**Constitution and By-Laws**

**(Revised November 14, 2021)**

ARTICLE 1. NAMES, ADDRESSES AND MEETING LOCATION 

1.1 NAMES

1.1-1 NAMES

The Virginia Bass Chapter Federation, Inc., herein known as the Federation, also known as the Virginia Bass Federation, the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation, or any of several variations of the official [corporate name](http://www.vabass.com/federation_006.htm) which includes the term TBF, the symbol of The Bass Federation, Inc.

1.2 ADDRESS

1.2-1 PRINCIPAL ADDRESS.

The principal address of the Federation shall be the residence of the President, or other address as he may select with the Board concurring.

1.2-2 OTHER ADDRESS

Elected members of the Board, Committee Chairpersons, and other officials appointed by the President, may, as approved by the President, establish other addresses necessary for the timely and efficient discharge of their duties.

1.3 MEETING LOCATION

1.3-1 BUSINESS MEETING LOCATION.

The business meetings of the Board shall be convened at a site selected by the President with the Board concurring. All Committee and other official meetings shall be held at sites selected by the chairperson or other presiding officials.

1.3-2 GENERAL [MEMBERSHIP](http://www.vabass.com/federation_006.htm) MEETING LOCATION.

DELETED

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND GOALS

2.1 PURPOSE

2.1-1 PURPOSES OF THE FEDERATION.

The Federation is established to preserve and promote the sport of angling for largemouth bass (Micropterus Salmoides), smallmouth bass (Micropterus Dolomieu), and spotted or Kentucky bass (Micropterus Punctulatus), herein known as Bass; to introduce youth to the sport of fishing; to conserve water and other associated natural resources; to work for an abundant, healthy and self-sustaining bass fishery where a natural potential exists; and to support the local, state and national agencies which conserve and manage the fresh water sport fishery and other associated resources.

2.2 GOALS

2.2-1 GOALS OF THE FEDERATION

The Federation, shall, in its operations, pursue the goals of organizing and conducting competitive fishing events which adequately provide for the needs of the bass and the angler; to establish live release of bass to their habitat as an integral part of sport fishing; promote realistic conservation of natural resources and causing adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards; of educating the membership in citizen involvement in the processes of government; of supporting and cooperation with fishery management agencies and [educational institutions](http://www.vabass.com/federation_006.htm) in development of good fisheries for the future; of encouraging youth involvement in sport fishery and leading the chapters in organizing and conducting youth participation activities; of promoting public awareness of the Federation's purposes, goals and activities; of timely and efficient communications with the membership through a regularly published newsletter; of gaining new members and chapters to TBF and the Federation; to generate revenues sufficient to conduct the programs of the Federation; of reducing the hazards of boat operation and sport fishing; of supporting the non-profit purposes and goals of TBF; and other such goals as may be established for the chapters and the committees of the Federation.

ARTICLE 3. AFFILIATIONS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND FACTS

3.1 AFFILIATIONS

3.1-1 T.B.F. AFFILIATIONS

The Federation shall preserve and maintain in good standing its affiliation with The Bass Federation, Inc.

3.1-2 VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE OF T.B.F. CHAPTERS.

The Federation shall operate as the sole representative organization, other than TBF, of the various chapters, associations, clubs and other organizations established in the Commonwealth of Virginia and duly chartered by TBF.

3.1-3 OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Affiliations with organizations other than TBF may be initiated by the Federation to advance the purposes and goals of the Federation and the best interests of its members. Such affiliations shall not be maintained in conflict with the non-profit purposes and goals of TBF A written statement of conflict from TBF shall be sufficient cause for dissolution of all such affiliations.

3.2 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND FACTS

3.2-1 AGREEMENTS, ETC. WITH ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN TBF

Cooperative agreements, mutual aid pacts and other special agreements and joint operations may be initiated or agreed upon by the Federation to advance the purposes and goals of the Federation, the non-profit purposes and goals of TBF. A written statement of conflict from TBF shall be sufficient cause for dissolution of all such agreements.

ARTICLE 4. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 CONSTITUENCY

4.1-1 CONSTITUENCY

The constituency of the Federation shall include the citizens of Virginia chapters who are members of TBF. The interests of the constituent members shall, within the purposes and goals of the Federation, be fully represented by the Federation and its officials. TBF membership shall not alone constitute eligibility to hold elected or appointed office in the Federation.

4.1-2 MEMBERS

The members of the Federation are the members in good standing of any of the approved chapters of the Federation. In good standing shall mean that the member satisfies all of the requirements for membership and participation imposed by TBF, the Federation and the member's chapter. Members shall observe high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct at all times during any Federation, Region or Chapter events. Members action that are found by their Chapter, Region, or the State Federation to have violated tournament rules or the principles of fairness, sportsmanship or ethical conduct at any time may be suspended from participation in Federation events/activities which may include any or all future tournaments for the remainder of the membership year. Members in good standing only shall be eligible to hold office in the Federation. Eligibility for office shall also be conditional upon satisfaction of all the requirements and qualifications imposed in the Constitution and By-laws.

Should a Chapter or Region take, action to suspend a member, the Region Director will notify the State President in writing by letter of the findings resulting in a decision to suspend participation by members not in good standing withing their Chapter or Region.

4.1-3 CHAPTERS

The chapters of the Federation shall include all of the chapters, clubs, associations and other organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia which have been duly chartered by TBF and which satisfies all of the requirements for chapters imposed by TBF and the Federation.

4.2 REGIONS

4.2-1 REGIONS ESTABLISHED

The area of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be subdivided into regions suitable for efficient administration of the Federation. The Board, in consideration of the needs of the members and the chapters shall determine the total number of such regions. They shall be identified by numbers, which shall be assigned consecutively, one through the total of such regions.

4.2-2 AREA OF REGIONS

The area of the regions of the Federation shall include the following:

(a) REGION 1 shall include the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, Clarke, Frederick, Warren, Shenandoah, Stafford, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Page, King George, Orange, Spotsylvania, Caroline, Louisa, Madison, Rockingham, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Prince William and Greene also all the cities within them, and the District of Columbia.

(b) REGION 4 shall include the counties of Augusta, Highland, Nelson, Amherst, Rockbridge, Campbell, Bedford, Botetourt, Bath, Allegheny, Bland, Craig, Giles, Roanoke, Montgomery, Pulaski, Wythe, Floyd, Carroll, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Henry, Patrick also all cities within them.

 (c) REGION 6 shall include the counties of Buckingham, Appomattox, Powhatan, Cumberland, Prince George, Amelia, Surry, Dinwiddie, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Sussex, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Greenville, Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Halifax, also the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca and Enon in Chesterfield County

 (d) REGION 8 shall include the counties of King William, Hanover, Goochland, New Kent, Henrico, Charles City, James City, York, Northumberland, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, King and Queen, Mathews, and Gloucester, Accomack, Northampton, Isle of Wight, and Southampton also all the cities within them including Richmond City, Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Suffolk. All of Chesterfield County except the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca and Enon.

(e) REGION 10 shall include the counties Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Smyth, Russell, Wise, Grayson, Washington, Scott, and Lee also all cities within them.

4.3 REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

4.3-1 REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Each region shall consist of affiliated chapters located within the boundaries set forth in 4.2-2, which shall elect a director to the Board, advise their director on issues of interest to the region and conduct the business of the region.

4.3-2 REGIONAL MEETINGS

The regional committees shall hold regional meetings at least quarterly. The Committees shall choose their meeting site and make all provisions necessary to their function.

4.3-3 REGIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Directors shall serve also as chairman of their respective regional committees.

4.3-4 CHAPTER PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Each chapter shall select from among its members in good standing, a representative to the committee of its region. All chapters shall have equal standing in voting by their regional committees except that proxy voting and voting in absentia shall not be permitted and that the director shall be the deciding vote in cases requiring a plurality, in which there is a tie vote by the committee.

4.3-5 DUTIES OF REGIONAL CHAIRMEN.

Directors shall, as chairmen of their respective regional committees, preside at meetings of their committees, administer their regions, and coordinate their regional tournament programs, and appoint their assistants and such other regional officials as may be directed by their committees.

4.3-6 DUTIES OF APPOINTED REGIONAL OFFICIALS.

Their respective regional committees shall define duties of officials appointed by their directors to serve their regions except that the assistant to the director shall, as directed by the director and in his absence, exercise his proxy at meetings of the Board.

4.4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.4-1 ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A duly elected Board of Directors, herein known as the Board, shall govern the Federation, conduct its business and act in the best interests of the chapters and members.

4.4-2 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Board shall meet at least quarterly in regular prior-scheduled business session. Additional scheduled and/or special called meetings necessary for timely and efficient conduct of the business of the Federation may be held as called by the President.

4.4-3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Board shall be the President, the Vice President, and one director from each region. Members of the Board shall not hold more than one Board position at one time.

4.4-4 VOTING BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All bills and resolutions before the Board at regular and special meetings shall be decided by polling the Board members. Members of the Board shall have equal standing in all voting except that the President shall vote only in cases of a tie-on issues requiring a plurality vote, and that any member shall be permitted to abstain. Except on routine procedural questions and in elections, the roll shall be called and the voting recorded in the minutes of the meeting. All other questions shall be decided by the vote of a majority of the Board members present except as otherwise required by the Constitution and By-laws.

4.4-5 EXPENSES OF BOARD MEMBERS

The reasonable expenses of any Federation official shall be submitted to the Board no later than the next regular Board meeting following the incurred expenses. Objection by any Board member shall require an action by the Board to pay the stated expenses.

4.4-6 REMOVAL OF FEDERATION OFFICIALS BY THE BOARD

A motion for removal of a regional committee chairman, a director or an officer of the Board shall be considered only after a finding by the Board in a prior action, that the subject official is guilty of bad conduct, acts against the best interests of the Federation, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. In the Board action on a removal motion, a majority vote shall constitute a censure and a two-thirds majority vote in favor shall effect the removal of the subject official.

4.5 DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATION

4.5-1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Each regional committee shall elect a director to the Board. Directors shall be elected no later than the last regional committee meeting of the calendar year and shall assume their duties at the January meeting of the Board following the election. Odd numbered regions shall hold their elections in odd numbered years so that their directors' terms begin in January of an even numbered year. Even numbered regions shall hold their elections in even numbered years so that their directors' terms begin in January of an odd numbered year. Midterm vacancies shall be filled by the regional committees through special elections conducted as soon as practicable after they occur, by the regional committees.

4.5-1 CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The official presiding at the election of a director shall make written certification of the results of the election to the President. Certification shall include reporting the date of the election, the name of the director elected, his address, telephone number, chapter name, and TBF membership number. Certifications of elections shall be transmitted to the President within fifteen days after the elections.

4.5-3 TENURE OF DIRECTORS

Terms of office of directors shall expire upon installation of their successors

4.5-4 QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS

Directors shall be elected from among the members. They shall remain in good standing as members of chapters in good standing throughout their tenure. Loss of good standing shall vacate the office of a director and require that a special election be held to fill the incomplete term as soon as possible.

4.5-5 INSTALLATION OF DIRECTORS

At the first Board meeting of the year, or at the first Board meeting after certification of a special election of a director, the President shall announce the certifications on hand, administer the pledge of office to the directors elect present and seat them on the Board. A certificate may be set aside and the director elect found to be unfit for office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board. Such finding by the Board shall require the President to withhold installation and appoint a commissioner to resolve the issue of unfitness and assist the appropriate regional committee in the process of conducting a new election.

4.5-6 DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

The duties of directors shall include, but not to be limited to: attendance at meetings of the Board and other functions of the Federation, representing the Federation and the Board as authorized by the Constitution and By-laws or appointed by the President; representing their regions before the Board; attending the meetings of their respective regional committees and working with them on regional affairs; supporting the purposes and goals of the Federation; and other duties, not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws, as may be in the best interests of the chapters and the members. Lack of representation at any of these designated functions will result in a letter of non-attendance being sent to all chapters in the Region involved.

4.5-7 RECALL OF DIRECTORS

Regional committees may recall their directors after a vote to recall by two-thirds of the chapters of the region and appropriate certification in writing to the President. Recall of a director shall vacate the office and require that a special election be held to fill the incomplete term as soon as practicable.

4.6 OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

4.6-1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President and the Vice President shall be known as the officers of the Federation. The Board, at its November meeting each year, shall elect the President (elected on odd number years) or Vice President (elected on even number years) due for election, with nominations being held at the most recent meeting prior to the November meeting. The election of the Federation officers shall be by secret ballots collected from the Board members and counted by a commissioner selected and appointed by the President. The ballot of President shall be collected and marked by the election commissioner before the count so that it may be counted in case of a tie to achieve a plurality. Should there be only be one nominee for each of the offices of the Federation, the election may be accomplished by voice vote or, the presiding officer may declare that each nominee is elected by unanimous consent or acclamation. This procedure can only be followed when there is only one nominee for the office of President and Vice President each.

4.6-2 TENURE OF OFFICE

The terms of office of the President and Vice President shall be for a period of two (2) years and expire upon the installation of their successors. The president shall be elected on odd number years and the Vice President shall be elected on even number years. To affect this, change the election of the President held at the November 2015 meeting shall be for the term of two (2) years and the election of the Vice President shall be for a period of one (1) year.

4.6-3 QUALIFICATIONS OF THE OFFICERS

Officers shall be elected from among the members. They shall be required to remain in good standing with chapters in good standing throughout their tenure. Loss of good standing by an officer shall vacate his office. To hold the position of President or Vice President within the TBF State Federation, that individual cannot hold or have an active membership with a Federation National Chapter. Officers shall otherwise be qualified in the following manner:

(a) The President shall have served at least one full and complete term as an officer of the Board or at least one full two-year term as a director, except that the Vice President shall ascend to the office of President whenever the duly elected President vacates his office or whenever the duly elected President vacates becomes incapacitated for further service.

(b) The Vice President shall have served at least one year as a director or as a standing committee chairman or a special committee chairman named in Chapter 4.7.

4.6-4 INSTALLATION OF BOARD OFFICERS
At the January meeting of the Board or immediately after a special election of a Board officer, the President shall certify the election, and seat newly elected officers on the Board. Such installations of officers shall be conducted as the first order of business at installation meetings and they shall be the last official act of the outgoing administration.

4.6-5 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The officers shall administer the Federation. Their duties shall include but not be limited to attendance at meetings of the Board and other functions of the Federation, representing the Federation as authorized by the Constitution and Bylaws and as appointed by the President, supporting the purposes and goals of the Federation, and other duties not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws, as may be in the best interest of the chapters and the members. In addition, the individual officers shall perform the following duties:

(a) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Board, appoint all committee chairmen, commissioners and other non-elected officials, operate as the chief administrative officer in the Federation, the chief representative of the Federation before all bodies, the final interpreter of the Constitution and By-laws, and the deciding voter only in cases requiring a plurality, in which there is a tie vote by the Board.

(b) The Vice President shall ascend to the office of President when it becomes vacant, or when the President is found to be incapacitated for further service through voluntary determination or through an act of the Board, or as authorized in the temporary absence of the President. He shall be the administrative assistant to the President performing other duties as directed by the President.

4.6-6 VACANCIES

Vacancy in the position of Vice President shall be filled as soon as practicable by special election. Vacancy in the position of President shall be filled immediately through the ascension of the Vice President.

4.7 APPOINTED OFFICIALS

The State Youth Director has the authority to vote at the State Board meetings on issues pertaining to youth.

4.7-1 STANDING COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint, from among the qualified members, the chairman and members of three standing committees, the Conservation/Natural Resources Committee, the Tournament Committee and the Youth Committee. The chairmen and members of standing committees shall serve at the pleasure, and under the supervision of the President.

4.7-2 DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees shall support the Constitution and By-laws, attend the meetings of the Federation and its functions as directed by the President, represent the Federation within their assigned areas of special interests, and perform other duties as follows:

(a) The Conservation/Natural Resources Director shall protect the environment from harmful change, encourage adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards, document and report violations of anti-pollution laws, take political and legal action wherever appropriate, to improve the environment, inform and educate the members and the public to create awareness of threats to natural resources, take leadership in repairing the harm already done to the environment, solicit involvement of other organizations, establish contact with the legislature and educate the members in citizen involvement in the process of government, cooperate and work with fishery management agencies and educational and research institutions toward improvements in fishery management for better future fisheries, coordinate the conservation activities of the Federation and recommend annual recognition of individuals and/or organizations that have achieved outstanding performance in conservation of fisheries and other associated natural resources.

(b) The Tournament Committee shall conduct the competitive fishing activities of the Federation, assist the regions and the chapters in development of tournament programs, coordinate the live release program, promote sportsmanship and respect for the fishing laws of Virginia, will recommend all Tournament Rules changes to the Board, with the Board's approval or disapproval, enforce the Tournament Rules and in consideration of a fee set by the Board, assist other individuals and organizations with tournament activities found by the Board to be acceptable and not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws.

(c) The Youth Committee shall promote youth fishing activity, organize and implement an annual Youth Week, teach honesty, integrity and sportsmanship, coordinate the Federation's youth programs, assist the regions and chapters in youth activities, teach youth the fundamentals of sport fishing, cooperate and work with other organizations in introducing youth to sport fishing and recommend annual recognition of individuals and/or organizations that have achieved outstanding performance in youth fishing activities.

4.7-3 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The President may select and appoint from among the qualified members, the chairmen and members of special committees. The chairmen and members of special committees shall serve at the pleasure, and under the supervision of the President.

4.7-4 DUTIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The special committees shall support the Constitution and By-laws, operate as instructed by the President and perform other duties as follows:

(a) The Public Relations Committee shall promote public awareness of the Federation, its purpose, goals and activities, work with and assist the other committees by publicizing their programs, by maintaining contact with the public news media and operating a news service, work with other organizations and agencies within the purpose and goals of the Federation, and support the Newsletter Committee by submitting new articles to it. The Chairman, as authorized and directed by the President shall attend all meetings and functions of the Federation as a necessary means of the timely and efficient discharge of his duties.

(b) The Membership Committee shall work toward development of new chapters and members, seek solutions to the problems of the existing chapters relative to their good standing in the Federation and TBF, and cooperate with interested members of the public where no chapters or other constituents exist.

(c) The Finance Committee shall make recommendations relative to budget preparation, coordinate the fund raising activities of the Federation, and assist the regions and chapters in their fund raising activities.

(d) The Safety Committee shall promote safe operation of the equipment and the activities of sport fishing, coordinate the safety activities of the Federation, assist the Tournament Committee in equipment inspection and enforcement of rules at tournament events, distribute hazard notices, work toward effective marking of procedures for sport fishermen, encourage use of first aid training and first aid kits, and operate an inspection program for equipment voluntarily submitted by members.

(e) The Newsletter Committee shall publish the newsletter, TIGHT LINES, at least quarterly. The Editor, as chairman, shall coordinate all functions relative to composing, editing, producing, selling of advertisements, billing the advertisers and distributing the publication. He/she shall, as authorized and directed by the President, attend all meetings and functions of the Federation as a necessary means of the timely and efficient discharge of his/her duties.

4.7-5 SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS, ETC.

The President may select and appoint to temporary service, special commissioners to represent him in resolving organizational issues and questions, and other problems that may arise. Commissioners and other such officials shall remain under the direction of the President and they shall report directly and confidentially to him.

4.7-6 EXPENSES OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

The reasonable expenses of the appointed officials shall be submitted in writing to the President for approval, no later than the next regular Board meeting following the incurred expenses. The President shall submit all approved expense statements to the Treasurer for payment. Objection by a Board member shall require an act of the Board to pay the stated expenses.

4.8 EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERATION

4.8-1 SELECTION AND COMPENSATION

Once the need for a contracted official has been justified and approved by the Board the position will be opened to all qualified applicants. The selection of the final candidate must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. The Board will determine the rate of compensation for the employee.

4.8-2 DUTIES OF FEDERATION EMPLOYEES.

The duties of all employees will be to support and promote the efficient operation of the Federation.

(a) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Board meetings and the official records of the Federation, maintain the official correspondence of the Federation, maintain in good order and submit as appropriate the documents necessary to the Federation's compliance with the regulations of the Corporation Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia and with TBF, and perform other duties as directed by the President. The minutes of the last meeting shall be posted online within two weeks after the last board meeting.

(b) The Treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Federation, the keeper of the Treasury and the financial accounts of the Federation, and receiver and disburser of all funds. The treasurer's report shall be mailed two weeks prior to the next the board. He/she shall report the financial status of the Federation to the Board on request and at each Board meeting. He/she shall present all books and financial records or documents annually in November, and on other occasions as directed by the Board, to a person or a committee selected and appointed by the President for audit, and he/she shall cause to be prepared and submitted in a timely manner all documents required by the United States Internal Revenue Service and all other tax and dues imposing authority having jurisdiction over the Federation, and perform other duties as directed by the President.

4.8-3 TERMINATION

The term of employment will continue as long as the needs are justified and the employee is satisfactorily accomplishing those needs. At any time, the position of an employee can be reviewed by the Board. Termination of an employee will require a majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE 5, AMENDMENTS AND PROCEDURES

5.1 AMENDMENTS

5.1-1 AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 1 THROUGH 8

Articles 1 through 8 of the Constitution and By-laws may be amended by vote of a two-thirds majority of the Board after thirty days prior notice of said amendment at any meeting scheduled thirty days or more in advance.

5.2 PROCEDURES

5.2-1 BILLS

Bills shall be the basic documents of the acts of the Board. They shall be submitted as written motions, distributed to the Board members twenty days or more prior to, and read to the Board immediately prior to voting upon them, except that upon a motion, seconded and voted for by a majority of the Board, an emergency may be declared and the twenty days prior distribution of the bill waived to allow for immediate adoption or for shortened prior distribution periods. The prior notice requirements of Chapter 5.1 shall not be affected by emergency declarations. Bills shall not be adopted by vote of a majority of the Board except as required by Chapter 5.1. Motions to amend bills, within their principal intent, shall be written and seconded by Board members. They may be adopted by the vote of a majority of the Board at any time prior to final voting on the complete bill.

5.2-2 RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions shall be expressions of the will, intent or desire of the Board. They shall be adopted and amended in the manner and through the procedures provided in section 5.2-1.

5.2-3 SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

All bills submitted for amending the Constitution and By-Laws shall be submitted at the January board meeting of each year. These bills shall be acted upon at the March board meeting. Amendments of an emergency nature may be accepted at any time during the year.

5.2-4 RECORDING OF MOTIONS

Motions shall be written for the record on an official form, which provides for a voting record.

5.2-5 CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTIONS.

Elections shall be certified according to sections 4.3-6, 4.5-2, and 4.6-4. Certifying officials may use a standard form designed and supplied by the Federation to facilitate certification of elections.

ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENT

6.1 AMENDMENT

(a) No part of the net earnings, gains or assets of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its directors, officers or other private individuals or organizations organized and operated for a profit (except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as herein above stated).

(b) No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

(c) In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, the board of directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the lawful debts and liabilities of the corporation, distribute all the assets of the corporation, as the board of directors of the corporation shall determine, to another organization that is exempt from federal and state taxation.

ARTICLE 7. BY-LAWS

7.1 FEDERATION FUNDS

7.1-1 TREASURER RECEIVES ALL FUNDS.

All funds received by the Federation or any of its agents on behalf of the Federation, except as provided in Sections 4.8-2 and Chapter 7.5, shall be turned over to the treasurer for deposit into the appropriate account.

7.1-2 ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN FUNDS PROHIBITED.

No donations, gifts, or other funds, goods or services shall be accepted in the name of the Federation by the Board or any agent of the Federation from any individual or organization found to be in conflict with the purposes and/or goals of the Federation.

7.1-3 DUES

Chapter membership dues and rosters are due to the Federation National Office each year by December 31st, the deadlines promulgated by the Federation National Office

7.1-4 REVENUE GENERATION.

Tournaments, other participation events, sales of goods and services and other business activities not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws may be operated by the Federation for the purpose of revenue generation in support of the Federation and in advancement of its purposes and goals.

7.2 CHAPTERS

7.2-1 CHAPTER FORMATION.

The Federation shall assist persons desiring to form new chapters by providing information and contact with organizing officials of TBF

7.2-2 ASSIGNMENT OF NEW CHAPTERS TO REGIONS.

Each new chapter shall be assigned to a region in consideration of its geographical location, and the director of the region shall deliver its charter to the new chapter. The director shall assist the new chapter in becoming a participant in the affairs of the region.

7.2-3 CHAPTER PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

It is the responsibility of each club to support all of the Federation activities sponsored by its region. In order to remain in good standing in the Federation a chapter must participate in 50% of its region's meetings, 50% of its region's tournaments, and 50% of all other regional activities approved by the majority of the chapters in that region. The Regional Committee and the Federation Board must approve any exception to this.

7.2-4 CHAPTER IN GOOD STANDING.

Chapters that have paid their dues and updated their chapter rosters by midnight December 31st and have participated in 50% of all regional activities during the past year are considered in good standing and can continue to participate in all Federation events. At the January Board meeting each regional director will submit a list of clubs in his region that have not satisfied the 50% participation rule during the previous year. Only those clubs, upon paying their dues, will be allowed to fish the Regional Qualifying and State Championship Tournaments during the year of the submission.

7.2-5 CHAPTER NOT IN GOOD STANDING.

Chapters that did not pay their dues by December 31st and/or did not participate in 50% of its region's activities during the past year are not in good standing and are not eligible to participate in Federation activities.

7.2-6 INSURANCE

All boats used in state and region events of the Virginia Bass Federation must have reasonable amount of liability insurance on these boats. In order to use a boat, proof must be provided for all events upon request of the tournament officials.

7.2-7 VIRGINIA TBF PARTICIPENT RELEASE of LIABILITY

Annually, prior to participation in any State, Region. or Chapter tournaments, events, programs, and related activities, each chapter member must sign and date a copy of the Virginia TBF Participant Release of Liability form. These forms are provided on the TBF web site and can be obtained from the Virginia State Federation Secretary. Completed release forms are to be maintained by each Chapter President for a period of one year. Each Chapter President is responsible to certify to their Region Directors that all members listed on their Chapter rosters have a signed Virginia TBF Release of Liability form on file. Each Chapter President is also responsible for the removal of the name of any registered member who fails to sign the release of liability from the national register, and for notifying the TBF Regional Director and TBF State President of such action.

7.3 FEDERATION TEAM TOURNAMENTS

7.3-1 REGIONAL QUALIFYING TEAM TOURNAMENTS

Four one (1) day Regional Qualifying Team Tournaments shall be held each tournament year, beginning July 1, 2019. There will be one tournament in each of four geographical regions (North, South, East and West). The dates and locations for each tournament will be decided by the Tournament Committee on or before September 1st of the prior year. These tournaments are open to all Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Anglers in good standing. Entry fee per team will be $110 which includes $10 for the big fish award. The big fish award will pay back 100%. Pre-registration will be done on-line or by mail-in entry forms. All mail in registrations must be post marked by midnight at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the tournament. Online registration will need to be processed ten (10) days prior to the date of the tournament. Anglers may register the day of the tournament by paying a $135 entry fee (includes a $25 administrative fee). All fees shall be non-refundable once received by the Federation. Team members will be designated as a boater or non-boater. Scoring will be based on the total weight of the team within the creel limits of the tournament. The top ten percent (10%) of the team finishers shall be eligible to be invited to the District 12 National Semi-Final Tournament in the boater or non-boater categories. Monetary prizes paid by the Federation for each of the Regional Qualifying Team Tournaments shall total 86% of the gross entry fee revenue generated for the tournament. Fourteen percent (14%) of the gross entry fee revenue from each tournament shall be withheld for the State Championship Tournament All position or place awards shall be determined as percentages of the 86% of gross entry fee revenue. All provisions of Chapter 8.1 shall be applied during the event. All other decisions and arrangements shall be delegated to the Tournament Committee.

7.3-2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM TOURNAMENT

A two (2) day State Championship Team Tournament will be held each tournament year, beginning July 1, 2019. The date and location will be decided by the Tournament Committee on or before September 1st of the prior year. All Virginia Bass Chapter Federation teams who have fished at least one (1) of the Regional Qualifying Tournaments are eligible. Entry fee for teams which have fished at least one (1) of the Regional Qualifying Tournaments will be $160 which includes $10 for big fish award. Entry fees for teams which have fished at least two (2) of the Regional Qualifying Tournaments will be $135 which includes $10 for the big fish award. Teams which have won one (1) of the Regional Qualifying Tournaments will receive free entry. Pre-registration will be done by mail-in entry or online. All mail-in pre-registration must be postmarked by midnight at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the tournament. All fees shall be non-refundable once received by the Federation. Teams’ members will be designated as a boater or non-boater. Scoring will be based on the total weight or the team within the creel limits of the tournament. The top ten (10%) percent of the team finishers shall be eligible to be invited to the district 12 National Semi-Final Tournament in the boater or non-boater categories. Monetary prizes paid by the Federation shall total 100% of the gross entry fee revenue generated by the tournament in addition to the monies held aside from each of the four Regional Qualifying Tournaments. All position or place awards shall be determined as percentages of the 100% gross entry fee revenue and monies held aside from the Regional Qualifying Tournaments. The big fish award will pay back 100%, split between big fish day one, day two and overall big fish. All provisions of Chapter 8.1 shall be applied during the event. All other decisions and arrangements shall be delegated to the Tournament Committee. The winning team will be declared State Champions and will receive a prize package as determined by the State Board.

7.3-3 FALL CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

7.4 INTERSTATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION

7.6 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING AND CITING

7.6-1 CONSIDERATION OF OTHER WATER RESOURCE USERS

The Federation shall consider the needs of and restrictions upon all other users of the waterway and adjacent resources upon which it intends to schedule or sanction an event. Special events of others, which are likely to be in conflict with anglers, shall be avoided wherever possible, if they are scheduled prior to the Federation scheduling. Specific days to which other users are limited by law for their activities shall be excluded from the Federation scheduling for events or practice days to be cited upon tidal waters of the Commonwealth. When Federation scheduling conflicts with specific days of waterfowl hunting season, Federation sanctioned events, including state, regional and chapter tournaments will not begin prior to 8:00 am on these days and must end not later than 4:00 pm.

**VIRGINIA BASS FEDERATION**

**Tournament Rules and Regulations**

 

**(Revised November 14, 2021)**

ARTICLE 8. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

8.1 TOURNAMENT RULES

1. BASS TOURNAMENT DEFINED. Bass tournament shall be defined as a competitive event in which the practices collectively known as fishing are skillfully applied by participants to catch bass and present them for scoring by weight, length or other criteria to determine a winner or winners who receive certain awards and/or other recognition.

2. PURPOSE OF TOURNAMENT RULES. Tournament rules are adopted for the express purposes of providing equal opportunity for all participants to successfully apply their fishing skills and abilities, of improving the safety of both participant and non-participant users of the tournament area resources, and of providing for proper handling of the fish.

3. AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS. Only the Tournament Committee of the Virginia Bass Federation Inc shall amend the Tournament rules. They are subject to interpretation only by the Tournament Committee, under the coordination and supervision of the Chairman. Decisions of the committee approved by the chairman shall be final. All tournament rules will be recommended to the Board for their approval or disapproval.

4. BASS DEFINED Bass shall be defined as any of the species known as large-mouth bass (Micropterus Salmoides), smallmouth bass (Micropterus Dolomieu), spotted bass (Micropterus Punctulatus), suwannee bass (Micropterus Notius), redeye bass (Micropterus Coosae), and guadalupe bass (Micropterus Treculi), all of which are of the genus, Micropterus, in the family, Centrarchidae, the freshwater sunfish.

5. ENTRY FEES Applications from otherwise qualified members; chapters of regions to enter and compete in tournaments shall be acceptable only when accompanied by the fee established in chapter 7.3. of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Virginia Bass Federation, Inc. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or regional applicants once the fees have been accepted by the Federation.

6. ELIGIBILITY Members~~,~~ in good standing who’s official [application](http://www.vabass.com/federation_004.htm) and entry fee are submitted as specified in 7.3-1 and

7.3-2 are eligible to participate.

7. [REGISTRATION](http://www.vabass.com/federation_004.htm). Registration will be as specified in 7.3-1 and 7.3-2.

8. ETHICS, SPORTSMANSHIP AND PERSONAL CONDUCT All participants shall observe high standards of ethics, sportsmanship and personal conduct. They shall obey all of the laws, and the authorities having jurisdiction in the tournament area. They shall keep themselves informed and aware of the rules, laws and conditions applicable to the tournament. They shall yield to all other recreational users of the tournament resource, sufficient distance or other courtesy to avoid interference with their activities. For example, duck blinds, which are occupied, on lawful duck hunting days, shall be given sufficient clearance to avoid interference with ducks approaching the blind in flight and to avoid danger from shot. Where a duck blind is situated in a narrow passage, boats shall move past them with minimum disturbance without stopping to fish. Drunkenness during the practice, competition and scoring activities is prohibited. No alcoholic beverages or any other intoxicating substance (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician), shall be permitted in competition boats or during the scoring activities throughout the competition hours. Participants shall yield to inspection by tournament officials at any time during the tournament.

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9. PRACTICE DAYS AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDES Tournament waters are open at all times to all competitors. However, for thirty days prior to any Federation sponsored tournament no competitor may hire or barter the use of a professional guide to fish on the tournament waters. The use of underwater cameras is prohibited for thirty days prior to any Federation sponsored tournament. Failure to comply with the rules will result in disqualification from the tournament. Professional guides are allowed to practice their profession and still compete in the tournament. However, for seven (7) days prior to any Federation sponsored tournament they cannot accept as clients any prospective competitor for the tournament. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the disqualification of the guide and all involved competitors from the tournament.

10. TOURNAMENT WATERS Tournament waters shall be defined as all public waters which are accessible by boat from the tournament headquarters with the exception of the waters within one hundred yards of the headquarters location or such off-limits areas as may be designated and announced at registration time by the Tournament Committee. All fishing by participants shall be done from a boat on tournament waters and all participants and competition boats shall remain on tournament waters throughout the competition hours. Violators shall be disqualified for that day's competition.

11. COMPETITION HOURS Competition hours shall be determined by the Tournament Committee and announced at registration. The hours may be changed by the committee as necessary because of changing conditions and with reasonable notice to participants during the tournament. Late arrival at the check-in point at the end of competition hours shall not be excused. No make-up time shall be granted for any reason to any participant who has been unable to compete during any part of the tournament.

12. WEATHER CONDITIONS Tournaments shall proceed as scheduled regardless of weather conditions, except that competition may be suspended or terminated by the Tournament Committee whenever it finds weather conditions to be hazardous. Competitors shall not fish during periods of suspension or after termination of competition. They may decline to compete without penalty only after the Tournament Committee has accepted their notice, given prior to withdrawing, that they believe weather conditions to be hazardous.

13. BOAT REQUIREMENTS. Competition boats shall be sixteen feet or more in length and powered by at least a twenty-five-horsepower engine. The boat must also have an electric bow mounted trolling motor and sufficient live well capacity to maintain a limit of bass by the team contestants in good condition during the tournament hours. No cumbersome craft, stick steering or motors of horsepower that exceeds the manufacturers rating plate will be permitted. All boats must comply with all the applicable federal and state regulation. All boats that do not meet these requirements cannot be used in any of the state level tournaments conducted by the Virginia Bass Federation. Boats built on or after November 1, 1972, shall display horsepower rating plates installed by the manufacturer. Boats built before November 1, 1972, shall display horsepower rating plates if plates were installed by the manufacturer. All tournament boats shall be powered within their rating plate specifications, or in the absence of rating plates they shall comply with the United States Coast Guard horsepower rating formula. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden. Any violation of these rules will result in immediate disqualification from that day's competition. "All boats used in state and region events of the Virginia Bass Federation must have a reasonable amount of liability insurance on these boats. In order to use a boat, proof must be provided for all events. If you do not own the boat to be used in the event, a letter of permission to use the boat in that event must be provided by the owner (s) prior to use.

14. SAFETY EQUIPMENT Participants, throughout the official competition hours, shall whenever their primary propulsion engine is in gear, wear a vest type personal floatation device, or life jacket, which is approved by the United States Coast Guard. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional device, known as a kill switch, which will terminate the operation of the primary propulsion engine when the operator leaves the controls. The kill switch shall be attached to the operator whenever the engine is in operation. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional power operated pumping device, which will remove water from the boat effectively, and in a manner acceptable to the Tournament Committee. Violators will be disqualified for that day’s competition.

15. SAFETY AND INSPECTION Safety shall be the first priority for all participants. It is the responsibility of each participant to have ALL required state and federal safety equipment on board as well as all permits licenses, passes or stamps, etc. required. An inspection will be held during lineup each morning of the tournament. Live-wells must be empty and open for inspection, running lights energized, life jackets worn, and kill switch lanyard hooked up to the boat operator. It will be the Co-Anglers responsibility to ensure the kill switch is attached to the Boater and working each morning prior to Blast Off. Kill switch functionality may be requested during the lineup inspection. Upon a failure of the lineup inspection, the boater will be required to go to the end of the lineup to correct the deficiency prior to blasting off. All participants shall yield to inspection upon the request of tournament officials during the entire tournament event including scoring, award ceremonies, the protest period and during the deliberation of any protests that may be registered by participants. Competition equipment found to be unsafe or unseaworthy by the Tournament Committee shall not be used in the tournament.

16. FISHING TACKLE Competition tackle shall be limited to casting, spinning and spin-casting rods and reels, and artificial lures. Live baits, natural baits or underwater cameras are prohibited and shall not be present in boats during competition except that skin, feathers and hair of non-aquatic animals may be used as lure components subject to approval by the Tournament Committee. As many sets of tackle, which include rod, reel, line and lure, may be kept in competition boats as participants' desire. Only one such set may be in actual use at any one time.

17. FISHING METHODS Trolling as a method of fishing shall be prohibited. Participants shall hook, play and land any fish they catch in competition, using no devices other than a landing net and tackle as provided in section 8.1 - 16, and that participants partner or observer may assist in landing and bringing them into the boat. All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land the fish. Boats may not be trailered during tournament hours unless authorized by the tournament committee.

18. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within 100 yards of the tournament headquarters or as otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored, any area that is legally posted NO FISHING or as otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee. Any such anchored boat shall have its trolling motor retracted from the water. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Violation will result in disqualification for that day's competition. It is the responsibility of the anchored boat to make other competitors aware that he is anchored.

19. FISHING PARTNERS REQUIRED Participants shall fish as a team based on the entry form, submitted at time of registration, in compliance with sections 7.3-1 and 7.3-2. In the event one team member has to withdraw from the competition, his/her partner will automatically withdraw as well, unless a replacement can be found prior to the morning check-in and the change is approved by the tournament committee

20. BOAT OPERATION Contestants will be fishing in a team format. Boat operation in a manner which unnecessarily handicaps any other competitor shall be prohibited.

21. CONTACT WITH OTHER BOATS No fishing shall be permitted within fifty yards of the anchored boat of another participant. Anchored boats shall not restrict navigation through narrow channels to or from other tournament waters. Participants shall not approach closer than necessary or otherwise make physical contact with other boats or persons during competition hours for reasons other than emergencies. Any competitors' boats seen in physical contact on the lake without the existence of an emergency will be disqualified from that day's competition.

22. EMERGENCY CONDITIONS Emergency conditions are defined as conditions which subject persons or property to imminent danger or conditions which are deemed by the Tournament Committee to be of emergency nature, to include leaving the boat for the purpose of using the restroom facilities. Only under emergency conditions, or in cases where boats are disabled, may participants leave their boats, in cases of dire emergency or where safety is involved, both contestants must remain in the boat at all times. Under such conditions (dire emergency or safety), they may ride in other boats and bring their fish to the tournament headquarters for scoring subject to all requirements otherwise applicable. Otherwise, they shall remain in sight of each other at all times until their fish are turned over to tournament officials. In such cases, both partners or the non-boating partner alone, may take his/her fish to the weigh-in in another contestant's or official's boat.

23. HANDLING OF FISH DURING COMPETITION: Competition boats shall be equipped with a functional, adequately aerated fish holding device, known as a live well, sufficient to maintain live bass of average size. All fish caught and retained in possession of participants shall be kept in a live well. No stringers, ropes, or other devices, which would injure fish or subject them to unnecessary stress, shall be used. Dead fish large enough for scoring shall be kept by participants and submitted for scoring. Fish too small for scoring shall be returned to the water. Any fish presented for scoring may be measured on a Golden Rule board, in its natural state and the tail may be fanned, to verify size eligibility. No more fish than may be scored may be held in captivity at any time during competition hours. Fish shall not be mutilated or otherwise intentionally injured or mistreated. A swallowed single hook shall be cut free of other tackle and left in place whether the fish is to be kept or released. Lures may be extracted in the least injurious manner available.

24. CHECK IN AND LATE PENALTY All competitors must check in with tournament officials at the official check-in site by the previously announced finish time whether they have fish or not. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of .60 pounds per minute or portion of a minute deducted from the competitor's total weight of catch for that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "lunker award". Any competitor who is more than 15 minutes late will lose all credits for that day's catch. There will be no acceptable excuses for tardiness.

25. HANDLING OF FISH AT CHECK-IN AND DURING THE WEIGH-IN All fish present in a competitor’s boat when he checks in at the check-in point become the property of the Tournament Committee. Discarding or transferring any fish will result in immediate disqualification. The practice of culling and measuring after check-in is prohibited. All fish shall be placed in containers supplied by the Tournament Committee for transport to the scoring area. The containers may be placed in landing nets for added strength. Water shall be added to reduce injury. All fish that are alive at the completion of the scoring procedure shall be returned to the water by tournament officials except that the requests of governmental, education and research agencies may be honored, and trophy fish may be returned to the participants who caught them when they request them for mounting and display. Fish not judged by tournament officials to be alive shall be protected from spoilage, and disposed of as food, or otherwise in a manner, which complies with the law if; they are unfit for use as food.

26. TOURNAMENT CREEL AND SIZE LIMIT At no time shall a team have more than five fish in the live well. Possession of more than five fish will result in disqualification. The minimum acceptable length of fish will be 12 inches with the exception of those bodies of water that are governed by different minimum creel size. Any fish which does not meet the minimum acceptable length will be removed from the competitors catch and the team will be assessed a one-pound penalty for each short fish deducted from the total weight of his remaining legal fish. Any fish presented for weigh-in, which is judged to be dead will result in a .50-pound penalty for each such fish, deducted from the total weight of fish.

27. SCORING Each team’s score will be the weight of the legal bass caught and kept during competition hours minus any incurred penalties. The team with the greatest accumulated weight will be the winner. Total weights will be arranged in descending order for other places.

28 TIES All ties will be determined first by the number of fish caught, second, by the number of dead fish. If the number of fish caught, and the number of dead fish are the same, places will be combined equal to the number of ties and the monies will be split among the tied teams.

29. VIOLATIONS. PROTESTS AND PENALTIES Participants shall honor the letter and the intent of the Tournament Rules or they shall be judged to have violated them. All judgments are reserved to the Tournament Committee. Participants who suspect that the Tournament Rules have been violated may protest to the Tournament Committee at any time during the tournament or within 15 minutes after arrival at the tournament sight followed with a written protest within

30 minutes after closing the scales. Protests shall be decided by the Tournament Committee through any means available within the Constitution and By-laws and Tournament Rules in consideration of the statements and other evidence presented by the concerned parties and witnesses. Polygraph examination, administered by a qualified examiner who is duly licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be included among the methods available to the Tournament Committee for consideration in their deliberations. All participants shall be presumed to be familiar with the Tournament Rules and to have implied their consent and agreement to submit to polygraph examination when they affix their signatures to the official registration list. Polygraph examination may be requested only by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee and shall be provided under his supervision and at the expense of the Federation. Refusal to submit to such examination reasonably requested and provided may be considered during protest deliberations. Any participant who is issued a citation by a law enforcement official during the tournament shall notify a tournament official of such issuance prior to the scales closing. If a tournament official is not notified by before the scales close, the participant and his/her partner will be disqualified.  Participants held by the Board of Directors to have violated the principles of fairness, sportsmanship and ethical conduct explicitly or implicitly included in the Tournament Rules may be declared ineligible to compete in present and future tournament events. Participants held by the Tournament Committee to be in violation of the Tournament Rules shall be penalized as specified in the rules. When a penalty is not specified for a violator the Tournament Committee has the discretion of determining what degree of penalty is appropriate for the violation.

30. COMMUNICATION During competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a cellular phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition.

31. PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL FROM TOURNAMENT. Any competitor or team that leaves a Virginia Bass Federation sponsored tournament prior to notifying a tournament official will not be eligible to participate in any Federation sponsored tournaments in the remaining year of the violation nor in the following calendar year. Those individuals may appear before the Board of Directors in order to appeal their suspension to present their reasons for leaving the tournament not later that the next board meeting after the occurrence. The affected regional director will notify the respective chapter officers of the violation.

32. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the warm-up period or competition day.