

**B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION OF VIRGINIA, INC.**  
**B.A.S.S. YOUTH PROGRAM BY-LAWS**

**1.0 NAMES, ADDRESSES**

*1.1 NAMES*

The program name shall be the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Youth Program, hereinafter referred to as the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Jr. Bass Anglers or The Youth Program and adopting the initials; BFNJVBA.

*1.2 ADDRESSES*

The principal address of The Youth Program shall be the residence of the President or other address as he/she may select with the Board concurring.

*1.3 MEETING LOCATION*

Youth Advisor meetings will be held at each Junior State Qualifier with the respective Divisional Youth Advisors and the State Director. Combined Divisional meetings will occur bi-annually at the BFNVA scheduled Board meetings held in March and August. Youth Advisors are invited to attend any scheduled Board meeting. Impromptu meetings may be requested by phone or e-mail at a location and time convenient to the Divisional Youth Advisors or their representatives.

**2.0 PURPOSE AND GOALS**

*2.1 PURPOSE*

The purpose of BFNJVBA Youth Program shall be:

- To promote and encourage youth fishing through education of fishing ethics, sportsmanship, fishing techniques and conservation of our natural resources.
- To fulfill all responsibilities we owe to our community, our state, and our society to help maintain natural fishing resources.
- To mentor our youth to become responsible, conservation minded adults and provide them opportunities to advance in the sport.

*2.2 GOALS*

The Youth Program shall support the goals of The Federation Nation and in its operations:

- Pursue the goals of organizing and conducting fishing events which adequately provide for the needs of the bass and the angler.
- To establish live release of bass to their habitat as an integral part of sport fishing
- Promote realistic conservation of natural resources and causing adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards.
- Educating the membership in citizen involvement in the processes of government.
- Supporting and cooperation with fishery management agencies and educational institutions in development of good fisheries for the future.

- Encouraging youth involvement in sport fishery and leading the chapters in organizing and conducting youth participation activities.
- Promoting public awareness of The Federation Nation's purposes, goals and activities.
- Gaining new members to The Youth Program through membership drives.
- Reducing the hazards of boat operation and sport fishing through educational programs.
- Other such goals as may be established for the chapters and the committees of The Federation Nation.

### **3.0 AFFILIATIONS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

#### *3.1 AFFILIATIONS*

The Youth Program shall honor and support The Federation Nation approved affiliations with B.A.S.S. and other organizations and shall not enter into any affiliation with another organization without prior Board approval.

#### *3.2 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS*

The Youth Program shall honor and support The Federation Nation approved cooperative agreements, mutual pacts and other special arrangements with other organizations and shall not enter into any agreement with another organization without prior Board approval.

### **4.0 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### *4.1 ORGANIZATION*

The Youth Program shall consist of local clubs made up of youth between the ages of 10 years and 18 years of age. Each local club shall have at least one appointed Youth Advisor, selected/appointed by the local club with The Regional Youth Director and/or Regional Director being the final approving authority. Each Region should have a Regional Youth Director appointed by the Regional Director and approved by the Board. The State shall have a State Youth Director appointed and approved by the Board.

#### *4.2 ADMINISTRATION*

##### *4.2.1 Responsibilities*

Local club Youth Advisor:

- Promote youth fishing activity, organize and implement local tournaments and activities, teach honesty, integrity and sportsmanship and assist the regions and chapters in youth activities.
- Teach youth the fundamentals of sport fishing, cooperate and work with other organizations in introducing youth to sport fishing, and recommend annual recognition of individuals and/or organizations that have achieved outstanding performance in youth fishing activities.
- Provide The State Youth Director/State Secretary with a club roster, conservation project and community project time line annually.
- Collect and submit annual dues to the Federation Nation of Virginia and manage administrative duties necessary to maintain and run the local club including but not limited to, establishing a set of local by-laws, conducting meetings, electing officers, maintaining rosters and eligibility, establishing selection methods for Junior State Qualifier eligibility and other duties and actions pertinent to maintaining viability of the local club.
- Supporting the purposes and goals of the BASS Federation Nation of Virginia and The Youth Program as may be in the best interest of its local clubs and members.

Regional Youth Director:

- Work hand in hand with the local club Youth Advisors in the Region to attain their responsibilities.
- Assist in matters of planning, attaining sponsorship and conducting Local and Regional Youth Events as needed.
- Provide a Point Of Contact for the region for Administrative matters and new membership inquires.
- Assist the State Youth Director with logistical support for Divisional Junior State Qualifiers in appropriate Division and with the Junior State Championship.
- Supporting the purposes and goals of the BASS Federation Nation of Virginia and The Youth Program as may be in the best interest of its local clubs and members.

State Youth Director:

- The State Youth Director shall administer the BASS Federation Nation of Virginia Youth Program. Duties shall include but not be limited to attendance at meetings of the Board and other functions of the Federation Nation, representing the Federation Nation as authorized by the Constitution and Bylaws and as appointed by the President, supporting the purposes and goals of the Federation Nation, and other duties not in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws, as may be in the best interest of the chapters and the members.
- Provide planning and logistical support in conducting the Divisional Junior State Qualifiers and The Junior State Championship.
- Provide a Point Of Contact for the State for Administrative matters and new membership inquires.
- Maintain the Angler Of The Year points system and provide the information to the Board for planning/conducting the annual awards ceremony.
- Attending the Mid Atlantic Regional, National or other events as necessary to support the Junior Anglers in The Youth Program.
- Assist local club Youth Advisors and Regional Youth Directors as necessary to ensure the Youth Program maintains an expected high level of standards in training and developing our Junior Anglers.

#### 4.2.2 REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS BY THE BOARD

A motion for removal of a Regional Youth Director or The State Youth Director shall be considered only after a finding by the Board in a prior action, that the subject official is guilty of bad conduct, acts against the best interests of the Federation Nation, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. In the Board action on a removal motion, a majority vote shall constitute a censure and a two-thirds majority vote in favor shall effect the removal of the subject official.

Local Club Youth Advisors selection shall be maintained at the local club level with the appropriate Regional Youth Director and Regional Director being the approval authorities.

## 5.0 AMENDMENTS

### 5.1 AMENDMENTS

Articles of the By-Laws may be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the Board after thirty days prior notice of said amendment at any meeting scheduled thirty days or more in advance.

## 6.0 BY-LAWS

### 6.1 AFFILIATION AND REAFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 6.1.1 AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. To affiliate with The B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Youth Program, a club shall:
- Submit to B.A.S.S. a copy of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation affiliation letter.
  - Submit to B.A.S.S. a copy of the club By-Laws.
  - Submit to the B.F.N.V. State Secretary a copy of the club roster with:
    1. Club name
    2. Jr. Anglers first and last names (annotating club officers)
    3. Jr. Angler Addresses
    4. Jr. Angler contact numbers
    5. Parent/Guardian address and contact numbers
    6. Jr. Angler Date of Birth
    7. Copy of each members Birth Certificate
    8. Copy of signed waivers for each member
    9. Name, Address, and Phone Number of Club Youth Advisor
    10. Copy of the Club By-Laws
  - Upon acceptance by B.A.S.S. and B.F.N.V., the youth chapter will receive their charter.

#### 6.1.2 REAFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

- b. To maintain affiliation with the B.F.N.V. Youth Program, a club shall:
- Be in good standing with the B.F.N.V. Youth Program
  - Submit to the B.F.N.V. State Secretary before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year, **annual registration forms** for each member and a copy of the club roster with:
    1. Club name
    2. Jr. Anglers first and last names (annotating club officers)
    3. Copy of each members Birth Certificate
    4. Copy of signed waivers for each member
    5. Name, Address, and Phone Number of Club Youth Advisor
    6. Copy of the Club By-Laws

#### 6.1.3 ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS

- Annual B.A.S.S. dues paid by each member
- Annual registration form for each member submitted by deadline (31 Dec)
- Club roster submitted by deadline (31 Dec)
- Conduct at least two projects annually in one or more of the following categories:
  1. Conservation and/or Environmental
  2. Community
  3. Casting Kids

- Minimum requirement of three (3) club tournaments per year
- Submit projected project dates to State Youth Director by deadline (31 Jan)
- Submit project reports to State Youth Director 30 days after project completion

## 6.2 PROCEDURES FOR DISAFFILIATION, MEMBERSHIP REVOCATION OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

### 6.2.1 CLUB VOLUNTARY DISAFFILIATION

A club may disaffiliate from the B.F.N.V. Youth Program by notifying The State Youth Director in writing

### 6.2.2 CLUB INVOLUNTARY DISAFFILIATION

A club may be disaffiliated from the B.F.N.V. Youth Program for any misconduct including complete disregard of ethical sportsman like behavior or failure to comply with the program requirements. The State Board will be the approval authority for club disaffiliation.

### 6.2.3 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP REVOCATION AND/OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Whenever a member is placed on probation, suspended or removed from a club roster as a result of disciplinary action for false information, cheating or other actions detrimental to the future of the B.F.N.V. Youth Program, the club must report the incident to the State Youth Director. He will review the incident and file a report to the B.F.N.V. Board of Directors. Appropriate action approved by the Board may then be taken. Also any parent waiver slip not filed or parent rejection may also result in disaffiliation of the individual.

## 6.3 B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION OF VIRGINIA JUNIOR ANGLERS TOURNAMENT TRAIL

### 6.3.1 Age Requirements

- The Junior age group will consist of 10 to 14 year old anglers.
- The Senior age group will consist of 14 to 18 year old anglers.
- The age cut off date will be December 31<sup>st</sup> of the tournament season.
- A 10 year old angler who will turn 11 prior to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to fish the Junior age group.
- A 14 year old angler who will turn 15 prior to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to fish the Senior age group.
- An 18 year old angler who will turn 19 prior to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> will **not** be eligible to fish the Senior age group but may join an adult club
- Anglers 16 years of age are eligible to compete in B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia adult tournaments.

### 6.3.2 Junior State Qualifiers (JSQ)

- There will be three JSQ's conducted in each of the two divisions
- Clubs with anglers competing in a JSQ will submit a roster of competitors 21 days prior to the event for planning purposes.
- No club shall compete outside of their division
- Local clubs shall be responsible for determining eligibility for participation in their respective divisions JSQ's using at a minimum the following criteria:
  1. Membership with B.A.S.S. current and in good standing.
  2. Membership with B.F.N.V. Youth Program affiliated club current and in good standing.
  3. B.F.N.V. Youth Program affiliated club must have met annual requirements.
  4. Standings in B.F.N.V. affiliated club tournaments.
  5. Meeting other criteria as established by the B.F.N.V. affiliated club.
- Individual clubs will be responsible for Boat Captains for both days of the JSQ's.
- Each JSQ will be a one day tournament.

- An official practice day will be scheduled the day prior to the tournament however; the practice day will be unsupervised until the tournament draw that will be conducted at 1:00 PM on the practice day.

### 6.3.3 Junior State Championship (JSC)

- The date for the JSC shall be established at the last Board meeting of the season when the next seasons schedule is determined.
- The JSC is a by invitation only tournament.
- Qualifiers for the JSC will be selected from the Junior State Qualifiers.
- The top three anglers in each age group from each JSQ will be eligible to participate in the JSC.
- There will be a maximum of 36 participants (18 from each Division) with no minimum number of participants.
- The State Staff will provide Boat Captains for the JSC.
- The JSC official practice day will be supervised by the State Staff.
- The JSC venue will be considered **OFF LIMITS** 5 days prior to the official practice day.
- Junior State Qualifiers have the potential to qualify 3 anglers from each age group. In the event that one or more anglers fail to qualify in any age group at a specific tournament then those spots are forfeit and will not be filled.
- JSC winners (1 from each age group) will be eligible to participate in the Mid Atlantic Regional Tournament as members of the State Team.

### 6.3.4 Junior Participation in Adult Tournaments

- Junior Anglers 16 years of age are eligible to compete in adult tournaments.
- Junior anglers participating in scheduled adult tournaments and meeting State watercraft requirements are permitted to operate combustion engines during **ADULT** tournament conditions **ONLY**. Participation in an adult tournament scheduled on the same venue as a JSQ must be confirmed **one week** before practice day; otherwise the competitor will be **DISQUALIFIED**.
- Junior Anglers scheduled for a JSQ practice day and attending the official tournament draw **WILL NOT** be allowed to operate a combustion engine during practice or tournament conditions to include un-loading and loading watercraft.

## 6.4 BFNJBA ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY) POINTS SYSTEM

### 6.4.1 ANGLER OF THE YEAR POINTS SYSTEM

- The B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Youth Program will recognize performance by designating an Angler of the Year in each age group.
- AOY eligibility will be determined by a points system.
- Points will be awarded using the following criteria:
  1. First Place in each age group will receive 150 points.
  2. Second Place will be awarded 149 points, Third Place 148 points and so on until all participants that had fish to weigh-in are awarded points.
  3. Participants that did not weigh in fish will receive five points less than the last participant to weigh in fish.
  4. Points will be maintained by Division and are cumulative over all three JSQ's in the Division.
  5. Ties will be broken using cumulative weight for the year first and number of fish second.
  6. Official points standings shall be kept by The State Youth Director.

## 6.5 BOAT CAPTAINS

### 6.5.1 REQUIREMENTS

- Boat Captains will submit a waiver and a copy of vessel insurance policy to the Club Youth Advisor prior to participation.
- Boat Captains shall be at least 21 years of age and meet State Requirements for watercraft operation.
- \$300,000.00 of coverage is mandatory.
- Boat must be at least 16 feet in length and be powered by a 75 HP engine.
- Club Youth Advisors will ensure paper work is forwarded to the State Secretary

6.5.2 Boat Captains shall operate under the following guidelines:

1. Boat Captains will not be allowed to fish, tie on lures, suggest lures, location or techniques or in any other way assist the Junior Anglers with two exceptions:
    - a. Boat Captains may net the fish if requested by the Junior Angler.
    - b. Boat Captains may run the trolling motor if requested by the Junior Angler or at any time a safety issue is a consideration.
  2. Boat Captains will not be allowed to locate fish for the competitors other than a map recon at the drawing when you are paired with your Junior Anglers.
  3. Boat Captains are responsible for safe operations and have the final authority in all safety considerations.
  4. Boat Captains will be responsible for enforcing Tournament Rules and ensuring compliance with those rules.
  5. Boat Captains will be expected to be a role model and mentor for the Junior Anglers and conduct their actions accordingly.
- At no time during practice or tournament conditions will a Junior Angler be allowed to operate a watercraft under combustion engine power. (see 6.3.4)
  - Tournament Rules will be posted in a separate document.
  - Boat Captains presence at the pre-tournament draw is advantageous to all but is not mandatory as long as we can provide a contact number to the Junior Anglers so that arrangements can be made for tournament day.
  - All Junior Anglers are required to wear PFD's at all times while in the watercraft on practice and tournament days. Junior Anglers 16 years and older may wear suspender type PFD's.
  - Boat Captains will ensure that their boat meets all State, Federal and BFNVA safety requirements.
  -