



January 29, 2016
New Mexico Bass Nation
Director's Meeting
Location/Time: meeting conducted through Directors email list

NOTICE OF NMBN DIRECTORS MEETING CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL DECEMBER 13, 2015 [see below for all email discussion]

1/18/2016
[vote date moved to 1/22/2016 from 1/29/16 by Earl, but left open for Socorro to vote]

Directors,

After a fair amount of discussion and some really good ideas for future years, and with the help of several directors, I have a motion from Cedar Cove with a second from the Hawg Hunters. It meets my objectives of growing our non-boater membership and increasing participation at the qualifiers. There are other ideas that might work better next year, but this is probably our best route for 2016. I really don't want to have a meeting in Albuquerque. I would rather be down at Elephant Butte putting in Christmas trees and working on the next phase of that project with a lot of volunteers.

Let's see if this will pass. If you have questions, call me. (505) 610-5156

Please vote by replying to all.

[Motion: Cedar Cove Randell Bell 1/8/2016, Second - Albuquerque Hawg Hunters X Gutierrez]

For the first three tournaments, the boaters and non-boaters will fish with the person they sign up with at registration. The last day at Navajo, there will be draw to determine partners. The tournaments will be Pro-Am format (the boater is only fishing against boaters and non-boaters are only fishing against non-boaters). The bag limit will be 5 largemouth, smallmouth and/or spotted bass for the boater and 3 largemouth, smallmouth and/or spotted bass for the non-boater.

Boater and non-boater will need to be declared at the start of the season and the points will stay with that member under that designation for the entire year. Points will be awarded based on the angler's finish as a boater or non-boater with first place being worth 100 points for each (the tournament software is using a 100 point scale [the tournament software is using a 300 point scale and no change needs to be made, points awarded on a 300 point scale]).

The boater pays \$100 per day and non-boater pays \$50 per day. Boaters will be competing for the boater "pot" of money, and non-boaters competing for the non-boater "pot" of money. Payout will continue to

be 75% payout on a 1 place for 5 entries basis. Boaters will have a 5 fish limit and non-boaters will have a 3 fish limit.

Boaters must register with a non-boater if they want to be guaranteed use of their boat. If a boater registers without a non-boater they will be paired with a non-boater, if there is one available, or with another boater (one of the two unpaired boaters will lose the use of their boat through a coin toss but may still compete as a boater, sharing control over where they fish one half of the day). The only reason a boater may go out alone is if there is an uneven number of total competitors. The boater that has no non-boater may be assigned an observer by the Tournament Director if one is available. There is no random draw at the first three events unless we have unpaired boaters and non-boaters. Then, only the unpaired anglers will be paired by a random draw.

The boater will control the boat and determine fishing locations (shared day if two boaters are paired). Boaters have the option to allow non-boaters to be in the front of the boat and control the front of the boat for fishing purposes. Boaters are encouraged to help or share information within the rules of what is permitted in BASS OPEN Pro-Am format rules. If substantiated (by the Tournament Director) rules violations are observed by one of the anglers and not reported to the tournament director, both contestants are subject to disqualification by the Tournament Director (per B.A.S.S. rules).

The declaration of boater or non-boater will continue into the Regional team selection where there will be separate boater and non-boater lists from which to select the ten boaters and ten non-boaters. All four scores will be counted for the year and the top boater will be the "Boater Angler of the Year" and the top non-boater will be the "Non-boater Angler of the Year". The top boater will become the team captain as per current bylaws.

End of motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Cedar Cove, Albuquerque Hawg Hunters, Elephant Butte Bass Anglers, Four Corners Bassmasters, High Country Bass Anglers, Southwest Bassmasters

Opposed: Socorro Valley Bass

Abstaining: Cortez Bassmasters

Final Discussion:

The bylaws amendment (updates and changes) is almost ready for a vote also, but I want to get this resolved first. The final changes will be made after this vote and sent out to Directors for amending.

Tournament guidelines will be amended to allow the tournament committee the option of requiring a polygraph if warranted. (not a bylaw change) A no-entry side pot (from sponsors) for the most boat weight on the final day is being considered to encourage boaters to continue to help non-boaters learn and catch fish.

If an angler has to (broken boat) or wants to (new boat) change their status during the year for any reason, they would start over on points in the new category. There is a question on the floor that if a boat breaks, can the boater be allowed to fish as a boater if there is an available unpaired boater. It seems OK to me

as it gives them no advantage and is not that different than pairing unpaired boaters. I am suggesting this be allowed in the tournament guidelines.

There is also a request to set dates for next year as soon as possible to help anglers plan vacation and hunts. I will compile the many ideas that directors and club members suggested over the last three weeks. They range from having a three-day qualifier to having each club determine who should be on the team without a state qualifier (based on membership?). There is also still a desire to have team tournaments and there is nothing stopping us from having them, they just wouldn't be part of the qualification for the state team. I will get the list of ideas out to everyone once this vote is over. I need everyone to focus on this vote first. I look forward to you e-mail vote.

[Discussion 1/25/2016 from Ron – Socorro]

Thanks Billy and Steve, both of you are correct and thank you,, please understand, Earl isn't the issue, with me or the Socorro Club,,Earl and I had the great opportunity to Fish the Top 8 in 1987, we are good friends and do as much as we can for a better N.M.. I feel for Earl trying to get a team to Lake Mead,, I had the unfortunate opportunity as President going through to the 65 and 66 man once upon a time for a 14 man team to Idaho.. I am suggesting with all of the drop outs for Lake Mead, this year, it probably won't be any easier in 2017.. It is my belief, right or wrong the issue is B.A.S.S. enlarging the team to 20, to a concept, charging anglers to be there after a trail qualification in N.M.. That the step to the Divisional should be a honor , not a charge to fish more..Also should my life get to where I can fish again with you guys, I like fishing with my buddies or buddy, what ever. I am in hope at the Classic, the 1st week of March, perhaps other States have enough thoughts, that together the B.A.S.S. leaders may have better suggestions into the future..Earl and I have almost daily conversations on projects and thoughts for a better N.M. Thanks Ron

[Discussion 1/24/2016 from Steve Ragsdale, Past President NMBN]

It is the president's job to anticipate and be proactive in furthering the goals of the NMBN. I believe Earl Conway is making an outstanding effort toward that goal.

As past president I was in a position to maintain, with the exception of transfer from ESPN to Jerry McKinnis et al, the status quo. Earl is faced with the daunting challenge of a drastic change in the tournament format for B.A.S.S. and the BN. I believe he is posing propositions that will best ensure the continued growth of the NMBN and the BN. He is being proactive rather than reactive and I believe this is the best path for the NMBN.

[Discussion 1/24/2016 from Billy – Four Corners]

Seems to me Earl is making a good effort at representing the Presidents role of the NMBN. He is trying to move the NMBN in a direction to increase participation and better the organization! I guess I am confused at the comment of putting the cart in front of the horse since the qualifying events in 2016 will determine our team in 2017?!

BASS has spent 2 years transitioning into this new format at the Regionals and I would not expect any changes to that in the meetings at the Classic. SO we need to come together and come up with a format that is going to better the NMBN. In my opinion the draw format is dying in this state as evidence by our diminished boater and non-boater turnout the last few years and welcome any format change that turns our numbers around and revives the NMBN! Just my thoughts!

[Discussion 01/23/2016 from Ron – Socorro]

Hey fellows, perhaps we have the Cart before the Horse. Earl you are trying to set the stage for next year 2017, of a team going on to the divisional, with a program by B.A.S.S. which as set up, will run into the same thing as the Traveling Team of 2016 and really not knowing if the logistics for travel, might be worst going even further in travel expenses and mileage expenses, and new team members drop outs. Knowing this, how in world can we build a Federation on a concept not working now... With the meetings coming up at the Classic, with B.A.S.S. leaders, in March, this Federation has time to decide the correct way to go prior to our fishing season after the Classic. To vote now, I can tell you Socorro is No, some like the idea, majority like the draw. So I will hold the vote until at least the 29th, and see how it is going,, I know without our vote, the wheel is grease, to move forward, but gosh, what is next year President going to face.? Consider to wait after the Classic meetings with other States..Thanks Ron

[Discussion 01/15/2016 from Ron - Socorro]

Not sure how all of this is going to play out,, but if needed, and not already in the rules, our club feels, that should the buddy system is in placed, then whom ever makes the team, agrees to a lie detector exam. at year end.. if needed at year end, this is a motion. Scoring for the new concept, needs to be discuss and for all to understand, not to be discuss by a Committee at the first Tourney. For discussion, it is felt, a draw is much better for all tourneys, although perhaps somewhat uncomfortable, it does allow new friendship to develop, to also allow learning of fishing skills, and how to navigate a lake. To start a buddy system is only a band-aid and will surely drop in following years. That the buddy system only rewards the boater. The issues is expenses, in travel around the state, poor places to stay and after all the State travel with several hundred dollars in expenses, then more expense at the Divisional, and rather than being Honor by B.A.S.S. They, now have to pay monies to enter. Many whom have solid jobs, may not understand the expense issues, however many New would be Anglers can't let much money past through their hands, when those monies are needed at home.. Some have suggest that a very solid, well ran, once a year draw tourney for 3 days, is enough for the Federation, that this may bring many anglers back whom don't want the travel around the State. The idea would free up time for other angling programs, more time for the club, more time for family. This would decide the Boaters and non boaters. That this might bring Anglers back whom have supported other competitive Fishing Organizations. To do this suggestion, would stop all of the by laws clarification, band aid work and starting a program that will only die in time..The above is this club members concerns mention to me and I have past along..See all soon..Ron

[Discussion 01/15/2016 from Earl]

Directors,

Here we go! We may need to be in the same room in Albuquerque to make a decision on the tournament format instead of trying to do it by phone and e-mail. I am willing to try to do it by phone and e-mail as long as we have a set time to do a conference call and trade e-mails. Who can make it on Saturday morning, January 30th? Is Sunday better?

The objective of the 2016 qualifier tournaments are to qualify and support our best 10 boaters and best 10 non-boaters for the 2017 Regional. A secondary objective is to grow participation at the club and state level. If you or your club have different motives, we need to talk.

I spent my last hour looking over Roberts Rules of Order (<http://www.robertsrules.org/rror--00.htm>) to figure out how to bring this decision to conclusion.

Based on my understanding of Robert's Rules of Order, we will vote first on the current motion to have three team format tournaments before the Pro-Am draw unless Cedar Cove rescinds or modifies their motion. I need a clean version of this motion from Cedar Cove. I have the version the Hawg Hunters seconded. However, based on a meeting this week, the Hawg Hunters may be changing their mind and I see no way to rescind a second in the rules so I think we have to vote on it unless Cedar Cove takes an action to change it.

If that motion is defeated in vote, then the new motion offered by High Country to have three boater/non-boater (no-draw) tournaments before the Pro-am draw tournament will be put forth for a second and we will vote on it. High Country should write their motion as a stand-alone motion ready for vote. Please reconsider on whether a boater can fish alone. See my discussion below.

If both motions are defeated, we revert back to the old draw format from last year. I will close the floor to further motions and the Directors will move into discussion where they can decide on a compromise motion or return without a motion. No new motions concerning the tournament format from an individual Director will be accepted.

<http://www.robertsrules.org/rror--00.htm>

The Pro-Am format for the final day is dictated and defined by B.A.S.S. and we will make bylaw and tournament guideline changes to adapt to this new rule and the 20-person team. Brian has helped me prepare the bylaw changes for revision. It was a lot of work! Thank you.

Fishing alone has been a detriment to participation and recruitment of new members. It will not work in a no-draw format. It goes against the objective to grow participation. Be prepared to vote appropriately. See my discussion below.

All of the other details are independent and should be handled as a "Divided motion" as they stand alone. Some only apply if the decision is to have no team tournaments. We may have to vote on these topics.

1. Number of drops - both motions have zero and if one passes this is done. If they don't pass, I will suggest we make a motion to have no drops.
2. Non-boater "control" of boat and fishing waters - motion is that the boater has final say over the water that they fish at all tournaments. There are no other constraints on the non-boater.

Some of the details on scoring (points) should be left up to the tournament director or a small tournament committee but don't need to be in the motion or bylaws. We already say that we follow B.A.S.S. guidelines and rules.

So here is my take on the discussion. I will only vote if there is a tie.

After hearing all of the discussion, I am leaning towards not having a team format. The four boater/non-boater no-draw tournaments will meet my desire to grow participation. I wish we had freedom on the last tournament but we don't so it will be a draw. Many would prefer a

team format but it just doesn't work well if the purpose of these tournaments is to qualify our best 10 boaters and best 10 non-boaters. Team tournaments are fun and maybe we should have some that are not qualifiers. We used to have them.

Fishing alone should not be allowed if we are not fishing in a team format. I will be very disappointed if boaters do not make an effort to find non-boaters regardless of the format we choose. But it would be unacceptable to me if we allow a person to come to the tournament alone in a no-draw situation where they are guaranteed to fish alone. That would be a huge advantage especially if we are in a sight-fishing situation at Conchas. Also, I don't think I could get the OK from BASS to not pair everyone the last day. There rules from B.A.S.S. for the Regional are pretty clear:

21. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:

Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Boaters may be paired with Boaters, and share time. Boaters may not fish alone. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner will be made at the Tournament Briefing, which must be attended, except with permission from the Tournament Director, by each competitor. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location, with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions (see Rule 15, 16 & 18). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by BASS.

Neither of the motions allow a drop and I support that position. All four scores count. Most of us have a bad day or just bad luck and that is just part of the competition. No drops make it a lot cleaner.

Regardless of the format we choose, the angler is going to have to declare whether they are a boater or a non-boater at the beginning of the year and they will only accumulate points in that category for each tournament. If they change, they start over on points. That is the only way we can make the two separate lists work for selection of the team at the end of the year. This assures the non-boaters that they will not have boaters taking cuts when it comes to determining the team at the end of the year. If we exhaust the boater list, then we can select someone from the top of the non-boater list to fill the 10 boaters. Same for the non-boaters.

So continue the discussion and let's see if we can't have a consensus decision worked out before the 30th. It has been a great discussion and I think we all have a better understanding of the different perspectives. I definitely have a better feel for what is important to the different clubs. What I also have gained is a better understanding of why members have quit and why potential new members are not joining. We have to change or we will go away!

Earl

[Discussion 01/06/2016 from Brian - HCBA]

Earl and Directors,

We would like to start by saying that our club does not vote in favor of a true team (2 anglers competing together) format, but understand the desire to grow membership through alternative methods. With that in mind, we would like to propose an amended motion for discussion and/or vote of the Directors prior to January 29, 2016.

HCBA Amended Motion:

The first three tournaments will be Pro-Am format (no draw) with the boater paying \$100 per day and non-boater paying \$50 per day (more attractive to get non-boaters to try out the tournaments). Boater and non-boater will need to be declared at the start of the season and the points will stay with that member under that designation. There is no random draw at the first three events unless we have unpaired boaters and non-boaters. Then, only the unpaired anglers will be paired by a random draw. The bag limit will be 5 largemouth, smallmouth and/or spotted bass for the boater and 3 largemouth, smallmouth and/or spotted bass for the non-boater. Points will be awarded based on your finish as a boater or non-boater with first place being worth 300 points for each [if the tournament software is using a 100 point scale, HCBA proposes that the Bylaws are amended to reflect this and not spend the money to change the software]. A boater may fish alone and the non-boater may not provide any help or information outside of what is permitted in BASS OPEN Pro-Am format rules. Payout will be 75% with a 1 place per 5 entries as in the past. (Boaters will be competing for the boater "pot" of money, and non-boaters competing for the non-boater "pot" of money).

The fourth and final qualifier will be a Pro-Am format as required by B.A.S.S with a random draw. Same \$100 and \$50 entry fee. In the fourth tournament, everyone will be put in the random draw.

Prizes will continue to be 75% payout on a 1 place for 5 entries basis. Boaters will have a 5 fish limit and non-boaters will have a 3 fish limit.

This declaration of boater or non-boater will continue into the Regional team selection where there will be separate boater and non-boater lists from which to select the ten boaters and ten non-boaters. All four scores will be counted for the year and the top boater will be the "Boater angler of the year" and the top non-boater will be the "Non-boater angler of the year". The top boater will become the team captain as per current bylaws.

The rules for the Pro-Am tournament will follow B.A.S.S. Regional rules (previously attached) with respect to non-boater rules. One very important rule is that the Boater controls the boat the entire day and the non-boater must fish only from the back of the boat. The boater is only fishing against boaters and non-boaters are only fishing against non-boaters.

End of motion.

With the reduced income generated on the non-boater side, consideration to what support the NMBN gives boaters vs. nonboaters should also be discussed among the directors.

HCBA is in favor of the use of a polygraph in the event of a dispute. The cost for doing a polygraph test is roughly \$700-\$800. This seems prohibitive to an organization with our budget. A tournament committee made up of participating representatives from various clubs may make more sense.

We are not in favor of a "no pre fish" policy. This would disadvantage anglers that live away from the lakes we compete.

[Discussion 12/26/2015 from Joe - EBBA]
Three great ideas. Do them all.

[Discussion 12/26/2015 from Earl]
Ron,

I will start working with the other state presidents and B.A.S.S. leadership to seek out better ways of supporting our members and growing our membership. I will be attending the Classic in March and making presentations to the other conservation directors. Many have a more direct line to their membership than the other officers, including the presidents. I will also have face time with Jon Stewart and other B.A.S.S. officers. I might even get a shot at the owner(s). I need help putting together my 2 minute "elevator speech" on what should change. I'm not sure we even have a vision of what would work best.

Earl

[Discussion 12/26/2015 from Ron Gilworth - Socorro]

All of the past Federation Presidents, great clubs, great members have spent countless hours doing band-aid fixes to this Federation. This Federation has spent somewhere between a quarter Million dollars To \$400,000, in travel in the Western Division trying accomodate B.A.S.S. different leaders and owners. Now don't get me wrong, I am a life member of B.A.S.S., as your past President, in New Orleans, when the split was taking place with FLW and BASS, I was the first State President to stand up in favor of B.A.S.S. which change the movement at that time and other States follow..I believe that no matter how the concept goes this year, our leaders need to start working with other Out of State Leaders and have some down to earth meetings with B.A.S.S. on a concept to help the Grass Root Anglers and Federation Clubs grow. The expenses taking place is part of the problems of clubs drying up or members switching around trying to find a home to participate. Earls got some good thoughts, and I agree to his concerns. Thanks Ron

[Discussion 12/26/2015 from Earl]

Steve Ragsdale pointed out that our current payout is based on 1 place for every 5 contestants, not 6. My Bad!

The one big concern that keeps coming up with this proposal is "trust". The one thing the random draw did was reduce the chances of someone cheating. The concern is valid and one director made a point that the first year may go fine, but if a team is suspected of cheating, then other teams may drop out the following year. One of the reason I don't fish many team tournaments is because I have seen teams cheat. Some got away with it and some didn't.

But they definitely did things like caging fish during pre-fish, relocated fish during pre-fish and fished with more than one line (each) in the water. I have had a few suggestions on how to deal with the concern:

Put in the option to require a polygraph
Have no Friday pre-fish
Split up the teams for the final pro-am tournament day

Discussion????

Earl

[Discussion 12/25/2015 from Earl]

Please cast your club's vote on this motion ASAP. The motion is based on discussion with the Four Corners club. I have a second from Cedar Cove.

Discussions within the clubs seem to be moving along and I am getting input from directors that indicates we have a majority in favor of a team format for the first three tournaments. The discussions have been good and early indications are that we might be able to almost double participation if we go with a team format and advertise this as soon as possible. Therefore, I would like to move the decision forward with a motion that:

Motion: The first three tournaments will be in a team format with the team paying one entry fee of \$200 per boat per day. The bag limit will be 5 black bass per boat. Points will be awarded to both anglers that fish with first place being worth 300 points for each person. An angler may pay the \$200 entry fee and fish alone, but only he will receive points. Payout will be 75% with a 1 place per 6 entries as in the past.

The fourth and final qualifier will be a Pro-Am format as required by B.A.S.S. Each contestant will pay a \$100 entry fee. Prizes will continue to be 75% payout on a 1place for 6 entries basis. Boaters will have a 5-fish limit and non-boaters will have a 3-fish limit.

At the fourth qualifier, each contestant must declare whether they are fishing as a boater or non-boater. We will "pair" the boater and non-boater based on their year-to-date standings. If there is a tie, the original team pairing takes precedent over the tie. Otherwise, it is almost certain you will fish with your original team member, but you will fish as individuals.

This declaration of boater or non-boater will continue into the Regional team selection where there will be separate boater and non-boater lists from which to select the ten boaters and ten non-boaters. All four scores will be counted for the year and the top boater will be the "Boater angler of the year" and the top non-boater will be the "Non-boater angler of the year". The top boater will become the team captain as per current bylaws.

The rules for the Pro-Am tournament will follow B.A.S.S. Regional rules (attached) with respect to non-boater rules. One very important rule is that the Boater controls the boat the entire day and the non-boater must fish only from the back of the boat. The boater is only fishing against boaters and non-boaters are only fishing against non-boaters.

There is no random draw unless we have unpaired boaters and non-boaters. Then, only the unpaired anglers will be paired by a random draw. On the final day, there will be no unpaired boaters.

For the fourth tournament, each angler will be awarded points based on their individual weight and these points will be added to their annual total. First place boater and non-boater will be worth 300 points.

Bylaws will be modified to fit the new format changes if the motion passes. (end of motion)

Discussion: Here are some of the points I have heard in discussions so far.

Several non-boaters have come forward and said they would join and fish if they knew they were not going to be paired up with someone else at the lake. Most people no longer favor a draw. Some suggested that draws are well suited for clubs and that it should still be encouraged at that level.

Most boaters thought they could find a non-boater to fish team with them if they got started now.

The reduced bag limits should put less stress on the fish and we should have more and bigger "limits" at weigh-in.

There will be no need for pairing at the first three tournaments, speeding the meeting process.

It will be possible to accept early mail-in entries to further speed up the process.

Non-boaters will not have to be constantly maintaining a non-boater bag and moving equipment every day.

There is a strong incentive for the boater to help the non-boater catch fish during the first three tournaments.

The chance of "cheating" during the first three tournaments is greatly reduced from a "buddy" boater/nonboater no-draw tournament.

Rules must be very clear and enforced strictly for the fourth day as the temptation for the anglers to want to "help" each other will be pretty strong.

We should see how this goes this year and adjust next year if warranted.

Give me a call or reply if you have questions.

Vote by email only so we have a record.

Earl

[Call for Motion 12/13/2015]

Directors,

Action Required!

Motion to change State Team Qualifier Tournament Format and Qualification Scoring.

To move things forward quickly, I am going to ask a Director to submit a motion to change the tournament format and scoring for the state team qualification process. What we decide will probably decide whether

NM BASS Nation survives, so take this seriously and ask a lot of questions before you vote. Make sure you consult your club members before you vote.

A vote will be held electronically on January 29th, 2016. Club presidents will be consulted as proxy if the Director has not responded by that day for a final tally on January 30th.

The most important decisions we have to make are:

1. Can a boater continue to fish alone?
2. Should tournaments be a draw or team format?
3. When does a person have to declare they are a boater or a non-boater?
4. How do we fill vacancies on the state team?
5. How are points accumulated during the year and how they affect the final standings (drop or not drop)?
6. How are boaters and nonboaters are "assigned" the final day to meet B.A.S.S. "open-like"?

I have attached draft changes and a lot of background information for you to consider. Feel free to pass any of this on to club members.