member in good standing in an active affiliated chapter of Mass Bass and a paid up member of The Bass Federation (TBF).
- B. Must show an active interest in MASS BASS.
- C. Must not miss more than three regular MASS BASS meetings during the calendar year.
- D. Will be reimbursed for expenses incurred while on approved Federation business.
- E. The presiding officer shall only vote in the case of a tie.
- F. Must have been on the Board of Directors for at least one year or have assumed Office due to a vacancy.

## **SECTION 2: INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. PRESIDENT**

1. Shall be the sole spokesman for MASS BASS.
2. Must have served at least one year on the Board of Directors or held an office on the Board of Directors in MASS BASS for one year, or have assumed office due to a vacancy.
3. Shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors or special meetings of MASS BASS, direct all business, supervise all MASS BASS activities, and delegate such duties as may be necessary to better serve the Mass Bass.
4. Shall have the power to vote to break a tie vote by the Board or any committee vote. Shall also have the power to table in place of breaking the tie.
5. Shall appoint any special committee that he and the Directors feel necessary.
6. Shall review or assign person or persons to review the Travel Guide before it goes to press. The President will assure himself that the Travel Guide follows any guidelines stated in the Mass BASS By Laws.
7. Shall be the sole negotiator for the Federation for any contracts, sponsorships and advertisements for all Federation activities. Or shall appoint a person to negotiate for him. All contracts to be approved by vote of the Federation Directors.

### **B. VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Shall assist the President upon request, preside in the absence of the President, assume office of the President shall it be vacated.

2. Shall automatically be the Tournament Director or may appoint a Tournament Director for the Federation Trail. Will be allowed to spend up to \$300 for worker or workers per Trail Tournament. These funds will be derived from the Federation Trail and not from the Federation treasury. These workers will not fish and the Director will assign their duties..
3. Shall work with the President on any special committee.
4. Shall be responsible for organizing the State Championship tournament and shall find a 12 person paid Committee to help organize and run said tournament. No person running the tournament will be allowed to fish said tournament.

### **C. SECRETARY**

1. Shall record the minutes of all called and special MASS BASS meetings and distribute said minutes to each member of the Board of Directors, as well as keeping all Directors informed on any other correspondence.
2. Shall keep National TBF informed as to our activities.
3. Shall be responsible for keeping an up to date set of By Laws.
4. Shall be responsible for keeping a roster of all chapter members and roster of the current Board of Directors.

### **D. TREASURER**

1. Shall receive and disburse all moneys upon approval of the Directors, maintain accurate financial records, and present a current balance and a written itemized accounting of all income and expenses with copies available for each Director at every regular MASS BASS meeting.
2. Upon taking office, and within 30 days after, shall transfer all funds to a local bank of the Treasurer's choosing and have check signing cards signed by the MASS BASS President and Treasurer with all drawn checks requiring two signatures.
3. Shall be responsible for finding a CPA each year to audit all the books for the November audit by the state. However, permission must be received from the Directors before moneys are paid for the service. Shall be responsible for filing corporate status forms with the State (General Laws Section 26A Chapter 180 Annual Report)
4. Shall allow no funds to be dispensed in excess of \$100 without prior approval of the Board of Directors. No MASS BASS expenditure in excess of \$1,000 shall be made unless all chapters have been notified at least 30 days prior to the voting. No officer shall transfer

funds among the various funds reported by the Treasurer without a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

5. Shall have financial records in order for an annual audit to be conducted each year by a special committee of Directors.
6. Shall submit a proposed budget for the fiscal year at the September meeting. This budget must be approved by a majority of the Directors.

#### **E. Conservation/Natural Resource Officer**

1. Shall appoint an Environmental Committee.
2. Shall be the sole spokesperson concerning environmental and public access issues.
3. Shall report monthly to MASS BASS on activities.
4. Shall develop a network to report across the Commonwealth on activities of interest.
5. The Federation Board of Directors may appoint or elect 2 Conservation Directors to split the duties and responsibilities. They will be Co-Directors.

#### **F. Youth Director**

1. Shall be in charge of all Mass Bass youth activities, organize all casting kids, help with starting youth chapters and oversee the Mass Bass youth tournament. The board of directors may appoint or elect two (2) Youth Directors to split these duties and responsibilities.

### **SECTION 3: MANNER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Board of Directors shall annually elect, by secret written ballot, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Conservation/Natural Resource Officer of Mass Bass. The MASS BASS year shall be from November through October. Terms of office shall be one year. Nominations for offices shall take place in August and September for elections to be held in October. All nominations shall be closed 30 days prior to elections.

### **SECTION 4: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND INDIVIDUALS**

A. Any officer shall be considered for removal for any violation of Article IV, Sections 1, 2, and 3, as well as any act, which would dishonor or discredit Mass Bass. To be removed, the Board of Directors shall discuss and vote by secret written ballot with a 2/3-majority vote deciding the outcome.

## B. Removal of an individual from MASS BASS.

1. An individual may be considered for removal from MASS BASS for:

i) Any action by the individual, which would disgrace, discredit, or dishonor MASS BASS.

ii) Violations of any rules, By Laws, or any accepted practices of MASS BASS.

2. The Board of Directors of MASS BASS shall vote on removing the individual by secret ballot, and the decision will be based on a 2/3-majority vote. In no case shall any dues or fees be refunded to the individual or his chapter, unless specifically so voted by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors.

3. An individual, having been removed from MASS BASS cannot join any Mass BASS chapter until the second year following removal, and then only after approval by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors of Mass BASS being in favor of the re-admission.

## **SECTION 5: JACKETS**

Officers and Tournament Directors will receive jackets from the Federation indicating the office they hold and the number of years in office. Officers and Tournament Directors will also receive shirts from MASS BASS with their name and office held.

## **ARTICLE V: COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

### **SECTION 1: GENERAL GUIDELINES**

A. The Mass BASS President, with the approval of the Directors, shall appoint the three following standing committees, and any other special committees as may become necessary. Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be one year, or less, expiring at the following October meeting. Any member of the MASS BASS in good standing may serve on a committee, if appointed by the Board of Directors, to provide input for proposals to be considered by the Board of Directors at a regular federation meeting. Any proposal to be brought before the Board should be voted on by the chapter Directors only at the committee meeting prior to the regular MASS BASS meeting, and does not necessarily mean it will be passed at the regular MASS BASS meeting.

### **SECTION 2: BASIC STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **A. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

1. The Tournament Committee shall be elected with not more than one member representing each mother club. The purpose of this Committee is to establish, plan, organize and operate all MASS BASS trail tournaments. The Committee shall have

14 elected members and the Vice President as the Committee Chairman. The Committee's decision on all schedules and rules are final. All vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by an appointment by the President with approval of Directors. If less than 14 members are elected than the President shall appoint enough members to bring Committee to 14. To take effect in November 2001 if voted in-favor of by members.

2. Any individual who is employed during MASS BASS activities must be an active member of the Mass Bass in order to receive moneys from MASS BASS.

3. Tournament Committee Vacancies: If an elected tournament Committee position becomes vacant for any reason, the vacancy will be filled by an appointee of the MASS BASS President, approved by the Board of Directors as stated in the MASS BASS by-laws Article V, Sec. 1 (General Committee Guidelines). If a Tournament Committee member misses two meetings, he must be replaced.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

1. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Directors. 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 devices, to take political action where appropriate, to undertake informational and educational programs to bring to the public a greater awareness of threats to our environment, and above all to take leadership roles in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life giving waters of America.

## **C. YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

1. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and implement an annual state wide TBF Youth Week, to introduce young fisherman to the goals of TBF to give them a basis for respect for natural heritage, provide an appreciation to the basic rules of honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship, and to introduce them to the sheer joy of Bass Fishing.

## **D. State Championship Committee**

The President shall appoint 3 volunteers to assist the Vice President in planning and organizing the Federation State Championships. This Committee shall find 12 volunteers to run said Championship. These volunteers shall be paid a monetary fee to be determined by the Vice President and the three men Committee and must be approved by the Federation Board of Directors.

## **SECTION 3: SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

1. Special committees may be formed by the President and Directors but only for closely defined purposes, and in no case may tenure of a special committee exceed one year from date of appointment, and expires by the following October meeting. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees.

## **ARTICLE VI: OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Under no circumstances may MASS BASS accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations, or government agencies, if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the goals of MASS BASS.

## **ARTICLE VII: REGIONAL CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Rules, regulations and the direction of the Regional Chapter Championships shall be administered by the Regional B.A.S.S. Tournament Committee. The President or elected representatives of the Mass Bass shall be responsible for reporting the progress of regional tournament committee decisions. In the event that Massachusetts shall host a Regional Chapter Championship, the President or representative of Mass Bass on the Regional Tournament Committee shall keep all financial records and moneys separate from the Mass Bass treasury.

It shall be this representative's responsibility to report all financial records and tournament progress to the Board of Directors of Mass Bass. The decision of hosting the Regional Chapter Championships shall be decided by the Board of Directors of Mass Bass.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

The Board of Directors will be convened at least monthly to conduct the business of MASS BASS. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the President. In order to hold a MASS BASS meeting a quorum of at least 1/3 of the chapters must be in attendance.

## **ARTICLE IX: VOTING**

1. Only Chapter Directors may be entitled to vote on all matters before the Board, the President voting only in case of a tie. All dues must be paid up to date in order to have a voting voice at MASS BASS meetings.

2. Voting shall be based on a per capita system. Each Director representing the members of their chapter shall be entitled to have one vote on voting requiring immediate attention. On matters brought back to the chapters for approval, it shall be to each chapters own discretion on how to use their member votes shall members be absent or shall they not vote with the majority of their own chapter or shall they abstain.

3. On all votes requiring 2/3 vote or 80% votes, etc. Only votes cast yes or no will be counted towards the % required to pass or fail. No abstaining votes will be counted.

## **ARTICLE X: BY LAW CHANGES**

1. By Law changes will be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors during the months of July, August, and September, to be voted on during the regular October Meeting. (Note: This is to accommodate new Directors elected in their positions in November).
2. Any club that wants to submit a By Law change or submit a new By Law must do so on a form supplied by Mass Bass. The form is included in Appendix A, and is titled "MASS BASS By Law Proposed Change/ By Law Proposed Addition" or "By Law Proposal Form".
3. Every proposed By Law change or proposed new By Law must be on the By Law Proposal Form, one change or one new By Law per form. When submitted to MASS BASS, there must be enough copies so every MASS BASS club can receive a copy.
4. Any of these By Laws may be suspended by an 80% vote of the Directors.
5. Any business or questions arising and not covered within the above Constitution and By Laws shall be determined by "Robert's Rules of Procedures". Interpretation of these By Laws shall be by 75% majority vote of the Directors. Final Authority of interpretation of these By Laws shall rest with TBF

## **Article XI Tournament Rules**

The tournament rules shall be part of the bylaws. But may only be changed by the Tournament Committee per Article 5, Section 2, A. Tournament Committee #1.