



Thank you for your inquiry about starting a BASS-affiliated club.

Thousands of BASS Federation Nation clubs across the country currently enjoy the camaraderie and competition that club affiliation with BASS provides. Club members not only enjoy the spirit of competition but are involved in conservation and youth programs such as Junior Bassmaster and CastingKids educational events held at Trailblazer Adventure Days in association with the BASS/U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Partnership.

Federation Nation members are committed to the future of fishing, and we appreciate your interest in joining this growing number of dedicated anglers. All of the documentation you will need to establish your BASS club is enclosed. It only takes six BASS members to form a club, and you and your friends will be able to compete in state qualifying events that could lead to a berth in the prestigious Bassmaster Classic.

Please refer to the checklist when completing the required documentation.

Remember, all Federation Nation club members must also be a member of their state BASS Federation and BASS. To join BASS, simply click the link below or call 1-877-BASS-USA. Once everyone in your club has established a BASS membership, it's easy to add new members using our online roster system. Your club president and secretary will need to include their e-mail addresses to be notified of your new club status.

To avoid delays in processing your chapter application, please enclose \$30 for each member on your roster. Your club members' Federation membership will be effective from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, with the update cycle beginning on Nov. 1 each season. You can pay by credit card online or please make checks payable to BASS LLC. When naming your club, keep in mind that the name cannot exceed 29 characters in length.

For your state affiliation requirements, please contact your respective state Federation Nation president. All president's contact information can be found at: <http://www.bassmaster.com/federationpresidents>. Your state president will receive an e-mail alerting them about your interest in establishing a new BASS club. So don't delay, get your club together and start fishing!

If there is anything we can do to assist you in setting up your club, just give us a call at 1-877-BASS-USA. We're here to help in any way we can.

BASS wishes,  
BASS Federation Nation



## **BASS Federation Nation Application Checklist**

Please check all of the following requirements before sending in your application for affiliation with the BASS Federation Nation.

### **I. Membership Application Requirements**

- ☐ Must have at least six members
- ☐ Must have 100% BASS membership
- ☐ All new BASS memberships must be prepaid and submitted with application
- ☐ Current BASS members must include their membership number on application
- ☐ Must submit \$30 (per member) for Federation Nation dues at the time you send in your application
- ☐ Must submit complete mailing address, e-mail and phone numbers with application

### **II. Constitution and Bylaws Requirements**

- ☐ Must contain amendment stating that you will, at all times, maintain 100% BASS membership
- ☐ Must contain amendment stating that a complete membership roster will be submitted to BASS annually
- ☐ Must contain amendment stating that your club will belong to and support your state BASS Federation Nation
- ☐ Must contain amendment stating that all members must be in good standing with the state chapter
- ☐ Must submit two copies of your constitution and bylaws, signed by all charter members when forming your club

### **III. Letter of Authorization**

- ☐ Must be signed by club president and returned to BASS headquarters

Once you have completed the above requirements, send your membership application along with your Federation Nation member dues and two copies of your constitution and bylaws with a signed letter of authorization to:

BASS Federation Nation Department  
Attn: Jon Stewart  
P.O. Box 10000  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830



## **Get more out of bass fishing by joining a BASS-affiliated chapter and enjoy great BASS Federation Nation benefits!**

- Great fellowship and the opportunity to learn more about fishing comes from associating with fellow BASS members through chapter affiliation.
- Affiliation with your state Federation Nation of BASS chapters gives you the chance to help promote and protect your bass fishing interests on both state and national levels.
- A subscription to *BASS Times*® Magazine – a monthly publication that provides coverage from the Bassmaster® Tournament Trail, news on youth and conservation issues and reports on chapter activities from across the nation. A \$24 value.
- You'll receive a free BASS Insider membership with annual affiliation. A \$35 value.
- Youth programs that collaborate with partners and agencies on the local, state and national level further enhance or develop new outdoor youth programs.
- Junior Bassmaster competition opportunities on club, state and divisional levels that can ultimately lead to Bassmaster Junior World Championship qualification.
- You are eligible to compete in state BASS tournaments, the prestigious BASS Federation Nation Divisional Tournament and the BASS Federation Nation Championship presented by Yamaha Outboards and Skeeter Boats.
- You have an opportunity to earn one of six Bassmaster Classic® berths.
- You qualify for a special insurance program – \$1,000,000 liability coverage for your sanctioned club events.
- These benefits are for Federation Nation members only! Anglers across the country are forming new chapters each year in order to receive these unique Federation Nation benefits.

**For a complete summary of benefits,  
visit [www.Bassmaster.com/Federation](http://www.Bassmaster.com/Federation).**



# Application For Affiliation

NAME OF CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned, submit our application for affiliation with the BASS. We do hereby agree to the objectives and purposes of BASS as set forth in the bylaws.

We do promise to support BASS by creating among fellow anglers and the general public an awareness of society's contributions to angling, conservation and outdoor recreation. We will encourage and instruct the youth community in the art of bass fishing. We do pledge ourselves to fully adhere to all conservation codes and to detect and report any polluter of our nation's waters.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Club President's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Club Secretary's signature

## Chapter Member List

Include Federation Nation dues with this application. Please complete all information legibly. Remember to use your name and address as it appears on your BASS membership.

### OFFICERS

**President** \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Current BASS member or ☐ Payment Enclosed

**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Current BASS member or ☐ Payment Enclosed



## CLUB MEMBERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Member No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Current BASS member   or   ☐ Payment Enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Member No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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## CLUB MEMBERS



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Current BASS member or ☐ Payment Enclosed



# Suggested Bylaws for a BASS Federation Nation Chapter

CHAPTER NAME

CITY

STATE

ZIP

These bylaws are offered as a basis for your new chapter. They are, of course, not ironclad and can be modified, if necessary, for your particular group before submitting them to the national organization for certification. If your group is one that is already formed and operating under established bylaws, please add the Article for Membership (II) and the Article for Affiliation (VI) and submit two copies to BASS for approval. When your bylaws have been approved, the certified copy will be returned to your chapter secretary.

## ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

### Section 1: Name

This chapter shall be called the:

NAME OF CHAPTER

CITY

STATE

### Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate public 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 and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his/her crime. To improve our skill as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass-catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing and a love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the state BASS Federation Nation, embracing the principles and purposes of BASS®.

## ARTICLE II – Membership

### Section 1: Number of Members

The chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six members.

### Section 2: Requirement for Regular Membership

To become a chapter member, a person shall:

- Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- Be a member of BASS (See ARTICLE VI for affiliation requirements.)
- Be a member of the state BASS Federation Nation.
- Be recommended by two members at a regular monthly meeting.
- Be voted on by membership. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation shall be unanimous.
- Be 16 years of age.

### Section 3: Requirements for Junior Membership\*

To become a junior member of an adult chapter, a person shall:

- Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- Be under 16 years of age.

\*Junior members are not required to pay national membership dues and are not entitled to the benefits of a regular member. The acceptance of junior members will not affect a club's liability insurance policy. Junior members may not hold office in an adult club nor may they be voting members. At age 16, junior members may continue membership by joining the club as a regular member. Junior membership ceases on a person's 16th birthday.

### Section 4: Membership Dues

The membership dues shall be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually, initially payable upon being voted into the chapter, \$30 of which shall be for Federation Nation dues and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of which shall be for chapter dues. BASS membership dues are also required at the current rate. (See ARTICLE VI, Section 1 for state affiliation requirements.)

### Section 5: Meetings of Members

The membership shall hold regular meetings at pre-established times.

## ARTICLE III – Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility

### Section 1: Officers and their Duties

The officers of the chapter shall consist of:

- President:** Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be an ex-officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.
- Vice President:** Act as program chairman, assist the president in his/her duties and preside in the absence of the president.
- Secretary:** Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the chapter president. Maintain regular liaison between your chapter and the BASS Federation and the state BASS Federation chapter.
- Treasurer:** Collect and disburse all monies. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each regular meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the chapter board of directors. The chapter may vote that the treasurer and any other officer handling chapter funds must be bonded.
- Conservation Chairman:** Serve as liaison between the chapter and state and national conservation/environmental agencies. Plan chapter conservation projects and attend all local and state conservation meetings/hearings.
- Youth Chairman:** Organize all youth activities and programs. Coordinate youth events and start a Junior Bassmaster Chapter when the chapter is ready for this sponsorship.

## Section 2: Elections

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of \_\_\_\_\_. Election shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in the order listed in ARTICLE III, Section 1.

## Section 3: Eligibility of Vote

Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

## Section 4: Term of Office

The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on \_\_\_\_\_ and end on the last meeting day of \_\_\_\_\_ or until the successor assumes office.

## Section 5: Vacancies

In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office. National BASS headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

## Section 6: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- Have been a member for six months. (Six months' requirement waived during first 12 months of chapter existence.)
- Have attended at least 75% of the chapter meetings and 75% of chapter functions during a 12-month period.
- Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.
- Maintain current BASS membership.

## ARTICLE IV – Standing Committees

All standing committees will serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The terms of the committee members will coincide with that of the president. Each committee shall elect a chairman.

(a) **Board of Directors:** The board of directors will consist of seven members: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past-president and two members elected at large by majority vote of the members present at the December regular meetings.

- The president will call all meetings of the board of directors and preside at such meetings.
- The secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
- The board will rule on all tournament rules infractions, chapter bylaws violations and all protests when appropriately received.
- The board will develop agendas for the monthly meetings.

(b) **Youth Committee:** The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and implement a chapter youth project; to introduce young people to the goals of BASS; to give them a basis of respect for our national heritage and an appreciation of the basic rules for honesty, integrity, fair play and good sportsmanship; and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of fishing.

(c) **Conservation Committee:** 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 legal action where appropriate; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring public awareness of threats to our environment; and to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.

(d) **Tournament Committee:** The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all chapter tournaments. The tournament committee will draft tournament rules, which must then

be approved by the general membership. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules, investigate all protests concerning tournaments and make recommendations to the board of directors.

## ARTICLE V – Removal of Membership

### Section 1: Removal of Membership

Members may be dropped from the membership roll for the following reasons:

- Failure to pay dues.
  - Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace on the chapter and/or BASS.
  - Failure to attend 50% of the chapter meetings and 50% of chapter functions during a 12-month period.
  - Disqualification for any reason from participating in BASS-sponsored events, including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol.
- Note: Military deployment exempt.

## ARTICLE VI – Affiliation

### Section 1: Requirements for Affiliation

- Approval of chapter charter by BASS.
- Update BASS with chapter membership roster once each year. Annual update cycle begins each year on Nov. 1.
- Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted online to BASS as they occur. (See ARTICLE II, Section 3 for dues requirements.)
- Maintain 100% BASS membership.
- Must affiliate with the state Federation Nation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the state Federation establishes for chapters, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the chapter to participate in the state Federation qualifying tournament(s) and any other Federation Nation-sponsored tournaments or events.

## ARTICLE VII – Method of Amending the Bylaws

### Section 1: Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

We, the undersigned charter members, do hereby agree to the above by-laws and the commencement of the chapter on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

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Complete two copies and forward both to BASS for endorsement. One copy will be returned to the chapter secretary.





Dear Federation Nation club administrators,

I'd like to personally thank you for your BASS Federation Nation® club's loyalty. Because of the dedication of anglers like you and your club members, our sport and its fisheries have a bright future.

To assist you in leading your club in 2010 we provide the Federation Nation section of our Web site, [Bassmaster.com/FederationNation](http://Bassmaster.com/FederationNation). Via the "Manage My Club" link on that page you can download all the materials you'll need for your club. Our Online Roster System is available via the "Club Administrator Login." Using the online system, all of the members in your club can be quickly updated, and we can automatically process credit card payments for new clubs and initial set-up. The system formats a printable invoice to send in with your check. The system has proved to be a great tool to provide you with a way to view real-time updates to your rosters and BASS membership status throughout the year.

BASS is leading the way by providing you and your club 24/7 roster access and printable membership cards. With this technology you'll no longer have to wait for a new card or membership verification – you can access and update your roster from anywhere at any time, even the night before the tournament. Because all real-time information and printable membership cards are now available online and to operate more responsibly in a cost-conscious economy, BASS will not send membership cards or printed rosters to each member and/or club.

If there is a special circumstance that prevents your club administrators from accessing our Web site, or if you have any questions, please contact BASS at 1-877-BASSUSA (option 4) or e-mail us at [customerservice@bassmaster.com](mailto:customerservice@bassmaster.com) and we will be happy to assist you.

As in years past, members must be active BASS members and updated by Dec. 31, 2009, to continue to enjoy their BASS Federation Nation benefits. Making sure your club is updated now will ensure that there are no lapses in your BASS Insider membership, tournament eligibility, *BASS Times* subscription and your club's liability insurance policy.

To get started with 2010 enrollment, go online to update your roster at [www.bassmaster.com/FederationNation](http://www.bassmaster.com/FederationNation), then complete the enclosed Letter of Authorization for your club and mail it to:

BASS  
Attn: Jon Stewart/Stacy Twiggs  
P.O. Box 10,000  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

As you can see, we have some exciting new program options, and the continued support of clubs like yours means more than we can express. In turn, I want to assure you that BASS' commitment to you and to the BASS Federation Nation programs has never been stronger. I know that 2010 will be a great year for the BASS Federation Nation!

Sincerely,

Jamie Wilkinson  
Sr. Director, Event Operations & Business Development

P.S. Remember, the BASS Federation Nation is the best way for your club's members to pursue the dream of competing in the Bassmaster Classic!

**Note from State BASS Federation Nation presidents:** Looking forward to 2010! Please remember that for your members to compete in any BASS Federation Nation-sanctioned tournaments and to be a club member in good standing with BASS National, your club must be affiliated with your state's Federation Nation. If you have any questions at all about your club's status with your state, please contact your Federation Nation state president (contact information is available on [Bassmaster.com/FederationNation](http://Bassmaster.com/FederationNation)).



# BASS Federation Nation Club Letter of Authorization

BASS, LLC (“BASS or Licensor”) is the owner of various trademarks and service marks including, among others, the “BASS” emblem (indicating membership in BASS), “Bassmaster®” (indicating membership in BASS), and Bassmaster® (for a magazine) (collectively, the “Licensed Trademarks”), which are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Name of your State Organization/Licensee

Subject to the express terms, conditions and procedures on the Letter of Authorization, Licensor hereby grants to Licensee, and Licensee hereby accepts, a limited non-exclusive, non-transferable revocable license for the duration of the Term (as defined below), unless earlier terminated in accordance with the terms hereof, as follows:

To use such trademarks and service marks during its affiliation with Licensor provided that:

1. All use of the Licensed Trademarks shall be subject to the control of the Licensor according to standards and regulations established and/or as modified from time to time at Licensor’s sole discretion.
2. The term of this Letter of Authorization shall be effective commencing January 1, 2010, and concluding December 31, 2010 (“the term”). At the end of the term, the Licensed Trademarks may no longer be used unless a Letter of Authorization is executed by both parties and any monies payable to BASS by Licensee are satisfied. Upon termination of permission the Licensee will immediately discontinue all use of the Licensed Marks, including use of such marks as part of a trade name or organization name, and shall not thereafter use any trademark or service mark identical to, or confusingly similar to, the trademarks and service marks of BASS. All indicia bearing such Licensed Trademarks shall be promptly (i.e., within sixty (60) days) destroyed or returned to BASS (at the sole option of BASS).
3. Licensor is and shall remain the sole owner of the Licensed Trademarks, as well as all the trademarks and logos derived from the Licensed Trademarks, during the Term of this Agreement or thereafter. Any and all goodwill arising or derived from the usage of the Licensed Trademarks by Licensee shall inure to the benefit of Licensor. Licensee agree that neither during nor after termination of this Agreement shall it or its successors or assigns assert any claim to such goodwill, such goodwill being the sole property of Licensor. Nothing herein will give Licensee or any third party any right, title or interest in or to any of the Licensed Trademarks other than the License herein.
4. Licensor agrees that it will not do or cause to be done any act of thing contesting or in any way impairing or tending to impair the Licensee’s right, title or interest in or to any of the Licensed Trademarks or the goodwill inherent therein. Licensee shall not register in its own name or in the name of any third party, or otherwise claim ownership of, the licensed trademarks, or any marks derived therefrom in any other country or territory in the world.
5. If Licensee should learn of any infringement or passing off or threatened infringement or passing off to the Licensed Trademarks or any similar marks, or if any third party alleges to claim that the Licensee’s use of all the Licensed Trademarks are causing, or are likely to cause deception or confusion to the public, Licensee shall promptly notify Licensor. Licensor shall have the right to control such proceeding or defense, in its sole discretion, and Licensee shall fully cooperate with Licensor in such efforts. Nothing herein, however, shall be deemed to require Licensor to enforce the Licensed Trademarks against others.
6. Licensor shall have the right to approve all signs, patches, promotional literature, or other materials displaying its trademarks or service marks and upon its request, samples of such materials shall be promptly provided to Licensor for its inspection and approval. If approval is withheld, denied or withdrawn by Licensor no further use shall be made of such signs, patches, promotional literature or other materials.
7. Licensor may terminate this permission to license to use the trademarks and service marks at any time if, in its sole and absolute discretion, the trademarks and service marks are not being used in accordance with the standards and regulations established by BASS.

8. Licensee shall not have the right to assign its rights hereunder and any purported assignment shall be null and void.

9. All remedies hereunder, including, without limitation, the termination of this agreement, and all other remedies provided at law or in equity will be deemed cumulative and not exclusive.

10. No failure or delay by either party in exercising any right, power, or remedy under this Agreement will operate as a waiver of any such right, power or remedy. No waiver of any provision of the Agreement will be effective unless in writing and signed by the party against whom such waiver is sought to be enforced. Any waiver by either party of any provision of the Agreement will not be construed as a waiver of any other provision of this Agreement, nor will such waiver operate as or be construed as a waiver of such provision respecting any future event or circumstance.

11. All rights that are not explicitly granted to Licensee herein are expressly reserved by Licensor.

12. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent Licensor from granting any other licenses for utilizing the Licensed Trademarks in any manner whatsoever.

13. This Agreement will be construed under the laws of the State of Connecticut. Licensee consents to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in Hartford County, Connecticut, for any dispute between the parties related to the agreement.

Sincerely,



Tom Ricks  
Vice President, BASS, LLC.

Accepted and agreed:

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Name of your Club Organization/Licensee

By:

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Club President

Date

