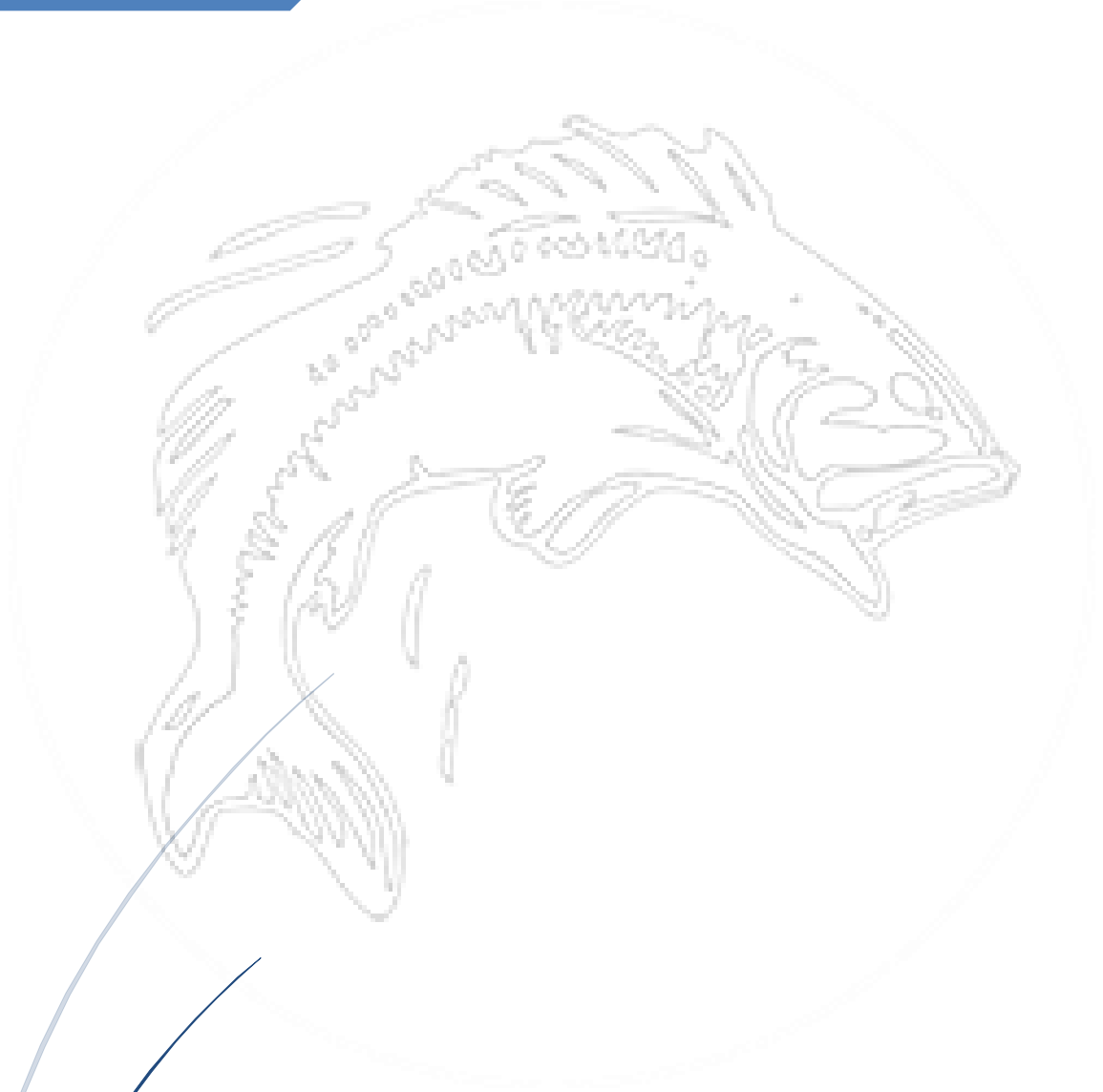


Erie County Bassmasters of NY

CHAPTER CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



CHAPTER CONSTITUTION BYLAWS
June 2018
ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NY, INC.

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

SECTION 1: Name

This chapter shall be called: ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NEW YORK, INC.

SECTION 2: Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral support, political support, and encouragement. To promote full adherence to conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. To detect and report any polluter as well as bringing public and political attention to any crime. To improve our skill as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas. To promote and encourage youth fishing and a love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the NY BASS Nation, embracing the principle and purposes of BASS Anglers Sportsman Society.

ARTICLE II: Membership

SECTION 1: Number of Members

This chapter began with, and shall maintain, at least six (6) members. Total membership shall not exceed thirty (30) members. This number can be altered by a vote of the board. Non-boat owners shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total membership.

A.) In their first year of membership, all new members will enter a one (1) year probationary period. After one (1) year, the Board of Directors will vote to accept a member into the status of "Member in Good Standing."

B.) Non-boaters will be placed into the tournament drawing based on the following criteria; Non-boaters must enter the tournament by letting the Tournament Director know that they want to fish that event. If there is a situation where there are more non-boaters that want to fish a particular event they will be added to the draw on a seniority based system from their original join date. An even number of non-boaters to boaters will be placed into the draw and the non-boaters who remain will be given preference based on their join date.

- i. All "New Probationary" members that are not in the draw for the previous event will be given first preference over other "New Probationary" members in the next event.
- ii. If there are no "New Probationary" members, the extra non-boaters will be placed in a list based off of join date. Non-boaters not put into the draw for a tournament will be given first preference for the next tournament.
- iii. If a member designated as a boater decides to switch to a non-boater, they will be placed at the bottom of the non-boater entry list based on availability.
- iv. If a non-boater signs up after the draw and wants to be added, when the number of boaters to non-boaters are even, they will be placed at the bottom of the list and will not be given seniority preference.

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- v. If non-boaters get bumped from the tournament, they will be given an additional drop. To prevent the non-boater from being knocked out of the “Angler of the Year” competition, the non-boater will be given the point equivalent to their average of all other finishes of tournaments fished through the season.
- vi. If a non-boater is bumped due to the lack of boats, he will be given back one (1) entry into the Classic Race. (ex. Non-boater has fished 4 events, he will be given an additional entry bumping his total number of events to 5.)

SECTION 2: Requirements for Membership

To become a member or remain a “Member in Good Standing” a person shall:

- A.) Be at least 16 years of age.
- B.) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- C.) Be a member of B.A.S.S. (See ARTICLE VI for affiliation requirements.)
- D.) Be recommended by the membership at a regular monthly meeting.
- E.) Be voted on by the membership. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation must be by 2/3 majority present at a regular meeting.

SECTION 3: Membership Dues

The chapter dues shall be \$30.00 per chapter member annually, which is payable no later than the December meeting. A late sign-up fee of \$10.00 is imposed on current members that pay after the December meeting. The February meeting is the deadline for all dues. Failure to pay by close of business of February meeting will result in termination from the club and member must reapply for membership to the club and will be considered a new member. If member left on a good standing and chooses to return, the Board of Directors can choose to waive probationary status on a case by case basis. Membership dues to the BASS Nation shall be \$30.00 per chapter member annually. (This includes *Bass Times*). Additionally, members are responsible to maintain B.A.S.S. membership individually.

NOTE: If a chapter member is belonging to another mother club to the BASS Nation, they must show proof of this membership. Upon doing so, that portion of the dues will be waived.

NEW MEMBERS: A \$10.00 initiation fee set forth by the club becomes payable to club funds upon a perspective member’s application. All new members shall have a three (3) month grace period in which to join the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society.

SECTION 4: Meeting of Members

The membership shall hold regular meetings on the second Wednesday evening of each month.

ARTICLE III: Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility

SECTION 1: Officers and their Duties

The officers of the chapter shall consist of:

- A.) **PRESIDENT** – to preside over all meetings and direct all official business. To appoint and be an ex officio member to all committees. Supervise all club functions, except for tournaments.
- B.) **VICE-PRESIDENT** – to act as program chairman, assist the president in his duties and preside in the absence of the president. To act as a liaison with other clubs. To maintain a second copy of the treasurer’s report. To inspect and co-sign the treasurer’s report.
- C.) **SECRETARY** – to maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the chapter president. To maintain regular liaison between the chapter and the BASS Nation and the NY BASS Nation. The secretary has the authority to appoint an assistant.

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- D.) **TREASURER** – to collect and disburse all club funds. To maintain accurate financial records and to present a current balance report at each meeting. To prepare an annual audit for review by the chapter Board of Directors. The chapter may vote that the treasurer and any other officer handling chapter funds must be bonded.
- E.) **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR** – is responsible for all tournament scheduling and enforcement of tournament rules. For maintaining all records of standings and tournament results for each member. For procurement of all trophies, awarding trophies for the Angler of the Year, largest bass caught during club tournaments, and other awards. Also responsible for keeping accurate records of all financial transactions involving tournaments. He shall appoint assistants as needed to create a tournament committee.
- i. Shall schedule a minimum of (6) annual club point tournaments.
 - ii. Responsible for making arrangements for any club trips and the Classic tournament scheduled for the current year.
 - iii. Any changes or additions to the tournament rules must be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval prior to the season's first tournament.
 - iv. The tournament director will have the final word on all tournament scheduling, tournament rule enforcement, and rule interpretation.
 - v. The tournament director is responsible for presenting a member's tournament grievances to the Board of Directors in the event of irreconcilable differences during a tournament event.
- F.) **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** – is responsible for maintaining order during meetings and club functions. To administer and inventory all club libraries and rental services of books, DVD's, jig molds, etc.

SECTION 2: Elections

Prior to nominations, the secretary will read a list of eligible candidates. Nominations of officers shall commence annually at the regularly scheduled November meeting. A member must be present to be nominated. A member may nominate himself for any office. At this time, perspective officers will announce their proposed platform. Elections will be held at the regularly scheduled December meeting at which time a written vote will be cast for each office. Election for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in Article III-Section 1. Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the members present. No member shall be elected to more than one office.

SECTION 3: Eligibility to Vote

Each Member in Good Standing is entitled to one vote per office. Proxy votes are allowed, when presented prior to the vote in writing, to any officer.

SECTION 4: Term of Office

The term of office is for one year, which shall begin at the January meeting and end on the last day of December, or until successor assumes the office.

SECTION 5: Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for at the current meeting and an election shall be held during the following meeting to fill the vacant position of the individual leaving office.

National B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

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Any officer vacating an office shall submit, in writing, their reason for leaving.

SECTION 6: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be nominated for any office, a member must be considered a “Member in Good Standing.” (The Board of Directors has the ability to waive this requirement.) Must have attended at least six (6) of the chapter meetings, four (4) of the chapter tournaments, and at least 2/3 of the club functions in a six (6) month period. Must retain a current B.A.S.S. membership.

In the event that an officer is absent from a meeting, the president may appoint a temporary officer for that meeting.

ARTICLE IV: Standing Committees & Awards

SECTION 1: Term of Office

All Standing Committees will server for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The terms of the committee members will coincide with that of the president. Each committee shall elect a chairman.

SECTION 2: Committees

- A.) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Board of Directors shall consist of the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, and two (2) elected Board Members at Large (as voted on by a majority vote of the members present at the January meeting.)
- i. The president shall call any meeting of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings as the Chairman.
 - ii. The secretary shall record the minutes of these meetings.
 - iii. The Board of Directors may take on grievances that are presented by the tournament director, if he decides to invite a response.
 - iv. The Board of Directors will develop agendas for the monthly membership meetings.
 - v. A board meeting must consist of 51% of the Board of Directors to constitute a forum.
 - vi. The Board of Directors has control over club functions, including interpretation of all by-laws.
- B.) **YOUTH COMMITTEE:** The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and implement a Chapter Youth Project; to introduce young people to the goals of B.A.S.S. and to give them a basis for respect of our national heritage, fair play, good sportsmanship, and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of fishing.
- C.) **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:** The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change. To document and report to the proper authorities any violations of local, state, and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances, and other regulatory devices. To take legal action where appropriate. To undertake informational and educational programs to bring public awareness of the threats to our environment.
- D.) **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:** The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize, and operate all chapter tournaments. The tournament committee will draft tournament rules, which will then be approved by the general membership. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules, and investigate all protests concerning tournaments and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

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SECTION 3: Awards

- A.) **PRESIDENT'S TROPHY:** This optional award may be given to an organization that has been most helpful to the club. This trophy is based on recommendations given by the membership to the Board of Directors.
- B.) **MR. BASS TROPHY:** This optional trophy may be given to a member who has contributed the most time and effort to improve the club and approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V: Removal from Membership

SECTION 1: Requirements for Removal

A member may be dropped from the membership roster for any of the following reasons:

- A.) Failure to pay dues on a timely basis.
- B.) Any action which would reflect dishonor or disgrace on the chapter and/or B.A.S.S. (including, but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct)
- C.) To be determined at the December meeting; Failure to attend 50% of the meetings and 50% of club functions during that calendar year.
- D.) Disqualification for any reason from participating in B.A.S.S. sponsored events (including, but not limited to for use of drugs or alcohol.)

ARTICLE VI: Affiliation

SECTION 1: Requirements for Affiliation

The following are requirements for affiliation:

- A.) Approval of Chapter Charter by the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society (B.A.S.S.)
- B.) Update B.A.S.S. with a chapter membership roster once each year upon receipt of current B.A.S.S. roster by December 31st.
- C.) Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to B.A.S.S. as they occur. (See ARTICLE II SECTION 3 for dues requirements.)
- D.) Maintain 100% membership in the BASS Nation.
- E.) Must maintain affiliation with the NY BASS Nation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the NY BASS Nation establishes for chapters, such as membership dues, attendance at meetings, etc. should be necessary for the chapter to participate in the NY BASS Nation qualifying tournament(s) and any other NY BASS Nation events.

ARTICLE VII: Honorary (Lifetime) Membership

SECTION 1: Requirements

Periodically, the membership of this club may deem a member eligible of an honorary membership, if for any appropriate reason that member is unable to satisfy the requirements of active membership, and is so agreed upon by the Board of Directors and a 2/3 majority of the membership. This class of membership will be exempt from chapter dues, have no performance requirements to maintain this status, but shall have no voting rights at meetings. This status allows attendance at all club functions, including fishing events, on a "space available" basis (assuming all fees and travel expenses for such event are paid for by the member.) A request for this status may be presented by the member, or by any other member on his

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behalf, and presented to the Board of Directors in writing.

SECTION 2: Honorary Members

Elected as of **June 2018:**

- A.) Louis Alnico
- B.) Robert MacCubbin
- C.) Rich Calorico
- D.) Jules Pasiak

ARTICLE VIII: Practice of Sportsmanship

SECTION 1: Sportsmanship Obligation

As members, each individual is always representing the club. Any negative conduct by one individual has a negative impact on all of us. Holding our members accountable for their actions is necessary to ensure we have a positive impact on the local community, angling community and B.A.S.S. The following applies with regards to Sportsmanship:

- A.) It is the clear obligation of all club members to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and ethics of competition. These expectations include, **but are not limited to:** any form of racist, sexist, or bigoted remarks. Any hateful, antagonizing, disrespectful, or derogatory remarks toward any individual (member or non-member) is a clear violation of the Sportsmanship expectation.
- B.) The Board of Directors shall have the full authority to issue a warning, suspend, or remove any member who is found in violation of this obligation.
- C.) Any violation of this rule shall be brought to the attention of one of the Board of Directors by the principal witness(es) of the violation.
- D.) Sportsmanship is required both on and off the water. This includes, **but is not limited to:** during any club event, at the host marina, club meeting location, and local lodging. This also includes commuting in a vehicle to any one of the previously stated locations.

ARTICLE IX: Amending & Agreement of the Bylaws

SECTION 1: Amending the Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

We, the undersigned members (LIST OF CURRENT B.A.S.S. FEDERATION ROSTER ATTACHED), do hereby agree to the above bylaws and the continuation of this chapter on this ___ day of _____ in the year of _____.