

ONTARIO B.A.S.S. NATION BYLAWS



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ONTARIO B.A.S.S. NATION

B Y L A W S

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ONTARIO B.A.S.S. NATION

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: Introduction

Section 1. Purpose and Powers The Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation, hereinafter referred to as the Nation, consisting of affiliated B.A.S.S. Chapters, of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, also known as the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society Nation, shall have the purposes and powers as may be stated in its bylaws, and such powers as are now or may be granted by law. Additional purposes and objectives are:

- (1) To serve as an organization in which the individual B.A.S.S. Chapters in the Province of Ontario and other provinces (until they can form their own Nations) and affiliated with Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) may unite to the benefit of their common interests and causes;
- (2) To promote and support approved conservation policies, practices and measures, preservation of aquatic resources and improvement of ecological and environmental conditions on regional, provincial and local levels;
- (3) To promote the practice of high standards of sportsmanship and conservation measures by the membership;
- (4) To provide the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources organized moral, political and material support and encouragement;
- (5) To preserve and promote the sport of bass angling by promoting the improvement of bass angling skills in the membership through fellowship and the friendly exchange of techniques and ideas and active involvement in conservation and political issues;
- (6) To encourage youth fishing, promote the conduct of youth fishing activities by the Nation's Chapters and, within budgetary allocations, provide funding and material assistance in the implementation of approved youth activities;
- (7) To promote, organize and conduct an annual Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament to determine the members of a Team to represent the Province of Ontario at any Divisional or National B.A.S.S. sponsored Chapter Nation Tournaments, and to hold any other Tournaments deemed necessary by the Nation for the purposes of selection, fundraising or any other reason the Board of Directors deems necessary;
- (8) To provide, within budgetary limitations, funding for the Nation Team's participation in B.A.S.S. sponsored Divisional and National Tournaments as may be required; and
- (9) To promote, assist and facilitate the formation of additional bass clubs to become affiliated with B.A.S.S. and the Nation.

ARTICLE II: Location of Nation

Section 1. Geographical The Nation shall consist of those qualified B.A.S.S. Nation Chapters, hereinafter referred to as Chapters, located within the Province of Ontario, and other provinces (until the other Provinces can form their own Nations).

Section 2. Principle Office The principal office and business address of this organization shall be the same as that of the Nation's President.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. Definition of Membership The members of this Nation are those persons and organizations having membership rights in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. A member must be in good standing on June 30th of the same year as the OBN Provincial Qualifier in order to participate.

Section 2. Categories of Membership This Nation shall have two categories of membership:

- (1) Individual - Persons who are members in good standing of B.A.S.S. and who are also members in good standing of bass chapter affiliates of this Nation; and
- (2) Organizational - Chapters in the Province of Ontario and other provinces (until they can form their own Nations), affiliated with both B.A.S.S. and this Nation.

Section 3. Affiliation Membership in this Nation shall be acquired by Chapters that meet the following prerequisites:

- (1) 100% of the Chapter's individual membership shall be members in good standing with B.A.S.S.;
- (2) Individual membership in the Chapter shall consist of six (6) or more members;
- (3) The Chapter's office of record shall be in specified in Article III, ss. 2(2);
- (4) The Chapter shall be affiliated with B.A.S.S.; and
- (5) Upon application for affiliation, the Chapter provides the Nation with a current membership roster, including names and addresses, and the name, address and phone number of the Chapter's designee for Board of Directors.

Section 4. Continuation Chapter affiliation shall be on a continuing basis provided:

- (1) Each Chapter maintains current it's affiliation with B.A.S.S.;
- (2) Each Chapter maintains current it's dues, assessments and fines to the Nation;
- (3) Each Chapter maintains it's individual membership at six (6) or more;
- (4) Each Chapter maintains current the names and addresses of its members and its Officers with the Nation.
- (5) Each Chapter submits the results and plans for a Youth or Community Service Project and a Conservation Project. This submittal is to be in a prescribed format, submitted annually to the Nation Secretary, at the Annual General Meeting. This submittal shall be called an **Affiliation Letter**; and
- (6) Each Chapter maintains a fiscal year ending in October at which time Chapter elections are held and dues collected including the current Nation dues remitted to B.A.S.S. by December 31st. (See appendix IV – Fee Schedule) The new Chapter Representative to the Nation Board of Directors will attend the Annual General Meeting in November.

Section 5. Dues and Assessments

- (1) The decision to implement Nation dues or a chapter assessment, and their amount, shall be that of the Board of Directors.
- (2) Written notice of intent to implement dues or an assessment, and their amount, must be given to all member Chapters at least (30) days in advance of the scheduled Nation meeting in which the vote is to be taken.
- (3) A decision to implement must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors present, or represented, at the meeting where the decision is to be made.
- (4) Dues or Chapter assessments shall be due and payable to the Nation Treasurer by, and no later than, the regularly scheduled Annual General Meeting.
- (5) Dues for members joining after the regularly scheduled Annual General Meeting shall not be pro-rated and are payable to the Nation / Treasurer within thirty (30) days.
- (6) A Chapter assessment has been implemented, per Chapter member, as at the B.A.S.S. roster on August 31st of each year. (See Appendix IV – Current Fees) This amount may, or may not, be passed on to the Chapter membership for resolution. The assessment should not be confused with Chapter member B.A.S.S. Nation dues. The Nation assessment is an annual levy payable by the Chapter, to the Nation, to assist with the Nation’s operating expenses.

Section 6. Withdrawal from Membership Any B.A.S.S. Nation Chapter may withdraw from membership, after fulfilling all of its obligations to the Nation, by giving notice, preferably in writing, to the Nation Secretary, and at least one (1) other Nation Executive Member.

Section 7. Forfeiture of Membership

- (1) Any Chapter in violation of Article III, Section 4, may be dropped from membership.
- (2) Any Chapter may be removed from membership, for reasons stated above, and for cause, by a 2/3 majority vote, with a quorum present, of the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever the Board, in it’s judgment, considers such action to be in the best interests of the Nation.
- (3) Individual membership in the Nation is forfeited concurrent with the cessation of the individual's Chapter membership in the Nation.
- (4) Individuals may be denied participation in Nation sponsored activities by a 2/3 majority vote, with quorum present, of the Board of Directors for cause, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever the Board, in it’s judgment, considers such action to be in the best interests of the Nation. For flagrant reasons, the Board may recommend removal of the individual from Chapter membership. Affirmation action shall remove the individual from membership in the Nation.

Section 8. Reinstatement of Membership

- (1) Membership in this Nation that was terminated by withdrawal action may be reinstated by showing compliance with the prerequisites set forth in Section 3 of this Article III, by adhering to representation requirements outlined in Article IV and by making current any and all dues, assessments and fines.
- (2) Membership that was terminated under Section 7, this Article III, may be reinstated by showing compliance with Section 3, this Article III, and by a 2/3 majority vote, with a quorum present, of the Board.

Section 9. Rights and Privileges

- (1) The Chapters and their membership comprise the Nation. As members of this Nation, each member is entitled to all rights and privileges, and subject to all obligations to which membership in the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society/National B.A.S.S. Nation implies.
- (2) Without limiting such rights and obligations, individual rights and obligations shall include:
 - (a) eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in this Nation;
 - (b) the right to participate in Nation sponsored activities for which they are eligible; and
 - (c) such other rights as may be conferred by the Board; provided the individual maintains;
 - (d) current their membership in an affiliated Chapter of this Nation;
 - (e) active participation in Nation activities; and
 - (f) a conduct reflecting a favourable image on the Chapter and Nation, within the community.
- (3) Each Chapter shall have representation on the Board, with
 - (a) the right to vote, through their Board's Representative, on all matters pertaining to the operation of the Nation;
 - (b) the right to participate in Nation sponsored activities for which they are eligible; and
 - (c) such other rights as may be conferred by the Board of Directors provided the Chapter maintains
 - (d) affiliation with this Nation;
 - (e) active participation and support of Nation projects & activities;
 - (f) and a level of conduct and sportsmanship among its members that imparts a favourable image on the Chapter and Nation, within the community.

Section 10. Non-discrimination There shall be no discrimination in membership or participation in the activities of the Nation by reason of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, or disability.

ARTICLE IV: Board of Directors

Section 1. General The business management and affairs of the Nation shall be under the direction and control of the Board of Directors, who shall have the authority to authorize contracts, incur liabilities, expend funds, approve the sale and exchange of organizational property, and attend to such other matters connected with the conduct of the Nation, as, from time to time, it may determine. The Officers of the Nation and elected Representatives of the affiliated Chapters shall constitute the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is required to be comprised of members who are free to serve the Nation and its members without a conflict of interest. As stipulated by B.A.S.S., Board Members and Officers are not permitted to hold positions within any other B.A.S.S. Nation-type organization that is not affiliated with B.A.S.S.

Section 2. Chapter Representation Each Chapter of this Nation, which is in good standing with, and maintains active its affiliate status with this Nation, shall have a member who shall serve as a Director on the Nation's Board of Directors. Such director shall:

- (1) Be an elected Official of the Chapter he or she represents, or be elected by the Chapter membership specifically for the Director position;
- (2) Represent the membership of their Chapter and convey the business of that membership to the Board, and in turn, relay the business of the Board to their Chapter members;
- (3) Hold office for one (1) year and thereafter until their respective successors shall be elected and shall qualify;
- (4) Chapter elections are to be conducted in October in order that the new representative will attend the Annual General Meeting to form the new Board of Directors.
- (5) Chapters may also elect Alternate Directors who meet the requirements of Director. The Chapter's Alternate Director may represent the Chapter at Board meetings in the absence of the Director.
 - (a) Alternate Directors may be appointed to fill unexpired terms of Office of Chapter Directors, should the Director's position be vacated for any reason.
- (6) Chapter representation shall include the requirement that Chapters shall maintain current the name and address of their Director, and Alternate Director, with the Nation. Should a change in the Director occur, the change shall be reported to the Nation President and Secretary prior to the next scheduled Board meeting.

Section 3. Removal From Office The Board of Directors shall have the right at any time to remove any Director from office, for cause, by a majority vote, with a quorum present, of the Board, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgement, the Board considers such action to be in the best interests of the Nation. Cause shall be construed to include failure to attend regularly scheduled meetings.

Section 4. Meetings Four (4) regular meetings of the Board shall be held during the fiscal year (FY) on such dates, at such a place and at such a starting time as shall be coordinated and determined by the President. Additional and/or special meetings will be held at the discretion of the President, or as referred to in Article IV, Section 5. The locations, dates, and starting times for the regular meetings of the succeeding Fiscal Year shall be announced by the President during the last meeting for the current Fiscal Year.

Section 5. Special Meetings Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President, by a majority of the Officers, or by a majority of the Board. Determining a majority of the Board of Directors shall be accomplished by a telephone or electronic media survey conducted by any member of the Board or Executive. Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given in writing, personally, electronic media, or by mail, to each Director and Officer not less than ten (10) days before such meeting. The notice shall state the time, place and the purpose(s) for which the meeting is being called. If notice of a special meeting is mailed, it shall be deemed to have been given ten (10) days after post-marked by Canada Post, and is addressed to the Director at his or her last known post office address.

Section 6. Action Without Meeting Any action which may be taken at a Board meeting may be taken without a meeting, provided a consent, in writing, setting forth the actions to be taken, shall be signed by a majority of the Directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. If urgency of action does not allow for written consent, consent may be obtained by a telephone or electronic media poll conducted by a member of the Executive. Such consent, either written or verbal, shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Board of Directors, and may be stated as such in any writing or document.

Section 7. Committees The Board of Directors may, by resolution(s), passed by a majority of the Directors, with a quorum, designate one or more Committees, with each Committee to consist of two or more of the Directors, and any number of individual members of the Nation. The designation of such Committee and the delegation of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any member thereof, of any responsibility imposed upon the Board, or member, by law or these bylaws. Each committee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report to the Board of Directors as required or necessary.

Section 8. Districts The Nation will determine the division of districts or Regions for the Nation, as it finds necessary. This decision will be based on geographical and numerical considerations.

Section 9. Voting At all meetings of the Board of Directors, each Executive Committee Officer and Director shall have one vote. Proxy votes will be accepted, except for the Election of Officers.

Section 10. Compensation Directors shall not receive compensation from Nation funds for their service as Directors. However, Directors may be reimbursed for authorized expenses incurred on behalf of the Nation. The expenses are to be evidenced by receipt or other proper document.

Section 11. Books and Accounting Records As a continuing action, the Board of Directors shall monitor the procedures for maintaining the Corporate and accounting records of the Nation to ensure:

- (1) The Nation keeps correct and complete books and records of account;
- (2) All Nation funds are properly safeguarded, and all receipts of monies and expenditures are properly recorded according to acceptable accounting procedures;
- (3) A record of the proceedings of its members, Board of Directors and Committees are kept;
- (4) A record of the names and addresses of its affiliate Chapters, and members on the Board of Directors are maintained at the principal office of the Nation; and
- (5) The Nation's financial books and accounts are audited annually by a Committee appointed by the President, or more often at the Board's discretion.

Section 12. Exceptions to Authority The Board of Directors may not:

- (1) Make a rule or regulation, not already delegated to the Nation by these Bylaws, that shall impinge upon the autonomy and authority of the Chapters as separate entities; and
- (2) Amend or repeal portions of these Bylaws that were imposed by vote of the individual membership, inclusive of the following, which shall be determined by individual vote:
 - (a) Withdrawal of the Nation from the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, and
 - (b) Imposition of a membership fee on the individual members;
- (3) Dissolution of the Nation.

Section 13. Quorum

- (1) A quorum for transaction of business at all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be 2/5 of the total number of the Board of Directors for the current year.

ARTICLE V: Officers

Section 1. General

- (1) The Officers of the Nation shall be elected by the Board of Directors. They shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- (2) An act or authorization of an act by the Executive Committee, within the authority delegated, shall be as effective for all purposes as the act or authorization of the Directors; however, the designation of the Committee and this delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any member thereof, of any responsibility imposed upon it, him or her, by law.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall meet prior to each regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Board to prepare an agenda for the Board meeting and to consider and shape old and new business for presentation to the Board.

Section 2. Term of Office The term of office for the Nation Officers shall be for a period of two (2) years. Officers shall take office during the first meeting of the fiscal year, or, at the first meeting following the meeting in which they were elected. They shall serve from that date.

Section 3. Eligibility for Office Officers shall be members in good standing of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and of an affiliate Chapter of this Nation.

Section 4. Removal from Office Any Officer may be removed from Office, for cause, by 2/3 majority vote, with a quorum, of the Board of Directors, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in the Board's judgement, the Board considers such action to be in the best interest of the Nation. An Officer's absence, without justifiable reasons, from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Executive shall be cause for removal.

ARTICLE VI: Responsibilities and Duties of Officers

Section 1. President The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Nation, and shall:

- (1) preside and maintain order over all meetings of the Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and the Board of Directors of this Nation;
- (2) schedule regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors, Steering Committee and Executive Committee; notifying all Directors and Officers of the applicable meeting date, time and place;
- (3) appoint persons to occupy positions to fulfill the need of a Steering Committee;
- (4) appoint Standing and Special committees of this Nation as appropriate, and cooperate with each Chair thereof to assure proper functioning and reporting of each Committee;
- (5) ensure that regular elections are duly called, noticed, and held;
- (6) direct all official business for the Nation;
- (7) be the official representative of the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation;

- (8) assure adequate supervision of all Nation sponsored activities;
- (9) be an ex-officio, non-voting member of all standing and special committees;
- (10) liaise with Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, endorsed sponsors, and promoters;
- (11) initiate disciplinary action in respect to violations of standing regulations and procedures by Nation members;
- (12) acquire a working knowledge of Parliamentary law and procedures, and a thorough understanding of the Bylaws of this Nation;
- (13) follow all financial guidelines and obligations as outlined in Appendix III;
- (14) maintain a liaison with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; and
- (15) work closely with the President-Elect to ensure a smooth transition.

Section 2. First Vice President and Second Vice President Each Position is elected separately. If the President is unable to perform the duties of his or her Office for any reason, the First Vice President or, if so required, Second Vice President, shall occupy the President's position and perform the President's duties with the same authority as the President.

- (1) The First Vice President shall:
 - (a) assist the President as directed;
 - (b) oversee the functioning of such Committees of this organization as the President shall direct; and
 - (c) assume the Office of President for the balance of term should the Office be vacated.
- (2) The Second Vice President shall:
 - (a) assist the President as directed;
 - (b) oversee the functioning of such Committees of this organization as the President shall direct; and
 - (c) assume the Office of First Vice President, or the President (should the First Vice President not be available), for the balance of term should the Office be vacated.

Section 3. Secretary and Treasurer They shall act as the liaison between the Nation and the B.A.S.S. Chapter Department of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. They shall have the care and custody of and shall be responsible for all the funds, securities, evidence of indebtedness, Corporate Records, and other documents of record, for the Nation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Nation in such financial institutions, depositories, or in such safe deposit vaults as the Board of Directors may designate, with appropriate co-signers required for any, and all, cheque issuance.

- (1) The Secretary shall:
 - (a) keep a record of the proceedings (Minutes) of all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee;
 - (b) maintain current a roster, inclusive of mailing address, telephone number, and Chapter of the Board of Directors, disseminating updated copies to Nation Executive and Board of Directors members;
 - (c) notify the appropriate persons for Board, Steering Committee, or Executive Committee meetings, as the case may be, in a timely manner;
 - (d) issue minutes of Board of Director, Executive Committee and Steering Committee meetings to the appropriate Committee member in a timely manner;
 - (e) have custody and maintain general records of this Nation, in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, including, but not limited to, minutes of Board of Directors, Steering Committee and Executive Committee meetings; committee appointments and

reports, a list of all Chapters, Chapter mailing addresses, annual Chapter affiliation letters and complete contact information of all Chapter Officers and rosters;

(f) co-ordinate the preparation and submission by members of all Committee of such reports as are required by the Nation, B.A.S.S. and other agencies;

(g) conduct correspondence for the Nation as directed

(h) maintain a current jacket file of the OBN Chapter affiliates with the Nation, past and present, and such files should include, at a minimum, a copy of the current Chapter membership roster, chapter's B.A.S.S. number and status; and

(i) be available to confirm both individual and Chapter eligibility for all Nation Tournaments, as conducted by the Nation to the Tournament Director, or individual appointed to act as such, and the President in a timely manner.

(2) The Treasurer shall:

(a) prepare, in the name of the Nation, all cheques, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances and other instruments for the payment of money, in accordance with the procedures established by the Board of Directors, under the direction of the President, Executive Committee, Steering Committee, or Board of Directors;

(b) follow all financial guidelines and obligations as set out in Appendix III;

(c) keep full and accurate books of account of all Nation business and shall exhibit the same to any Director of the Nation upon written application to the Executive Committee or Board of Directors;

(d) pay statements from Officers and Committee Members in accordance with Appendix III;

(e) issue statements or invoices, and collect financial obligations owed to the Nation;

(f) become bonded by the Nation, at the cost of the Nation, for the faithful discharge of duties if so required by the Board of Directors;

(g) upon termination of office, provide all records to the Executive Committee for inventory, and receive a receipt for same;

(h) upon taking office, assume the record retention of all past financial records in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, providing a receipt to the Executive Committee for possession after completing an inventory; and

(i) perform all duties incident to their office.

Section 4. **Steering Committee** The Steering Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of all Standing Committees so named by the President. They shall:

(1) serve as liaison between the Nation Standing Committees and the Chapters; and

(2) meet concurrently with the Executive Committee, upon request of the President.

ARTICLE VII: Elections

Section 1. Directors The Nation Board of Directors is made up of Representatives from the Chapters. Such Representatives, usually but not necessarily, the Chapter President, with the Executive Committee shall form the Nation Board of Directors. They shall meet quarterly to hear and provide applicable direction to the Executive and Steering Committees, assisting and conducting the business of the Nation, meet annually to meet the needs of the Nation at an Annual General Meeting, to meet biennially to conduct elections of the Nation Executive Committee and to meet where required when Nation business requires the involvement of the full Board.

Section 2. Officers Officers of the Nation shall be elected by the Board of Directors in accordance with the procedures as prescribed herein. They shall have such terms of office and eligibility requirements as provided under Article V, and shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Executive Committee The purpose of the Executive Committee is to communicate, coordinate, focus, and facilitate the directives of the Board of Directors. They shall meet monthly, alone or in conjunction with the Steering Committee. They shall ensure that all Minutes of Executive, Steering Committee and Board meetings shall be available to all Chapters.

- (1) Nominations to the Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Appendix 1 and Robert's Rules of Order, and these By-laws.
- (2) Regular elections to fill the positions of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be conducted during the last regularly scheduled meeting of the fiscal year. The election shall be by members of the Board of Directors, with a quorum present, and a plurality vote shall be necessary to elect. Voting for each officer shall be by a written (secret) ballot.
- (3) Should vacancies occur among Officer positions, such vacancies may be filled at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, and any Officer so elected shall hold office until the end of the normal term.

ARTICLE VIII: Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees A Standing Committee shall be composed of Chapter members and/or members of the Board of Directors, and shall have a term of two (2) years. Each Chair shall present a copy of their Report to the Secretary prior to the end of the meeting the Report was given, to ensure accuracy of the Minutes. The President of the Nation shall appoint the following standing committees:

(1) **Youth Activities Committee:**

- (a) This Committee shall review youth activities programs and projects related to indoctrination of our youth in the sport of fishing, sportsmanship, aquatic resources, boat and water safety and conservation practices as may be implemented by Nation organizations;
- (b) This Committee shall recommend improvements thereof; review and determine suitability of similar projects proposed for Nation sponsorship, and assist in the planning and implementation of such projects;
- (c) The President shall name the Chair of this Committee.

(2) **Conservation**

- (a) This Committee shall maintain current information on all matters, including legislation, related to and that could affect the preservation of aquatic resources and the natural environment; ensuring the President and membership's awareness of such matters. They will review proposed environmental and conservation projects to determine suitability for Nation sponsorship; coordinate and supervise the implementation of Nation sponsored environmental and conservation related projects; bring information and educational programs to the members and public that will foster a greater awareness of threats to our environment, and maintain liaison with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as needed; and
- (b) The President shall name the Chair of this Committee.

(3) Tournament Committee

- (a) This Committee shall plan, organize and operate all Tournaments conducted by the Nation. The Tournaments shall consist of
 - i. An annual qualifying Tournament, known as the Hank Gibson Provincial Tournament, and is subject to any sponsorship title determined by the Executive Committee, to determine those eligible to represent Ontario in the B.A.S.S. sponsored Divisional Tournament. Those who are determined to be eligible will be known as Team Ontario.
 - ii. Any other Tournament conducted by this Nation;
- (b) This Committee shall have one Chair, appointed by the President, and this Chair shall be known as the Tournament Director; and
- (c) This Committee may
 - i. Assist the Board of Directors with the selection of any Tournament site and dates,
 - ii. Ensure that all Tournaments will be conducted within the spirit and letter of current Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Rules, current or as amended and approved by the Board of Directors and called the Official Rules of the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation Tournaments, and
 - iii. Ensure the coordination of registration and launch, take-off, check-in and scoring sites; supervision, operation and all matters properly related to the orderly conduct of any Nation conducted Tournament.

(4) Team Ontario Committee

- (a) This committee shall plan, organize, and operate all Team Ontario activities for each current yearly Team.
This committee shall be responsible for all email correspondence with the Team members, planning all activities, and keeping the entire Team up-to-date with any and all pertinent information.
- (b) This committee shall coordinate with B.A.S.S. National Headquarters, to plan the Eastern Regional Tournament for Team Ontario.
 - i. This includes:
 - a. Making arrangements for lodging for the Team at the location selected by B.A.S.S. for the Eastern Regional Tournament.
 - b. Keeping up-to-date with all the entry forms, tax forms, etc., provided by B.A.S.S., working with the Team, and returning those forms to B.A.S.S. headquarters in a timely manner.
- (c) This committee shall solicit Team Ontario sponsors, making sure to follow these Bylaws, as stated in Article XII, Section 1 and Section 5.
- (d) The President shall name the Chair of this Committee.

Section 2. Special Committees Special committees may be appointed by the President, subject to concurrence in their composition and purpose by the Board of Directors, for closely defined purposes. In no case should tenure of a special committee exceed two (2) years from the date of appointment. Special committees may not supercede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees. Each Committee Chair shall provide the Secretary with a copy of their Report prior to the end of the meeting the Report has been given, to ensure accuracy of the Minutes.

ARTICLE IX: Conduct of Meetings

Section 1. Rules of Order The rules of order, inclusive of Order of Business adopted for meetings conducted by this Nation, is appended to these bylaws as Appendix 1, OBN Rules of Order.

Section 2. Parliamentary Procedures Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Nation's Bylaws, all questions of order or procedure with respect to any meeting in action of this organization, its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Steering Committee or any committee appointed hereunder shall be determined in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order (as revised)".

ARTICLE X: Authority of Representation

Section 1. President's Conferences Inasmuch as this Nation and its affiliate Chapters are an affiliate part of the National Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and it shall be necessary from time to time to have representation at the national office, or elsewhere, to obtain information and new policies and procedures and to add the Nation's voice and vote in national B.A.S.S. matters, this Nation shall have the power to pay the necessary expenses of its representative(s) to each of the two annual B.A.S.S. President's Conferences and to such other conferences or meetings as are deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Divisional and National Tournaments Chapter and Nation Tournament competitions may be directed towards the selection of members for the Nation, which may represent the Nation and its members in B.A.S.S. sponsored Nation Tournaments. In recognition of the importance of these Tournaments to the Nation membership, this Nation shall have the power to pay the necessary expenses of those members participating in these events. Any events that shall have the expenses of the qualifying members paid are to be determined by the Board of Directors, using the applicable rules that may be established by B.A.S.S. and this Nation as guidelines.

ARTICLE XI: Nation Tournaments

Section 1. Location and dates The locations and dates of the Hank Gibson Provincial Tournament, and any other Tournament conducted by the Nation, but not including the OBN Junior Team Ontario events, shall be determined by a joint vote of the Board of Directors and Steering Committee, based on bids made by Chapters, individually or as groups. In the event that no bids are brought forward, the Steering Committee will present potential locations to the Board of Directors for determination of Tournament sites and dates. All events and/or Tournaments associated with the OBN Junior Team Ontario shall be determined by the appropriate Chair, in accordance with the Rules established by B.A.S.S. and this Nation.

Section 2. Tournament Eligibility Each Chapter of this Nation shall be in compliance with Article III, Section 4 of these bylaws for any member to participate in the Hank Gibson Provincial Tournament. Any new Chapter whose membership is pending:

- (1) Must be in compliance with Article III, Section 3 of these bylaws;
- (2) Must have registered representation at the Board of Director's meeting immediately preceding the Tournament;
- (3) Must have B.A.S.S. acceptance for affiliation not later than cut off date prior to the Tournament;
- (4) Must comply with any and all other eligibility requirements as stated in the OBN Tournament Basic Format as set forth and appended to these Bylaws as Appendix II, Tournament Rules Committee.

Section 3. Rules and Regulations

- (1) The rules and regulations governing the conduct of the Nation's Tournaments shall be the current Official Rules of Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation and the Ontario B.A.S.S. Qualifier Basic Format. The Official Rules shall be available as part of the Official Entry Form and is to be retained by each Entrant.
- (2) The Official Rules of Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation shall be amended with the approval of the Board of Directors. Exceptions shall be those required to adapt the Rules to comply with the Rules established for a specific event, the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation Basic Format, Nation policies, Tournament site and waters, and rules established by B.A.S.S.

ARTICLE XII: Miscellaneous

Section 1. Contracts on Behalf of Ontario Nation The Executive Committee or Board of Directors may authorize any Officer or Officers, Agent or Agents, Employee or Employees, to enter into any Contract or Instrument negotiation on behalf of this Nation. The authority to enter into such negotiations may be general or confined to specific instances, and are to be determined by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Except as herein provided, or as authorized by the Board of Directors, no Officer, Agent or Employee, other than the President and those Officers granted specific authority under Article VI of these By-laws, shall have any power or authority to bind this Nation by any Contract or Engagement, or to Pledge its credit or to render it liable, for any purpose or for any amount.

Section 2. Fiscal Year The Fiscal Year for this Nation shall begin on November 1 and end on October 31.

Section 3. Audits Requirements for audit of the financial books and accounts are prescribed in Article IV, Section 11. However, the books and records of the Nation may be audited by an Accountant, so accredited, as selected by the Board of Directors, if the Board of Directors so elects.

Section 4. Conflict of Interest No Officer, or member of the Board of Directors, shall use his or her position as a means of furthering any personal, political or other aspirations, nor shall the Nation, as a whole, take part in any movement not in keeping with its purpose and objectives.

Section 5. Sources of Nation Income Funds for support and maintenance of the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation will be derived from the annual Hank Gibson Provincial Tournament, other Nation sponsored Tournaments, Assessments, special "activity related" projects and donations. Under no circumstances may the Nation accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations or government agencies, if there is evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goals of the Nation.

Section 6. Dissolution Upon the dissolution of the Nation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Nation, dispose of all assets of the Nation exclusively for the purposes of the Nation in such a manner, or to such charitable, educational, environmental or sportsmans organizations as the Board of Directors shall determine.

ARTICLE XIII: Amendments

Section 1. Bylaws These Bylaws may be amended at any Board of Directors meeting at which there is a quorum, by a 2/3 majority vote of the Directors present, provided the proposed amendment, in writing, has been issued to each to each Chapter, by hand delivery, mail or similar electronic means, at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

ARTICLE XIV: Standing Rules

Rule 1. Amendment to Standing Rules The standing rules of the Nation were adopted by rule of the majority; they are therefore subject to the will of the majority at any Board of Directors meeting and may be suspended, modified or rescinded by a majority vote, with a quorum present, without the delay incident to giving previous notice.

Rule 2. Dissemination of Nation Roster A roster of the Nation B.A.S.S. Chapters and its members may not be given to any individual or organization outside of the Nation unless approved by the Board of Directors.

Rule 3. Nation Team Expenses It is agreed that Nation Team members (Senior or Junior) who qualify for the B.A.S.S. Tournaments shall be compensated for individual expenses incurred as a result of tournament participation, based on the available funds of the Nation. The Board of Director's of the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation will determine this allowance.

Rule 4. Interpretation of Bylaws and Standing Rules The final authority for interpretation of these Bylaws and Standing Rules shall rest with the Board of Directors.

APPENDIX I

OBN Rules of Order

1. General

- a. These rules constitute the Rules of Order for the conduct of the all meetings for the Nation.
- b. The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order (as revised)" shall govern the Nation in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these Rules of Order, the Bylaws or Standing Rules.

2. Call to Order

- a. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened on such dates, at such a time and at such a place as shall be determined and announced in accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of the Bylaws; and, it shall be the duty of the President to
 - (1) call the meeting to order at the appointed time,
 - (2) to preside over the meeting,
 - (3) to distribute the agenda,
 - (4) to state and put all questions properly before the Directors,
 - (5) to preserve order, and
 - (6) to decide all questions of order.

3. Order of Business

- a. The Order of Business for the Nation Board of Director's meetings shall be as follows
 - (1) Call to order by Nation President
 - (2) Introduction by the President
 - (3) Call of Roll and introduction of Directors present
 - (4) Introduction of distinguished guests and Nation Officials
 - (5) Presentation of Minutes of preceding meeting
 - (6) Presentation of Treasurer's Report
 - (7) Reports of Standing Committees
 - (8) Reports of Special Committees
 - (9) Unfinished Business (Old Business)
 - (10) New Business
 - (11) Programmed Activity, if applicable
 - (12) Adjournment

4. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

- a. The Fisheries and Wildlife Division of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources shall be extended an open invitation to participate in all regularly scheduled Board of Director's meetings and the Fisheries and Wildlife division's representatives report shall be awarded the same order of business as a report from a Standing Committee. Written invitation shall be extended by President not less than 30 days in advance of each meeting date.

5. Assumption of Office

- a. The Terms of Office, procedures for elections and guidelines for assumption of Office by Nation officials are prescribed in Articles V and VII of the Bylaws.
- b. Officials elected during the last meeting of the fiscal year shall assume Office no earlier than October 1st, and their assumption of official duties shall be planned so as to coincide with the date of the first Nation meeting to be conducted in the new fiscal year.
- c. The period between the elections of and assumptions of Office shall be utilized as a transition period. This period shall include the close working together of both the newly elected and incumbent Officials, and may include a regular Executive Board or Steering Committee meeting, to provide a smooth transition of Officers.

6. Presentation of Awards, Presentation and Swearing in of New Officials

- a. The Presentation of awards for outgoing Officials, Committee Chairs and any Awards shall be scheduled as appropriate.
- b. Swearing in of newly elected Officials shall be scheduled for conduct during the Order of Business slated for the President's introduction at the first Board of Director's meeting of the fiscal year, or at any special meeting called by the newly elected President should business arise.
- c. The swearing in of the new President and the newly elected officials shall be accomplished by the incumbent President; first, by oath administered jointly to all newly elected officials; last by oath administered separately to the new President. For each occasion, the incumbent President shall administer the following oath to which each electee shall respond with the words: "I DO!"

OATH: "DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT, AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE ONTARIO B.A.S.S. NATION, YOU WILL FAITHFULLY AND WILLFULLY EXECUTE THE DUTIES OF YOUR OFFICE, THAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH THOSE TASKS RELATED TO YOUR DUTIES WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF INTEGRITY AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE NATION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP?"

ANSWER: " I DO! "

- d. Following issuance of the oath, the outgoing President presents the badge of office to the new President, i.e., gavel. Should the incumbent President also be the newly elected President, or the incumbent President is not available to conduct the swearing in ceremony, it shall be accomplished by an incumbent Official or a returning member of the Board Directors, as selected by the Board of Directors.

7. Amendments to Rules of Order

- a. These rules can be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors by a 2/3 majority vote of those present or represented at any Board of Directors Meeting, provided the amendment, in writing, has been issued to each Chapter at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

APPENDIX II

Tournament Rules Committee

- a. Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation Tournaments will be individually governed by the following Committee, chaired by the Tournament Director:
 - i) Tournament Director
 - ii) 3 OBN members selected by the Tournament Director, and/or President (participating and/or not participating) in the Event.
 - iii) 1 OBN Representative (other than the President) as selected from the Board of Directors by the President.
- b. The rulings of this Committee are final.
- c. If the Tournament Director chooses to fish in an event, a Tournament Marshall shall be selected by the Tournament Director and the President, to act as the Tournament Director for the event.

Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Basic Format

- a. Must be a member of B.A.S.S. in good standing.
- b. Must be a current member of a B.A.S.S. affiliated club and appear on the national roster.
- c. Must be a current member of an Ontario affiliated club and appear on the provincial roster.
- d. All club dues and fines must be current.
- e. Must participate in the event wearing a logo of both B.A.S.S. and this Nation, whether current or of past issuance.
- f. Once a Nation member qualifies for Team Ontario, the member, when participating in any OBN or B.A.S.S. sanctioned event, on behalf of or as part of the Team, must wear the OBN Team Ontario provided tournament wear or shirt, as provided by the OBN, in accordance with the Team Ontario contract.
- g. When a member of Team Ontario is found to be in a state of non-compliance with the provisions contained in the Team Ontario contract, such an act is grounds for immediate expulsion from the Team.

Tournament Entry

1. Club Team

- a. Entries will be received on date specified by Nation entry forms, and must contain the signature of the President, or appointed Officer by the Chapter, of the entrants Chapter, and all entry fees must be received by the Nation no later than the date specified by the Nation.
- b. Any changes in team members must be cleared with the Tournament Director or Nation Secretary at least 2 weeks before any Tournaments.
- c. Club representatives will be determined through qualification in each Chapter.

2. Hank Gibson Provincial Tournament

- a. Each Chapter will put forward a pro-rated number of anglers, dependent on the Rules of the individual Tournament, based on the Nation membership. It is intended that a tournament field will not exceed 214 anglers qualifying for the Nation Team. Therefore, as an example, should the Nation membership equal 200 members, each Club would put forward 1 angler for every 2 members. The Tournament Director will ensure that Chapters are advised of this pro-rated number at least sixty (60) days prior to the first qualifying tournament.

3. Tournament Rules

- a. All B.A.S.S. tournament rules will be adhered to, with the following exception:
 - i) There is a plate rating limitation, but BIA rating for each boat must be adhered to.
- b. All applicable Federal, Provincial, and municipal laws and regulations must be adhered to.
 - ii) Failure to adhere to any of the above laws or regulations will result in disqualification.
- c. Other rules may be established as warranted by the Tournament Director.

Scoring

Individual

- a. Based on total weight.

Regional team

- a. The top 10 boaters/pros, and the top 10 non-boater/ams, with the best weights over the 2-day period will represent the OBN at the B.A.S.S. Regional Tournament. The Alternate members of the Team will be determined in accordance with rules established by B.A.S.S. and the O.B.N.

Participant's Meeting

- a. There will be, on the Friday before a tournament (time to be determined), and on the Saturday (optional and at the Tournament Director's discretion) immediately following the weigh-in, a Participant's Meeting chaired by the Tournament Director.
- b. The Friday meeting will go over tournament rules and answer questions.
- c. Meetings are mandatory, however exceptions may be granted by the President & Tournament Director, if the reason for missing the meeting is determined to be reasonable.

Boat Check

- a. Will be done each morning at the tournament site, in accordance with the instructions provided by the Tournament Director.
- b. All boats must be checked before leaving at blast-off.
- c. Boat check will consist of the safe operation of livewells, equipment, and kill-switch, as well as life jacket, PFD, flares, horn and/or whistle, appropriate insurance, license, or any other items so determined by the Tournament Director.

Tournament Hours

- a. Saturday - 6:30 am to 3:00 PM
- b. Sunday - 6:30 am to 3:00 PM
- c. Delay of start or cancellation will be at the Tournament Director's discretion.
- d. The Tournament hours may be changed by the Tournament Director, if the need should arise, and the competitors will be informed accordingly at the Friday and/or Saturday meeting.

Entry Fees

- a. Every competitor must submit a fully completed entry form and proper entry fee to their own Chapter President or Chapter Representative. (See Appendix IV – Current Fees)
- b. Each Chapter will submit their competitor's entry forms to the Nation Treasurer (or delegate), no later than the date specified by the Nation. The proper entry fee for all submitted competitors shall accompany the entry forms. All submitted fees must be on Chapter identified cheques.
- c. All entry fees will remain with the Nation.
- d. There will be NO LATE ENTRIES. Refunds will be allowed, but they are reviewed and determined, on a case by case basis, by the Executive Committee.

Miscellaneous

- a. Any situation not specifically covered by the tournament rules and regulations or the Tournament format will be decided by the Tournament Director, with the assistance of the Tournament Committee.
- b. All decisions by the Tournament Director are final.

APPENDIX III

1.0 Spending and Account Balances

- a) The President may spend up to \$300.00 per year without Executive Committee approval on non-budgeted or non-capital items. After the amount is spent, as approved by the Executive Committee, the amount spent by the President is reset to \$0.00 for the remainder of the year on additional non-budgeted or non-capital items.
- b) The Executive Committee may spend up to \$750.00 without Board of Director approval for non-budgeted or non-capital items. After the amount is spent, as approved by the Board of Directors, the amount spent by the Executive Committee is reset to \$0.00 for the remainder of the year on additional non-budgeted or non-capital items.
- c) Capital or non-budgeted items greater than \$750.00 requires majority vote of Board of Directors as outlined in these Bylaws.
- d) A minimum cash balance of \$1,000.00 should be kept. If the Nation's bank balances drop below \$1,000.00, each President is to be notified and spending is to be kept only to essential items until additional funds are deposited.
- e) If the Balance in our chequing account will remain at a high level for some time, the Treasurer can purchase a G.I.C. or T-Bill, which is convertible to cash on behalf of the OBN for a portion of the balance that will not be used in the near future.
- f) All OBN Executive Committee members shall have cheque signing authority. There shall be only one set of cheques that will be maintained by the Treasurer, for each needed account type. All cheques must have two OBN Executive Committee member signatures on them. The person whom the cheque is made payable cannot be one of the signatories on the cheque.

2.0 Expenses

- a) All Expenses must be submitted no later than 30 days after the OBN fiscal year end. After that, the expenses will not be paid by the OBN and will become the person's personal responsibility, unless approved by the Board of Directors.
- b) OBN members may be advanced money for purchases, travel and other expenses. Upon return, proper receipts must be submitted and any excess money must be returned to the OBN.
- c) The OBN does not make any 'Trade for Service' or 'Barter' transactions. All "in" or "out" transactions must be made with cash or cheque for proper accounting practice.

3.0 Financial Reporting

- a) The OBN's fiscal year end is October 31, in accordance with Article XII, Section 2 of the Bylaws. Year End Financial Statements are to be presented at the AGM and based on the fiscal year end. A separate set of financial statements, as at the date of the AGM, are not to be presented but must be made available for discussion and decision making purposes at the AGM.
- b) All financial statements are to be completed with retail computer financial software, which must be provided by the OBN.
- c) The OBN Budget is presented by the Treasurer on behalf of the Steering Committee no later than the first regularly scheduled Board of Director's meeting.
- d) An Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Forecast showing Actual and Budgeted amounts are to be provided quarterly, and at such times as required at the Executive Committee or Board of Directors.
- e) Depreciation must be applied to capital assets held by the OBN. As a general rule, vehicles should be at depreciated at a rate of 30%. All other capital assets shall be depreciated at a rate of 10%, unless the Board of Directors establishes a specific rate of depreciation for a particular asset.

APPENDIX IV

1. Current OBN Fees

a. Nation Dues

- i. The Nation Dues, which are set by B.A.S.S., are currently at thirty-two US dollars (\$32.00) per member.
- ii. Each Chapter is responsible to remit this amount to B.A.S.S., for each member the Chapter carries on its roster.

b. OBN Chapter assessment

- i. The current OBN Chapter assessment has been approved by the Board of Directors to be set at fifteen (CAD) dollars (\$15.00) per member, five (CAD) dollars (\$5.00) of which would be allocated to the OBN National Contenders Fund.

c. OBN Hank Gibson Qualifier Tournament Entry Fees

- i. The current entry fee for the annual OBN Hank Gibson Qualifier Tournament has been set at two hundred and fifty (CAD) dollars (\$250.00) per Chapter member for a non-boater/am.
- ii. The current entry fee for the annual OBN Hank Gibson Qualifier Tournament has been set at two hundred and seventy five (CAD) dollars (\$275.00) per Chapter member for a boater/pro.