

**Amended Constitution and By Laws  
of the  
Illinois Bass Federation**

Approved March 11, 2006

**ARTICLE I**

Section 1 The name of this, Illinois not-for-profit corporation, shall be the Illinois Bass Federation. The Illinois Bass Federation (hereafter referred to as the Federation) composed of affiliated clubs, does hereby adopt the following By-laws and standing rules.

**ARTICLE II**

*Purpose and Objectives*

- Section 1 The purpose and objectives of this organization are as follows:
- A. To serve as an organization in which the individual club chapters in the State of Illinois affiliated may unite to the benefit of their common interest and causes.
  - B. To act as an agency to assist member club chapters in whatever manner deems practical and beneficial. The Illinois Federation shall not infringe upon member club chapters contrary to their autonomous entity.
  - C. To act as an agency between the National organizations and member club chapters of the Federation in whatever matters deemed practical, necessary and beneficial to both parties.
  - D. To assist and cooperate with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and its agencies in matters mutually beneficial.
  - E. To become politically and legally involved in such matters that is not consistent with the goals of the Illinois Federation which may arise on a national, state or local level.
  - F. To preserve and further the sport of bass angling by (actively) becoming engaged in the areas of environment, pollution and youth participation.
  - G. To promote, organize and conduct an annual Federation tournament or tournaments in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations as set by the Federation to determine the members of a team to represent the federation at any national Chapter Tournament.
  - H. To promote, assist and facilitate the formation of additional bass clubs to become affiliated with the Illinois and National Federation .

**ARTICLE III**

*Membership*

- Section 1 All clubs will be chartered after application to the Board of Directors upon approval of the Board of Directors of the Federation become a State Federation club.
- Section 2 Individuals registered as club members of such clubs automatically become members of the Federation.
- Section 3 Each member club shall designate a club representative each October to represent the chapter at the mandatory President's Conference held in January and at least one regional meeting as called by their Federation Regional Director and shall be entitled to one vote at these meetings. This does not preclude the attendance at said Regional meetings by additional members of the same chapter club.
- Section 4 Should a club of the Federation decide to drop its state membership, it may do so at any time by written request to the Federation Board of Directors.
- Section 5 Each chapter club must support and assist the Federation in any and all programs deemed necessary to fulfill the obligations of its policies and continued success of its operations.
- Section 6 Club officers and membership Rosters must be updated in December for both the National Federation and the state Federation to the federation secretary. They can and should be updated periodically, throughout the year as additions or deletions take place.
- Section 7 All Illinois chapter clubs must answer all correspondence from the Federation within 30 days from the time of correspondence.
- Section 8 An Associate member will have the right to fish the Federation trail. They will not have the right to vote, retain office on the Board of Directors or participate in the State Tournaments.
- Section 9 Any member club can be dropped from active status in the Federation for non compliance with the policies of the Federation.

**ARTICLE IV**  
*Dues and monies*

- Section 1     Assessment
- A. There will be a club assessment set by the Board of Directors per club member for all dues (state and national and other as required) in January.
  - B. Assessments for newly affiliated clubs and established clubs for state, national and all other as required, are payable to the Federation by February 15 each year.
  - C. Any club failing to affiliate will not be eligible to participate in any Federation sponsored activities.
  - D. Each Club is responsible for paying the assessment to the secondary or duly appointed Director of the Federation.
- Section 2     Monies will be derived from special projects which may be sponsored by this organization. Such projects must be sponsored consistent with the goals and policies of this organization and approved by the Board of Directors. Said monies derived from same will revert to the General Operating Fund.
- Section 3     Monies derived from the sale of Federation items will revert to the General Operating Fund.
- Section 4     Monies in excess of cost in operation of Federation sponsored fishing tournaments shall revert to the General Fund.
- Section 5     Under no circumstances shall the Federation accept monetary or in kind assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations, governmental agencies or any other donors if there is a prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary of those to this organization.
- Section 6     Should this organization disband, any and all monies or assets remaining after all indebtedness has been satisfied shall be distributed equally among active clubs.
- Section 7     No part of the net earnings of the Federation shall go to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Federation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.
- Section 8     Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Federation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (A) by a Federation exempt except from federal income tax under Section 501 (C) (2) of the internal revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any further United States Internal Revenue law) or (B) by a Illinois Federation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (C) (2) of the internal revenue code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

**ARTICLE V**

*Board of Directors; manners of Election; Terms of office; Duties*

- Section 1     The affairs of this organization shall be managed by the Board of directors. Directors must be a resident of the State of Illinois, must be a member in good standing with an affiliated bass club in the Federation.
- Section 2     The Board of Directors will be convened at least quarterly to conduct the business of the Federation. Additional meetings will be held at the discretion of the President. The board of Directors shall annually select, by secret ballot, candidates for the President and Vice President in the month of September. Proxy approval shall be solicited from all club Presidents during September and at the same time new additional board members solicited. Upon proxy approvals, the President and Vice President shall then appoint the remaining board members during October with approval of Board Members present.
- A. Eligibility for office or for member of the board.
    - 1. General - Member in good standing with the Federation.
    - 2. Office of President - Must have served one year on the Board of Directors in order to be elected or have assumed office due to a vacancy.
    - 3. Office of Vice President, Must have served one year on the Board of Directors, have actively participated in a major project of the Federation, or otherwise demonstrated active interest in the efforts of the Illinois Bass Federation.
  - B. Voting
    - 1. All Board members present shall be entitled to vote on all matters before the board, the President voting only in the case of a tie.
  - C. Term of Office
    - 2. Board Members will be installed at the October Board Meeting and serve until the following October meeting or such additional time as necessary for a successor to be appointed. They may succeed themselves if so appointed.

- Section 3 The Board of Directors of the Federation shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation, Youth and four Regional Directors and any other directors deemed necessary by the President.
- Section 4 The President shall appoint from the Federation membership, additional chairmen for the environmental committee, tournament committee, directors, youth activities committee and any special committees as necessary.
- Section 5 Duties
1. President - Preside over all meetings of the Board or special meetings of the Federation; direct all official business; supervise all Federation activities; appoint and be an ex officio member of all Standing and Special committees; be an official representative of the Federation in the relationship of other organizations; delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the Federation; maintain liaison with the National Federation..
  2. Vice President - Assist the President upon request; preside on the absence of the President; assume the office of President should it be vacated.
  3. Secretary - Record accurate minutes of all regular meeting; maintain regular correspondence with the member clubs; arrange for all board meetings and disseminate appropriate notices. Maintain the individual club chapter roster information.
  4. Treasurer - Receive and distribute all monies upon approval of the Board; maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance at each regular board meeting; submit a quarterly report to the board.
  5. Conservation – Interact with state conservation, clubs and national organizations pertaining to conservation and environmental concerns
  6. Youth – Oversee all youth programs
  7. The Federation will be served by for Regional Directors, on for each state Region as selected by the Federation board of Directors.
    - A. Directors shall be selected from members in good standing in with an affiliated Federation Club.
    - B. It will be the duty of the regional Directors to convey the business of the clubs which he represents to the Board of directors, and in turn, relay the business of the Board of Directors to the affiliated clubs.

## ARTICLE VI

### *Federation Geographical Districts*

- Section 1 The Federation shall be divided into four geographical regions.
- Section 2 These geographical regions shall be the; Northern Region 1, North Central Region 2, South Central Region 3, South Region 4.
- Section 3 The dividing line of these regions shall be as follow:  
 Northeast Region 1: Hwy 80 North to Wisconsin State line. Hwy 47 East.  
 North Central Region 2: Hwy 136 North to Hwy 80.  
 South Central Region 3: Hwy 16 North to Hwy 136.  
 South Region 4: Hwy 16 South to Cairo.
- Section 4 The normal meeting place of a club shall determine its region designation. Should the geographical location be such that there be a question as to its regional designation, the Board of Directors will assign said club to a region.

## ARTICLE VII

### *Meetings*

- Section 1 There is a mandatory Club President's Conference normally held during January each year. Exact time and place of this meeting shall be at the discretion of the President. Each club is also required to make one (1) of the at least two (2) required regional meetings.
- Section 2 There shall be a minimum of four Board of Directors meetings. Exact time and place of these meetings shall be at the call of the President.
- Section 3 Special meetings, either general or of Directors, may be called by the President or at the request of the President or any three members of the Board of Directors. Exact time and place shall be at the call of the President.

## ARTICLE VIII

### *Standing Committees; Purposes; Duties*

- Section 1 The President may appoint the following Standing Committees and such other special committees as may become necessary. Terms of appointment to Standing Committees shall be one year or less. To be eligible for appointment, a committee candidate must be a member in good standing with a Federation Club.
- A. Conservation/Natural Resource Committee: The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Conservation Director, the purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change; to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices; to take political action where appropriate; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring to the public a great awareness of threats to our environment; and, above all, to take leadership roles in repairing harm that has already been done to the life giving water of America.
- B. Tournament Committee: The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Tournament Director, this committee shall plan, organize and operate various Federation Tournaments, select sites, determine eligibility, collect entry fees, set an awards list, rules with final authority on the proper conducts of all Federation Tournaments. Provided, however that all such Federation Tournaments will be conducted with- in the spirit and the letter of the current (Illinois) Tournament Rules. It will be the primary duty of the Tournament Committee to so conduct its affairs that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideals of fairplay will accrue to it, and thus to each and every member of the Federation.

## ARTICLE IX

### *Removal of Members*

- Section 1 A. Fraudulence and/or un-sportsmanship like conduct
- Section 2 Any Illinois Bass Federation Member accused of violating section 1 shall have an opportunity to answer the charges brought against said member at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The accused and the Club President of the accused will be notified by registered mail not less than 14 days prior to the meeting, stating the violation or violations. It will be the duty of the Secretary, President, or duly appointed Director to mail such notice. The removal of member shall be accomplished by a 2/3 vote of the Directors present. There must be a quorum of Directors.

## ARTICLE X

### *Removal of Directors*

- Section 1 A. Fraudulence or malfeasance of office.  
B. Neglect of duties and responsibilities of office.  
C. Failure for a Director to attend a majority of all Board meetings, regular or special, during one calendar year.
- Section 2 Any Director or Directors accused of violating a, b or c of Article IX. Section 1 shall have an opportunity to answer the charges brought against the Director or Directors at the next regularly scheduled board meeting or a special meeting called. In either case, the accused will be notified by registered mail not less than 14 days prior to the meeting, stating the violation or violations. The remainder of the Directors will also be notified not less than 14 days prior to said meeting on the violation or violations charged. It will be the duty of the Secretary, President, or duly appointed Director to mail such notice. The removal shall be accomplished by a 2/3 vote of the Directors present. There must be a quorum of Directors; however, the accused Director or Directors will not be considered in the formation of the quorum.

## ARTICLE XI

### *Parliamentary Authority*

- Section 1 The rules contained in the Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern this organization in al cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE XII

### *Amending of By-Laws of Constitution*

- Section 1 These By-Laws may be amended at any duly called general meeting of the chapter representatives by majority vote of those representatives present, providing a written notice of the proposed change, or changes, has been presented to each chapter not less than thirty days prior to the said meeting.