

MAINE B.A.S.S. NATION BY-LAWS

Amendments

As of September 1997; Amended as of April 14th, 2005; Amended as of January 11, 2007; Amended as of July 16, 2009; Amended as of March 10, 2011; Amended as of December 18, 2011; Amended as of May 10, 2012; Amended as of July 11, 2013; Amended as of July 10, 2014; Amended as of March 11, 2022; Amended as of May 10, 2023.

I. Mission Statement

The mission of this corporation (Maine B.A.S.S. Nation (MBN)) is to promote the sport of bass fishing within the State of Maine in accordance with the goals and purpose of the parent organization known as the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.). The MBN without bias will always put its members first with regards to decisions made by its Board of Directors.

II. Members and Meetings of Members

- A. The members are the local fishing clubs who affiliate with the MBN in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and are in good standing.
- B. Individual members of the MBN must first be members in good standing with the B.A.S.S., must maintain membership in good standing of the MBN and must be a member in good standing of a local fishing club which has affiliated with the MBN.
- C. MBN meetings shall be held monthly or as agreed upon by the board of delegates (see below for definition of board of delegates).
- D. The members may have additional meetings as necessary, called at the discretion of the board of delegates.

III. Board of Delegates

- A. The MBN will be governed by a board of delegates composed of each club president, and one (1) delegate selected by each member club.
- B. Each member club of the MBN is expected to send a minimum of one (1) of its members to each MBN meeting to serve on the board of delegates. Each club is entitled to only one (1) vote.
- C. The board of delegates shall conduct the business of the MBN. It is the duty of a delegate to convey the business of the member club that he/she represents to the board of delegates, and in turn, relay the business of the board of delegates to his club's members.
- D. The board of delegates shall hold a minimum of one (1) president meeting annually consisting of the presidents or their representative of member clubs, which will be held directly before a monthly MBN meeting. As needed, additional meetings may be called, however additional meetings will require the approval of the executive board.

IV. Elections of Officers

- A. The board of delegates shall Bi-annually elect, by secret ballot, the office positions of President and Secretary, and Vice-President and Treasurer in alternating years.

- B. At the September meeting of the board of delegates, the delegates shall nominate from their peers, individuals to fill officer positions needed for the subsequent term.
- C. At the October meeting, additional nominations may be taken for officer positions. Once nominations have closed, elections for the officer positions will be made. The officers elected at the October meeting shall assume office at the January meeting.
- D. The months of November and December shall be used as a transition period whereby the existing outgoing officers shall complete any year end business and the incumbent officers shall coordinate with existing officers of any outstanding or ongoing/future business to ensure a smooth transition.
- E. Except for the offices of President and Treasurer, two individuals from the same member club may be considered for any office in the MBN.
- F. The newly elected president shall appoint, at the start of his term, from the ranks of the member clubs as needed, Directors for Conservation, Tournament, Youth, Public Relations, and any other Special positions.

V. Officers, Appointed Directors, and Duties

- A. Elected Officers of the MBN shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. Appointed Directors (by President) of the MBN shall be Conservation, Tournament, Youth and Public Relations.
- C. Eligibility for office: Member shall be in good standing with the B.A.S.S., be a MBN member and belong to an active member club in the MBN.
- D. Terms of office: Officers will be installed at the January meeting and serve for two years, or such additional time as necessary for a successor to be installed. The office of the President and Secretary will expire upon completion of even numbered years while the offices of the Vice President and Treasurer will expire upon completion of odd numbered years. Directors will serve the same term as the President who selected them.
- E. A stipend of \$500 shall be paid to each of the four officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. A stipend of \$500 shall be offered to the Directors; Tournament, Conservation, Youth and Public Relations.
- F. Removal of an Officer or Director: Any officer or Director may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the board of delegates upon a 30-day prior notice.
- G. Duties of Elected Officer Positions: It is the expectation that all elected officers regularly attend all meetings.
 - 1. President: Presides over all the meetings of the board of delegates or special meetings of the MBN; directs all official business; supervises all MBN activities; appoint and be an ex-officio member of standing and special committees; be the official representative of the MBN to other organizations: delegate such duties as may be appropriate. Maintain corporate documents, insurance documents and other legal documents.
 - 2. Vice-President: Assists the president upon request. Preside in the absence of the president. Assumes office of president should it be vacated.
 - 3. Secretary: Records minutes of all MBN meetings, distributes minutes to delegates; and calls meetings of the board of delegates. Specific requirements include:
 - Records attendance at each meeting.
 - Monitors attendance of clubs in accordance with attendance requirements.

- Maintains club membership information such as officers, members, and contact information.
 - Monitors and assists the president with corporate filings, insurance filings and other legal documents.
4. Treasurer: Receives and disburses moneys upon approval of the board of delegates; maintains accurate financial records and presents a current balance at each regular board of delegates meeting. Reimburses members submitting eligible expenses.
- H. Duties of Appointed Directors.
1. Tournament Director: Chairs the tournament committee and oversees MBN sanctioned tournaments.
 2. Conservation Director: Chairs the Conservation committee. Serves as liaison between the MBN and state and national conservation/environmental agencies. Attends local and state conservation meetings/hearings. Plans MBN conservation projects and submits proposal and budget to membership for approval. Appoints members of the Conservation Committee and prepares report on conservation project if required.
 3. Youth Director: Chairs the Youth Committee. Organizes all youth activities of the MBN. Coordinates, manages, and assists junior clubs and members. Submit proposal and budget for youth activities and programs to membership for approval. Appoints members of the Youth Committee and prepares report on youth projects if required.
 4. Public Relations Director: Chairs the Public Relations committee. Serves as a liaison between MBN and media. Appoint members of the Public Relations Committee.
- I. Officers and Directors shall conduct the affairs of the MBN in a manner consistent with these Bylaws. MBN Officers and Directors shall be comprised of members who are free to serve the MBN and its members without a conflict of interest. MBN Officers and Directors are not permitted to hold positions within any other organization that is not affiliated with B.A.S.S.
- J. Executive Board: Consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

VI. Standing Committees and Duties

The President shall appoint as needed; the committees as may be necessary. Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be for such duration as deemed needed by the President to facilitate the desires of the board of delegates. To be eligible for appointment, candidates must be a member in good standing with the B.A.S.S. and of a member club affiliated with the MBN.

- A. Conservation Committee: Chaired by the Conservation Director. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board of delegates. The purpose of this committee shall be to advocate for the protection of our natural resources. This includes but is not limited to the following:
 1. Keeping informed of newly introduced legislative bills that may impact fishing, water quality or our organization.
 2. Being prepared to take political action where appropriate.

3. Document and report to the proper authorities' violations of local, state, and federal water quality and environmental laws and regulations.
 4. Promote and conduct informational and educational programs that bring greater awareness of the threats to our environment.
 5. Be responsible for overseeing and supporting when able, conservation projects conducted by MBN Clubs.
 6. When directed to do so, shall work to form partnerships on a state-wide level with likeminded conservation organizations and groups.
- B. Tournament Committee: Chaired by the Tournament Director. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board of delegates. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and operate the annual state chapter championship tournament(s), which will determine eligibility to enter the B.A.S.S. national divisional championship to select sites, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, establish awards, rule with final authority on proper conduct, procedures, qualifications, and other conduct of an annual MBN Championship Tournament. Provided however, that all such state chapter championship tournaments will be conducted within the spirit and the letter of current national tournament rules of the B.A.S.S. It will be the primary duty of the tournament committee to conduct its affairs so that honor, integrity, sportsmanship, and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it and thus to each member of the B.A.S.S. and the MBN.
- C. Youth Committee: Chaired by the Youth Director. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board of delegates. The purpose of this committee shall be to introduce youth to the goals of the B.A.S.S. and to give them a basis for the respect of our natural heritage, basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play & good sportsmanship. Coordinate activities with each youth division.
- D. Public Relations Committee: Chaired by the Public Relations Director. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the board of delegates. The purpose of this committee shall be to inform the state legislature, public, media and fishing related organizations of the MBN's activities, events, and causes. MBN
- E. Arbitration Board: (Special Committee) This board will be convened for the sole purpose of revisiting a ruling which the complainant disagrees with. The term of this board is unique, as it will exist only for the duration required to act on the issues at hand.
1. The number of members to serve on this board will be a minimum of three (3). In no case shall the board be comprised of persons directly involved with the complaint.
 2. The members of the board of delegates will include one (1) elected officer and as a minimum, two (2) delegates.
- F. Special Committees: Special committees may be formed by the board, but only for the defined purpose formed, and in no way may the tenure of a special committee exceed two (2) years from the date of appointment. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees or the Arbitration board.

VII. General Rules

- A. Funds for the support and maintenance of the MBN are derived from the original funding from B.A.S.S., and from special projects to be sponsored by the MBN. Decisions to assess member clubs for dues may be made by the board after a 30-day written notice to the Nation membership. Under no circumstance may the MBN accept monetary assistance from individuals, business, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is prima fascia evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goal of the MBN. Dues are to be listed and any increase presented one year in advance of the annual October meeting due date.
- B. Final authority for the interpretation of these bylaws shall rest with the B.A.S.S.
- C. By-Laws can be changed at any board meeting if written notice has been given a minimum of 55 days in advance. Ideally the by-law change will have been type written, presented, and discussed at a board meeting, discussed again at the next board meeting and only then, voted on at the following meeting. Standing rules can be changed by a majority vote of the delegates present during a monthly MBN business meeting. Whether By-Laws or Standing Rules, all changes will reflect the organizations future operations only. Changes will not in any way, be used to alleviate an individual, club, or the organization from fulfillment of responsibilities in place prior to the change.
- D. Treasury:
 - 1. An audit may be conducted at the discretion of the incumbent Treasurer. If an audit is conducted, it will be presented to the board of delegates at its December meeting (or immediate monthly meeting thereafter). The yearly budget shall be presented to the delegates at the January meeting by department and/or committee and/or office in line-item form.
 - 2. No moneys shall be reimbursed without an expense report and submitting said report through the appropriate committee/department/office chairperson. The President of the MBN must then approve reimbursement.
- E. Protests, Complaints or Conflicts
 - 1. Protests, Complaints or Conflicts shall initially be filed with the members club. If not resolved;

then
 - 2. Protests, Complaints or Conflicts shall be filed in writing (letter, email, or text if it is reproduceable) to the Executive Board.
 - 3. The Executive Board shall review the protest, complaint or conflict and assign it to an appropriate Committee within two (2) weeks of receipt.
 - 4. Upon receipt, the committee shall convene within two (2) weeks of receipt and deliberate the protest, complaint or conflict as needed. Within four (4) weeks of convening, the committee shall make a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding the protest, complaint or conflict in writing. The Executive Board will review the recommendation and either agree to uphold the recommendation or reject the recommendation within two (2) weeks of receipt of the recommendation. The Executive Board shall immediately present its recommendation to the President who will present it at the next scheduled delegates meeting.

5. The delegates will vote to accept or reject the recommendation of the Executive Board.
 6. If the complainant disagrees with the recommendation of the Executive Board and delegates, they may file for an arbitration hearing to reconsider the recommendation.
 7. The recommendation of the Arbitration Board will be final and binding.
- F. Removal of Members or Clubs: The potential removal of any member or club from the MBN will be the responsibility of and deliberated by the arbitration board. The Arbitration Board will present its recommendation for or against removal at a regular delegates meeting who will vote on the recommendation. A 2/3 majority vote of the delegates present is required to approve the recommendation of the arbitration board. Grounds for removal may include but not be limited to:
1. Failure to pay dues.
 2. Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on the MBN and/or B.A.S.S., as defined by B.A.S.S. code of conduct and MBN tournament rules.
 3. Failure of a club to attend 75% of the MBN meetings during a 12-month period.
 4. Disqualification for any reason from participating in B.A.S.S. sponsored events.
 5. Poor sportsmanship or conduct.
 6. Any person or persons caught cheating in any MBN or MBN affiliated club tournament shall be disqualified from all future MBN and MBN affiliated club tournaments for life. Cheating will be defined as any fraudulent action that will increase a person's standing in a tournament, such as bagging, stringing and caging of fish, snagging fish, fishing before legal tournament hours, transporting fish from a different lake, weighing in fish not caught by the individual/team or any other fraudulent act.
 7. For fairness to all parties, the accused and accuser(s) will be afforded the opportunity to present their cases to the Arbitration Board.
- G. These by-laws and standing rules shall not be amended or otherwise altered without the express written consent of the MBN.

Exhibit A: Members

There shall be one class of members. A member shall be a local fishing club, which desires to affiliate and does affiliate with the MBN. The qualifications for membership of a said local fishing club shall be as follows:

- A. The club must participate in 75% of all MBN meetings to be considered in good standing. MBN meeting attendance will mean a minimum of at least one Nation registered individual club member will be present and sign in at the board of delegates meetings. If a club fails to participate in 75% of MBN board of delegates meetings, the club in violation will forfeit state fish-off rights for one year. Attendance criteria for the state fish-off will be based on July to July.
- B. At the October meeting each member club must pay an association fee (nonrefundable) to the MBN. The amount of said fee shall be determined by the MBN's board of delegates. Member clubs not paying their fees shall not be allowed to participate in the business decisions of the MBN until such fees are paid. After the completion of the October

Meeting, members and clubs not affiliated will have to re submit membership applications to the MBN.

- C. The MBN qualifies its divisional teams in the calendar year prior to the B.A.S.S. Nations Divisional tournament and any lapse in membership will disqualify the individual members of the club in violation from the current year's State Team.
- D. The club must keep an updated roster and inform the MBN of any changes in the club officers.
- E. New clubs may submit and affiliate with the MBN while their membership until their membership has been reviewed and approved by the B.A.S.S. They will, however, have no voting rights nor fish off privileges until their charter has been approved by the B.A.S.S. and confirmed to the MBN.
- F. Club members should be willing to serve on standing and other committees of the MBN.
- G. Clubs are encouraged to form a junior chapter.
- H. To maintain affiliate status with the MBN, each member club will elect or appoint a Conservation Chairman. The name of the Conservation Chairman must be submitted to the MBN with each year's roster.
- I. Each club in good standing will be able to send team/individuals to participate in the state fish-off. Each member of said team must also be in good standing.
- J. Members in more than one club must declare their "primary club" by the dues collection date for the next years dues and rosters are submitted.
 - 1. Members changing their "primary club" must notify in writing (letter, email or text is acceptable communication as long as it can be produced if requested); current club, new club, MBN.
 - 2. Current club must; delete the member from their roster as soon as the roster management system allows (presently after 12/1).
 - 3. New club must; collect following years from member, submit state dues by the collection date, submit national dues as soon as roster management system allows following the deletion from prior club (currently after 12/1).
- K. Member changing clubs in this manner will not have their membership considered to have lapsed for purposes of qualifications to state team if the new club has submitted their dues before 1/1 of the next year.

Exhibit B. Voting Rights of Member Clubs

- A. Each member club in good standing with the MBN shall have present at delegate meetings, 1 person, to serve on the board of Delegates. In addition, with respect to all other action taken by the members, the one delegate in attendance from each club shall have one vote should a roll call vote be solicited.
- B. Member clubs are encouraged to send as many members as desired to each MBN board of delegates meeting. However, each member club delegate in attendance is entitled to one vote. An exception would be the president who only votes in the case of a tie. No proxy voting will be permitted.
- C. A majority of the board (member clubs) in attendance constitutes a quorum and action at a meeting is authorized by a majority of those delegates present where a quorum exists.

Exhibit C. Standing Rules of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation

- A. Smoking is not allowed at MBN meetings. Drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of intoxicants or other illegal drugs will not be allowed at MBN meetings or tournaments.
- B. Clubs must provide a minimum of two (2) business card ads or equivalent fee each year prior to publication of the "Guide". Clubs not fulfilling this requirement will forfeit fish-off rights for that year.
- C. It is the expectation of the MBN that each member club will hold/participate in at least one youth activity annually.
- D. It is the expectation of the MBN that each member club will hold/participate in at least one conservation activity annually.
- E. A stipend of \$500 shall be paid to each of the four officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and treasurer. A stipend of \$500 shall be paid to the Youth Director, Conservation Director, Public Relations Director and to the Tournament Director.
- F. Each Junior Bassmaster chapter sending members to the Junior Bassmaster State Championship is responsible for providing enough boaters for all its members participating in the tournament.