

**NEW MEXICO B.A.S.S.
NATION CHAPTER BYLAWS**

REVISED November 16, 2019

ARTICLE I

INTRODUCTION

1. **Code of Rules.** These Bylaws supersede the New Mexico Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.), Nation Chapter Bylaws, and constitute the code of rules adopted by the New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation Chapter for the regulation and management of its affairs.
2. **Purpose and Powers.** The New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation Chapter, hereinafter referred to as the NMBN, consisting of affiliated Chapters of shall have the purposes and powers as may be stated in its Articles of Incorporation, and such powers as are now or may be granted by law. Additional purposes and objectives are:
 - a. To promote and support approved conservation policies, practices and measures, preservation of aquatic resources and improvements of ecological and environmental conditions on regional, state and local levels.
 - b. To promote the practice of high standards of sportsmanship and conservation measures among the membership.
 - c. To provide the state Game and Fish Commission organized political input, material support and encouragement.
 - d. To promote improvement of bass angling skills in the membership through fellowship, the friendly exchange of techniques and ideas and the conduct of NMBN sponsored bass fishing tournaments.
 - e. To encourage youth fishing, promote the conduct of youth fishing activities by the NMBN Chapters (clubs) and, within budgetary allocations, provide funding and material assistance in the implementation of approved youth activities.
 - f. To conduct bass fishing tournaments as may be required for purposes of determining the members who will constitute the NMBN traveling team and represent the NMBN during B.A.S.S. sponsored tournaments.
 - g. Within funding limitations, provide funding for the NMBN traveling team's participation in B.A.S.S. sponsored regional and national tournaments as may be required.
3. **Slogan.** This organization's slogan is: "Dedicated to Conservation and the

Bass Fishermen of New Mexico.”

4. **Colors.** The NMBN colors are Yellow and Red.

ARTICLE II

LOCATION

1. **Geographical.** The New Mexico Chapter of the B.A.S.S. Nation shall consist of those qualified NMBN Chapters (clubs) whose offices of record and majority of members are domiciled in the state of New Mexico and clubs with a geographical nexus to the State of New Mexico with approval of the majority of the Board of Directors.
2. **Principal Office.** The principal office and business address of this organization shall be the same as that of the NMBN President.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. **Definition of Membership.** The members of the NMBN are those persons and organizations having membership in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.
2. **Categories of Membership.** The NMBN shall have two categories of membership.
 - a. Individual – Persons who are members in good standing of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Nation, and who are also members in good standing of a NMBN Chapter affiliate.
 - b. Organizational – Chapters in the state of New Mexico affiliated with both B.A.S.S. and NMBN.
3. **Affiliation.** Membership in the NMBN shall be acquired only by Chapters, after approval by the Board of Directors, who meet the following prerequisites:
 - a. Each NMBN Chapter Club shall consist of six (6) or more individual members, in good standing of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Nation, and the NMBN.
 - b. A NMBN Chapter Club may have an associate membership. Each associate member must be a member of the Local Chapter and B.A.S.S. and will not be entitled to any NMBN or B.A.S.S. Nation benefit nor eligible to compete in any NMBN membership sanctioned event (excluding open or fundraising tournaments).

- c. The Chapter's office of record shall be in the state of New Mexico or in a location with a geographical nexus to the State of New Mexico by the approval of the majority of the Board of Directors.
 - d. Chapter shall be an affiliate of B.A.S.S. Nation; or, the organization is otherwise qualified and B.A.S.S. confirms that affiliation has been requested and is pending.
 - e. Upon application for affiliation, Chapter provides the NMBN with a current membership roster and the name and address of its designee(s) for the Board of Directors and pays NMBN membership dues for each member.
4. **Continuation.** Chapter affiliation in the NMBN shall be on a continuing basis provided:
 - a. Chapter maintains current its affiliation with B.A.S.S. Nation
 - b. Chapter maintains its domicile in the state of New Mexico or in a location with a geographical nexus to the State of New Mexico with the approval of the majority of the Board of Directors.
 - c. Chapter complies with the requirements for representation during NMBN Board of Director's meetings. (Ref: Art IV, Sec 2)
 - d. Chapter's individual membership is maintained at six (6) or more in accordance with Section 3 of this Article and pays \$20 membership dues for each member by January 1 each year to prevent lapse in NMBN and B.A.S.S. Nation benefits.
 - e. Chapter Director maintains current the names and addresses of its officials with the NMBN.
5. **Withdrawal from Membership.** Any bass Chapter may withdraw from membership, after fulfilling all of its obligations to the NMBN, by giving notice, preferably in writing, to the Secretary. In the absence of notification, Chapters who fail to have representation on three successive occasions at NMBN Board of Director's meetings shall be considered as having effected withdrawal action and will be removed from membership. Actions of withdrawal as enumerated above shall also be reported to B.A.S.S. for disaffiliation action by the NMBN secretary.
6. **Forfeiture of Membership.**
 - a. Chapters in violation of Article III, Section 4 may be dropped from membership.

- b. Chapters who absent themselves (fail to have bona fide representation) from three consecutive Board of Director's meetings without acceptable cause being given, shall be considered at the next Board of Director's meeting, following the third absence, for forfeiture or retention of membership.
- c. NMBN Chapters may be removed from membership for reasons stated above and for cause by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, with a quorum present of the Board of Directors, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment, the Board considers such action to be in the best interests of the NMBN.
- d. Individual membership in the NMBN is forfeited concurrent with cessation of the individual's NMBN Chapter membership in the NMBN unless the individual transfers to another chapter within 30 days.
- e. Individuals may be denied participation in NMBN sponsored activities by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, with a quorum present of the Board of Directors for cause, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment, the Board may consider such action to be in the best interests of the NMBN. For flagrant reasons, the Board may recommend removal of the individual from Chapter membership. NMBN Chapters shall abide by the Board's determination and remove the individual from membership in the NMBN.

7. Reinstatement of Individual Membership.

- a. Membership in the NMBN that was terminated in accordance with Article III, may request reinstatement after the individual demonstrates compliance with the prerequisites set forth in these bylaws.
- b. Membership in the NMBN that was terminated under Article III, may be reinstated following a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, with a quorum present of the Board of Directors.

8. Rights and Privileges. The NMBN Chapters and the Chapters' membership comprise the NMBN. As members of the NMBN they are entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations to which membership in B.A.S.S. Nation implies.

- a. Without limiting such rights and obligations, individual rights shall include eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in the NMBN and the right to vote on all matters requiring a vote of the individual membership; and such individual obligations shall include maintaining their current membership in B.A.S.S., membership in an affiliate Chapter of the NMBN, active participation in NMBN activities and conduct reflecting a favorable image of the NMBN in the community.

- b. The NMBN Chapters shall have representation on the Board of Directors with the rights and obligations that such representation shall entail, the right to vote through their Board's representative on all matters pertaining to the operation of the NMBN; the right to participate in NMBN sponsored activities for which they are eligible and such other rights as may be conferred by the Board of Directors. The Chapter's obligations shall include maintaining affiliation with the NMBN, active participation and support of NMBN projects and activities and the maintenance of a level of conduct and sportsmanship among its members that imparts a favorable image on the Chapter and the NMBN in the community.
9. **Non-discrimination.** There shall be no discrimination in membership or participation in the activities of the NMBN by reason of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, veteran status, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. **General.** The business management and affairs of the NMBN 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 sale and exchange of organizational property and attend to such other matters connected with the conduct of the NMBN, as, from time to time it may determine. The elected representatives of affiliate NMBN Chapters shall constitute the Board of Directors.
2. **NMBN Chapter Representation.**
 - a. Each Chapter of the NMBN which is in good standing with and maintains active its affiliate status with the NMBN, shall have a member who shall serve as a director on the NMBN Board of Directors. Such director shall:
 - i. Be an elected official of the Chapter he or she represents or be elected by the Chapter membership specifically for the director's position.
 - ii. Represent the membership of their Chapter and convey the business of that membership to the Board of Directors and in turn, relay the business of the Board of Directors to the Chapter members.
 - iii. Hold office for one (1) year and thereafter until their respective successors shall be elected and shall qualify.
 - iv. Attend a minimum of at least fifty-one (51) percent of the

scheduled Board of Director's meetings conducted during the calendar year. Compliance with this requirement shall maintain active their Chapter's status in the NMBN and eligibility for Chapter participation in NMBN tournaments.

- b. In addition to the Director, B.A.S.S. Chapters may designate alternate Directors who meet the requirements of Director. The Chapter's alternate Director may represent the Chapter at Board of Director's meetings in the absence of the Director. Alternate Directors may be appointed (or elected) to fill unexpired terms of office of Chapter Directors should the position be vacated for any reason.
 - c. It is the exclusive right of each Chapter to determine representation at Board Meetings. In the absence of the Chapter's Director or designated alternate, a written note or email from the President or elected officer of the Chapter to the NMBN Directors will be acceptable documentation and entitle the bearer, who must also be a NMBN member in good standing the right to represent and cast one vote for one Chapter. A person shall not represent more than one club at NMBN meetings. The NMBN President is forbidden to carry the proxy because he or she is the deciding vote in a tie breaker.
 - d. As provided under Article III, Section 4, a requirement for continuing affiliation with the NMBN is Chapter representation at Board of Director's meetings. Chapter representation shall include the requirement that the NMBN Chapters Director shall maintain current the name and address of their director with the NMBN. Should a change in the Director occur, the change shall be reported to the NMBN President or Secretary.
3. **Removal from Office.** The Board of Directors shall have the right at any time to remove any director from office for cause by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, with a quorum present of the Board of Directors, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment, the board considers such action to be in the best interest of the NMBN. Cause shall be constructed to include failure to attend scheduled meetings.
4. **Meetings.** An in-person meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held typically between December and February of each winter on a date, a place, and at a starting time as shall be coordinated and determined by the President and approved by the Board. Additionally, other meetings will be held at the discretion of the President or can be called by at least three of the Directors. The location, date and starting time for these meetings of the Board of directors shall be announced by the President least 10 days prior to the meeting and may be a video or telephone conference.
5. **Action Without Meeting.** Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing (email or letter), or verbal consent setting forth the actions to be taken, shall be agreed

to by a majority of the directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. Said consent shall sent to all Directors. Such consent shall be documented and submitted at the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting for inclusion in the minutes and 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.

6. **Committees.** The Board of Directors may, by resolution(s) passed by a majority of directors, with a quorum present, designate one or more committees, each committee to consist of two or more of the directors and any number of individual members of the NMBN. The designation of such committee and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any member thereof, of any responsibility imposed upon it to him or to her by law. Each committee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report the same to the Board of Directors when required.
7. **Compensation.** Officers and Directors shall not receive compensation from NMBN funds for their services as directors. However, Officers and Directors may be reimbursed for expenses incurred as directed and on behalf of the NMBN, the expenses to be evidenced by receipt or another proper document.
8. **Books and Accounting Records.** As a continuing action, the Board of Directors shall monitor the procedures for maintaining the books and accounting records of the NMBN to assure:
 - a. The NMBN keeps correct and complete books and records of account.
 - b. All NMBN funds are properly safeguarded and all receipts of monies and expenditures are properly recorded according to acceptable accounting procedures.
 - c. A record of the proceedings of its members, Board of directors and committees are kept.
 - d. A record of the names and addresses of its affiliate NMBN Chapters and Chapter members on the Board of Directors are maintained at the principal office of the NMBN.
 - e. The NMBN's financial books and accounts are audited as necessary by a committee appointed by the President, or at the Board's discretion.
9. **Exceptions to Authority.** The Board of Directors may not:
 - a. Make any rule or regulation, not already delegated to the NMBN by the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, which shall impinge upon the autonomy and authority of the NMBN Chapters as separate entities.
 - b. Amend or repeal portions of the Articles of these Bylaws that were

imposed by vote of the individual membership, inclusive of the following which shall be determined by individual vote:

- i. Withdrawal of the NMBN from Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.).
- ii. Dissolution of the NMBN.

10. **Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the NMBN Chapter Directors.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

1. **General.** Officers of the NMBN shall be elected by the Board of Directors and shall consist of those positions delineated in Article VI sections 1 - 7. NMBN officers, as a group, shall be known as the Executive Committee and are empowered to carry out the directives of the Board of Directors when the Board of Directors is not in session. The Board of Directors shall have the power to overrule or modify the action of the Executive Committee or any officer of the NMBN.
- a. The Executive Committee may act by a majority of its members at a meeting or informally without a meeting provided all members sign a document reflecting such informal action.
 - b. 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 of 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 or him or her by law.
 - c. The Executive Committee shall prepare an agenda for the Board of Director's meeting, to consider old and shape new business for presentation to the Board of directors.
 - d. During Board of Director's meetings, officers may perform dual functions, i.e., NMBN official and NMBN Chapter Director. In the latter case, provided they are the Chapter delegate and are recognized as such by the chair, they shall be authorized to register attendance and cast their authorized vote under the provisions of Article IV in the interests of their respective NMBN Chapter.
2. **Term of Office.** The term of office for NMBN officers shall be from Oct 1st for a period of one (1) year. If a vacancy occurs the Board of Directors will meet to elect an officer for the remainder of the term. Officers may be elected for consecutive terms for the same position. The incumbent president will

administer the oath of office to the newly elected officers.

3. **Eligibility for Office.** Officers shall be members in good standing of B.A.S.S. and of an affiliate NMBN Chapter.
4. **Removal from Office.** Any officer may be removed from office for cause by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, with a quorum present, of the Board of Directors, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment, the Board considers such action to be in the best interest of the NMBN. An officer's absence, without justifiable reason, from three consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors shall be cause for removal.

ARTICLE VI

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. **President.** He or she shall be the chief executive officer of the NMBN. He or she shall:
 - Preside and maintain order over all meetings of the Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors of the NMBN.
 - Schedule meetings of the Board of Directors, schedule meetings of the Executive Committee as required; and notify directors and officers of meeting dates, times, and locations, etc.
 - Appoint Standing and Special Committees of the NMBN as appropriate, cooperate with chairmen thereof to assure proper functioning and reporting of each committee.
 - Assure that meetings scheduled for the individual membership are noticed and held.
 - See that elections for NMBN officers are duly called, noticed and held.
 - Direct all official business for the NMBN.
 - Be the official representative of NMBN.
 - Ensure adequate supervision of all NMBN sponsored activities.
 - Be a nonvoting member of all standing and special committees.
 - Maintain liaison with Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and endorsed sponsors and promoters.
 - Initiate disciplinary action in respect to violations of standing regulations and procedure by NMBN members.

- Appoint a Team Captain and a Deputy Team Captain for the NMBN State Team (see Article XV (8)).□
 - Acquire a working knowledge of parliamentary law and procedures and a thorough understanding of the Articles and Bylaws of the NMBN.
 - Submit each calendar year, no later than January 1st, a Statement of Anticipated Revenues and Expenditures (Budget) for approval by the Board of Directors.
 - Be responsible as the outgoing President to reasonably and willingly assist the new President and Treasurer with tax preparations for the previous year.
 - Be responsible as the new President to file the taxes and contact the former officers before the deadline for tax filing.
2. **Vice President.** If the President is unable to perform the duties of his office for any reason, the Vice-President shall occupy his position and perform his duties with the same authority as the President. He or she shall:
- Assist the President as directed.
 - Oversee the functioning of such committees of this organization as the President shall direct.
 - Assume the office of President for balance of the term should office be vacated.
3. **Tournament Director.** In the event of absence of President and Vice President, he or she shall be next in rank to occupy the president's position and shall assume and discharge pro tempore the powers and duties of the President.
- Coordinate tournament planning, communicating the status of NMBN sanctioned tournaments to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Obtain Special Use Permits and B.A.S.S. Insurance Certificate.
 - Obtain the assistance of NMBN Chapters in the planning and selection of site for use during conduct of NMBN sanctioned tournaments.
 - Monitor preparations for NMBN sanctioned tournaments; keep the president and members of the Executive Committee current relative to the preparatory activities.
 - Maintain current files of "B.A.S.S. Tournament Rules and Regulations" governing conduct of the NMBN sanctioned tournaments, and any

prescribed exceptions to these rules as may be required to meet tournament conditions.

- Establish rules and procedures to govern all NMBN sanctioned tournaments to assure their conduct within the spirit and high degree of standards established by B.A.S.S. and the NMBN.
- Determine requirements and request funding allocations required for conduct of NMBN sanctioned tournaments and tournament related activities.
- Assist the President as directed.

4. **Conservation Director.** He or she shall be the action officer for the NMBN in such matters as related to the natural environment and its protection and to the conservation, propagation and protection of aquatic resources. He or she shall:

- Coordinate and supervise the implementation of NMBN sponsored environmental and conservation related programs.
- Collect and evaluate reported violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices; recommend and take actions as directed.
- Undertake information and educational programs to bring to the members and the public an awareness of threats to the environment and opportunities to improve fisheries.
- Maintain current information pertaining to legislation at local, state or national levels that will influence environmental or aquatic resources; assure membership awareness of such legislation.
- Maintain liaison with the New Mexico Game and Fish, New Mexico Game and Fish Commission and other state and national agencies as appropriate.
- Assist the President as directed.

5. **Youth Director.**

- Coordinate state youth activities for the NMBN.
- Act as a resource for NMBN Chapter clubs for the purpose of establishing youth chapters.
- Ascertain funding requirements and recommend funding allocations for youth projects and events.
- Establish a youth tournament format.

- Coordinate the state youth tournaments/championship.
 - Attend NM BASS Nation Youth Director training events.
6. **Secretary.** He or she shall be under the supervision and direction of the President and the Board of Directors and shall act as the liaison officer between the NMBN and the B.A.S.S. Nation. In fulfillment of this, he or she shall:
- Keep a record of the proceedings (minutes) of all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
 - Maintain current a roster, inclusive of mailing address, telephone number and parent NMBN Chapter, of the Board of Directors; register and maintain the record of attendance of directors at Board of Director's meetings.
 - Notify directors of Board of Director's meetings on a timely basis.
 - Have custody and maintain general records of the NMBN, including, but not limited to, minutes of the Board of Director's meetings; Chapter Director attendance; committee appointments and reports; addresses and telephone numbers of affiliate Chapter officials and directors.
 - Coordinate the preparation and submission by members of the Executive Committee of such reports as are required by B.A.S.S. and other agencies; conduct correspondence for the NMBN as directed.
 - Maintain current a roster of NMBN officials and directors; disseminate updated copies to NM BASS officials.
 - Maintain current a jacket file of NMBN Chapter affiliates with the BASS National NM BASS Nation; such files to include, at the minimum, a copy of the current Chapter membership roster, Chapter's B.A.S.S. number and status.
 - Notify the executive committee when a Chapter Affiliate does not meet eligibility requirements identified in Article III of these bylaws.
 - Assist the President as directed.
7. **Treasurer.** He or she shall have the care and custody of and shall be responsible for all the funds, securities, evidences of indebtedness and other valuable documents of the NMBN, and deposit all such funds in the name of the NMBN in such banks, or trust companies, or other depositories, or in such safe deposit vaults as the Board of Directors may designate. He or she shall:
- Sign, make and endorse in the name of the NMBN, all checks, notes,

drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances and other instruments for the payment of money, and payout and dispose of and receipt therefore, under authorization and direction of the President or Board of Directors.

- Render a statement of the condition of the finances of the NMBN at each meeting of the Board of Directors, and at such other times as shall be required of him or her.
 - Keep full and accurate books of accounts of all NMBN business and other such books of account as the Board of Directors may require, and shall exhibit the same to any director of the NMBN upon application thereof.
 - Prepare and submit a complete calendar year (October 1st – September 30th) financial report not later than December 1st.
 - Pay statements from officers and committee members only when clearly authorized by the President or Vice President, and when fully documented by receipts.
 - Issue statements and collect for financial obligations owed to the NMBN.
 - Have custody and maintain records of NMBN accounts and disbursements. At termination of office such records shall be inventoried; active records shall be turned over to the succeeding Treasurer; old records shall be committed to NMBN files as the President or Board of Directors shall direct; a receipt for same will be obtained. Valuable documents of the NMBN in depositories or elsewhere shall be jointly inventoried by the outgoing and new Treasurer in the presence of the President prior to transfer of custodianship to the new Treasurer.
 - Be responsible as the outgoing Treasurer to reasonably and willingly assist the new President and Treasurer with tax preparations for the previous year.
 - Be responsible as the new Treasurer to file the taxes and contact the former officers before the deadline for tax filing.
 - Perform all duties incident to this office.
8. **Returns and Statements.** It shall be the duty of each officer of the NMBN to make and file any and all returns, reports, lists or statements required by law to be made and filed by him or her, and to make full report to the Board of Directors respecting the affairs of the NM BASS in his charge whenever he or she may be required to do.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTIONS

1. **Directors.** Members of the Board of Directors are elected representatives of affiliate NMBN Chapters as provided for by Article IV, section 1 and 2 of these Bylaws. As Chapter representatives, they shall be elected to their positions under the procedures prescribed by their respective Chapters.
2. **Officers.** Officers of the NMBN shall be elected by the Board of Directors in accordance with procedures as prescribed herein; they shall have such terms of office and eligibility requirements as provided under Article V, Sections 2 and 3.
 - a. Regular elections to fill officer positions shall be conducted not later than October 1st. The election shall be by members of the Board of Directors with a quorum present and a majority vote shall be necessary to elect.
 - b. Should a vacancy 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 or until his successor shall be elected and shall qualify.

ARTICLE VIII

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.

ARTICLE IX

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

1. **Rules of Order.** The Rules of Order, inclusive of Order of Business adopted for meetings conducted by the NMBN is appended to these Bylaws as Appendix I, Rules of Order.
2. **Parliamentary Procedures.** Except as otherwise specifically provided in the NMBN Articles or Bylaws, all questions of order or procedure with respect to any meeting in action of this organization, its Board of Directors; Executive Committee, or any committee appointed hereunder shall be determined in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order (as revised)."

ARTICLE X

MEETINGS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

1. **Frequency of Meetings.** Meetings of individual members of the NMBN shall

be conducted on a date at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors; purpose of such meeting shall be to pass on required reports and to transact other business as appropriate.

2. **Notification.** Written notice of meetings of members stating the purpose of the meeting shall be delivered, mailed, or emailed to the NMBN Chapters for distribution to each Chapter member not less than thirty (30) days before the day of the meeting.
3. **Quorum.** Twelve percent (12%) of the total NMBN membership, representation of a minimum of one-third of the affiliate NMBN Chapters holding active B.A.S.S. membership, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the individual membership.
4. **Voting.** Each member of the NMBN, who by active membership in their NMBN Chapter and are qualified to vote and are present, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote at meeting of individual members.

ARTICLE XI

AUTHORITY OF REPRESENTATION

1. **President's Conference.** The NMBN and its affiliate Chapters are an affiliate of B.A.S.S. 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 NMBN's voice and vote in national B.A.S.S. matters. The NMBN shall have the power to pay the necessary expenses of its representative(s) to each annual B.A.S.S. President's Conference as are deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
2. **Regional Tournament.** NMBN tournament competitions are directed towards the selection of members for the NMBN State Team which shall represent the NMBN and its members in the B.A.S.S. tournaments. In recognition of the importance of the regional and national tournament to the NMBN membership, the NMBN shall have the power to assist participating team members with the expenses associated with participation in the regional event.

ARTICLE XII

NM BASS NATION TOURNAMENTS

1. **Location and Dates of Execution.** The dates for the NMBN's qualifying tournaments shall be as established by the Tournament Director not later than thirty (30) days after BASS releases the dates of the Western Regionals. Tournament Director will have discretion for lake selection and dates with approval from the appointed tournament committee consisting of the President, VP, and TD to prevent any major conflicts.

2 Tournament Eligibility Requirements.

- a. NMBN Chapters shall be in compliance with Article III, Section 4 and Article IV, Section 2, (4) of these Bylaws to be eligible to participate in the NMBN tournaments (excluding open tournaments).
 - b. New Chapters or Chapters whose membership is pending must be in compliance with article III, Section 3 of these Bylaws and have received confirmation of B.A.S.S. acceptance for affiliation not later than one (1) week preceding the tournament date.
 - c. Reinstated Chapters shall be considered under the same requirements as newly affiliated Chapters – Section 2, b of this article.
3. **Rules and Regulations.** The rules and regulations governing conduct of the NMBN's tournaments shall be based on New Mexico law and this document.

ARTICLE XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Contracts on Behalf of NMBN.** The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, employee or employees to enter into any contract or other instrument on behalf of the NMBN and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. 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 special authority under Article VI of these Bylaws, shall have any power or authority to bind the NMBN by any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit or to render it liable, for any purpose or for any amount.
2. **Fiscal Year.** The Fiscal Year of the NMBN shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.
3. **Audits.** The option to audit the financial books and accounts is prescribed in Article IV, Section 10; however, the books and records of the NMBN may be audited by a certified public accountant selected by the Board of Directors if the Board so elects.
4. **Endorsements for Public Office.** The NMBN shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, nor shall partisan politics or sectarian religion be debated by members in meetings of the NMBN.
5. **Conflict of Interest.** No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall use his position as a means of furthering any personal, political, or other aspiration, nor shall the NMBN as a whole, take part in any movement not in keeping with

its purpose and objectives.

6. **Sources of NMBN Income.** Funds for support and maintenance of the NMBN will be derived from the annual dues, NMBN qualifying tournaments, other NMBN sponsored tournaments, assessments, special “activity related” projects, fund raising efforts and donations. Under no circumstances may the NMBN accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations or government agencies, if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goals of the NMBN.
7. **Recognition of Anglers.** Anglers will be recognized at an appropriate time and place for the following:
 - a. Angler of the Year (AOY). Both the boater and non-boater scoring the highest total cumulative points including all NMBN tournaments (no drops) will be awarded the AOY in the boater or non-boater category. Ties will be broken in accordance with Appendix II, paragraph 20,. The award will be a jacket or equivalent.
 - b. State Team Members. The members who qualify and participate in the Western Regional, in addition to financial assistance to participate, will receive a plaque to recognize their selection and participation in the Western Regional.

ARTICLE XIV

AMENDMENTS

1. **Articles of Incorporation.**
 - a. The Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any Board of Directors meeting at which there is a quorum by two-thirds vote of the members present, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to all members of the Board of Directors at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote.
 - b. A copy of all amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be filed with the Secretary of State within thirty (30) days after their passage pursuant to “New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act.”
2. **Bylaws.** These Bylaws may be amended at any Board of Directors meeting at which there is a quorum by two-thirds vote of the directors’ present, provided the proposed amendment has been presented to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to vote.

ARTICLE XV

STANDING RULES

1. **Amendment of Standing Rules.** The Standing Rules of the NMBN 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 written notice.
2. **Dissemination of NMBN Chapters' Rosters.** A roster of NMBN Chapters may not be given to any individual or organization outside the NMBN unless approved by the Executive Committee.
3. **Trip Reimbursement. Representation at Bassmaster Classic.** It shall be NMBN policy that representation (if requested by B.A.S.S. NATION) at the Bassmaster Classic and President's Conference shall be reimbursed for costs of trip, i.e. commercial transportation costs or personal occupancy vehicle fuel costs both ways plus food and lodging costs enroute and during the event. Lodging and food costs shall be substantiated by a voucher/receipt and exclude costs for spouse if accompanying.
4. **Catch and Release.** Catch and release for Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye, and Shoal bass shall be enforced for all NMBN tournaments and practices.
5. **NMBN State Team Expenses.** NMBN State Team members (including alternates) who qualify for the Regional Tournament shall be provided financial assistance to help compensate for an individual's expenses incurred during the course of traveling and participating in the tournament.

The assistance shall be determined based on the following guidelines:

1. Mileage to and from place of residence to tournament area at the rate of \$0.20 per mile for boaters and \$0.10 per mile for non-boaters.
2. Daily expenses while in the tournament area, during official practice through the last tournament night, boaters will receive \$60.00 per day and non-boaters will receive \$40 per day. Regional registration fees, tournament fees to the host state **may** also be paid if funds allow. Each angler competing for the team will be responsible for their respective entry fee to the Regional tournament. **Additional or reduced** funds may be provided depending on the fiscal status of the NMBN at the time of distribution. Expenses for accompanying family members or friends shall not be the responsibility of the NMBN. Team members must commit to the State Team as a Pro or Am by October 1 to allow timely registration and access to incentive programs.
6. **Interpretation of Bylaws and Standing Rules.** The final authority for

interpretation of these Bylaws and Standing Rules shall rest with the Board of Directors.

7. **NMBN Scholarship Fund.** The Board of Directors has the responsibility to establish the number of scholarships to be awarded each year based on scholarship fund donations and fiscal status of the NMBN.
 - a. The requirements to applying for and receive a NMBN Scholarship are set forth below.
 - i. All scholarship applicants must be a resident of the State of New Mexico or state who has a NMBN affiliated Chapter.
 - ii. Applicants must be attending a degree program as a full-time student in an accredited two (2) or four (4) year college or university.
 - iii. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale) or higher and submit a high school, college or university transcript that clearly establishes the cumulative grade point average.
 - iv. Applicants must submit a letter telling why this scholarship is needed and describe the field of study he or she will enter into and why this field of study was chosen.
 - v. Applicants must submit a paper that addresses a current environmental or conservation concern in the state of New Mexico or in a state that has a NMBN affiliated Chapter. This paper must clearly define the current environmental or conservation concern and provide suggested alternatives to solve or alleviate that concern. Applicants must consent to publication of their paper in Big Mouth, B.A.S.S. Times, or other local publications.
 - vi. Applicants will direct their application, letter, and paper to the President of the NMBN by October 1st of each year.
 - vii. Applicants must be full time students.
 - b. The NMBN will process and award scholarships as follows:
 - i. Each scholarship award will be \$500.
 - ii. The Board of Directors will approve a Scholarship Fund Review Committee annually by September 1st of each year. Members of this committee will consist of unbiased parties; such as teachers,

environmentalists, conservationists and State and Federal government personnel.

- iii. The President will forward any applications, letters, and papers to the Review Board by October 31st each year with instructions on numbers of scholarships to be awarded.
- iv. After consideration of items in Section (A), the Review Board will give preference to applicants attending schools within New Mexico or state who has a NMBN affiliated Chapter., but with consideration to merit or number of applicants, will not exclude schools outside that area.
- v. The NMBN President will sit as a member of the Review Board for the sole purpose of breaking ties, review and final approval of successful applicants.
- vi. The President will notify successful applicants by letter with a copy to the NMBN Secretary/Treasurer stating the recipients and alternates for the scholarships.
- vii. NMBN Secretary/Treasurer will use this notification letter as the authority to distribute the scholarship fund to the applicant(s) upon proof that the applicant has enrolled as a full-time student. If a recipient fails to enroll as a full-time student at a college or university then the scholarship will go to the next alternate.
- viii. The Board of Directors will consider replenishment of the scholarship fund during a regular scheduled NMBN Board of Directors meeting.

8. State Team Duties and Responsibilities.

The Team Captain and Deputy Team Captain will be appointed by the NMBN President not later than November 1st.

- c. The Team Captain/Deputy Team Captain will hold a team meeting “prior” to first day of official practice of the Western Regional. The Team Captain shall ensure that all team members are paired up for the official practice days. Safety on all lakes is a primary concern; two members should go out when possible.
- d. Each member of the 20-person team and the two alternates will (this may be adjusted depending on the fiscal status of the NMBN) receive funds to assist the member with costs associated with attendance at the tournament. All members on the 20-person state team will

receive equal share of all team winnings. Individual awards are not currently given. If the alternates attend the Western Divisional they will receive a minimum of a 1/3 share of the winnings. If an alternate has to compete any day of the Western Regional tournament they will receive a full share of tournament winnings.

- c. The NMBN President, or Team Captain with approval of the NMBN President, has the right to delete a person from the team at the site or before going to the site; if the member doesn't attend meetings or if the member isn't representing the NM State Team in proper conduct or language.
- d. The team has a responsibility to participate as a team in fund raising activities. This should begin immediately after the final tournament of the preceding year. All monies will be turned over to the NMBN for distribution.
- e. The NMBN will (this may be adjusted depending on the fiscal status of the NMBN) provide \$475.00 to the Pro and \$225.00 to the Am who continues on after the Regional to the National Championship.
- f. The NMBN will (this may be adjusted depending on the fiscal status of the NMBN) provide a minimum of \$350.00 to the Pro and \$150.00 to the Am who advances to the Bassmaster Classic. The NMBN will hold a special Directors meeting to determine additional assistance for the anglers.
- g. It shall be the Team Captain's and Deputy Team Captain's responsibility to:
 - i. Acquire shirts and caps.
 - ii. Communicate with sponsors.
 - iii. Initiate fundraising efforts.
 - iv. Provide for timely meetings at the site of the Western Regional Tournament.
 - v. Attend meetings of B.A.S.S. at the site, as necessary.
 - vi. Hold and deliver all sponsor products to the site.
 - vii. Communicate tournament information with all team members.
 - viii. Provide team member information to B.A.S.S., when requested.
 - ix. Provide the team members with a copy of the section of the NMBN Bylaws that state their duties and responsibilities to the NMBN.
 - x. Have the members sign-off that they understand their duties to the NMBN.
 - xi. Return all monies won for proper distribution by the NMBN

Treasurer.

- h. The alternate(s) shall:
 - i. Stay off of the water except for periods allowed by B.A.S.S. rules.
 - ii. Attend all team meetings.
 - iii. Attend B.A.S.S. meetings as time allows for the Team Captain or President while either of the above is on the water or as requested by either of the above.
- i. The State Team Captain and Deputy Team Captain receive entries into the following year NMBN tournaments contingent upon completing the duties as stated in the NMBN Bylaws Article XV, Section 8h above. If the angler(s) appointed are unable or unwilling to complete their duties, the NMBN President will appoint another team angler(s) and the entries will go to the replacement(s).
- j. During years when the NMBN has signed the Alliance Contract state team members will be required to wear the provided Triton/Mercury team shirts (will also include Lowrance and MotorGuide logos) for the Regional Championship. All state team members that have been provided team shirts will be required, at minimum, to wear the team shirts for any team photos, the final day of the Regional Championship, the final day of the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and the B.A.S.S. Classic, especially during weigh-ins. Additionally, the President (or representative) will receive Triton/Mercury/MotorGuide/Lowrance shirts to be worn at minimum on the final day of the competitions, including the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and the Bassmaster Classic.

NM B.A.S.S. NATION

APPENDIX I

RULES OF ORDER TO NMBFN BYLAWS

1. General.

- a. These rules constitute the Rules of Order for the conduct of Board of Director's meetings for the **NMBN**.
- b. The rules contained in "Roberts Rules of Order (as revised)" shall govern the **NMBN** in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are consistent with these Rules of Order, the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation of the NM BASS.

2. Call to Order. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened on such dates and at such a place as shall be determined and announced in accordance with Section 4. Article IV of the Bylaws; and, it shall be the duty of the President to call the meeting to order at the appointed time, to preside over the meeting, to announce the business before the Directors in its proper order, to state and put all questions properly brought before the Directors, to preserve order and decorum, and to decide all questions of order.

3. Order of Business. The Order of Business for the **NMBN** Board of Director's meetings shall be as follows:

- Call to order by the **NMBN** President
- Introduction by the President
- Call of roll and introduction of Chapter Directors present, Introduction of distinguished guests, and introduction of **NMBN** officials
- Presentation of minutes of preceding meeting
- Presentation of Financial Statement
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished Business (Old Business)
- New Business
- Programmed activity, if applicable
- Adjournment

4. New Mexico Game & Fish Commission Representation. A Fisheries Division representative of the New Mexico Game & Fish Commission, shall be extended an invitation to participate in a regular Board of Directors meeting that the Board of Directors or Executive Committee want to extend

the invitation. The NMG&FC representative's report shall be awarded the same order as a report from a Standing Committee. Invitation to NMG&FC shall be extended by the President or Conservation Director, no later than 30 days in advance of meeting date.

5. **Assumption of Office.** Terms of office, procedures for elections and guidelines for assumption of office by NMBN officials are prescribed in Article V and VII of the Bylaws. Officials elected shall assume office on October 1st. The period between elections and October 1st shall be utilized as a transition period to allow incumbent officials to complete any unfinished business and to familiarize newly elected officials with all pending or ongoing agendas.

6. **Presentation and Swearing in of New Officials.**

- a. The swearing in of the new President and newly elected officials shall be accomplished by the incumbent President, first, by oath administered separately to the new President. For each occasion, incumbent president shall administer the following oath to which each electee responds with the words, "I Do!"

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

ANSWER: "I DO!"

- b. Should an incumbent President not be present to conduct the presentation and swearing in ceremony, it shall be accomplished by an incumbent official or director as the Board of Directors shall direct.
7. **Amendments of Rules of Order.** These rules can be amended at any regular meeting of the Directors, by two-thirds vote, with a quorum present, provided the amendment was submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

APPENDIX II

Official Tournament Rules New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation Effective September 30, 2018

1. RULES AND PENALTIES

The following rules shall apply to all New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation immediately upon notice by New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation to its members, which notice may be published on the New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation internet site at www.NMBFN.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Committee (the tournament director with two Directors or NMBN officers in attendance) may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 22 below, the decision of the Tournament Committee, shall be final in all matters.

Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation, such as “sharing fish” and off-limits rules violations and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler must be reported to tournament director in writing within 30 minutes of the final flight check-in on the day of the alleged violation.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- a) Reduction of competition hours.
- b) Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations.
- c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation.
- d) Disqualification from the tournament in question.
- e) Disqualification from future New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation events (with the consent of the NM President), which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- i This tournament is open only to current members of both NMBN and B.A.S.S. Nation who are or will be 16 years of age or older as of January 1. Members may reside in a neighboring state but must also be a member of NM B.A.S.S. Nation (club or at-large). Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner or

themselves may not be eligible. It is highly recommended that anyone that has a disability that limits their operation of the boat, have a full discussion with the Tournament Director and their non-boater prior to submitting an entry form. Special pairing of a specific non-boater with the ability to assist the boater may be made at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Service and companion animals are allowed on the boat at all times with the prior permission of the boater.

- i. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF THE TOURNAMENT, NO BOATER OR NON-BOATER COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED INSURANCE OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000, PER OCCURRENCE, BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE.** The Tournament Director has sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet B.A.S.S., LLC requirements.
- ii. The Tournament Director reserves the right to extend the acceptance time if notified of a late arrival due to unavoidable circumstances.

3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

- i. The tournament waters are off limits from 12:01 am the Monday prior to the start of competition until 12:01 a.m. the Friday prior to the competition.
- ii. There will be an official practice period beginning at 12:01 am the Friday prior to the start of competition. No competitors will be allowed on tournament waters after registration until the first day of competition, except under rule 3(iii). **During the official practice competitors are not allowed to live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament director. No practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, to include running to and from a fishing location. In practice and competition, when running in low light conditions, running lights must be in operation. All running lights must be in working order prior to launch.**
- iii. Competitors renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip location. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- iv. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- v. During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cellphones may be used for emergency situations. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. **Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc., however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or social media is not permitted.**

- vi. A designated tournament committee official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
- vii. **Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, may be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 1. ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.**

By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion.

The NMBN President with the advice of the Tournament Director, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred.

4. REGISTRATION:

A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE NM B.A.S.S. NATION Tournament Director before 6:00 P.M. of the Friday before the weekend qualifying tournaments. Tournament entry fees must be received by the NM B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Director before 6:00 P.M. of the Friday before the weekend qualifying tournaments. Payment penalties for all returned checks will be the responsibility of the contestant and may result in disqualification from future tournaments. The Tournament Director may extend the acceptance time if notified of a late arrival due to unavoidable circumstances.

5. SAFETY:

- i. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation (in gear). This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. It is suggested the Boater competitor have a safety check with the Non-Boater each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.
- ii. When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.
- iii. Tournament Director has the right to delay, shorten or cancel any part of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in), shall result in cancellation.
- iv. NMBN reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments.
- v. **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- vi. **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

6. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors in NM B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification by the Tournament Director or the President, NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

- i. Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future NM B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- ii. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.
- iii. All competitors are bound by the statutes and regulations of New Mexico. Anyone receiving a citation for boating or fishing rules violations during the

official practice or tournament days may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

Anglers participating in any NM B.A.S.S. Nation-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers shall, at all times, beginning when they arrive for an NMBN event until they depart, (including official and non-official prefish days), conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitor's, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on NM B.A.S.S. Nation., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

- i. Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in NM B.A.S.S. Nation events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
 - Heated public disagreements with NM B.A.S.S. Nation officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
 - Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of NM B.A.S.S. Nation rules or officials.
 - Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of NM B.A.S.S. Nation officials or its sponsors.
 - Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
 - Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament director or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels (club officers).
 - Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event.
 - Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
 - Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.
- ii. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from competition and for rejecting any application for participation. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in future NM B.A.S.S. Nation sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed

appropriate by NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament.

8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. During practice and competition only artificial or biodegradable artificial lures may be used. All New Mexico state and contestants are responsible for understanding those rules and regulations. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules. No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.

Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device.

No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and verified by the other competitor or observer in the boat. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

9. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be **250 HP**. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must **NOT** exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by B.A.S.S. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms, or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from NM

B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.

10. BOAT AND MOTOR:

These restrictions apply during official practice and competition. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing, is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. All bladder tanks, and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer, are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options, installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer, are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline, in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. No portable gas tanks, or containers capable of holding gasoline, can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted to be used by any competitor. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition.

11. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. **During official competition**, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit of bass by both competitors using the boat.

12. BOAT INSPECTION:

Prior to each day's start, each boat **must** be given an inspection check, including a live well check, not later than 30 minutes after the last scheduled start time, by a tournament official. **No late inspections will be permitted.** Each day, each boat shall be given a number, which **must** remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and at each check-in.

13. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

During NM B.A.S.S. Nation competition, Boaters and Non-Boaters may fish from the front or the rear deck. **During both official practice and competition**, Non-Boaters are only allowed to operate the Boater's boat (outboard motor) in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. **During official practice**, Non-Boaters not practicing with a Boater competitor, may practice, drive, and fish from the front deck of the boat. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the officials,

operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Non-Boater partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a Boater competitor request that the Non-Boater competitor not fish. **The cost of gas and oil for the competition days must be settled between the boater and the non-boater prior to the tournament day.** In NM B.A.S.S. Nation events where observers replace anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the competing angler in any way except for netting fish. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies as well as the area within 100 yards of the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

15. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

During the competition days, competitors may not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. **Competitors may not shift a majority of their weight outside the boat and onto a dock or other object outside the boat for the purpose of landing a bass or accessing a fishing spot.** A bass that cannot be landed without the angler leaving the boat or shifting his weight outside the boat must be released immediately. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made.

Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both anglers must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions are spelled out in rules 5, 15, and 18. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be allowed to leave their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a

needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a **restart** will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

16. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 12 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass. Once bass are bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process.

17. SCORING:

Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The Boater limit shall be 5, Non-Boater limit shall be 3, of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events). At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his/her catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 1-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score.

The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on a red "Will-e-Go" belly board shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint they **MUST** present

all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may return to the boat

18. CATCH AND RELEASE:

CULLING OF DEAD BASS AND MANGLING BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. to be deducted from their daily score. The dead fish penalty also applies if the dead fish is considered for the big bass pot. Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact the Conservation Director. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised. Penetrable culling clips are permitted provided the bass are not mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and subjected to a penalty determined by the Tournament Director, not to exceed that of a dead fish. A bass that appears to be mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered, including holes behind the lower jaw, when caught, should be shown to the partner and/or photographed. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament.

19. LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 16, at the appointed time according to the Tournament Director's clock, shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late; to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. Unavoidable delays caused by official safety or game warden checks should be anticipated and are not allowed reasons for late arrival. Allow time for unexpected events, inspections and inclement weather conditions. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day at the daily pairings.

20. TIES:

All ties will be broken by 1)-total fish weighed, 2)-total live fish weighed, 3)-big fish weighed. If still unresolved, a flip of a coin will decide placement.

21. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:

Two competitors (or a competitor and an observer) will occupy each boat. The observer will be assigned by the Tournament Director but the Tournament Director is not obligated to provide an observer. Boaters may be paired with other Boaters, and share time. Boaters and Non-boaters registering together on the entry form will fish with each other for that tournament. Unpaired boaters and non-boaters are encouraged to pair before entering the tournament. Any unpaired boaters and non-boaters will be paired by the Tournament Director as needed to assure there are two people in each boat. An observer may be assigned to any boat that does not have a registered non-boater. Announcement of "paired" fishing partners 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. When there are mechanical breakdowns or other legitimate reasons, 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 (sharing bass). In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

22. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:

An appeals committee will be established by President, NM B.A.S.S. Nation, which shall be comprised of the President, New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation and two anglers who are not involved in the incident in question. Appeals of penalties assessed under Rule 1 (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official. Standings, including points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.

23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. NM B.A.S.S. Nation may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in NM B.A.S.S. Nation's' sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official B.A.S.S. sponsors, especially in photo and media pictures. Anglers may be requested to wear B.A.S.S. alliance sponsor gear during photos.

24. TAXES:

Where and when state laws require income taxes be paid on cash awards to non-residents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.

25. WAIVER AND RELEASE:

As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, and a name and likeness release.

26. STATE TEAM QUALIFICATION:

It is important that the State Team be declared and identified to B.A.S.S. and sponsors to assure each team member may access the many incentives and discounts offered by the sponsors. A twenty-person state team will consist of ten Boaters and ten Non-boaters based on the standings in each separate category after all qualifying tournaments (one drop). All state team members must accept the position and agree in writing by signing and returning the acceptance form to the NMBN President by October 1st.

1. The President will invite all remaining competitors to declare their interest (by email or written notice) to be on the team by October 5th. The President shall then fill the team from those that have declared their interest by going down the standings until the team is filled. If the team is not full, open positions will be filled by the President on a first come, first served basis by any NM B.A.S.S. Nation member with preference given to any officers of NM B.A.S.S. Nation. If a person withdraws from the team, a replacement will be named by the President as well as two alternates.

3. Each twenty-person state team will be allowed one alternate team member to replace an official team member if an official team member becomes ill or injured or has to leave the tournament due to personal business or tragedy. The alternates may be placed in the boater or non-boater division, as needed. Alternates attending the Western Regional shall receive stipends and incentives just like other team members. During the official pre-fish and tournament, any non-boater bringing their boat to the Regional will be allowed to switch with a boater if the boater is not able to provide a boat (due to mechanical breakdown). The NMBN President or his/her designated representative will be considered a second alternate per B.A.S.S. rules.

27.STATE TEAM PARTICIPATION:

NMBN bylaws govern the responsibilities and stipends for team members. No other payment or incentives are implied by these rules. Team members must complete all B.A.S.S. entry forms and tax forms by the required date and agree to abide with NMBN bylaws and B.A.S.S. rules at all times. Team members are expected to also participate in fundraising for the team beginning no later than October 1. Failure to participate in fundraising will result in removal from the team by the President, NMBN.

B.A.S.S. headquarters must receive a completed entry form from the alternate team member and the B.A.S.S. Nation state president or his/her designated representative, on or before the tournament entry deadline date or the state will not be allowed an alternate team member(s). The Tournament Director must approve the reason for the leaving of the official team member before a replacement of the official team member with the alternate will be allowed.