



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
SUNSHINE STATE BASS NATION TOURNAMENT
SERIES, INC. d.b.a. Florida BASS Nation
(Hereinafter referred to as the “Florida BASS Nation” (FBN))
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024**



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**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
FLORIDA B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION, INC.**
(Hereinafter referred to as the “Florida B.A.S.S. Nation”)
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the FBN).

Article II – Purpose

The FBN's purpose is to advocate for responsible resource management, community service, and stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. We support our State Conservation Department, by organizing moral support, political support, and encouragement. We connect youth with the outdoors and improve our skill as anglers through fellowship, supportive camaraderie and friendly exchange of expert techniques. We function as a dynamic and effective partner within the B.A.S.S. Nation and its Chapters and members worldwide. We're proud to represent the State of Florida and our communities while embracing the principles and purpose of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society® (hereinafter referred to as B.A.S.S.)

Article III – Membership

Section 1: Members

- 1.) The members of the FBN are members in good standing with B.A.S.S. and any of the Chapters in the FBN
- 2.) The Chapters of the FBN shall include all the Chapters, Clubs, Associations, and any other organizations in the State of Florida, which have been duly chartered by the FBN and B.A.S.S.
- 3.) Members in good standing shall only be eligible to hold office in the FBN
- 4.) Eligibility for office shall also be conditioned upon satisfaction of all requirements and qualifications imposed in these Constitution and By-laws

Section 2: Membership Dues

- 1.) For each Chapter there will be an annual membership fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per member
- 2.) It is recommended dues be paid to the FBN on or before December 31st of the prior year
- 3.) Only those Chapters that have paid their dues will be eligible to participate in FBN Qualifying Tournaments and other FBN Sponsored Events

Section 3: Active Membership Requirements

- 1.) Each Chapter must meet and maintain their affiliation requirements as set forth by B.A.S.S. and the FBN
- 2.) Each Chapter must have at least six (6) active members in order to be eligible to participate in the state qualifying tournaments
- 3.) It is recommended each Chapter conduct or participates in a minimum of one youth event annually
- 4.) It is recommended each Chapter conduct or participates in a minimum of one local or state Environmental Conservation function annually
- 5.) Each Chapter must meet the dues requirements outlined in Section 2, above, in order to be eligible for any FBN Qualifying Tournaments and other FBN Sponsored Events
- 6.) Chapters are required to provide the FBN with a current membership roster and the name and address of its designee(s) in the event of each of the following
 - a. Application for affiliation
 - b. Renewal of membership in December of each year
 - c. Update of membership changes monthly as required
- 7.) Each Chapters individual membership shall be members in good standing with B.A.S.S. and the FBN

Section 4: Procedural Rules for Meetings

- 1.) The rules set forth in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the FBN in all meetings in which they are applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws

Section 5: Forfeiture of Membership

- 1.) Any Chapter or individual member violating the Constitution and By-laws of the FBN or who are not in good standing with the FBN, B.A.S.S. Nation, or B.A.S.S. may be denied participation in FBN sponsored activities by two-thirds vote, with a quorum present, of the Board of Directors
- 2.) The Board of Directors may consider such action to be in the best interests of the FBN
 - ii. For flagrant reasons the Board of Directors may recommend removal of a Chapter or individual from FBN membership

Section 6: Non-Discrimination

- 1.) There shall be no discrimination in membership or participation in the activities of the FBN by reason of race, creed, color, national origin, or sex.

Article IV – Organization

Section 1: Regions (attached Exhibit “A”)

The FBN shall consist of four (4) regions as established by the FBN Board of Directors. The area of the regions of the FBN shall include the following

- 1.) Northwest Region (18 Counties)
 - a. Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison and Taylor
- 2.) Northeast Region (17 Counties)
 - a. Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Nassau, St. Johns, Duval, Clay, Putnam and Flagler
- 3.) Central Region (15) Counties)
 - a. Marion, Citrus, Levy, Citrus, Volusia, Lake, Sumter, Hernando, Pasco, Seminole, Orange, Brevard, Osceola, Hillsborough and Pinellas
- 4.) Southern Region (17) Counties)
 - a. Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Glades, Desoto, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Broward, Collier, Monroe, and Miami-Dade

Section 2: Board of Directors

- 1.) The Board of Directors shall consist of the following:
 - a. The Executive Board, which shall be appointed by the President and consist of the following, each of which will have one (1) vote
 - i. Vice President
 - ii. State Tournament Director
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer / Comptroller
 - v. The immediate past President (providing he has served one full term in office. State Vice-President
 - vi. Regional Directors
 1. Regional Directors, four (4) each, shall be appointed by the State President
 - vii. Regional Assistant Directors
 1. Regional Assistant Directors shall be appointed by the Regional Directors
 2. There shall be at least one Director for every two clubs in a Region but shall not exceed one Director per club in a Region as referred to in Article IV, Section 1.
 - viii. The Special Directors appointed by the President:
 1. State Environmental Director
 2. State Youth Director
 3. State Youth Assistant Director
 4. Public Relations Director

Section 3: Meetings of the Board of Directors

- 1.) Executive Board of Directors
 - a. The FBN shall conduct the Executive Board Meetings, quarterly
 - i. Three (3) meetings can be held in a virtual format
 - ii. At least one meeting during the year must be held in person at a central location within the State of Florida, as deemed by the President
- 2.) The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly
 - a. Three (3) meetings can be held in a virtual format
 - b. At least one meeting during the year must be held in person deemed by the Regional Director
- 3.) The President may call additional scheduled or special meetings

Section 4: Principal Office

- 1.) The principal office and business address of the FBN shall be the designated by the FBN President

Section 5: Fiscal Year

- 1.) The fiscal year of the FBN shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31

Article V – Officers, Elections, and Terms of Offices

Section 1: Officers

- 1.) The Officers of the FBN shall be as follows:
 - a. President, who shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors.
 - b. State Vice-President
 - c. State Tournament Director
 - d. Secretary
 - e. Treasurer / Comptroller
 - f. The Special Directors appointed by the President, which include but are not limited to the following:
 - i. State Environmental Director
 - ii. State Youth Director
 - iii. State Assistant Youth Director
 - iv. Director of Media Relations

Section 2: Elections and Terms of Office

- 1.) The President
 - a. The Board of Directors shall elect the President of the FBN
 - b. A person elected President shall have served at least one year as a member of the Board of Directors
 - c. The term of office of the President shall be for two (2) years beginning in January following the election
 - d. A person elected as President shall be restricted to four (4) consecutive terms
 - e. In the event a vacancy occurs in the Office of President, the Board of Directors shall elect a new President to fill the rest of the term, from those meeting the necessary requirements above
- 2.) The Vice-President, Tournament Director, Secretary, Treasurer / Comptroller, State Youth Director, State Environmental Director, and Public Relations Director
 - a. Shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors
 - b. Their term of office shall be for two (2) years beginning in January
 - c. These offices shall be considered staff functions and are voting position
 - d. In the event a vacancy occurs within these offices, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a replacement to fill the unexpired term of office.
- 3.) Regional Directors
 - a. Shall be appointed by the State President on or before December 1
 - b. Their term shall be for two (2) years beginning in January without term limits
 - c. Regional Directors are not considered a staff position and have voting rights
- 4.) Assistant Directors
 - a. Regional Director shall appoint for the Board of Directors in September of each year
 - b. Assistant Directors shall be appointed to a term of two years beginning in January with no term limits
 - c. The Assistant Directors from each Region shall be appointed in alternate years to provide continuity within the Board of Directors
 - d. In the event a vacancy occurs within an appointed term, the Regional Director should appoint an Assistant Director to fill the rest of that Assistant Director's term

Section 3: Voting

- 1.) In elections conducted by the Board of Directors, each Regional Director is entitled to one vote, which represents the vote of their Region. Each Region is only entitled to one vote
- 2.) Elections of the President shall be by secret written ballot
- 3.) All decisions of the Board of Directors shall be by majority vote of a quorum of the Directors present at any regularly scheduled meeting. A quorum shall consist of 65% of the directors
- 4.) The directors appointed at the first meeting of the year will establish the quorum for the rest of the year
- 5.) The President shall only vote in case of a tie regardless of club affiliation

Article VI – Duties of the Officers

Section 1: Duties of the President

- 1.) The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board and special meetings of the FBN; Direct all official business of the FBN
- 2.) Supervise all FBN activities; appoint all committee chairmen; be the official representative of the FBN
- 3.) Delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the FBN
- 4.) Serve as liaison to the FBN and B.A.S.S.

Section 2: Duties of the State Vice-President

- 1.) The State Vice-President shall assist the President upon request
- 2.) Preside in the absence of the President
- 3.) Assume the responsibilities of the office of the President should it become vacated and until the Board of Directors elects a replacement to fill the unexpired term

Section 3: Duties of the Secretary

- 1.) Keep the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings and the official records of the FBN
- 2.) Maintain the official correspondence of the FBN
- 3.) Maintain in good order and submit the appropriate documents necessary for the FBN to remain in compliance with the regulations of the Florida Department of State – Division of Corporations
- 4.) Perform other duties as directed by the President.

Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer / Comptroller

- 1.) The Treasurer / Comptroller shall examine and monitor all FBN financial accounts and present written reports of those accounts at the Board of Directors meetings
- 2.) The Treasurer / Comptroller will receive and maintain all bank statements and other financial documents and will have internet access (view only) to each account to be able to monitor said accounts on a day-to-day basis
- 3.) The Treasurer / Comptroller will also receive and maintain paid expenses and receipts from the members of the Board of Directors
- 4.) The President should be notified immediately should the Treasurer / Comptroller note any discrepancy or irregularity in any account that is not satisfactorily explained
- 5.) The Treasurer / Comptroller will submit an annual report to the membership of each account at the first Board of Directors meeting of any new year

Section 5: Duties of the Regional Directors

- 1.) The duties of the Regional Vice-Presidents shall include, but are not limited to, all the duties of the Regional Directors
- 2.) Additionally, they will ensure that all Directors, within their Region, perform their assigned duties and act as liaison between the President and the Regional Directors
- 3.) Shall serve on the tournament committee chaired by the Tournament Director

Section 6: Duties of the Regional Assistant Directors

- 1.) The duties of the Directors shall include, but not be limited to, attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors and other functions of the FBN, representing the FBN and Board of Directors as authorized by the Constitution and By-laws, and representing their **Regions** before the Board of Directors

- 2.) Schedule meetings with Chapter Presidents or Chapter Representatives at least semi-annually (preferably quarterly). The purpose of these meeting shall be to convey policies of the Board of Directors to the individual Chapters/ Clubs they represent and to coordinate all functions of the FBN within that Region(Club)
- 3.) The Director will promote and supervise all FBN functions within their Region to include, but not be restricted to
 - a. Youth activities
 - b. Conservation activities
 - c. Fund raising activities
 - d. Public relations and tournament activities.
- 4.) The Director will maintain contact with all (other) affiliated Chapter(s) / Clubs within their Region
- 5.) The Board of Directors shall have the right at any time to remove any Director or Officer from office for cause by majority vote, with a quorum present of the Board of Directors, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment, the Board of Directors considers such action to be in the best interests of the FBN

Section 7: Duties of the State Adult / Youth Tournament Director

- 1.) It will be the responsibility of the State Tournament Director to plan, organize and operate all tournaments of the FBN
- 2.) The State Tournament Director will rule with final authority on proper conduct, procedures, qualifications and other matters relating to the orderly conduct of such tournaments
- 3.) Shall appoint a committee consisting of the Regional Tournament Directors to assist in the planning, organizing and operating all tournaments of the FBN
- 4.) All tournaments shall be conducted within the spirit and letter of the current FBN Tournament Rules as approved by the Board of Directors

Article VII – Standing Committees

Section 1: Conservation Committee

- 1.) There shall be a Conservation Committee consisting of one Assistant Director from each Region appointed by the Regional Director and chaired by the State Conservation Director appointed by the President
- 2.) The functions and goals of this committee shall be as follows
 - a. The purpose of the committee shall be to protect our national environment from harmful change; to document and report to the proper authorities' violations of anti-pollution laws, statutes, and regulations; to take political actions to improve our environment; to take legal actions where appropriate; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring public awareness to threats to our environment
 - b. To take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America

Section 2: Youth Committee

- 1.) There shall be a Youth Committee consisting of one Assistant Director from each Region appointed by the Regional Director and chaired by the State Youth Director appointed by the President. The functions and goals of this (the Youth) committee shall be as follow
 - a. To introduce our youth to the goals of the B.A.S.S. Nation and the FBN
 - b. To encourage member Chapters to sponsor a FBN Junior Bassmaster Chapter or High School bass club
 - c. To give our youth a basis for respect of our natural heritage and an appreciation for the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play, and good sportsmanship
 - d. To give our youth an introduction to the joy of fishing
 - e. Provide full financial status of youth account at each Board of Director's meeting

Section 3: Tournament Committee

- 1.) There shall be a Tournament Committee consisting of the Regional Tournament Directors from each Region appointed by the Regional Director and chaired by the State Tournament Director appointed by the President. The functions and goals of this committee shall be as follows
 - a. It will be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to assist, plan, and organize all tournaments of the FBN
 - b. The State Tournament Director will rule with final authority on proper conduct, procedures, and qualifications, and other matters relating to the orderly conduct of such tournaments
 - c. All tournaments shall be conducted within the spirit and the letter of the current FBN Tournament Rules as approved by the Board of Directors
 - d. The State Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee shall conduct its affairs so that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it

Section 4: Special Committees

- 1.) The President may form special committees for well-defined purposes
- 2.) Special committees shall not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of the above Standing Committees

Section 5: Special Projects

- 1.) The President may appoint a member of the FBN to research, design, create, and/or implement certain ad-hoc projects when it is determined that a committee is not required for the stated purpose (See Section 4)
- 2.) The member will report directly to the President or whomever the President designates
- 3.) The designation given to such a position will not include the title "Director"
- 4.) This is not a staff position and any Director appointed to oversee a project does not forfeit or suspend his voting status
- 5.) In no case shall the member be authorized to expend FBN funds or resources without prior approval
- 6.) Administrative and/or development costs may be approved by the President or Vice President but no capital outlays or permanent or fixed costs may be assumed without the Board of Directors approval

Article VIII – Finances

Section 1: Sunshine State Florida BASS Nation Tournament Series, Inc. Income

- 1.) Funds for the support and maintenance of the FBN shall be derived from membership dues, sponsorships, and special projects to be sponsored by the FBN
- 2.) Under no circumstances may the FBN accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is prima-facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goals of the FBN

Section 2: Expenditures

- 1.) All incurred FBN expenditures must have Board of Directors approval except normal operating costs. Incurred expenditures are to be submitted to the Treasurer / Comptroller
- 2.) Periodically, the President shall propose, and the Directors shall approve the allowable and maximum amount of reimbursable expenses for things like
 1. Director's meeting
 2. FBN business
 1. Bassmasters Classic
 2. B.A.S.S. Nation National Championships
 3. Tournaments and their associated expenses shall be excluded.
- 3.) The reasonable expenses of Board members shall be submitted to the Treasurer / Comptroller for payment.
- 4.) Objection by any Board member shall require an action of the Board to pay the stated expense.
- 5.) Only bank accounts specifically authorized by the Board of Directors shall be used to conduct FBN business, including deposits, transfers and payments
 1. The authorizing signatures for each account shall be confined to the President, Vice- President, and Treasurer / Comptroller
- 6.) The State Youth Director will be responsible for all finances of the FBN Youth Program and will provide a full accounting of its finances at quarterly state board meetings

Section 3: Audits

- 1.) The books and records of the FBN may be audited by a Certified Public Accountant selected by the Board of Directors, if the Board so elects

Article IX – Methods of Amending the Constitution and By-laws

- 1.) Any Chapter, Officer, or member of the Board of Directors of the FBN may recommend an amendment to the Constitution and By-laws
- 2.) All amendments shall be presented to the Board in writing at the January meeting or the first regular meeting of the year
- 3.) The Board will vote on any amendments presented to the board in writing at the next board meeting
- 4.) To enact any amendments at that meeting, two-thirds of the quorum of the Board of Directors present must vote for the proposal
- 5.) The Board will review and ratify the FBN Constitution and By-laws at the January or the first regular meeting of the year, as per Article X – Adoption
- 6.) All other amendments shall be presented to the Board of Directors in writing at least one regular board meeting prior to the vote. If the amendment is approved by the Board of Directors, it will not be affective until January of the following year

- 7.) An exception to paragraph 3 and 4 above. In the event an emergency is declared by the FBN President and two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board present, the By-Law change may be enacted prior to the following the first Board of Director meeting of each fiscal year

Article X – Adoption

- 1.) These Constitution and By-laws shall become effective after adoption by two-thirds vote of the quorum of the Board of Directors present and approval by the FBN and the B.A.S.S.

Article XI – Dissolution

- 1.) In the event of the dissolution of the Sunshine State BASS Nation Tournament Series, Inc., all assets and liabilities shall be satisfied

Exhibit "A"
Regions of the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation

- 1.) Northwest Region (18 Counties)
 - a. Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison and Taylor
- 2.) Northeast Region (17 Counties)
 - b. Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Nassau, St. Johns, Duval, Clay, Putnam and Flagler
- 3.) Central Region (15 Counties)
 - c. Marion, Citrus, Levy, Citrus, Volusia, Lake, Sumter, Hernando, Pasco, Seminole, Orange, Brevard, Osceola, Hillsborough and Pinellas
- 4.) Southern Region (17 Counties)
 - d. Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Glades, Desoto, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Broward, Collier, Monroe, and Miami-Dade