

MASSACHUSETTS BASS FEDERATION INC. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AS ACCEPTED for 2024

Last Revised November 2024

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 may send a team to the State Championship, consisting of boaters and non-boaters in the club in good standing with the Federation and TBF.

J. The State Championship will be held on a day that will allow the Federation to use the site chosen by clubs. This date will be adjusted every year. This Tournament can be adjusted to weekdays when the body of water dictates that. The site will be voted on by the Directors. That vote will be in the month of June, the year prior to the Championship. Chapters will leave this date off of their schedules.

K. All Mass Bass clubs may hold tournaments, with not more than one tournament on the same site in Massachusetts in a calendar year.

L. All Clubs will provide a number of boats for the Mass Bass Federation Youth Tournaments. That number will be 4 boats for all clubs with 8 members or more and 3 for all clubs with 6 or 7 members. Only exemptions from this must be approved by the Massachusetts Bass Federation Youth Director and approved by the Massachusetts Bass Federation Board of Directors.

M. Any National Semi-final participant, that is the winner of that Tournament in either the Boater or the Co-Angler category, but who has not participated in the Massachusetts State Championship Fish-offs SHALL NOT RECEIVE ANY FEDERATION FUNDING towards their National Championship efforts.

SECTION 3: DUES

A. Funds for the support and maintenance of the Massachusetts 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 October meeting.

D. All clubs must have dues paid for the minimum number of members (6) at the December meeting.

E. To be eligible for the State Championship in a club, a member must have his MLF/TBF/Federation dues paid for that club, by the end of 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 case 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. Club membership and dues must be paid for each member of the club regardless of whether the member fishes the MASS BASS Trail. Any violation of this paragraph will result in expulsion from MASS BASS.

B. The chapter must not miss four regular Federation meetings or Zoom meetings during the calendar year or three consecutive monthly meetings during the same year. The MASS BASS Secretary will send a correspondence (email or mail) 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 date, site, or during any Mass Bass Trail or Championship off limits period.

D. No chapter or Federation member shall be on the body of water, on the day of a Mass Bass Federation Youth tournament, **Team Trail, National Semi-Final, or State Championship event unless that member is participating in the event or unless prior approval by BOD's.** Clubs may hold tournaments on the day of a Youth tournament but on a different body of water.

E. The penalty to be imposed for violations of this by law shall be barring the chapter member or members of record for a period of one year of the infraction.

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

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

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

I. To be eligible to fish the State Championship, a new chapter must have paid dues by July 1st, or a date set no later than the December meeting date.

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 an associate member during that fiscal year, and for which tournaments, other than the Championship, they shall be eligible.

K. The Federation Team Trail shall be held on the third Sunday of the month from April to August. Any deviation from this need's prior approval from the Board of Directors.

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 Environmental 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) / MLF

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 of the Committee vote.
Example VP for Tournament Committee, Treasurer for Finance Committee.

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
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.
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 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.
7. Shall be responsible for organizing the State Championship tournament and shall find a paid Committee to help organize and run said tournament. No person running the tournament will be allowed to fish said tournament.

B. VICE PRESIDENT

1. Shall assist the President upon request, preside in the absence of the President, Will 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.
3. Shall work with the President on any special committee.

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.

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 money is 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 \$500 without prior approval of the Board of Directors. No MASS BASS expenditure in excess of \$1,000 shall be made unless previously voted by Board of Directors. 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.

E. Environmental Resource Officer

1. May 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 oversee all Mass Bass youth activities, organize, 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.

1. 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 of those Directors present. 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.

2. 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 those present of the Board of Directors of Mass BASS being in favor of the re-admission.

SECTION 5: JACKETS

Officers may receive jackets from the Federation indicating the office they hold as deemed necessary by Federation President.

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 Committee members 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 for the Team Trail shall be elected. The purpose of this Committee is to establish, plan, organize and operate all MASS BASS trail tournaments. The Committee shall have not less than 6 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 may be filled by an appointment by the President with approval of Directors.

2. Any individual who is employed during MASS BASS activities must be an active Member of the Mass Bass in order to receive money 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 may 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 may appoint 3 volunteers to assist the President in planning and organizing the Federation State Championships. This Committee shall find ~~4~~ 2 volunteers to run said Championship. These volunteers shall be paid a monetary fee to be determined by the President and the three men Committee and must be approved by the Federation Board of Directors.

SECTION 3: SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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 Divisional Championships shall be administered by TBF. 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. Meetings can be in person or Zoom meetings.

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 by each Director representing the members of their chapter and 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 chapter's 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.

6. The by-laws may be amended by a Federation By-law committee appointed for that reason. The Committee must get two thirds of the Directors present at the meeting to approve the changes to the by-laws.

Article XI Tournament Rules

1. All of the Federation tournament rules shall align with TBF, NSF and State Championship rules. The Federation Team Trail may have a variation of these for Team events.
2. The Junior and High School Tournament dates will be set by the Youth Director with approval by the Board of Directors.

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Massachusetts Bass Federation

By-Law Change or Addition Form

Submitted Date_____

Club_____

Article/Section to be Changed or Deleted:

New or By-Law Change (Article/Section):

Reason for By-Law Change: