

THE BASS FEDERATION  
BYLAWS AND RULES

\*\*\*WITH NOTED UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE  
JANUARY 10, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT: The primary goal of the Federation shall be to preserve and further Conservation, Youth, and the sport of Bass Fishing

A. Updated January 2012. The Bass Federation – Arizona (Federation) composed of affiliated chapters of The Bass Federation-Arizona hereafter referred to as AZTBF, does adopt the following Bylaws and Standing Rules.

B. The Federation will be governed by an Executive Board of Directors composed of elected officers to include; President, Vice President, Treasures, Secretary, and Tournament Director. Along with the Executive Board is the General Board of Directors represented by a designated delegate member of each affiliated club.

**B. Governing Body**

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**C. Executive Board of Directors, Manner of Election Term and Duties**

1. The Executive Board will meet at least quarterly to conduct the day to day business of TBFAZ. Additional meeting will be held at the discretion of the President.

**D. Eligibility for Office**

1. **General** – Must be a member in good standing of TBF/FLW and of an active bass club of AZTBF.

2. **Office of the President** – Must have served one year on the General Board in order to be elected or have assumed the office during the past year due to a bona fide vacancy.

3. **Offices of Vice President, Tournament Director, Treasurer, and Secretary** – Must have either served on year on the General Board or have actively participated in a committee or project of AZTBF.

a. The president for the coming term may appoint a Member-at-Large in good standing within general eligibility for the office of Youth Director and Conservation Director if it is so desired.

**E. Voting** – All Officers and General Board of Director Members present will be entitled to vote on all matters. If more than one member of a club is present, the voting is limited to one vote per club. *The President only voting in the case of a tie vote.*

### **E. Voting**

1 ..All members in good standing with AZTBF present shall be entitled to one vote at any formal meeting held by the Executive Board. *The President will only vote in the event of a tie vote.*

### **F. Term of Office**

1. Officers will be installed at the January meeting and will serve a two year term of office. Officers will serve until such additional time as necessary for a successor to be elected. A vacated office will be filled by appointment of the Executive Board of Directors until an election is held.

### **G. Duties**

1. **President** – Preside over all meeting of the Executive Board of Directors or special meetings of AZTBF, direct all official business, supervise all AZTBF activities, appoint ex-officio member of all standing and special committees, be the official representative of AZTBF in relationship to other organizations, delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve AZTBF, is designated primary communicator with TBF/FLW and liaison with TBF/FLW.

2. **Vice President** – Assist the President upon request, preside in the absence of the President, assume the office of President shall it be vacated.

3. **Treasurer** – Work with the Executive Board in preparation of planned expenses, receive and disburse all monies upon approval of the Executive Board, maintain financial record and present a current balance at each regular board meeting, submit a quarterly report to the membership at a board meeting, and provide an annual report to be presented to the Executive and General Board at the January meeting. *The Treasurer will input and update membership as received and audit membership compliance.*

4. **Secretary** – Record accurate minutes of all regular meetings, record tournament results, maintain regular correspondence with the membership.

5. **Tournament Director** – Procure all necessary permits and documents for all AZTBF tournaments, file all required reports with the appropriate authorities, preside over all AZTBF tournaments, oversee and determine weigh-in sites, rule on violations of the AZTBF tournament rules and protests with Tournament Committee.

## H. Removal of Elected Officers

1. Any elected officer may be removed from office by a simple majority vote of AZTBF upon a thirty day prior notice based upon documented concerns, Bylaw or Rule violation, unsportsmanlike conduct, or behavior that compromises the high ideals of AZTBF.

## I. Delegates

1. Affiliated clubs of AZTBF shall select one delegate and one alternate to serve as the club's representative on the General Board of Directors.

2. Eligibility - Must be a member in good standing with the TBF/FLW and of an affiliated AZTBF club.

3. Qualifications – Delegates form the nucleus of future Executive Officers or Staff Members. Selection of a delegate by a club is considered to be the club's first indication that the club membership is confident that the selectee possesses those qualifications, dedication, integrity, and moral responsibility required to effectively lead the AZTBF at some future date.

4. Duties – Delegates convey the business of the club they represent to AZTBF and in turn, relay the business of AZTBF meeting to their club membership. This is done in order that the clubs have say in voting on motions put before the board.

5. Alternate Delegates – Alternates represent affiliated clubs as members of the General Board of Directors in the absence of the Delegate. In the event the Delegate is also serving as an Officer of AZTBF, the alternate is not authorized to serve in that Executive office position during the absence of the Delegate

6. Removal of the Delegate – Any Delegate may be removed from office for cause by simple majority vote of the Executive Board and General Board of Directors. Cause includes failure to attend scheduled meetings, and/or failure to assure that the alternate attend in the absence of the Delegate.

## J. Standing Committees

1. **Purpose and Duties** – The AZTBF President shall appoint and oversee the three following standing committees and such other special committees as he/she deems necessary. Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be one year or less, unless extension of service is requested by the President. To be eligible for appointment a committee candidate must be a member in good standing of TBF/FLW and a club affiliated with AZTBF.

2. **Conservation Director/Committee** – The director will chair the Conservation Committee; act as a liaison between the club, state, and national conservation agencies. Plan Arizona conservation and attend all local and state conservation meetings/hearings. They will be responsible for fish health and weigh-in activities pertaining to the condition, handling, and release of fish caught. The committee shall be composed of one to three members as designated

by the natural environments 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 the harm that has already been done to the life giving water of America.

3. **Tournament Director/Committee** – The Tournament Director shall chair this committee. This committee shall be composed of members as designated by the AZTBF President. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize, and operate AZTBF tournaments, including at least four annual state qualifying tournaments which will determine eligibility to enter the Divisional Championship; suggest sites to AZTBF rule with final authority on the proper conduct, procedures, and qualifications, and other matters properly relating to the orderly conduct of a AZTBF tournament providing however, that all State qualifying tournaments will be conducted within the spirit of the current tournament rules of TBF/FLW. It will be the primary duty of the Tournament Committee to so conduct it's affairs with honor, integrity, sportsmanship, and the highest ideals of AZTBF and TBF/FLW.

4. **Youth Director/Committee** – The director will chair the Youth Committee, plan, organize, and implement youth club projects to include the state youth club tournament finals, statewide, AZTBF youth Program; to introduce young fisherman to the goals of AZTBF including conservation; to give them a basis for respect of our natural heritage; to provide an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of bass fishing. Additional members will be appointed as needed by the AZTBF President.

#### K. **Special Committees**

1. Special committees may be appointed by the President for closely defines purposes. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committee.

#### L. **Club Standing**

1. AZTBF clubs will be considered to be in good standing if they meet the following requirements.

- a. Hold a minimum of one Youth activity (eg. C.A.S.T. or Reel Kids) or sponsor/maintain a youth club.
- b. Have the club delegate attend at least four AZTBF meeting or at least one per quarter.
- c. Perform or participate in a least one function outside of AZTBF tournaments, such as a charity or conservation project.
- d. Any club in bad standing with AZTBF cannot have members eligible for the State Team unless that member is able to show he/she has completed the above requirements on his/her own.

e. Members in “Bad Standing” is different than a club in bad standing but would also constitute loss of a position on the State Team. Bad standing would include and of the following;

- \*. Writing bad checks
- \*. Un-sportsman like conduct during tournament hours.
- \*. Unpaid Dues/Subscriptions with TBF/FLW, or AZTBF dues.
- \*. Failure to meet these requirements may result in a loss in good standing with penalties imposed by the General Board.

### **M. Standing Rules**

1. Each club is responsible to obtain all their own permits, insurance binders, and any mandatory papers prior to a tournament being held. Failure will result in one year probation and all permits will be submitted to the President of AZTBF prior to and further tournaments being held. Second offense may result in removal from the AZTBF.

2. Funds for the support and maintenance of AZTBF will be derived from membership fees, special projects, and tournaments sponsored by AZTBF. Decision to assess/change membership dues may be made by the General Board after thirty day written notice to the club delegates. Under no circumstances may AZTBF accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is “prima fascia” evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goal of AZTBF.

3. Participants in all AZTBF qualifiers must be a member of an affiliated AZTBF club, TBF/FLW, and sixteen years of age or older.

4. After all State qualifying tournaments have been conducted, but before the end of a qualifying year, a National Team Championship will be conducted by the TBF/FLW tournament staff with a goal of determining a National Champion. Trophies, awards, and banquets will be furnished by TBF/FLW. Rules, regulations, and the direction of the tournament shall be administered by the TBF/FLW tournament committee. The number of entries from each state which will be permitted to compete in the National Championship will be determined annually by the TBF/FLW. \*\*\* REMOVE AS NO LONGER APPLIES \*\*\*

5. Changes to these Bylaws and Rules may be made by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board members after a thirty day written notice is made to AZTBF delegates for dissemination to the AZTBF membership. In the event of an emergency, a telephone conference call is an acceptable method of communication.

### **N. AZTBF Tournament Format**

1. The 13 members of the AZ State Team will be determined from the top eight finishers from the best three out of four TFBFAZ qualifying tournaments. Eight plus an alternate will be pulled from the top finishing points list (1-4 boaters and 5-8 non-boaters, ninth place will be the alternate). The top four finishers in the Top Ten Tournament will complete the team (2 boaters and 2 non-boaters).

1. The twelve (12) qualified members of the AZTBF State Team will be determined from the top eight finishers from the best four (4) out of five (5) AZTBF qualifying tournament points. The first eight are pulled from the top finishing points list (4 boaters and 4 non-boaters). The top four finishers of the Wildcard Tournament will complete the team (2 boaters and 2 non-boaters). Tie breaking is outlined in Rule 8, section K.

a. Competitors that are qualified for the State Team at Non-Boater status may improve their position to that of Boater via the Wildcard Tournament. The member must declare his/her intent to elevate that status prior to the tournament and in turn forfeit the qualified for position on the State Team allowing the next member to advance into the forfeited position.

a. The State Team alternates will be selected from the highest finishing competitor (1 Boater and 1 Non-Boater) not qualified for the State Team via points or tie breaker and post completion of the Wildcard Tournament.

2. If a boater/non-boater position must be waived, the position will be offered to the next boater on the State Team starting with the highest points position until a boater can be found, at which time a new alternate boater will be indentified if needed. The alternate may also be an alternate boater and will be allowed to tow his boat to the competition if he/she so desires with the understanding his/her boat not be used.

2. If a Boater or Non-Boater position must be waived, the position will be offered to the next Boater or Non-Boater starting with the highest point position until that position can be filled, at which time a new alternate Boater or Non-Boater will be indentified as needed. The Boater alternate will be required meet the function of competition and have provision to tow his/her boat to the competition with the understanding his/her boat may or may not be utilized by a qualified State Team member during the event.

3. If a non-boater position must for any reason be waived, the position will offered to the alternate and a new alternate and a new alternate would be indentified from those eligible from the points standing until the position can be filled based on the status of remaining time before the tournament.

4. All AZTBF members are eligible to fish any of the five (5) AZTBF qualifying tournaments as long as they are current members of TBF/FLW. Failure to be a current member of such may result in a loss of accrued points

5. The angler with highest points from the best four (4) out of five (5) AZTBF qualifiers will be the Arizona State Champion and Team Captain. Ties will be broken by the largest big fish weight from any qualifying tournament.

6. Any exception to the State Team format described in the above section will be accepted only if agreed upon by the Executive Board Members.

7. Anyone who qualifies for the Arizona State Team must have participated in a youth activity, TBFAZ civic or conservation event as per the State Team Contract.

7. Anyone who qualifies for the Arizona State Team must have participated in a minimum of two (2) events; a youth activity, AZTBF civic and/or conservation event as per the State Team Contract.

8. Each State Team member must sign a contract with AZTBF and comply with all rules and regulations.

9. Each State Team will consist of 15 members: 13 of which will be determined by their finish in the TBFAZ qualifiers and the Top Ten Tournament. The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> will be that of Conservation Director and Federation Representative as designated by the TBFAZ President. These two members will be considered alternates and will only fish if one of the official team members were to become unable to fish while at the Divisional competition.

9. Each State Team will consist of fifteen (15) members: fourteen (14) of which will be determined by their finish in the AZTBF qualifiers and the Wildcard Tournament. The thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) and fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) will be a Boater alternate and Non-Boater alternate. The fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) will be designated by the AZTBF President. This member will be considered an alternate and will only fish if official team members were to become unable to fish while at the Divisional competition.

#### **O. Expenses for Federation Representatives**

1. Members of the Executive Board and designated committee members who are working the tournament will have the following provided for during tournament activities, State/National meetings, President meetings, Youth Director meetings, and Conservation Director meetings: Travel/Flight expenses to National and other Championships where/when a AZTBF representative is required to conduct business.

2. During qualifying tournaments a room may be provided if the tournament is outside of the metro area. One meal per qualifying tournament may be provided. This will include those who qualify to fish at the National levels of competition as a representative of AZTBF.

3. State Team member expense will be paid according to available funds. This may include lodging, fishing license, and fuel expense.

a. If the State Team member chooses not to stay at the provided lodging location his/her lodging will be reimbursed based on rates of designated hotel/motel reserved by AZTBF.

b. Fuel expenses will be determined on the average price of fuel, chosen destination, and at 15 miles per gallon.

#### **P. Dissolution**

1. In the event of the AZTBF dissolution, all assets will be donated to C.A.S.T. (Catch a Special Thrill Foundation) and the Salvation Army.