

The American Bass Association PA & NJ Constitution and Bylaws

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Article I

Name

This organization shall be known as the **American Bass Association PA & NJ** (hereafter referred to as the **Association**)

Article II

Purpose

The **Association** is established to preserve and promote the sport of bass fishing; 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 wherever a natural potential exists; and to support the local, state, and national agencies which conserve and manage the fresh water sport fishery and associated natural resources.

Article III

Goals

The **Association** shall, in its operations, pursue the goals of organizing and conducting competitive fishing events which adequately provide for both the needs of the bass and the angler; of establishing live release at the conclusion of events of bass back to their habitat as an integral part of sport fishing; of promoting realistic conservation of natural resources and the of supporting and cooperating with fishery management agencies and educational institutions in the development of good fisheries for the future; of encouraging youth involvement in sport fishing and leading the members in the organizing and conducting youth participation activities; of timely efficient communications with the membership through a regularly published newsletter and current information made available on the Association's website; of gaining new members and generating revenue sufficient to conduct the programs of the **Association**; of reducing the hazards of boat operation and sport fishing; of supporting the non-profit purposes and goals of the **American Bass Association PA & NJ**; and such other goals as may be established for the members and the committees of the **Association**.

Article IV **Membership**

- **Section 1: General Membership**

The members of the **Association** are members in good standing. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in the **Association**. Eligibility for the office shall also be conditional upon satisfaction of all requirements and qualifications imposed in the Constitution and Bylaws.

- **Section 2: Membership Dues**

Members shall pay an annual membership fee of \$50.00 and must pay their dues in full to the **Association** on or before April 1st of each year to remain in good standing. Only those members whose membership is current and that have duly paid their dues shall be eligible to participate in any qualifying tournaments and other **Association** / sponsored events.

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- **Section 3: Membership Requirements**
 - (a) Each member must be current on their annual membership fee.
 - (b) To receive an automatic invitation to the current year's Classic, the prior year's Classic Champions must participate in a minimum of two-2 tournaments during the current year.
 - (c) The tournament season runs from the April tournament up through and including the last regular points tournament occurring prior to the "Classic"- the season does not include the "Classic".

- **Section 4: Procedural Rules for Meetings**

The rules set forth in **Robert's Rules of Order** (as revised) shall govern the **Association** in all meetings in which they are applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Article V **Organization**

- **Section 1: Board of Directors**
 - (a) The Board shall consist of the President, the Vice- President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Tournament Director, and the most recent past President (provided he/she have served one full term in that office).
 - (b) There shall be two-2 additional appointed Board Members; Weigh Master and Newsletter Editor. These positions to be appointed by the President and shall be voting members of the Board. The duration of these appointments to be for a period of two-2 years
 - (c) Upon a vacancy on the Board, the remaining Board members shall recruit from the **Association** general membership for a replacement.
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- **Section 2: Meetings of the Board**

The Board shall meet at least quarterly, additional scheduled or special meetings may be called by the President.

Article VI **Board Members, Elections and Terms of Office**

- **Section 1: Board Members**

The **Association Board** shall be the President, who shall serve as chairman of the Board, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Tournament Director, the Weigh Master and the Newsletter Editor and most recent past President.

- **Section 2: Elections and Terms of the Board**
 - (a) **Nominations** – Nominations for Board Members must be submitted to the **Board in writing** by the first regular meeting in August.
 - (b) **Elections** – Election to be held at first regular meeting in September.
 - (c) **President** – The President of the **Association** shall be elected by the **general membership** present at the meeting. The term of the President shall be for two (2) years beginning in January following the election. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the President, the general membership shall elect a new President to fill the remaining term.

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- (d) **The Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Director**
Terms of the office shall be for two (2) years beginning in January. They will be elected by the general membership present at the meeting.
- (e) **Term Expiration** – The offices of the President and Secretary shall expire in an even numbered year, while the offices of the Vice-President, Treasurer and Tournament Director shall expire in an odd numbered year.
- (f) The President appointed Weigh Master and Tournament Committee Chairperson will remain in place until their resignation or replaced by the President with a new appointee.
- **Section 3: Installation of Board Members**
At the first meeting of the year, the President shall administer the pledge of office to the board members-elect and seat them on the Board.
- **Section 4: Pledge of Office**
The pledge of office shall be administered by the President and repeated by the officials elect of the **Association** at their installation ceremonies as follows:
“I, _____ (**name**) _____, pledge that I shall support the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Bass Association PA & NJ, and that I shall in all acts, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of my office in the best interests of the **Association** and its members.
- **Section 5: Voting**
 - (a) In general elections each current member, including Board Members, present at the scheduled meeting is entitled to one-1 vote per member. The President shall vote only in case of a tie.
 - (b) All decisions of the Board shall be by majority vote of those Board members present at any regularly scheduled or special meeting.
 - (c) Motions brought to the floor for vote by the general membership shall be permitted one-1 vote per team per team present.

Article VII Duties of the Board Members

- **Section 1: Duties of the President**
The president shall preside over all meetings of the Association; supervise all **Association** activities; appoint all committee and chairmen; be the official representative of the **Association** and delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the **Association**.
- **Section 2: Duties of the Vice-President**
The Vice-President shall assist the president upon request; shall preside in the absence of the President; assume the responsibilities of the office of President should it become vacated, until the general membership elects a replacement to fill the remaining term.
- **Section 3: Duties of the Secretary**
The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Board meetings, official meetings and the official records of the **Association**; maintain the official correspondence of the **Association**; and perform other duties as directed by the President.

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- **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 meeting of the Board; and submit an annual report to the membership. An annual audit shall be done in January (the in house review shall be conducted by three members, consisting of two-2 members from the Board and one individual from the general membership) the completed audit to be reviewed with the Board.
- **Section 5: Duties of the Tournament Director**

The Tournament Director shall be responsible for maintaining the general membership records; plan and submit for general membership approval a yearly tournament schedule; organize and operate the **Association's** tournament events; receive, review and accept all valid tournament applications and related fees; and shall have the final ruling over all protests and/or infractions. The Tournament Director may seek consultation from Board members on specific issues, but shall make the final decision regarding all tournament matters.
- **Section 6: Removal of Board Members**

Removal of a Board member shall be considered only after a finding of the Board in a prior action, that the subject official is guilty of bad conduct, malfeasance, or neglect in office. In the removal motion, a majority vote in favor shall constitute a censure and a two-thirds vote in favor shall effect the removal of the subject Board member.

Article VIII Standing Committees

- **Section 1: Conservation Committee**

There shall be a Conservation Committee. The President shall appoint from the **Association** members a chairman of the committee. The purpose of the committee shall be to protect our national environment from harmful change; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring public awareness to threats to our environment; to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life giving waters of America.
- **Section 2: Tournament Committee**

The Tournament Committee shall be the Tournament Committee Chairperson and two-2 individuals from the general membership.
- **Section 3: Special Committee**

Special Committees may be formed by the President for well defined purposes. Special Committees shall not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committees.
- **Section 4: Youth Committee**

The Youth Committee shall consist of members selected from the general membership. They shall organize and promote youth activities introducing our youth to sportsmanship, angling, ethical conservation and the outdoors in general.

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Article IX **Finance**

- **Section 1: Association Income**
Funds for the support and maintenance of the **Association** shall be derived from membership dues, special projects sponsored by the **Association** and from sponsored tournaments.
- **Section 2: Association Expenditures**
All **Association** expenditures must have Board approval except normal operating costs, which will be incurred and paid by the Treasurer. The reasonable expenses of the Board members shall be submitted in writing to the Treasurer for payment. Objection by any Board member shall require an action of the Board to pay the stated expense.

Article X **Methods of Amending the Constitution and Bylaws**

Any member of the Board of Directors of the **Association** may recommend an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws. All amendments shall be presented to the Board in writing at least one (1) regular/special Board meeting prior to vote. To enact an amendment, two-thirds of the Board present at regular/special meeting must vote for the proposal.

Article XI **Adoption**

This Constitution and Bylaws shall become effective after adoption by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present.

Article XII **Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the **American Bass Association PA & NJ**, all liabilities of the **Association** shall be satisfied. The remaining assets, if any, shall be disposed of in accordance with the decision made by the Board of Directors.