

# KANSAS B.A.S.S. NATION INC. BY-LAWS

Amended and effective February 15, 2025

## ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

### Section 1

**Name:** This organization shall be called: Kansas B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc. herein referred to as the “Nation”

### Section 2

**Purpose:** To stimulate awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our State Conservation Department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes, to demand adequate water quality standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards. To detect and report any polluter and to call public and political attention to this crime. To improve our skills 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 promote sportsmanship, courtesy and boating safety at all levels.

### Section 3

**Affiliation:** The Nation shall be composed of Kansas affiliated Clubs in good standing with the BASS Anglers Sportsman Society.

## ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

### Section 1

**Membership:** Membership in the Nation is open to organized Kansas affiliated Clubs whose membership in B.A.S.S. is one hundred percent (100%). Member Clubs shall maintain a minimum roster of six (6) members. The Nation reserves the right to limit membership and/or reject any Club’s membership if, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the Club’s membership is not in the best interest of the Kansas B.A.S.S. Nation. All Clubs shall have approval of the B.A.S.S. Nation.

### Section 2

**Dues:** Funds for the support and maintenance of the Nation will be derived from annual dues and from special projects to be sponsored by the Nation. Club member’s dues shall be paid to the Nation’s Treasurer no later than January 1st of each calendar year. Failure to pay dues in a timely manner may result in the entire Club losing its eligibility to participate in all Nation sponsored events for that year. Club members joining an affiliated Club after January 1st will be required to pay annual membership fees immediately upon acceptance by their Club. The Nation Representatives, at the Fall Nation Business Meeting, will establish the annual dues. The circumstances contributing to a Club’s late dues payment will be reviewed and evaluated for acceptance by the Nation’s Officers and Club representatives, in good standing, at the Nation’s next semi-annual meeting. When submitting dues, clubs must also submit an updated club member roster, and current club President and Secretary with valid address, phone, and email. KBN dues will not be processed without this information.

## ARTICLE III REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS

### Section 1

**Representatives:** Each Club shall annually elect/appoint, prior to the Spring Business Meeting, a member in good standing to serve as their Nation Representative. The Representative can represent one Club only. Each Club shall provide the name, address, phone number(s) and e-mail address of their Representative to the Nation President.

**Representative Duties:** The Club Representative shall represent his/her Club at all State Nation meetings. They shall report the minutes of the Nation Business Meetings to their Club membership.

**Officer' s Duties:** Officers of the Nation shall have general powers of administration of the offices of the Nation as identified under Article III, Section 6, Officer Duties, and shall be elected as specified in Article III, Section 7, Election of Officers.

## **Section 2**

**Attendance:** Representatives from each Club shall attend scheduled Nation Business Meetings. In the event that a Representative cannot attend a scheduled meeting, the Club shall appoint an alternate Representative to attend the meeting.

## **Section 3**

**Voting Rights:** The Representative or his/her alternate is the sole representative of his/her Club and thus is the only person eligible to cast his/her vote at a regular, special, or emergency meeting of the Nation. Each Club is entitled to one vote. Representatives must cast their vote in person. No proxy votes are permitted.

## **Section 4**

**Quorum:** Twenty percent of the members of the Club Representatives shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any meeting of the Club Representatives there are less than a quorum present, said meeting shall be adjourned and rescheduled.

## **Section 5**

**Officers:** The officers of the Nation shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Kayak Director, Youth Director, Conservation Director, Media Director, and Sponsor Director. The Executive Committee will be composed of the ten elected officers. A Webmaster will be appointed by and serve as directed by the President to fulfill the website needs of the Nation.

## **Section 6**

### **OFFICER DUTIES**

**President:** The President shall preside over the affairs of the Nation. He shall: Prepare an agenda and preside over all scheduled, special, and emergency meetings; direct all official business; supervise all Nation activities; be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees; be the official representative of the Nation in relationship to the organization; delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the Nation; and maintain liaison with the B.A.S.S. Nation and B.A.S.S.

**Vice President:** In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall: have all the powers and be subject to all the duties of the President so long as such absence or disability of the President continues; assist the President upon request, preside in the absence of the President; assume the office of the President if vacated, until a successor can be elected as per Article III, Section 9. The Vice President shall preside over the By-Laws Committee. The Vice President shall act as parliamentarian (one skilled in parliamentary procedures). In addition, the Vice President shall oversee the fundraising events of the Nation and solicitations pertaining to the K.B.N. charitable organizations.

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall: record accurate minutes of all meetings; assist with maintaining a roster of State Nation members, and transmit those rosters to the B.A.S.S. Nation office when necessary, and assists with notifications to Representatives and Officers of board meeting dates.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall: receive and distribute all monies upon approval of the board; receive updated rosters with dues from affiliated Clubs and forward copies of the updated rosters to the President, Secretary and BASS Nation if necessary; maintain accurate financial records and present current balance at each regular board meeting or upon request of the Club Representatives.

**Tournament Director:** The Tournament Director shall: chair the Tournament Committee; organize and operate, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, set an awards list, and solicit prizes; rule with final authority on the proper conduct, procedures, qualifications, and other matters relating to the orderly conduct of all tournaments scheduled with the Nation. In addition, he must work in conjunction with the Vice President concerning all charitable and fundraising events. The Tournament Committee shall determine the specific dates, times and locations of all tournaments. It will be the primary duty of the Tournament Director to conduct his/her affairs so that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it, and thus to the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, and the Nation.

**Kayak Director:** The Kayak Director shall: chair the Kayak Committee; organize and operate, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, set an awards list, and solicit prizes; rule with final authority on the proper conduct, procedures, qualifications, and other matters relating to the orderly conduct of all Kayak tournaments scheduled with the Nation. In addition, he must work in conjunction with the Vice President concerning all charitable and fundraising events. The Kayak Committee shall determine the specific dates, times and locations of all Kayak tournaments. It will be the primary duty of the Kayak Director to conduct his/her affairs so that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it, and thus to the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, and the Nation.

**Youth Director:** The Youth Director shall: chair the Youth Activities Committee; to promote, encourage and help member Clubs organize youth related activities. In addition, the Youth Director shall organize and operate, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, set an awards list, and solicit prizes; rule with final authority on the proper conduct, procedures, qualifications, and other matters relating to the orderly conduct of all youth tournaments scheduled with the Nation. The Youth Director shall help implement programs/activities which will introduce young fishermen to the goals of B.A.S.S. and give them a basic respect of our natural heritage, and appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play, and good sportsmanship; and give them an introduction to the sheer joy of bass fishing.

**Conservation Director:** The Conservation Director shall: chair the Conservation Committee, keep the Committee and member Clubs informed, and lead efforts to protect our natural environment from harmful change, to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state, and federal antipollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances or other regulation devices; to take political action to improve our environment; to undertake informational and educational, and above all, a leadership role in repairing the harm that already has been done to the life giving waters of Kansas. In addition, the Conservation Director shall work closely with the B.A.S.S. Nation to help fulfill this mission.

**Media Director:** The Media Director shall: assist directors with media support when needed. Work on keeping the Nation media presence updated.

**Sponsor Director:** The Sponsor Director shall: Work directly with the membership on sponsor relationships for the Nation.

## Section 7

**Officer/Representative responsibility:** In order to maintain integrity and to enhance continuity among officers (and activities) of the Nation, all Executive Officers and/or Representatives shall notify the President in advance of any activities which would involve or be representative of the Nation. Implementation of said activities must be approved by the President. Following the request, a detailed written request must follow within three (3) days. This is not withstanding normal duties.

**Election of Officers:** Officers shall be elected, by the Representatives, at the Nation's Fall Business Meeting. The term of office will be two years, with officers serving from January 1st to December 31st of their respective terms, providing that the current officer is in compliance with all the rules. Election of the following Officers will be held during the even numbered calendar years: President, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Kayak Director, Conservation Director, and Media Director. Election of the following Officers will be held during the odd numbered calendar years: Vice-President, Secretary, Youth Director, and Sponsor Director. No person shall hold more than one office at a time.

**Nomination of Officers:** Nominations for Nation officers shall be received by the President either in writing or by the use of e-mail, including the nominees name, e-mail address, club affiliation and phone number, beginning August 1st, but no later than August 31st of the election year. Nominees will be contacted to verify that they will accept the nomination. A list of the candidates will be sent to each club's President for discussion at their Club meetings. Nominations will only be valid if submitted by members in good standing. Nominations will not be accepted from a member who submits a nomination on his/her own behalf.

**Officer Eligibility:** Candidates must meet all membership requirements of their Club and the Nation.

### **Section 8**

**Removal from Office:** By majority vote of the Representatives, any officer may be removed from office for any action that would reflect dishonor and/or disgrace to the Nation.

### **Section 9**

**Vacancy of Office:** In case of any vacancy of an office through death, resignation, disqualification or other cause, the remaining officers, by majority vote, may elect an eligible successor to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of that officer.

## **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

**Scheduled Meetings:** A meeting agenda shall be planned in advance of all scheduled meetings by the Officer presiding over the meeting. The Executive Committee will meet on a quarterly basis. The Club Representatives will meet semi-annually.

### **Section 2**

**Special Meetings:** Officers may call special meetings, from time to time, for Nation purposes. Representatives and officers are required to attend and shall be given prior notice in writing, ten (10) days before the special meeting.

### **Section 3**

**Annual Meetings:** Bi-Annual Nation Business Meetings will be held in the Spring and Fall of each year. The Spring meeting will address KBN bylaws, and the Fall meeting will address KBN qualifier formats. The Nation President will determine the date, time, and location of these meetings. Under extenuating circumstances, the Spring and Fall Business Meetings may be combined into one meeting, or deferred to another date within the calendar year.

#### Section 4

**Emergency Meetings:** An Emergency meeting shall constitute a true emergency. Every effort will be made to notify all Officers and Representatives of said meeting, place, and time to afford all Officers and Representatives an opportunity to attend. As much notice as possible will be given. The only Nation business that may be transacted at an Emergency meeting shall relate to the specific reason the meeting was called.

#### Section 5

**Rules of Order:** All meetings shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order as parliamentary procedure. All KBN meetings may be conducted by teleconference, videoconference, or other electronic means (hereafter referred to as "virtual meetings") provided reasonable measures have been taken to notify all KBN clubs in good standing and/or the involved Committee members. All virtual meetings must provide means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a virtual meeting shall constitute presence in person at such a meeting.

#### Section 6

**Conduct:** Due to the visibility and scrutiny of any organization, it is imperative that each member conduct themselves in a disciplined, orderly and respectable manner at all Nation sponsored events. Failure to comply with Article IV, Section 6, will be grounds for immediate removal of the person in violation from the meeting. In addition, such activity may be grounds to prohibit the person from future meetings.

### ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Section 1

**Composition:** The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Kayak Director, Youth Director, Conservation Director, Media Director, and Sponsor Director.

#### Section 2

**Duties:** The Executive Committee shall have all the authority and powers of the Club Representatives in the management of the business and affairs of the Nation in the interim between regular and special meetings of the Club Representatives.

#### Section 3

**Actions of the Committee:** Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called and chaired by the President of the Nation or by the Vice President in the President's absence or inability to act. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of not fewer than four members voting shall be necessary for a valid action. All actions of the executive Committee shall be reported to the Club Representatives at the next regular scheduled meeting.

### ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES OF THE NATION

#### Section 1

**Standing Committees:** The following will be considered permanent standing committees unless changed by amendment: By-laws Committee, Environmental Committee, Executive Committee, Tournament Committee, Kayak Committee, and Youth Committee. Standing Committees shall be approved by the President, and shall contain no less than five and no more than nine members of the Nation.

#### Section 2

**Special Committees:** Special Committees may be formed by Officers, but only for closely defined purposes, and in no case may the tenure of a Special Committee exceed two years from the date of appointment.

Special Committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of Standing Committees.

### Section 3

**By-laws Committee:** The By-laws Committee shall consist of the Nation Vice President and no less than five (5) and no more than nine (9) members of the Nation per Article VI, Section 1, Standing Committees. The Committee shall make an annual review of the Nation's By-laws and, as deemed necessary, recommend appropriate changes. These changes, along with those received from Nation members, shall be presented to each Club's President thirty (30) days prior to the first regularly scheduled meeting per Article VIII, paragraph B.

### Section 4

**Tournament Committee:** The Tournament Committee shall be chaired by the Tournament Director. The Committee shall make an annual, and more often if necessary, review of the tournament procedures for all tournaments scheduled with the Nation. Changes will be made as deemed necessary, subject to Article VII.

### Section 5

**Kayak Committee:** The Kayak Committee shall be chaired by the Kayak Director. The Committee shall make an annual, and more often if necessary, review of the tournament procedures for all tournaments scheduled with the Nation.

## ARTICLE VII TOURNAMENTS

### Section 1

**Regional and National Championship Qualifying Tournaments:** At the Fall Business Meeting starting in 2024, then every second calendar year, the club Representatives shall decide, by the guidelines set forth in Article VII Section 5, the general format as described in Article VII Section 2, for the tournament or tournaments, used to determine the representatives of the KBN for the reserved regional slots and the direct entries into the BASS Nation National Championship tournaments. All Qualifier format proposals, including the current format, must be submitted to the KBN President at least 90 days prior to the fall meeting. The Bylaws Committee will review all formats for typographical, rules, or bylaws errors. If errors are found, the proposal is sent back to the original author for revision and resubmission. Final version requires submission to the President at least 45 days in advance of the fall meeting. The President must send the final versions, and the current format, to the clubs at least 45 days prior to the fall meeting. Once the final versions and current format have been submitted, to the clubs, they stand as written with no amending at the Business meeting. The general format approved will be placed in effect for the next calendar year, and once approved may only be changed by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, and only for the following reasons:

- (1) An insufficient number of tournament staff to conduct the tournaments.
- (2) Safety issues. Instances where conducting the tournament(s) would place the Nation in violation of local, state, or federal law.
- (3) Conflicts with other tournaments or events that would be detrimental to the best interests of the Nation.

### Section 2

**Regional and National Championship qualifying Tournament Formats:** The following general format items refer directly to Article VII Section 1:

- (1) Approximate date (spring, fall, a particular month, etc.).
- (2) Approximate location (in-state, out-state, east, west, etc.).
- (3) Number of tournaments.
- (4) Entry fees, side pots, payout(s).
- (5) Any other item as deemed necessary by the Tournament Director.

### Section 3

The Tournament Committee shall have sole responsibility to finalize the specific operating format(s) and the specific date(s), time(s), and location(s) of Regional and National Championship qualifying Tournament(s) to be presented at the Fall business meeting. Every second calendar year the Tournament Director and Tournament Committee will prepare the specific opening format(s) and specific date(s), time(s), and location(s) of Regional and National Championship Qualifying Tournament(s) for each tournament proposal submitted as to have tournament schedule available at the Fall business meeting. The Tournament Committee shall provide notification to the Nation's Club Presidents of the finalized format at the conclusion of the Fall business meeting each calendar year.

### Section 4

**Other Tournaments:** The Nation may schedule other tournaments. The Tournament Director shall decide the date(s), time(s), location(s) and format of these other tournaments to be presented at the Fall business meeting. If deemed necessary, changes to the date(s), times), location(s) and format of these other tournaments may be made by two-thirds vote of the Tournament Committee and only for the following reasons:

- (1) An insufficient number of tournament staff to conduct the tournaments.
- (2) Safety issues. Instances where conducting the tournament(s) would place the Nation in violation of local, state, or federal law.
- (3) Conflicts with other tournaments or events that would be detrimental to the best interests of the Nation.

### Section 5

#### **Voting guidelines for Regional and National Championship qualifying Tournaments:**

- (1) Motion made to accept all tournament proposals as written, second, and passed by majority rules by a total amount of votes cast by the Representatives; not majority of representative clubs present. If motion does not carry or no motion is made the format defaults back to the current format for the next two calendar years until new proposals can be submitted as described in Article VII Section.
- (2) After the motion passes each proposal shall be read, and each club Representative can vote only once on the proposal of their choosing.
- (3) The top three proposal formats will then be voted on by the club Representatives with each Representative only receiving one vote; with the proposal receiving the most votes declared the tournament format for the following two calendar years.
- (4) In the event of a tie the two tied proposals shall be voted on again by the club Representatives with each Representative only receiving one vote; with the proposal receiving the most votes declared the tournament format for the following two calendar years.
- (5) The Tournament Director will have a tie-breaking vote in case of a tie of the top two proposals as voted on by the club Representatives.

## **ARTICLE VIII GENERAL RULES OF OPERATION**

**A.** All Nation functions, excluding other tournaments in accordance with Article VII, Section 2, must be approved by the Representatives.

**B.** At the first regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year, the By-laws may be changed or amended by two-thirds vote of the Club Representatives present, provided that the proposed changes have been presented to the active Club Presidents thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. In addition, any proposed By-laws amendment received by an Officer must be submitted at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee may then refer the proposed amendment to the Vice President as an agenda item at the next By-laws Committee meeting; or by majority vote, call either a Special or Emergency meeting of the Club Representatives. If, by two-thirds vote, the Club Representatives vote to enact the proposed amendment, it shall be in effect until the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year, where a two-thirds vote of the Club Representatives shall be necessary to make the proposed amendment permanent. Unless otherwise stated, changes and amendments to these By-laws will be in effect upon passage.

C. Under no circumstances shall the Nation accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goals of the Nation.

D. The Secretary shall provide updated By-laws upon request by Officers, Representatives, or Presidents of Nation Clubs. Amendments will be added to the By-laws and forwarded to Clubs as they occur.

E. The President of the Nation shall be a member of the B.A.S.S. Nation Advisory Board, which shall meet upon the call of the B.A.S.S. Nation Director, for the purpose of furthering the goals of the various B.A.S.S. Nations.

F. By-laws and Standing Rules may be amended from time to time. Amendments to these By-laws, approved by the Representatives in accordance with Article VIII, B, will be sent to the BASS Anglers Sportsman Society for their review and approval.

G. Final authority for the interpretation of these By-laws and Standing Rules shall rest with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society,

H. Any intentional undertaking to discredit, overthrow, or defame the Nation by any member(s) will be grounds for disaffiliation, which also may include civil litigation and prosecution. This to include the unauthorized use or misuse of sponsorship contracts or agreements between affiliated sponsors and the Nation.

I. Capital expenditures in excess of \$1000 are to be approved by majority vote of the Club Representatives present at the next regularly scheduled meeting. In an emergency situation, authorization may be obtained by a majority of the Executive Committee.

J. The Youth Director, Tournament Director, Kayak Director, President and Conservation Director will give a financial report to the membership at scheduled Nation meetings. This financial report will list all monies received and disbursed in a category. A proposed budget will be submitted to the membership for each year by the above listed Directors at the first scheduled Nation meeting. Each expense submitted for payment or reimbursement must be supported by receipt or invoice. Generally accepted accounting principles will apply.

## **ARTICLE IX CLUB REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 1**

**Good Standing Interpretation:**

- (1) Membership with BASS.
- (2) Membership with affiliated Kansas Club.
- (3) Membership with Kansas BASS Nation.
- (4) Membership with BASS Nation, Adherence to Nation and Club bylaws.
- (5) Make an earnest attempt to participate in Club and Nation activities as possible.
- (6) Exhibit true sportsmanship at all times.

**Produced on February 16, 2025 by:**

Brad VanRiette, Kansas BASS Nation Secretary.

**Amended Dates:** February 25 2017. February 29 2020, February 27 2021, February 26 2022, February 15, 2025.