



Thank you for your inquiry about starting a B.A.S.S.-affiliated club.

Thousands of B.A.S.S. Nation clubs across the country currently enjoy the camaraderie and competition that club affiliation with B.A.S.S. provides. Club members not only enjoy the spirit of competition but are involved in conservation and youth programs such as College, High School and Junior Bassmaster events. B.A.S.S. 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 B.A.S.S. club is enclosed. It only takes six B.A.S.S. 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 B.A.S.S. Nation club members must also be a member of their State B.A.S.S. Nation and B.A.S.S.

To join B.A.S.S., simply go to www.bassmaster.com "Join B.A.S.S." or call 1-877-BASSUSA. Once everyone in your club has established a B.A.S.S. 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 Club application, please enclose \$30 for each member on your roster. Your club members' membership will be effective from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, with the update cycle beginning on September 1st each season. Please make checks payable to B.A.S.S. LLC.

For your state affiliation requirements, please contact your respective State B.A.S.S. Nation president. All presidents' contact information can be found at www.bassmaster.com on the "Nation" page. If there is anything we can do to assist you in setting up your club, just give us a call at 1-877-BASSUSA.

For a complete summary of B.A.S.S. Nation member benefits, visit www.bassmaster.com on the "Nation" page under "B.A.S.S. Nation member benefits."

We're here to help in any way we can.

Best wishes,

Jon Stewart
B.A.S.S. Nation Director



B.A.S.S. Nation Application Checklist

Please check all of the following requirements before sending in your application for affiliation with the B.A.S.S. Nation.

I. Membership Application Requirements

- Must have at least six members
- Must have 100% B.A.S.S. membership
- All new B.A.S.S. memberships must be pre-paid and submitted with application
- Current B.A.S.S. members must include their membership number on application
- Must submit \$30 (per member) for B.A.S.S. 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% B.A.S.S. membership
- Must contain amendment stating that a complete membership roster will be submitted to B.A.S.S. annually
- Must contain amendment stating that your club will belong to and support your state B.A.S.S. Nation
- Must contain amendment stating that all members must be in good standing with the state Club
- 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 B.A.S.S. headquarters.
- Once you have completed the above requirements, send your membership application along with your B.A.S.S. Nation member dues and two copies of your constitution and bylaws with a signed letter of authorization to:

B.A.S.S. Nation Department
Attn: Emily Hand
3500 Blue Lake Drive, Suite 330
Birmingham, AL 35243



Application for Affiliation

NAME OF CLUB / DATE _____

CITY/ STATE /ZIP _____

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

Club Member List

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

OFFICERS

President _____

Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Circle one) Current B.A.S.S. member or Payment Enclosed

Secretary _____

Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Circle one) Current B.A.S.S. member or Payment Enclosed

CLUB MEMBERS

Name _____

Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Circle one) Current B.A.S.S. member or Payment Enclosed

Name _____

Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Circle one) Current B.A.S.S. member or Payment Enclosed

Name _____

Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Circle one) Current B.A.S.S. member or Payment Enclosed

Name _____

Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Circle one) Current B.A.S.S. member or Payment Enclosed

Make as many copies of this page as you need in order to fit all your members.



Suggested Bylaws for a B.A.S.S. Nation Club

CLUB NAME

CITY

STATE ZIP

These bylaws are offered as a basis for your new Club. 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 all of **Article II Membership, Article III – Section 1, Officers, Elections, Vacancies, and Eligibility** and all of **Article VI Affiliation** and submit two copies to B.A.S.S. for approval. When your bylaws have been approved, the certified copy will be returned to your Club secretary.

ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This Club shall be called the:

NAME OF CLUB

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 Clubs of the state B.A.S.S. Nation, embracing the principles and purposes of B.A.S.S.®.

ARTICLE II – Membership

Section 1: Number of Members

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

Section 2: Requirement for Regular Membership

To become a Club member, a person shall:

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

Section 3: Requirements for Junior Membership*

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

- (a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- (b) 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 Club, \$30 of which shall be for B.A.S.S. Nation dues, \$_____ of which shall be for Club dues and \$_____ of which shall be state dues. B.A.S.S. 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 shall conduct the affairs of the Club in a manner consistent with these Bylaws. In addition, the State B.A.S.S. Nation Board of Directors is required to be comprised of members who are free to serve the State and its members without a conflict of interest. B.A.S.S. Nation State Board Members and Officers are not permitted to hold positions within any other B.A.S.S. Nation-type organization, that is not affiliated with B.A.S.S.

Section 2: Officers and their Duties

The officers of the Club shall consist of:

(a) **President:** Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be an ex-officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.

(b) **Vice President:** Act as program chairman, assist the president in his/her duties and preside in the absence of the president.

(c) **Secretary:** Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the Club president. Maintain regular liaison between your Club and the B.A.S.S. and the state
B.A.S.S. Club.

(d) **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 Club board of directors. The Club may vote that the treasurer and any other officer handling Club funds must be bonded.

(e) **Conservation Chairman:** Serve as liaison between the Club and state and national conservation/environmental agencies. Plan Club conservation projects and attend all local and state conservation meetings/hearings.

(f) **Youth Chairman:** Organize all youth activities and programs. Coordinate youth events and start a Junior Bassmaster Club when the Club is ready for this sponsorship.

Section 3: 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 2.

Section 4: Eligibility of Vote

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

Section 5: 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 6: 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 B.A.S.S. headquarters shall be notified immediately of the change of any officers.

Section 7: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- (a) Have been a member for six months. (Six months' requirement waived during first 12 months of Club existence.)
- (b) Have attended at least 75% of the Club meetings and 75% of Club functions during a 12-month period.
- (c) Have shown an active interest in all Club functions.
- (d) Maintain current B.A.S.S. 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 pastpresident and two members elected at large by majority vote of the members present at the December regular meetings.

(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 rule on all tournament rules infractions, Club bylaws violations and all protests when appropriately received.

(4) 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 Club youth project; to introduce young people to the goals of B.A.S.S.; 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 antipollution 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 Club 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:

- (a) Failure to pay dues.
- (b) Any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace on the Club and/or B.A.S.S..
- (c) Failure to attend 50% of the Club meetings and 50% of Club functions during a 12-month period.
- (d) Disqualification for any reason from participating in B.A.S.S.-sponsored events, including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol.

Note: Military deployment exempt.

ARTICLE VI – Affiliation

Section 1: Requirements for Affiliation

- (a) Approval of Club charter by B.A.S.S..
- (b) Update B.A.S.S. with Club membership roster once each year. Annual update cycle begins each year on Nov. 1.
- (c) Names and addresses of new members joining the Club during the year must be submitted online to B.A.S.S. as they occur. (See ARTICLE II, Section 3 for dues requirements.)
- (d) Maintain 100% B.A.S.S. membership.
- (e) Must affiliate with the state Nation and support its conservation and youth programs. Any additional requirements that the state establishes for Clubs, such as membership, dues, attendance at meetings, etc., would be necessary for the Club to participate in the state qualifying tournament(s) and any other 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 bylaws and the commencement of the Club on this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Complete two copies and forward both to B.A.S.S. for endorsement.
One copy will be returned to the Club secretary.



Dear B.A.S.S. Nation Club Administrators,

I'd like to personally thank you for your B.A.S.S. 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, we provide the B.A.S.S. Nation section of our website, Bassmaster.com. 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 online via the "Update Club Roster" link. Using the online system, all of the members in your club can be quickly updated and we can automatically process credit card payments. Or, if you'd prefer to mail in club dues, the system formats a printable invoice to send in with your check. B.A.S.S. 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. If there is a special circumstance that prevents your club administrators from accessing our website or if you have any questions, please contact B.A.S.S. at 1-877-BASSUSA or e-mail us at ehand@bassmaster.com and we will be happy to assist you. As in years past, members must be active B.A.S.S. members and updated by Dec. 31, each year, to continue to enjoy their B.A.S.S. Nation benefits. Making sure that your club is updated now will ensure that there are no lapses in your tournament eligibility, *B.A.S.S. Times* subscription and your club's liability insurance policy.

To get started with enrollment, go online to update your roster at www.bassmaster.com/nation then click "update club roster" or new clubs fill out the "club packet" found by clicking on "Start a club" completely and mail to:

B.A.S.S.
Attn: Emily Hand
3500 Blue Lake Drive, Suite 330
Birmingham, AL 35243

I want to assure you that B.A.S.S.' commitment to you and to the B.A.S.S. Nation programs has never been stronger.

Sincerely,

Jon Stewart
Director, B.A.S.S. Nation

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

Note from State B.A.S.S. Nation Presidents: Please remember that for your members to compete in any B.A.S.S. Nation-sanctioned tournaments and to be a club member in good standing with B.A.S.S. National, your club must be affiliated with your state's B.A.S.S. Nation. If you have any questions at all about your club's status with your state, please contact your B.A.S.S. Nation State President (contact information is available on Bassmaster.com/).



B.A.S.S. Nation Club Letter of Authorization

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

Name of your State Organization/Licensee (list state B.A.S.S. Nation here)

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 Jan. 1, 2015, and concluding Dec. 31, 2015 ("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 B.A.S.S. 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 B.A.S.S. All indicia bearing such Licensed Trademarks shall be promptly (i.e., within sixty (60) days) destroyed or returned to B.A.S.S. (at the sole option of B.A.S.S.).
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 B.A.S.S.

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 Alabama. Licensee consents to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in Jefferson County, Alabama, for any dispute between the parties related to the agreement.

Sincerely,

Jon Stewart
Director, B.A.S.S. Nation

Accepted and agreed:

Name of your Club Organization/Licensee

By:

Club President / Date