

# 2013 OBF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS (REV. 02-01-13)

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

### Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the OHIO BASS FEDERATION, INC. (hereinafter referred to as the FEDERATION or OBF).

### Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of this FEDERATION shall be: to promote public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport; to offer amateur tournament competition with a path to the professional level; to promote conservation and environmental protection and the fellowship of bass angling; to introduce the sport of fishing and the love of it to the youth of our state; to offer our Division of Wildlife our organized moral and political support and encouragement; to promote full adherence to all conservation codes and demand adequate water standards and legal enforcement of existing regulatory standards; and to function as an effective link with other state federations embracing the principles of The Bass Federation, Inc., hereinafter referred to as TBF.

## ARTICLE II: AFFILIATION & REAFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

### Section 1: To affiliate with this FEDERATION, a club shall:

(A): have a minimum of six (6) members,

(B): go to the TBF web site at [www.tbfservices.com](http://www.tbfservices.com) and do the new club registration. TBF will then send the club an email with a password and information on how to start an invoice listing all the club members and officers. Fill this out completely. Also list all phone numbers and email addresses. Before submitting to TBF print a copy of the membership invoice.

(C): submit to the Ohio Bass FEDERATION Secretary a copy of the TBF club membership invoice with all Officers listed along with by-laws, tournament rules, a twenty five dollar (\$25) per member annual non-transferable FEDERATION membership fee\* (check payable to OBF), a fifteen dollar (\$15) per member annual non-transferable TBF membership fee\*\* and a (\$35) per

member annual non-transferable FLW membership fee ( one check payable to TBF, INC. for both TBF and FLW dues). After all checks go through the OBF Secretary and are received by TBF then the club will be listed on the TBF membership web site.

### Section 2: To maintain affiliation, a club shall:

(A): have been a club or member in good standing of OBF and TBF for the previous year,

(B): have a minimum of six (6) members,

(C): submit by November 1st each year: on the TBF web site a complete updated invoice including addresses, telephone numbers and all email addresses.

.....print a copy of the invoice and send it along with a twenty five dollar (\$25) per member annual non-transferable FEDERATION membership fee\* (check payable to OBF), a fifteen dollar (\$15) per member annual non-transferable TBF membership fee\*\* and a (\$35) per member annual non-transferable FLW membership fee. ( one check payable to TBF, Inc. for both TBF and FLW dues ) to the Ohio Bass Federation Secretary. After all checks go through the OBF Secretary and are received by TBF then the club roster will be updated on the TBF membership web site.

(D): clubs must also do all of their updates on the TBF membership web site, whether new member or information change on current members and ensure the listing of all club officers including names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are kept current.

.....tournament results documenting a minimum of three (3) tournaments on forms on the Div. of Wildlife web site or filed electronically on their web site,

.....evidence of youth and environmental projects the club completed during the year,

(E): submit through the TBF membership web site immediately as new members are accepted: an updated roster, twenty five dollar (\$25) per new member annual

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non-transferable Ohio Bass FEDERATION membership fee\* (check payable to OBF), and a fifteen dollar (\$15) per new member annual non-transferable TBF membership fee\*\* and a (\$35) per member annual non-transferable FLW membership fee (one check payable to TBF, Inc. for both TBF and FLW dues) to the Ohio Bass Federation Secretary. After all checks go through the OBF Secretary and are received by TBF then the club roster will be updated on the TBF membership web site.

\*Covers you in a maximum of three clubs .

\*\*Covers you in a maximum of three clubs.

### ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

The FEDERATION shall be governed by a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board). The FEDERATION will consist of Regions as established by the Board. The Board shall consist of two Directors from each Region, the President, the immediate Past President (providing he has served one full term in that office; the person in this position steps down when a new President is elected and the old President fills this position), the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Tournament Director, the Youth Director, the Conservation Director, and the Public Relations Coordinator. All members of the Board must be current members of an affiliated club, the OHIO BASS FEDERATION, TBF and FLW. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to one vote on all matters before the Board. In the event the FEDERATION disbands, the remaining assets will be disbursed by decision of the Board.

### ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

#### Section 1: Officers

The officers of the FEDERATION shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Youth Director, Conservation Director, and the Public Relations Coordinator. There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of the

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Director.

(A): In special recognition of his substantial commitment to the FEDERATION and its membership, on both state and national events, as well as his untiring devotion to the membership and ideals of bass fishing, the position of President Emeritus is bestowed on Dennis Becker, until such time as he may wish to vacate this special position.

(B): The President Emeritus will have full voting privileges and will be an officer of the FEDERATION, and may serve in whatever other capacity(s) as the President/Board may so choose.

#### Section 2: Elections and terms of office

(A): Directors shall be elected by their respective regions. Their term of office shall be for two (2) years, beginning July 1 of the year of their election. The Directors from each region shall be elected in alternate years to provide continuity within the Board. Should a vacancy occur within an elected term, the region shall elect a new Director to fill the unexpired term. Each region may elect one Assistant Director who shall have full authority to represent either of his region's Directors when one is unable to attend official functions and meetings. Each club has one vote for the purpose of electing Regional Directors and Assistant Directors. In the event a Region does not elect a Regional Director and has no Director or Assistant Director then the President has the authority to appoint a Regional Director, with Board approval, to fill out any unexpired term.

(B): The President shall be elected by the Board. A person elected President shall have served at least one year as a member of the Board. The term of office shall be for two (2) years beginning February 15, with the election to be held at the preceding October/November Board Meeting. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the Board shall elect a new President to fill the unexpired term.

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(C): The Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Youth Director, Conservation Director, and Public Relations Coordinator shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board. Their terms of office shall be for two (2) years coinciding with that of the president. Should a vacancy occur within these offices, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board, a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

(D): The terms of the special position chairmen and all assistant positions (except Assistant Regional Directors) authorized by this constitution shall be for two (2) years coinciding with that of the President.

(E): The terms of Assistant Regional Directors shall be for one (1) year beginning July 1. Should a vacancy occur within a term,

a new Assistant Director shall be elected to fill the unexpired term.

The Board has explicit authority to remove and relieve of duty any director or officer of the Board where, in the opinion of the Board, such action is deemed necessary for the good of the FEDERATION. A minimum of 2/3 of the Board must be present when action is taken and a minimum of 2/3 of those present must vote for such removal.

### ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

#### Section 1: Duties of the President

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board and special meetings of the FEDERATION; direct all official FEDERATION business; supervise all FEDERATION activities; be the official FEDERATION representative; delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the FEDERATION (see Article VII); and maintain liaison with TBF.

#### Section 2: Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President upon request; preside in the absence of the President; and, should it become vacated, assume the responsibilities of the office of the

President, serving until the Board elects a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

#### Section 3: Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the FEDERATION and Board; maintain club rosters and regular correspondence with the affiliated clubs and Regional Directors.

#### Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies upon approval of the Board; maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance at each regular Board meeting; submit an annual report to the membership; and an annual audit shall be conducted and presented to the Board. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

#### Section 5: Duties of the Tournament Director

The Tournament Director shall be responsible for planning, organizing and operating state-level tournaments and for the maintenance of all tournament equipment. It will be his responsibility to rule, with final authority, on the proper conduct, procedures and other matters relating to the orderly conduct of FEDERATION state-level tournaments. While given this authority, the Tournament Director is, nonetheless, accountable to the Board for his decisions. He shall keep the Board informed of all state-level FEDERATION tournament activities. He may appoint, with Board approval, one assistant and a staff of eight to help run tournaments.

#### Section 6: Duties of the Youth Director

The Youth Director shall maintain liaison with the TBF Youth Director, coordinate all state-level youth activities and keep all clubs apprised of pertinent youth programs. He may appoint, with Board approval, two assistants to help with youth programs and activities. The Youth Directors and his assistants will be required to undergo a background and fingerprint check immediately upon being accepted. OBF will pay the expense. (See also Article IX for additional youth information).

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### **Section 7: Duties of the Conservation Director**

The Conservation Director shall maintain liaison with the TBF Conservation Director, coordinate all state-level environmental activities and keep all clubs apprised of pertinent environmental programs. He may appoint, with Board approval, one assistant to help with environmental activities and programs.

### **Section 8: Duties of the Public Relations Coordinator**

The Public Relations Coordinator shall acquire and distribute information regarding FEDERATION tournaments, programs, activities, sponsors and advertisers. He shall appoint, with Board approval a Web Site Manager. He should encourage and assist local clubs in promoting their activities, and may designate Regional representatives to assist in acquiring timely information.

### **Section 9: Duties of the Regional Directors**

Regional Directors shall be the official representatives of the regions at Board Meetings. They shall be responsible for all FEDERATION activities at the regional level including conducting an annual qualifying tournament and distribution of entry forms for the State Championship..

The Directors shall hold a minimum of two (2) regional meetings per calendar year to convey communications and information between the Board and local clubs. Directors are responsible for insuring that the FEDERATION Secretary has current club rosters, officers and dues for all members. Directors are responsible for insuring that their clubs fulfill affiliation and re-affiliation requirements, including verification of youth and conservation reports, as outlined in Article II. Regions may establish special rules and/or by-laws without approval by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VI: PROCEDURES FOR DISAFFILIATION, MEMBERSHIP REVOCATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

### **Section 1: Club: Voluntary disaffiliation**

A club may disaffiliate from the FEDERATION by notification to the FEDERATION President and TBF.

### **Section 2: Club: Involuntary disaffiliation**

A club may be disaffiliated from the FEDERATION for any misconduct in complete disregard of ethical sportsmanlike behavior or failure to comply with the club requirement in Article VI, Section 3. Two-thirds of the Board must be present when such action is taken and it must be approved by a 2/3 vote of those present. Appeals to the Board must be presented in writing to the FEDERATION President within 30 days of notification of disaffiliation.

### **Section 3: Individual: Membership revocation and/or disciplinary action**

Whenever a member is placed on probation, suspended or removed from a club roster as a result of disciplinary action for false information, cheating or other actions detrimental to the future of the FEDERATION, the club must report the incident to the FEDERATION President. The Board will review the incident and may take appropriate action. Two-thirds of the Board must be present when such action is taken and it must be approved by a 2/3 vote of those present. Any appeals to the Board must be made in writing to the FEDERATION President within 30 days of notification of action. **Members owing money to the Ohio Bass Federation have 30 days after written notification from TBF secretary to pay said monies. If this time has passed the member is considered in bad standing and not eligible for any OBF function or membership until paid in full.**

## **ARTICLE VII: SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS**

Special committees with president-appointed, non-voting chairmen may be created with Board approval. There shall be three special

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Board-approved non-voting positions as follows:

### **Release Boat Captain**

Appointed by the President, the Release Boat Captain shall be responsible for maintenance, use and scheduling of the FEDERATION release boats. He shall appoint a minimum of three and a maximum of six assistants authorized to use the release boats; no one else shall operate them under any circumstances. To maintain accurate records and establish reasonable costs for use, an expense report with receipts shall be filed with the FEDERATION Treasurer for each event and he shall keep the Board informed of his activities.

### **Web Site Manager**

Appointed by the Public Relations Coordinator, the Web Site Manager shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining the FEDERATION web site as directed by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII: AWARDS PROGRAMS**

### **Section 1: Dennis Becker Member-of-the Year-Award**

The FEDERATION may present a Dennis Becker Member-of-the-Year award and nominations should be sent to your Regional Directors or Federation President by November 1. Outside judging with Board approval will be the responsibility of the FEDERATION President.

### **Section 3: Non-FEDERATION Awards**

Up to three awards may be given annually to non-FEDERATION persons or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to the FEDERATION, the environment and/or bass fishing. Nominations should be made to the FEDERATION President by November 1.

## **ARTICLE IX: JUNIOR BASS CLUB FEDERATION**

The Youth Director may establish an Ohio Junior Bass Club Federation and maintain a constitution to govern it. This constitution and all state-level Junior Federation activities

must be approved by the senior Board. The Youth Director shall keep the senior Board informed of all Junior Federation activities.

## **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these by-laws must be approved by a 2/3 vote with 2/3 of the Board present at any Board Meeting providing the amendments have been proposed and tabled at a previous Board Meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI: MEETING GUIDELINES**

**(A):** There shall be no quorum requirements for any Federation Board meeting.

Where authorized in this Constitution, assistants may represent and vote for absent Board members.

**(B):** Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of 51% of those present and voting unless otherwise required in this Constitution.

**(C):** Special meetings may be called and must be approved by the Executive Committee (**See Article IV, Section 1**). The Executive Committee shall give at least one week written or E-Mail notice and a specific issue must be defined for the meeting. No other business may be conducted at a special meeting. A simple majority of 51% of those

present shall constitute a decision unless otherwise required in this Constitution.

**(D):** Proxy votes by absent Board members shall be permitted only on specific issues after discussion and approval of such votes at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

**(E):** When more than one position is filled by the same individual, they shall have only one vote on all Federation matters.

Approved at the February 1, 2013  
Board Meeting

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Ohio Bass Federation Board of Directors