

**2009 by-Laws**  
**Bergen Bassmasters**  
Updated 2011

## **ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE**

### **Section I: Name**

This chapter shall be called the Bergen Bassmasters of Oradell, New Jersey.

### **Section II: 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 call public and political attention to high crime. To improve 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 New Jersey Bass Federation embracing the principles and purposes of The Bass Federation.

## **ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I: Number of Members**

The chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six members (family members excluded). Maximum membership will be 36 with approximately two-thirds (24) being boaters.

### **Section II: Requirements for Membership**

To become a chapter member, the person shall:

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.

- (b) Membership to The Bass Federation is mandatory for insurance purposes.
- (c) Be recommended by a member in good standing at a regular monthly meeting.
- (d) Be voted on by the membership. Vote shall be by secret ballot and affirmation must be 2/3 of the members present.
- (e) Full membership shall be awarded and membership credentials awarded.
- (f) Must be 18 years of age.
- (g) Attend 2/3 of meetings and 2/3 of the club functions each year (exceptions are made in cases of senior members, the board will decide on exceptions).
- (h) Probationary, or junior members MUST attend 75% of functions in the first two years of their membership to remain in good standing.

### **Section III: Membership Dues**

- (a) The annual membership fee will be \$335. An enrollment fee of \$50 of the \$335 must be paid at the November meeting. The remaining balance may be paid at any time up until, but no later than, the April meeting.
- (b) Included in the membership fee is \$15 which is payable to The Bass Federation for their mandatory insurance, \$35 for FLW subscription and \$10 which is designated as membership dues to the New Jersey Bass Federation.
- (c) The Bass Federation Insurance, FLW and New Jersey Bass Federation dues are one time, annual charges. Members paying those fees through another The Bass Federation club are not required to pay those fees again.
- (d) Membership fees are non-refundable
- (e) Members in good standing over the age of 65 will receive a 10% discount off the membership fee excluding any fees payable to The Bass Federation or the New Jersey Bass Federation.
- (f) Members not paying their enrollment fee in November will be ineligible to vote or to qualify as a candidate for any office or committee position.
- (g) Observer dues: Registered club observers will be required to pay an annual membership fee of \$40 which includes their The Bass Federation insurance and New Jersey Bass Federation dues. Those fees are paid through only one The Bass Federation club.

### **Section IV: Open Enrollment Period**

- (a) There will be an open enrollment period for membership from the November meeting up until the April club meeting. By April, all membership spots should be filled and membership fees paid for the entire year. Any spots vacated during the year will not be filled until the next open enrollment.
- (b) Anglers may register as an observer at any time during the year and there is no specified open enrollment period for club observers.

### **Section V: Leave of Absence**

Leave of absence will be permitted to all members for up to a maximum of one year.

Leave

of absence may be taken during any open enrollment period and expires at the following November meeting.

Terms of Leave:

(a) The member taking the leave must pay his \$40 enrollment at the November meeting.

No

additional fees will be required for the duration of the leave.

(b) The member will be placed atop the waiting list barring no other member is on leave.

From there, roster spots will be filled during the open enrollment period on a first out,  
first

in basis.

(c) If a member on leave becomes eligible and wishes to rejoin the membership during  
the

open enrollment, he is responsible for the balance of the membership fees for that  
year.

## ARTICLE III - OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND ELIGIBILITY

### **Section I: 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 ex-officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Act as program chairman, co-chairman of committees, assist the president in 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 the chapter and The Bass Federation and the New Jersey Bass Federation Chapter Federation.

**TREASURER:** Collect and disperse 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.

### **Section II: Elections**

Nominations for officers will be heard annually during the October meeting. The elections of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of November. Elections shall be by simple majority of members present. Election for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in ARTICLE III, Section I.

### **Section III: Eligibility of Vote**

Each member in good-standing is entitled to one vote provided his dues for the following year are paid. Proxy votes are not permitted.

### **Section IV: Term of Office**

- (a) The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on January 1, and end on the last day of December or until the successor assumes office.

(b) No one office may be occupied by the same member for more than five consecutive terms.

## **Section V: Vacancies**

In the event of an office becoming vacant the president shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

## **Section VI: Eligibility for Holding Office**

To be eligible for an office, a member must:

- (a) Have been a member in good standing for at least one full year.
- (b) Have attended at least 2/3 of the chapter meetings and 2/3 of the chapter functions.
- (c) Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.
- (d) Not hold the office(s) of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Tournament Director concurrently in another fishing club.

## **ARTICLE IV - STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

### **(a) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

This committee will consist of eight members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Tournament Chairman, Editor and one member elected at large by majority at the December meeting.

- (1) The President will call all meetings of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
- (2) The Secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
- (3) The Board will decide and rule on violations of the By-Laws of the chapter when appropriately received.
- (4) The Board will review and rule on all appeals after the judgments have been made by the Tournament Committee.

### **(b) YOUTH COMMITTEE**

The purpose of this committee is to plan, organize, and implement a Chapter youth project; to introduce young people to the goals of The Bass Federation; to give them a basis for respect of our National Heritage, 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 fishing.

### **(c) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our National 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 to 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 committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all Chapter Tournaments. The tournament committee will draft rules which then must be approved by the general membership. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules and investigate all protests concerning tournaments and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. The tournament Committee Chairman shall be elected by the general membership and be a member of the Executive Committee. From a roster of volunteer candidates, the tournament Committee Chairman will select four or five committee members. Each selection requires majority ratification by the general membership.

#### **(e) NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

This committee shall consist of three members elected from and by the membership at the regular September meeting. They shall propose a slate of officers for the election to be held in November. This slate will be presented at the regular meeting in October.

### **ARTICLE V - REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

A member may be dropped from the membership role for the following:

- (a) Failure to pay dues.
- (b) Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this chapter.
- (c) Failure to attend 2/3 of the chapter meetings, 2/3 of the chapter functions, and at least one major community event during a 12 month period, with exception to a senior member of more than two years receiving approval from the Executive Board Members.
- (d) Violation of the rules of the assembly hall.

### **ARTICLE VI - AFFILIATION**

#### **Section I: Requirements for Affiliation**

- a. Approval of chapter charter by The Bass Federation.
- b. Update The Bass Federation with a Chapter membership roster once each year, immediately following election of Chapter Officers and Directors.
- c. Names and addresses of new members joining the chapter during the year must be submitted to The Bass Federation as they occur. The necessary forms are included in The Bass Federation handbook.
- d. Maintain 100% The Bass Federation membership for insurance reasons.

- e. Support State Federation 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 in order for the Chapter to participate in State Federation qualifying sponsored tournaments or events.

## **ARTICLE VII - LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I: Qualification Requirements**

- (a) Must have been an active member for at least five years.
- (b) Must never have been on probation or in bad standing at any time.
- (c) Must be nominated by the Executive Board and approved by the membership.

### **Section II: Benefits**

- (a) Entitles a member to all club activities with observer standing.
- (b) Member receives the highest priority to club events.
- (c) There is no membership cost to the life member. However, he will not be included on The Bass Federation roster nor the Federation roster unless he chooses to pay those fees.

## **ARTICLE VIII – BY-LAW AMEMDMENTS**

### **Section I: Amendment Process**

- a) A motion needs to be made and seconded. After being presented to the membership via some form of written communication (notice or website posting) and at least 1 month's time, a vote will be taken on the motion. A quorum (majority of registered member) must be present and a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote is required of those present to pass.
- b) All By-Law changes can be voted on beginning in November but must be able to be voted into acceptance no later than April in order to be effective for that membership year.
- c) Motions to change the By-Laws from the general membership can be made from October through March. Only the Executive Board may motion a By-Law change outside that timeframe and should only be done so on an as-needed basis

