



Attention: Ontario Bass Nation Members

Cc: Bass Anglers Sportsman Society

Re: Anti-Racism and Inclusiveness in The Ontario Bass Nation

Dear Members,

The recent events surrounding the death of George Floyd in the US, has brought forward some issues that the world and society in general need to deal with. To that end, the Ontario Bass Nation, and its Board of Directors, felt it was important to issue a statement regarding our stance on Racism, Systemic Racism, and Inclusiveness in our sport.

The Ontario Bass Nation condemns Racism and Systemic Racism, in any form and will work diligently to put policies and procedures in place, to ensure all its members, have a safe and fun organization free from Racism and Bigotry.

The Ontario Bass Nation will also put in place policies and procedures, to promote inclusiveness in our membership, regardless of Race, Gender, or Sexual Orientation.

The Ontario Bass Nation will request that our parent organization, The Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, also releases a statement that they stand with the OBN and are against any form of Racism and Systemic Racism and will promote inclusiveness in their entire organization.

In addition to these statements, the OBN, has formed a permanent committee named the Social Awareness, Fairness, and Inclusivity Committee, that will provide guidance to the executive, and put in place policies, and procedures as noted above. Our goals are as follows:

- Have a permanent contact, such as an ombudsperson, that will be a single point of contact for the entire membership, so that complaints of Racism, Systemic Racism, Bigotry, Hate, or discrimination of any kind can be brought forward to the committee and the Executive for resolution.
- Make permanent rules, to add to our Bylaws and Tournament Rules, that will take steps to ensure that anyone found guilty of any form of Racism, Bigotry, Hate, or discrimination, will be reprimanded and/or permanently banned from the OBN and/or disqualified from a tournament(s).
- Promote events, and community outreach programs, to promote inclusiveness in our sport, and ensure that all persons regardless of Race, Gender, or Sexual Orientation feel welcome to join and participate.

Members, this is just the start, the OBN takes this issue very seriously and will broaden the scope of this issue, should this become necessary. We hope that all our members stand with us, and indeed assist us, with ideas and cooperation to move us forward and become what we should be!

Fraser Muir, Andy Zrnek, & Anthony Dube

Social Awareness, Fairness, and Inclusivity Committee
Ontario Bass Nation.