

Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, INC

Bylaws

Article 1

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, INC.

Article 2

Section 1. Purpose and Objectives

Operate as a non-profit organization promoting, preserving, and furthering the sport of bass angling by:

- A. Serving as an organization in which individual chapters in the state of Illinois that are affiliated with B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) may unite in common interests and causes.
- B. Acting as an agency to assist member chapters.
- C. Acting as an agency between B.A.S.S. and member chapters.
- D. Assisting and cooperating with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and its agencies in matters mutually beneficial.
- E. Preserving and promoting the sport by actively engaging in youth, community, and conservation activities.
- F. Promoting, organizing, and conducting state tournaments in a manner consistent with the format and rules of B.A.S.S.
- G. Promoting and assisting in the formation of additional clubs affiliated with B.A.S.S. and this organization.

Article 3

Section 1. Membership

- A. The IBFN shall have two (2) types of membership.
 1. General Membership
 2. Associate Membership

Section 2. General Membership Requirements

- A. Any club whose principal meeting place resides within the state of Illinois.
- B. Any club with a 50% membership of Illinois state residents. Out of state members must reside within 50 miles of the state line.
- C. Must have paid dues to and be affiliated with B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) and B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.
- D. Must have submitted dues and a club roster to the IBFN secretary by the posted due date. Due date must be posted 30 days prior to the deadline. The sole exception is the beginning year of this organization.
- E. Individuals must not be a member of any other bass federation-type organization including but not limited to the TBF/FLW. They may not have held a board or officers position at the state level of such an organization within the previous five (5) years.
- F. Individuals must not be employed by any other bass federation-type organization including but not limited to the TBF/FLW and may not have been employed by such within the previous five (5) years.

Section 3. Associate Membership Requirements

- A. Individuals must belong to an IBFN member club in good standing.
- B. Individuals must have paid dues to and be affiliated with B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) and B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.

- C. Individuals may be members of but have not or do not hold a board or officers position at the state level with any other bass federation-type organization including but not limited to the TBF/FLW and may not have done so within the previous five (5) years.
- D. Individuals must not be employed by any other bass federation-type organization including but not limited to the TBF/FLW and may not have been employed by such within the previous five (5) years.
- E. Must have submitted associate membership dues at the current published rate to the IBFN secretary.
- F. Are non-voting members and may not hold any board or officer's position at the state level.

Section 4. Membership Approval

- A. Upon receipt of dues and club roster, the IBFN secretary and treasurer will review the current standing of an existing club. Those in good standing will be approved. Those in poor standing will be referred to the IBFN Board of Directors for decision.
- B. Approved new club applicants will be placed under probation. Unless otherwise indicated by the IBFN Bylaws and/or IBFN Board of Directors such clubs will enjoy membership privileges, consistent with their membership type, with the exception of IBFN elections and any business coming before the club presidents for a vote.
- C. The IBFN Board of Directors may reject applicants for reasons that are inconsistent with but not limited to the IBFN Bylaws, IBFN policies, IBFN tournament rules, or the IBFN affiliation with B.A.S.S. The decision will be made by the IBFN Board of Directors and is final.
- D. Individual membership applications will undergo the same approval process as club applications.
- E. See section 7 – F, I and J

Section 5. Membership Vote

- A. Members and their member club must be in good standing with both B.A.S.S. and the IBFN.
- B. Only general membership members approved by the IBFN board of directors are eligible to vote.
- C. Individual members have one (1) vote. While individuals may belong to as many as three (3) member clubs, a mother club for the purposes of voting must be registered with the IBFN secretary.
- D. A majority within the member club is required to carry a vote.
- E. Member clubs and their majority vote will be represented by two (2) of its members.
- F. The total number of votes for any member club will be tabulated by the number of eligible members listed on the club roster held by the IBFN secretary. It is the responsibility of the member club president to keep that roster accurate.
- G. Member clubs may vote by proxy.
- H. See section 7 – G.

Section 6. Withdrawing Membership or Board Position

- A. Any member club and/or member may withdraw its membership at any time. A written request must be forwarded to the IBFN secretary and recorded by such. The member and/or member club must be notified in writing that their membership has been withdrawn.
- B. When an appointed Executive Officer (i.e. Treasurer and Secretary) elects to vacate their seat on the Executive Board the following will apply:

The President will;

- 1. Make the vacated Executive Office available to other board members. If no Board Member places himself as a nominee. The President will;
 - a. Ask a current board member to accept the additional responsibility of the vacated office until the term for that seat expires; or,
 - b. Make the vacated seat available to the general membership and accept interviews with interested members.

In the event that the seat is filled from the General Membership, the following will apply:

1. An open announcement and application period of no less than 30 days will be provided.
2. Only General Members with executive board level experience within an IBFN club may apply.

Confirmation procedure:

1. Regardless which selection method is utilized, the President will submit the nominee to the IBFN Board for review and approval.
2. Confirmation will be by majority vote of the full Board, not just those present at the meeting. Electronic balloting may be used in the absence of a meeting.
3. If the IBFN Board does not confirm a nominee, the President has the opportunity to resubmit nominees until such time the vacated position is filled.

The newly approved/confirmed Executive Officer will then complete the current term. At the end of that term, the officer will be subject to the rules stated in these By-Laws for retaining their Board Seat.

Section 7. Suspending/Revoking Membership

- A. It is the responsibility of the member club president to maintain and submit accurate records on all members within that club. Any member club or individual member may have their membership in the IBFN suspended and/or revoked for reasons which are inconsistent with but not limited to the bylaws of the IBFN, the policies of the IBFN, the tournament rules of the IBFN, or its affiliation with B.A.S.S
- B. Any member club and/or member may be disqualified from any IBFN sponsored event for reasons that are not consistent with but not limited to the bylaws of the IBFN, its policies, or its affiliation with B.A.S.S.
- C. The decision will be made by the Board of Directors and is final.
- D. The executive board will maintain a list of these individuals and/or clubs.
- E. Those clubs that want to become an IBFN club with no other affiliation will be allowed General Membership status.
- F. All General Membership status clubs will be placed on a one year probationary period beginning with the date of the application / roster approval by the BOD.
- G. These general Membership clubs will not be entitled to vote until their probationary period ends.
- H. Those clubs that want to become part of the IBFN and still maintain an affiliation with a competing organization (i.e. TBF) will be allowed Associate Club / Member status.
- I. All Associate Membership clubs will be placed on a one year probationary period beginning with the date of the application / roster approval by the BOD. Associate Member clubs will not be allowed a vote as long as they maintain the Associate status.
- J. At the end of a probationary period, either General or Associate type clubs, a vote must be taken by the IBFN BOD to then lift the probationary period or decline that club from continued membership.

Article 4

Section 1. Board of Directors

- A. The affairs of this organization shall be managed by the board of directors.

Section 2. Eligibility/Board of Directors

- A. Must be a member in good standing with both B.A.S.S. and the IBFN.
- B. Must be a member of an active club in good standing with both B.A.S.S. and the IBFN for a minimum of one year.
- C. Must have been an Illinois state resident for a minimum of one (1) year.
- D. Must have held a general membership with the IBFN for a period of no less than one (1) year. The sole exception is the first year of this organization.

Section 3. The Executive Board

- A. Consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other Board Members may be invited to join the Executive Committee on an as needed basis.
- B. Great trust must be placed in these individuals: therefore these individuals must have served one (1) year on the IBFN Board of Directors. The sole exception is the beginning year of this organization.

Section 4. Offices/Duties

- A. President – presides over Board of Director Meetings or any special IBFN meetings and does not carry a vote unless a tie exists. Directs official business, supervises all IBFN activities and delegates duties as are appropriate to better serve the IBFN. Appoint and/or be an ex officio member for all standing committees. Maintain a liaison with B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society).
- B. Vice President – presides in the absence of the president. Assists the president. Assumes the office of president should it be vacated and will undertake any other duties as assigned by the president. .
- C. Secretary – records minutes. Maintains all non-financial books, records, and documents belonging to the IBFN. Coordinate with the treasurer. Maintains correspondence between the IBFN and its affiliated member clubs and/or any other agencies as assigned by the president.
- D. Treasurer – Maintain an account for all monies and dues, pay expenses as approved by the IBFN board, maintain all financial books, records and documents belonging to the IBFN. Prepare a financial report and submit an annual budget. The treasurer must be bonded.
- E. Conservation Director – shall work in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and its agencies in matters mutually beneficial.
- F. Youth Director – plan, organize and implement youth projects for the IBFN and member clubs. Coordinate with B.A.S.S (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) and member clubs in conducting Bassmaster Casting Kids events and any other programs encouraging youth participation in the sport of bass fishing as assigned by the president.
- G. Sponsorship Director – Develop new and maintain existing sponsorship and sponsor programs, act as liaison between sponsors and the IBFN, and undertake any other duties as assigned by the president.
- H. Media Director – Will maintain a liaison with media outlets and the IBFN, arrange for and supervise IBFN news releases, and undertake any other duties as assigned by the president.
- I. Immediate Past President – Non-voting - Filled by the retiring president. He will assist the new president in assuming the duties of his position and undertake any other duties as assigned by the president.
- J. Web Master / Internet Director – Is responsible for the managing of the IBFN web site and any other internet media that is needed as instructed by the Board of Directors.
- K. Membership Director – Is responsible for initiating and focusing efforts in the promotion of the IBFN. Searching for, working with and assisting new clubs to become an affiliate club of the IBFN.
- L. As the IBFN organization grows additional offices may be added. This would be at the discretion of the IBFN board.

** The positions A through K listed above will be known as the “Core Positions” that make up the IBFN Board of Directors. All core positions except for I carry voting rights. At no time will the number of “Core Positions” be increased.

** The president, along with the voting consent of the board has the authority to create “Temporary Director” positions as deemed necessary. The Temporary Director positions do not carry a vote. At no time will there be more than three (3) active “Temporary Director” positions.

Section 5. Meetings

- A. The IBFN board of directors will convene meetings a minimum of one (1) per quarter, four annually. Notice of annual meetings will be made 30 days in advance.
- B. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the IBFN board of directors on an as needed basis. In such cases the 30 day notification will be waived.

- C. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order shall apply save in those areas that are inconsistent with the IBFN bylaws.

Section 6. Voting

- A. All board members present at a regularly scheduled and/or special meeting except for counsel shall be entitled to a vote.
- B. A quorum (51%) must be present for a motion and/or vote to carry.
- C. A 2/3 majority of the quorum present is required to carry a motion and/or vote.
- D. No votes will be taken by proxy.

Section 7. Term of Office

Projects undertaken by members of the board are often long term. A continual change in officers disrupts projects. Things learned need to be relearned. To ensure smoother transitions from one year to the next a system that staggers both the length of a term and the positions up for election in any given year has been formulated.

- A. President – 4 years
- B. Vice President – 3 years
- C. Secretary – 3 years
- D. Treasurer – 3 years
- E. Conservation Director – 3 years
- F. Youth Director – 3 years
- G. Sponsorship Director – 3 years
- H. Media Director – 3 years
- I. Immediate Past President – 2 years
- J. Regional Director – 2 years
- K. Counsel – Review of the board

Section 8. Removal of an Officer

- A. Any officer may be removed from the board by a quorum vote of the board of directors. A 30 day prior notice must be given.
- B. Member clubs may make a motion to remove any officer on the board. The board of directors will review the motion and when indicated, arrange for a vote by the board of directors.
- C. Any officer on the board of directors that accepts employment with a corporation, organization, or any other business in conflict with the goals, policies, affiliation agreements, charters, and /or bylaws of either/both B.A.S.S and the IBFN is subject to an immediate expulsion from the board of directors.

Article 5

Section 1. Committees

- A. A board director and/or officer shall appoint committees in conjunction with the approval of the president.
- B. Assist in the planning, promoting, organizing and implementation of annual IBFN events as assigned by the presiding board director.
- C. Will be chaired by a member of the board of directors.
- D. Has a term limit of no more than one (1) year and may be dissolved when required tasks are completed.
- E. Changes in the members within the committee will be at the discretion of the chairman of said committee.

Article 6

Section 1. Elections/Appointments

- A. To ensure both the stability of the board and that the special needs of specific board positions are met in the best interest of the membership, the board of directors will fill the following positions by appointment at the end of each of their respective terms:
 - 1. Secretary
 - 2. Treasurer
 - 3. Conservation Director
 - 4. Youth Director
 - 5. Sponsorship Director
 - 6. Media Director
 - 7. Council
- B. Appointed positions – The president will nominate a board member to fill these positions and the board will vote on the nominee.
- C. The position of Immediate Past President is automatically filled by the retiring president when the new president takes office.
- D. Offices of President and Vice President – Nominees for these positions will come from the general membership and/or the board. Individuals nominated must be current active board members that have completed no less than one year of service.
- E. Elections for President and Vice President - Membership voting rules apply.
- F. It is important for the membership to also be a part of the process and have access to a position on the board of directors should they so choose. Regional Directors will be elected by the membership in their specific region.
- G. An individual running for the position of Regional Director must be in good standing with both B.A.S.S. and the IBFN, must have been a general membership member of his club for a minimum of 1 (one) year, may belong to up to 3 member clubs but may be nominated only from the mother club recorded by the IBFN secretary, and must have member club residency in the region of the nomination.
- H. Nominations for Regional Director will come from the voting membership within that region. No prior board position is required.
- I. Elections for Regional Director will require a 30-day notice to all voting members within that region. The election will be officiated by a board member and will be held in a location within that region. If the office is vacated prior to the term, the current Vice President will assume the duties of that Regional Director until the election takes place. The newly elected Regional Director will then finish the remainder of that term.
- J. Election for region one (1) and four (4) will take place in October of each odd year. Regions two (2) and three (3) will take place in October of each even year. Regional Director Elects will assume their office the first of the following year. Vote by proxy is acceptable.
- K. After completing a term of one (1) year a Regional Director is then eligible and encouraged to run for any other open board position he is qualified for.
- L. Each region having the capacity to elect a member from their region to a position on the board of directors every two (2) years will maintain equal regional representation on board for the future of the membership.
- M. The sole exception is the beginning year of this organization

Article 7

Section 1. Dues

- A. Both general and associate membership dues for individuals belonging to an IBFN charter club is at the current published rate.
- B. It is the responsibility of the president of a charter club to forward state membership dues to the IBFN secretary by December 31st of any given year. The sole exception is the beginning year of this organization.
- C. It is the responsibility of the charter club president to forward national membership dues directly to B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) no later than December 31st of any given year in accordance with their policies and procedures.

Section 2. Monies

- A. The IBFN may accept monies from B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) and must use said monies as indicated by the national organization.
- B. Monies may be derived from sponsors and special projects. Projects must be consistent with the goals and policies of both B.A.S.S. and the IBFN.
- C. At the end of a year, monies in excess of operating expenses other than fisheries and 12 man carry over will revert to the general fund.
- D. Should this organization disband or discontinue its affiliation with B.A.S.S. its assets and corporation must be dissolved.
- E. Any money/assets remaining after all debt has been satisfied shall be disbursed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Article 8

Section 1. Bylaws

- A. The bylaws must be ratified by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership.
- B. Anything not covered in the bylaws shall be left to the discretion of the board of directors.
- C. The voting membership may make a motion through their charter club presidents to amend the bylaws.
- D. The board of directors will vote on all proposed motions.

Article 9

Section 1. Ownership Ethics

- A. Any program, design, document form, web site, and/or similar item created by a member of the board of directors and their appointees specifically for the IBFN and the betterment of the organization becomes the sole property of the IBFN.
- B. Members of the board of directors or any appointee thereof will not be compensated for their time.
- C. All members of the board of directors and their appointees will be required to sign an ownership agreement at the beginning of their term.

Effective Date

The Board of Directors of the Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, Inc. has approved these Bylaws in this month of January 27th in the year of 2008. They become effective and binding upon signature of the below listed members of the board of directors of the Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, Inc. and were ratified by the General Membership Club Presidents at the Presidents Conference on January 27th, 2008.

President _____
accepted by B.A.S.S. May 13, 2006.

Original Draft

by B.A.S.S.

Present draft accepted

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Conservation Director _____

Youth Director _____

Sponsorship Director _____

Media Director _____

Rev 07-09 Ratified by membership vote 01-09