

THE BASS FEDERATION BYLAWS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

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 2023. Arizona Bass Federation composed of affiliated chapters of The Bass Federation-Arizona hereafter referred to as AZTBF, does adopt the following Bylaws and Standing Rules.

B. Governing Body

1. 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.

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

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 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. 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 State Format

1. The qualified members of the AZTBF State Team will be determined from the qualifying tournament points based on the number of events, (5) with one (1) throw out, or (6) with two (2) throw out. The qualifying number of eligible Members is based on participation thought out the year and directly effects the number of members that can be taken to compete on the State Team.

2. Tie breaking is outlined in the Rules section for the Arizona Bass Federation stating, the highest angler’s weight of their largest big fish weighed in will determine placing and points allocation per event.

a. The State Team alternates and attendees to be considered based off participation will be selected from the eligible members list based on standings within the club, and the Wildcard Tournament. To be considered You must be a member in good standings and have competed thought out the year (current season) with Arizona Bass Federation with a minimum of 4 tournament events fished. Fill in attendees are not considered members unless they are signed up with paid membership and have competed in a minimum of 4 events within the season.

3. 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 identified 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 during the event.

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

5. All AZTBF members are eligible to fish any of the five (6) AZTBF qualifying tournaments if they are current members of TBF/FLW. Failure to be a current member of such may result in a loss of accrued points

6. The angler with highest points from the best five (5) AZTBF qualifiers will be the Arizona State Champion (Angler of the Year) and Team Captain. Ties will be broken by fishing and finishing placement of the Wild Card event. Failure to fish Wild Card event will forfeit placement and the member or members who did fish will automatically receive an extra point for highest placement allowing the club to break the current ties based on finishing event placement.

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

8. Anyone who qualifies for the Arizona State Team must have participated in a minimum of four (4) events; a youth activity, AZTBF civic and/or conservation event (family day) as per the State Team Contract.

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

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 an 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 day of a qualifying tournament may be provided. This will include those who qualify to fish at the National levels of competition as a representative of AZTBF. Expenses will be reviewed by (Treasurer and President) for consideration of reimbursement with receipt and explanation of charge.

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 12 miles per gallon.

P. Dissolution

1. In the event of the AZTBF dissolution, all assets will be donated to the National Federation's foundation, the Future Fisherman's Foundation.