

CBN Meeting Minutes October 22, 2015

Meeting called to order - 7:30PM

- **CLUBS ABSENT** : Bass Busters, Sweetwater Bassmasters, Mohawk Valley Bassmasters, Extreme Bassmasters

- **Correspondence:**

- We earned \$236.24 for 2015, received the check. The CBN spent \$5905.98; we were at the 4% rebate level. Thank you MidState Battery!!!

- We received a check from Thayer's Marine for our share of a Presidents Package Boat purchased by one of our CBN Members as per the Alliance Contract. \$2330.54. Thank you Richie Thayer!

- **Announcements:**

Oct. 20, 2015

B.A.S.S. Nation Announces 2016 Schedule, Exciting New Format

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — More opportunities will be available for club anglers who qualify for the 2016 Old Milwaukee B.A.S.S. Nation regional championships under the new B.A.S.S. Nation tournament format.

B.A.S.S. has expanded the B.A.S.S. Nation tournament format into three major regionals with larger fields of contenders. Under the new format, the divisions include a Western, Central and Eastern divisional. The Western Regional will be comprised of the same 11 states from the former Western division plus eight countries outside the United States.

The new format will allow more anglers to fish on their state teams in the regionals. "Each of those state teams will have 20 anglers and a couple of alternates, versus 12 anglers and a couple of alternates," said Jon Stewart, B.A.S.S. Nation director. "So each team is going to be bigger, and we will have more states in a region."

The regionals will also change to a Bassmaster Opens-style event with boater and nonboater divisions, rather than the partner draw system used in the divisionals. "That is something Nation anglers have requested for a while," Stewart said.

The format change also increases the number of qualifiers for the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship (BNC). The top finishing boaters and nonboaters on each state team from the regionals will advance to the BNC, which will be held in the fall at a site to be determined later.

Stewart said he believes the changes will help the B.A.S.S. Nation ranks grow. "We're ready to change things up," he said. "We think giving more anglers a chance to participate in the regionals with bigger teams and letting each state send an extra person to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship will help us grow. There will also be substantial cash and awards paid directly to individuals in the regionals and the Nation Championship. For the anglers, the regionals and the championship will be the most lucrative events we have ever had in the B.A.S.S. Nation, maybe in any amateur event."

The Eastern and Central regionals will now feature 190-boat fields, while the Western Regional will have a field of 110 boats. The breakdown of states in each division is as follows:

Western — Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and the countries of Mexico, Japan, Italy, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Australia and Portugal

Central — South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama
Eastern — Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, along with Spain and the Canadian province of Ontario

The Old Milwaukee B.A.S.S. Nation Western Regional, April 6-8, on Nevada's Lake Mead will be the first of the season. "Lake Mead has been fishing well the last couple of years," Stewart said. "I have been told it should be really good that time of year." B.A.S.S. has visited the lake five times, including the first Bassmaster Classic in 1971 won by Bobby Murray with 43 pounds, 11 ounces. The last Bassmaster event held there was the March 2002 Nevada Western Open won by Rob Vanderkooi with 29-14.

Next on the B.A.S.S. Nation schedule is the Central Regional, April 20-22, on Lake Guntersville in Alabama. "Guntersville is always a classic fishery, and April should be prime time for that lake as well," Stewart said. "You have an opportunity to catch a fish of a lifetime any time you go there." The lake is a frequent stop on the Bassmaster trail and has hosted two Bassmaster Classics. Last April, Skeet Reese won the Bassmaster Elite Series event there with a four-day total of 92-11.

The Eastern Regional is set for May 4-6 on Douglas Lake in Tennessee where nine Bass master events have been held. The last Nation tournament held there was a Southern Divisional won by Coby Cardin with 49-5 in April 2013. A Bass master Northern Open in May 2014 was won by local favorite Tot Defoe with 62-5.

The top boater and top no boater from each state advances to the BNC, where the Top 3 contenders will advance to the 2017 GEICO Bass master Classic. The date and location of the BNC will be announced at a later time.

A motion was made to accept the previous month's meeting minutes; the motion was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

- **Treasurer Report:** Was provided by Marc Levesque
- **Conservation & FAC Report:** No report
- **Boating Advisory:** Provided by Sylvia Morris

Emily's Law went into effect 10/1, requires individuals to be 16 years or older to tow a skier.

There was discussion about the use of drones for fishing and I stated that our position is we are opposed to their use for fishing.

Hydria has been found in Coventry Lake

Starting in 2017 there will be updated forms for boat registrations and owners will be required to verify hull ID numbers with their renewals. The state still is not sure how this will be done, may be as simple as enclosing a vin rubbing with the renewal form.

- **CLA Report:** No report
- **Tournament Report:** Provided by Sylvia Morris

Revised 2016 Tournament Trail

- May 15th, Candlewood, Squantz & Lattins 8 to 3- CBN T # 1
- June 12th, Connecticut River Haddam. 7 to 3- CBN T #2
- July 10th Candlewood, Squantz & Lattins 8 to 3- CBN T#3
- July 31st 7 to 3 MR. BASS TBD
- August 21st Lillinonah, Steel Bridge, 7 to 3 - TOP 25 /Classic
- September 17th & 18th Candlewood, Squantz Two Day 7 to 3- (If over 50 boats will be 8 to 3, we will be utilizing Lattins also)
- Oct 2nd Candlewood, Squantz 7 to 3 Scholarship

State Championship Report

The Two Day State Championship was held on October 3 and 4. We had 84 members participate. Thank you to all who pitched in and helped run a smooth Tournament! We cashed four retainer checks for clubs with no workers. All anglers showed up both days. All retainer checks have been given back that were not cashed.

The following qualified for the 2016 State Team through the championship;

BOATERS	NON BOATERS	ALTERNATES
Paul Mayo	Bob Jeffrey	Dan Dobrczynski
Garrett Krueger	Scott Downie	Jim Morris
Scott Janus	Mike Iovino	
Mike Rezendes	Mike Billings	
Kevin Rose	Bailey Hood	
Matt Sweeny	Matt Desimone	
	John Knowles	
	Steve Deguzis	
	Al Gambardella	

The Classic was held on Lilly in very strange weather!! Cold, Foggy, sunny, windy and then SNOW!!! Crazy weather! Thank you to all who came out in that and helped, fished and especially Joe Horvath and Kelly having hot food ready for all!!!! We qualified our two additional Anglers, 1st and 2nd place Anglers of the year and the Co Angler of the year to the 2016 State Team. Congratulations to Al Gambardella and Ed Kohl Boaters and Joe Mahood, Non Boater!

When we add in those who qualified form the 2015 Tournament Trail here is our 2016 State Team. Note: Position changes were per request of the angler.

BOATERS	NON BOATERS	ALTERNATES
Nick Papotto	Dan Dobrczynski	Jim Morris
Paul Mayo	Joe Mahhod	David Santos
Garrett Krueger	Scott Downie	
Scott Janus	Mike Iovino	
Mike Rezendes	Mike Billings	
Kevin Rose	Bailey Hood	
Al Gambardella	Steve Deguzis	
Bob Jeffery	Matt Desimone	
Scott Downie	Kevin Noel	
Matt Sweeny	Ed Kohl	

We will be holding a Trailer Clean up at Sal Messina's house, we need help! Anyone interested in helping please come see me after or call me. We are in the process of choosing a date.

- **Sponsorship Report:**

- We have three Nose spots available on the Trailer, please let Bob or one of the Executive Board know if you have any leads! We also have two side spots available, prorated for the

remaining Two Years, \$1700.00 cash and 2000.00 merchandise. Please let one of us know if you might have any leads.

- Bob said Kistler has dropped as a Sponsor of the CBN and the two other possible Rod Sponsors are not interested and do not like our Website as they want to be the first thing you see when you go to our Website. Something to look into.
- Stormr has agreed to come on board as a Gold sponsor for 2016; they are sending us 5 Typhoon Jackets. Two will be used at this year's Banquet and three will be saved for the 2016 Banquet.
- Mid State is coming back for 2016 with the same Sponsorship, 4, \$150.00 Gift Certificates for the 2016 Banquet, the Rebate program and Discounts available to all CBN Members. Steve Marone will be speaking at our 2016 February CBN meeting and will present the Discount package to all Reps. We earned \$236.24 for 2015, the CBN spent \$5905.98, we were at the 4% rebate level. Thank you Steve!!!
- Livingston Lures has come on as a Gold Sponsor for the CBN this year. In addition to all that they have done for us they provided us with a code to give to all members to use ONCE per Member. It is for your use only!!!! Do not give to anyone who is not a CBN member please!

You must get the code from your Club President or any Executive Board member the code cannot be put into the minutes. It is for 15% off of your one time order, Guys, please utilize this so we can continue this great sponsorship!

Berkley Discount

- The Berkley discount for B.A.S.S. Nation members has changed in how it will be processed. It is 25% off all Berkley Products for B.A.S.S. Nation members. What has changed is that it is now available 24/7 365 days a year! Also what has changed is the way you receive the discount. Members **must** follow these steps in order to receive the discount.
 1. Go to Bassmaster.com – Join B.A.S.S.- Benefits or go to this link. <https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/pcd/apps/index.cfm?iMagId=57000&iPage=BASSBENEFITLOGIN&iXz=A05CF3B4374EA0549ED41FBFF6A7F39F>
 2. Log into the benefits page with B.A.S.S. Number and last name
 3. Click on Berkley Nation Discount
 4. Order
- “If You Can’t Beat Em Whip Em”

25% Discount Offer

Just like the B.A.S.S. Nation, we are a grass roots company. We believe in our 100% American Made Products and make baits for all levels of anglers, from beginners to seasoned pros. From an idea developed in our basement four years ago we continue to grow at a rapid pace requiring us to move to a separate building on our property. As our growth continues we are looking to expand that building in 2015. Just like most of you, we also work full time jobs. Even with this limitation, we now have fourteen dealers across the United States, one in Australia, one in Spain, and are bringing on our newest dealer in Nova Scotia.

Our process is one step at a time, one person at a time, and one dealer at a time. We aim to take care of every individual customer the same way, whether you are the beginner or a Bassmaster Classic Winner. We take pride in sustaining our down home family company identity.

Henry, one of the owners of our company, spent over twenty years as President of a B.A.S.S. club in Western Pennsylvania. He also spent several years as President of the West Virginia Federation.

Matt, our other owner, provides the creative mind that is helping our company grow.

We would like to extend a **25% discount** on any order purchased from Whip Em Baits for all of the B.A.S.S. Nation. We are asking you to help spread the word to your Federation members. With your help we can continue to grow and compete with much larger companies.

You can use the discount by entering the discount code **BNM2015** at the end of your orders. Check out our products at www.whipembaits.com. With soft plastics, jigs, spinnerbaits, and buzzbaits, we've got a wide variety of proven bass catching baits!

We thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck this season.

Sincerely,

Matt Marsula Henry Likar
Co-Owners Whip Em Baits

- Midstate Battery

A discount is available to ALL Nation members.

Every club Rep received a packet with all the discounts available to us at the Feb 26th Meeting. We have it posted on the Forum also. Please let Sylvia Know when you order & the amount. They can be reached at:

139C West Dudley Town Rd. Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone 860-243-0646 Fax 860-243-5945

Email: smerone@midstatebattery.com

- **Effective March 1st**

Power-Pole B.A.S.S. Nation Rebate Program

Dear Presidents,

Power-Pole is a proud sponsor of the B.A.S.S. Nation in 2015. We will continue to offer a rebate program to B.A.S.S. Nation Members. The new rebate structure will be effective March 1st 2015. The new discounts will be as follows:

- Sportsman 2 Model: \$75
- Pro 2 Model: \$100
- Signature Series 2 Model: \$125
- Blade Model: \$150

The above stated discounts are available via rebate program through our website. In order to receive your rebate, you will need to register the Power-Pole at www.Power-Pole.com located under the "Support" column header then "Product Registration".

Once the product has been registered, you will then find the link "Apply for Rebate" to complete the rebate form. Once all the given information is verified we will issue you a check or credit in accordance with the discount you are slated to receive. You will need to provide a copy of your purchase receipt and membership card.

For the State Team Members, we want to invite you to apply for our Pro-Staff program. The program is geared towards your status within the fishing community. The application can be completed at www.power-pole.com under "Pro's" then "Join Our Pro-Staff". With this program you will receive your discount at the time of purchase. For more information about our prostaff program please contact our pro-staff manager Casey Carpenter at Casey@power-pole.com

This rebate is not valid on any boat where the Power-Pole anchor is standard equipment. This program is subject to change or be terminated at any time. The rebate program is only valid towards one purchase per person per year and does not include accessories, installation or any other additional expense.

Sincerely,

Curt Hill,

Advertising Manager

9010 Palm River Road. Tampa, FL 33619 phone 813.689.9932 fax 813.689.8883 power-pole.com

- **CBN Scholarship**- No report
- **Robert S Malloy Scholarship**: David Santos asked Marc to send a check to UConn from the Robert S Malloy Scholarship fund for \$1050.00. David said there will be a winner by December.
- **Banquet** : November 14th 2015 Working on Plaques, Prizes (Have anyone interested in donating ,let me know) and reservations. PLEASE get them in! We have 15,000 in Prizes so far. Remember is you reserve and do not show, you will owe us as we have to pay once reserved!
- **Membership Committee**: Paul Dingee is in the process of getting an updated map done, approx. cost will be \$200.00. We are in dire need of a new one for the Membership Drive! Approved.
- **Website Committee**: No report
- **Audit Committee**: Nothing, will need two more people to be on the audit committee to be held in January, Dan Monroe is chairperson.
- **High school & Juniors**: Ron Frisk
- Currently have 3 new High Schools and 9 with the High School packet from BASS. Goal is still to get to 20 teams.
- Will be setting the rosters and dues ASAP!
- Trail has been passed out many times and is located on the web site. Please look at the schedule and feel free to call or email me with the tournament you can boat captain on. I would love to secure as many captains as I can as quickly as I can. Excited with the idea of utilizing the State Team for help. Discussions on that will follow at future meetings.

- New Business: I would like to request up to \$250 to purchase plaques/Trophies. This could be much less once I go through what Talcott Mountain provided to the program! Giving out Championship plaques for High School and Juniors. Also will give out a first place plaque/trophy to the winner of each tournament.

Respectfully Submitted, Ron Frisk

- **Finance Committee:** No Report, Need a financial advisor please!
- **State Team 2015**
 - All receipts have been turned in and Marc is getting checks ready to mail. Basically all were ok, some added in their Initial receipts I deducted them; some were missing a few small receipts and lost out. **YOU MUST HAVE RECEIPTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT!**
 - Total cost of the 2015 State Team was \$7558.59.
 - Working on the 2016 State Team already as we are pressed for time, we are traveling in April to be there for May 2nd to the 6th to Douglas Lake Tennessee.
 - I have secured a Lodge for the entire 22 man Team. We were lucky to get it as 19 States are looking for lodging! The 2016 State Team must attend the CBN Banquet, get their individual pictures taken, receive their awards and get a group picture also. We will then hold our first State Team meeting on Nov 21st, my house, 35 Orient Ave, Milford, Ct 06460, 1:00. Go over the Contract piece by piece, go over the New BASS Format for 2016, making sure we all have a full understanding of it, choose a State Team Captain, pay their Divisional Entry fees and turn in all their Paperwork that is required. Once they sign the contract they are committing to the Team. We will then set up a meeting schedule for the months of Jan, Feb, March and April. Total of 5 meetings. They can only miss one!
 - Lunker City, Herb Reed, has agreed to do all 22 Jackets again! He buys the Jackets and the CBN pays for the embroidery!
 - Please be sure to send him a personal Thank you or stop in and thank him!!! This is 25 years he has been sponsoring the CBN & State Team!!!!
THANK YOU HERB REED!!!!

A motion was made to accept all reports as given. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors.

Old Business

- **Excused Absences:** Bass Attack, Talcott Mountain, CT Black Bass Anglers
- **Membership Dues:** On September 1st the B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster cleared. There will be a rebate program, Dues will remain at \$30 per member, August 31, 2016, we will run a club report and based on the number of members in each club, the clubs may get a rebate for each member on their roster.

Rebate Formula

6-12 members - NO REBATE

13-20 members - \$3 per member rebate

21 and over - \$5 per member rebate

Clubs do not have to notify B.A.S.S. or apply for this rebate. Clubs should receive the rebate, if they qualify, before Thanksgiving each year.

- **National Championship:** Al Guite and I will be traveling to the Nationals Nov 4th to the 8th 2015 in Monroe Louisiana and will be attending Presidents & Youth Directors meetings on the CBN'S behalf. We will have full reports at the next CBN meeting in November.
- **Executive Board:** The CBN Executive Board & Committee Chairs will meet at 5:00 November 19th prior to the CBN 7:30 meeting.
- **Nominating Committee:** Nominations are open for Secretary and Treasurer Positions for 2016. Call one of the Nominating Committee with your nominations,

Bryan Mc Cleary-203-592-1007

Ron Frisk-869-940-5553

Dave Gilbert-860-428-7130

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the CBN president at the November meeting. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

**2016 B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster and dues are due
by November 1, 2016**

2016 CBN Dues & Roster are due by November 1, 2015. YOU MUST USE THE ROSTER FORM PROVIDED FOR YOU ON CTBASS.COM, fill out completely, turn in with ONE check per club!!!!

Recruit!!! We are in need of new membership!!! Non Boaters are a must have for 2016's new format!!!!

- **Bylaw Committee:** Bylaw proposals were due in at the September meeting in writing to the President. The proposals have been reviewed, copied and are being handed out this meeting to be brought back to each club. These proposals will be discussed at the November meeting, changes applied if any, posted in the minutes to be voted on at the December meeting.

Current CBN Bylaw

ARTICLE XII TOURNAMENTS

A. Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Trail

1. Location(s) and Dates

The annual tournament trail shall consist of (4) qualifying events including the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Classic. Tournament dates and locations shall be selected by the tournament director and approved by the board of directors.

2. Eligibility

a. It shall be required that all of the Chapters in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation must have fulfilled their Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation obligations; such as not missing more than two (2) CBN meetings within the twelve months preceding the scheduled event. All dues and rosters must be current. If a chapter does not comply with this rule, said chapter shall not be eligible to participate in the Annual Tournament Trail.

b. Chapters and members who are in good standing with B.A.S.S., the B.A.S.S. National Nation and the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation.

3. Rules and Regulations

The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation official tournament rules shall govern the Tournament Trail. The official tournament rules shall be established by the Tournament Director and are subject to approval by the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Board of Directors.

Note; aside from wording changes in the section above this proposal calls to remove the below information from the current CBN bylaws and incorporate these descriptions into the Official Tournament Rules which will govern all tournaments. Refer to change proposal below.

B. Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship

1. Location(s) and Dates

The tournament site(s) and dates for the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation's annual two day State Championship Tournament shall be selected by the Tournament Director (Ref. Article IX, Section A, 3) with final approval of the Board of Directors.

2. Eligibility

a. It shall be required that all of the Chapters in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation must have fulfilled their Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation obligations; such as not missing more than two (2) CBN meetings of the twelve months preceding the CBN State Championship. All dues and rosters must be current. If a chapter does not comply with this rule, said chapter shall not be eligible to participate in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship Tournament. The Executive Board shall determine eligibility of clubs affiliated less than twelve months.

b. Chapters and members who are members in good standing with B.A.S.S., the B.A.S.S. National Nation and the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation.

c. Members who are included on a club roster submitted 120 days prior to the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship. d. Members who have qualified in accordance with their club rules. e. Members who have qualified to participate in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Classic Tournament.

3. Rules and Regulations

The rules and regulations governing conduct of the CBN's Championship Tournament shall be the current Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Official Rules as may be amended by exceptions approved by the Board of Directors. In addition, the following will be in effect:

a. Each Chapter entering one or more members in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship must provide a tournament worker for one day of the tournament.

b. All of the members listed on the club roster submitted 120 days prior to the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship may enter the State Championship.

c. Application process - A properly completed and signed application, along with any additional documentation that is required by the CBN and/or State Agencies, plus the full entry fee must be sent in one complete package and postmarked by a mailing deadline determined by the Tournament Director. Failure to provide all required documentation in one complete package by the mailing deadline may deem the individual or individuals ineligible to participate. It is encouraged that each CBN club, send all application documents and fees in one combined package for all of their members who will be participating in this event.

d. Linked Entries: Boaters, entering the Two Day State Championship, who identify a linked non-boater on their tournament application, will guarantee use of their boat during both days of competition provided that their linked non-boater competes during both days of the event. In the event that a boater's linked non-boater fails to show up on a competition day the Tournament Director and their designated committee will adjust the pairings accordingly and if at all possible the linked boater will be paired with a non-linked boater. In the event that a non-boaters linked boater fails to show up on a competition day the linked non-boater will be ineligible to participate in that days competition. Entry fees for linked anglers (boater and non-boater) must accompany the tournament application.

e. Each club participating must provide a check for two additional entries to guarantee that their members entering the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship participate on both tournament days and to guarantee their on-shore worker for one (1) day of the tournament. This check is refundable provided the chapter members entered fulfills these obligations, or if an individual withdraws due to an EMERGENCY, providing approval of the Tournament Director is granted. Each club must provide one (1) on-shore worker for an entire workday of the tournament.

f. Refunds will be granted if the Tournament Director is notified at least 72 hours prior to the start of the tournament. In the case of an emergency, refunds will be handled at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

g. Computerized pairings of all participating contestants will be performed and posted on the CBN website no later than the one week prior to the State Championship Tournament. Boaters who are paired together shall contact the Tournament Director or designee no later than the Wednesday preceding the tournament and indicate which boat will be used. Although not necessary, the Tournament Director will have full discretion on whether or not to hold a pairings meeting prior to the event. If it is determined that a meeting is necessary the pairings will be announced at that meeting after which they will be posted on the CBN website.

h. The top qualifiers will participate on the State Team. . Refer to Standing Rule #18 for qualification criteria and positioning.

i. The position of State Team Captain will be given to the individual who would be nominated and elected by the State Team. Consideration should be given to that person's attitude, ability to get along with others, organizational abilities and ability to function under pressure.

C. Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions

This tournament will consist of the Angler of the Year in each club from the previous calendar year. If the Angler of the Year from said club is unable to represent their club a designated member will be allowed to participate. This tournament will be a qualifying tournament. A pro-am format will be utilized for this event. Each club participating is required to provide a co-angler. The co-angler may either be from that club or any other club in the CBN, so long as that member is in good standing within the CBN. An entry fee will be required for this event. (This could be paid for by each club being represented not the individual competitors. The amount of the entry fee shall be consistent with the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship entry fee, less any applicable parking and launch fees. The following conditions will apply:

1. The winner of this tournament will receive the title of "Mr. Bass".
2. The winner of this tournament will have a guaranteed position on the State Team as the 6th place contender (boater).
3. The winner of this tournament will not be required to fish the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship since he/she is already a member of the State Team.
4. Tournament applications will be made available on the CBN website a minimum of one month prior to the event. Each club sending a representative to participate is required to have been a member in good standing of the Connecticut BASS Federation Nation for a minimum of six months during the previous calendar year.

5. In order to participate clubs and individual competitors must have fulfilled their Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation obligations; such as not missing more than two CBN meetings in the twelve months preceding the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions, all dues and rosters must be current and all raffle obligations must have been met. The club and the members participating must be in good standing with B.A.S.S., The B.A.S.S. National Nation and The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation.
6. The Tournament Director will have full discretion on whether or not to hold a tournament meeting prior to the event. If a meeting is held the invitees or a representative **MUST BE PRESENT**.
7. Club presidents will be notified of the tournament details via mail and are responsible to notify their club members who qualify.
8. The invitees or a representative **MUST BE PRESENT** at the tournament meeting.
9. Tournament location will be announced at the tournament meeting.

Bylaw Change Proposal – 1-2016

ARTICLE XII TOURNAMENTS

A. Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Trail

1. Description, Location(s) and Dates

The annual tournament trail shall consist of (3) regular season tournaments and (3) qualifier events. The qualifier events are as follows; the CBN Classic, the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass) and the State Championship. The top qualifiers in these three events will participate on the State Team. Refer to Standing Rule #18 for qualification criteria and positioning. Tournament dates and locations shall be selected by the tournament director and approved by the board of directors.

2. Eligibility

- a. It shall be required that all of the Chapters in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation must have fulfilled their Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation obligations; such as not missing more than two (2) CBN meetings within the twelve months preceding the scheduled event. All dues and rosters must be current. If a chapter does not comply with this rule, said chapter shall not be eligible to participate in the Annual Tournament Trail.
- b. Chapters and members who are in good standing with B.A.S.S., the B.A.S.S. National Nation and the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation.

3. Rules and Regulations

The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation official tournament rules shall govern the Tournament Trail. The official tournament rules shall be established by the Tournament Director and are subject to approval by the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Board of Directors.

Submitted by the CBN Executive Board

Current standing Rule 8 - CBN Team Expenses

C.B.N. team members who qualify for the Eastern Divisional Tournament shall be provided an official state team expense report. This expense report, along with all receipts, must be returned to the state team administrator/administrators by the date specified in the state team contract. Allowable expenses are those which cover gasoline (vehicle and boat), personal expenses for food, licenses, tolls and other approved expenses. The same expenses mentioned above for accompanying family members or friends shall be borne by the individual. Team members may be required to share rooms. For other than immediate family to attend this event, approval of the Executive Board is required. Clothing (shirts, hats, jackets and rain gear) shall be provided at no cost to the team members, alternate and Federation President or his/her designee when finances allow.

Proposed Change – 2016

Rule 8 - CBN Team Expenses

C.B.N. team members who qualify for the Eastern Divisional Tournament shall be provided an official state team expense report. This expense report, along with all receipts, must be returned to the state team Administrator(s) by the date specified in the state team contract. Allowable expenses are those which cover gasoline (vehicle and boat), personal expenses for food not provided by the CBN or B.A.S.S and tolls. Team members are required to share rooms. Required clothing shall be provided at no cost to the team members, team alternates and the CBN President or his/her designee when finances allow.

Submitted by the CBN Executive board.

Current Standing Rule #18-State Team Qualification

The Connecticut BASS Nation will qualify a State Team annually that will consist of twelve (12) anglers and one (1) alternate angler. This team will participate in the following years BASS Nation Divisional tournament. These thirteen (13) anglers will be qualified through the following:

1. The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Trail, (3)
2. The Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (1)
3. The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship (9) = 8 plus 1 alternate

The fourteenth, (14th) member of the team shall be the President, Vice President or designee, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. The duties of the 14th member will be to handle financial needs of the team, to help with the needs of the fisherman and to attend any meetings that are held during the

tournament. He receives a shirt and jacket so as to be in uniform with the team but he receives no money that the other team members may be eligible for and no plaque as a team member.

Positioning for state team is as follows:

1. First place angler from the State Championship
2. Second place angler from the State Championship
3. Third place angler from the State Championship
4. Fourth place angler from the State Championship
5. Angler of the Year from the CBN Tournament trail
6. The First place angler from the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions
7. Second place angler from the CBN Tournament Trail (1st Alternate Boater)
8. Fifth place angler from the State Championship
9. Sixth place angler from the State Championship
10. Seventh place angler from the State Championship
11. Eighth place angler from the State Championship
12. First place Co-Angler from the CBN Tournament Trail
13. Ninth place angler from the State Championship (1st Alternate)

Proposed Change;

Standing Rule #18 – State Team Qualification

Positioning for Pro/Am State Team is as follows:

Boaters Positions – (Pro)

3 – Top 3 from the CBN Tournament Trail Qualifying event, Boater division – CBN Classic Tournament – See CBN Tournament rules for qualification criteria

1 – Winner of the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass) Boater division

6 – Top 6 finishers from the CBN State Championship – Boater division

Total - 10

Non-Boater Positions – (Am)

3 – Top 3 from the CBN Tournament Trail Qualifying event, Non Boater division – CBN Classic Tournament – See CBN Tournament rules for qualification criteria

1 – Winner of the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass) Non-boater Division

6 – Top 6 finishers from the CBN State Championship – Non-boater division

Total – **10**

Alternate Positions

1st alternate – 7th place finisher from the CBN State Championship, Boater division

2nd alternate – Appointed by the CBN Executive Board

Total - **2**

Note: Alternates will be utilized as needed and will not have a designated division. Spare boats will be managed by the State Team Administrators.

Submitted by the CBN Executive Board

The CBN Executive Board and Tournament Director will be working on developing the 2016 Tournament Rules and will have them ready for distribution at the November meeting. These rules will be discussed and voted on in December.

- **Tournament Director Nomination:** Sal Messena was the only member nominated for the 2016 Tournament Director. Al Guite, the CBN Secretary, cast one vote for Sal Messena who is running unopposed.
- **CBN/NEBATCT:** Held T#6 on Zoar, Mike Rezendes & John Knowles won The TCT Team of the Year after a tie breaker with Reed Johnson & Justin Mesick, came down to the big fish tie breaker which is the third tie breaker in the NEBA/CBN Rules. John & Mike will be going to Gunterville Lake in Dec. We had raised 630.00 for them to help with expenses. Good Luck Guys!!!

- **BASS Nation Championship**: Alex Wetherell is currently in Louisiana practicing for the 2015 BASS Nationals. He will be representing Ct the week of Nov 2nd to the 7th on the Quachita River, Monroe Louisiana. In addition Paul Mueller, the 2014 Bryan V Kerchal B.A.S.S. National Champion, will be fishing it also, defending his title!

GOOD LUCK ALEX & PAUL!!!!

- **State Team Contract**: A proposal was brought up at last month's meeting to have the 2016 State Team members support the High School Fishing program by either being a boat captain or shore worker at the weigh in for at least one High School/Junior event. We have added this to the 2016 State Team Contract.
- **The NRD Grant**: We are on the last step and money should be in account in two weeks. We now need to plan to get out there this fall and GPS & Chart locations to put the Mossback Fish Attractors in. Please let Dean or I know. Anyone interested????
- **Tournament Scale**: A New Scale & Readout was ordered for \$1505.64.00. Still working on a computer. Thank you Ron Frisk for doing all the leg work on this for us!
- **Triton Alliance Leads Program**: Please let Sylvia Morris know, as soon as possible, if anyone in your club is considering purchasing a Triton so we can connect and get credit for the sale. We have 24 leads already turned in, let's hope they match with the sales and we should have 5000.00!!!
- **The CBN Website and Calendar have been updated.**
- **Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington Sat. Sept 26th 2015**: Thank you to Kevin Lavender, Ryan and Toby, Ron Frisk, Travis & Logan for attending the September 26th event on our behalf.
- Tee Sponsors were purchased for the Memorial Golf Tournament in Memory of Katie Dobroczyński. \$100.00 from the CBN & \$100.00 from the High School/Juniors.
- **Fishing/Boat Shows for 2016**
 NEHFS - Feb 12th to the 14th
 CMTA - Jan 28th to the 31st

New Business

Path to the Classic

Largest Payout Ever Awarded within B.A.S.S. Nation!

- Total of seven (7) boats to be awarded, individual cash, and three (3) Bassmaster Classic invitations
- Each state conducts Bassmaster Opens-style event(s) to determine state team members
- Each state allowed 10 boaters and 10 non-boaters + 2 alternates

B.A.S.S. Nation Regional Championship

- 3-day event for each region of U.S. (West, Central and East)
- Day 3 — final day cut to Top 2 boaters + Top 2 non-boaters from each state
- Boater: five (5) fish limit; non-boater: three (3) fish limit
- Entry fees — boater: \$200; non-boater: \$100
- Anglers fish for individual cash and merchandise prizes with payment to Top 35 places boater/non-boater based on 190 boat field
- Top state team wins a prize boat at each Regional Championship — Total of three (3)
- Top boater and non-boater from each state advance to B.A.S.S. Nation Championship

B.A.S.S. Nation Championship

- 3-day event
- Non-boater champion crowned after day 2 and awarded a berth as a boater into the final day of competition. (Boat will be provided.)
- Day 3: final day cut to Top 10 boaters + Top 2 boaters from each region (if they are not already in the Top 10) + non-boater champion
- Total possible fishing Day 3 — 16 anglers
- Boater: five (5) fish limit; non-boater: five (5) fish limit
- No entry fee
- Anglers fish for individual cash and merchandise prizes with payment to Top 12 places boater/non-boater

– Top 3 anglers after the final day earn Bassmaster Classic berth

– Champion also earns Bassmaster Elite Series berth, paid Bassmaster Opens entry to division of choice, prize boat, plus a “B.A.S.S. Nation’s Best” prize package, which is the use of a Toyota truck and fully rigged tournament-ready boat for one year.

– Second and third place also earn paid Bassmaster Opens entry to division of choice, prize boat, plus a “B.A.S.S. Nation’s Best” prize package, which is the use of a Toyota truck and fully rigged tournament-ready boat for one year.

– Non-boater Champion earns memorial trophy, paid Bassmaster Opens entry to division of choice, prize boat and Bassmaster Classic Marshal spot. (All of above if they finish in the Top 3.)

- **Toys For Tots: Dec 5th, Walmart, Wallingford, Old Colony Road 9:00 to 2:00**

- **Club Representative Responsibilities!!!**

We seem to have a major issue with communication. We provide each club representative all information at each CBN meeting, in addition an e-mail blast from the CBN President on all important information to each club President, the minutes are posted every month, and applications are on the table at each meeting. We go above and beyond to get all important information out to all of you and we still have people calling us saying they were never told. The club representative is not communicating the information to their club members. You MUST be responsible if we are representing your Club!!!

The CBN Executive Board is requesting updated e-mail addresses for each club.

The turnout at the Classic was less than mediocre. Only 28 Boaters out of the 40 who qualified participated. Only 13 Non Boaters out of the 31 who qualified participated. Sylvia spoke with the 22 members who qualified but did not participate. She found that some could not fish on that date but there were 10 members who did not know about the tournament. We do not mail anything anymore and have not done that FOR QUITE SOME TIME!

It was addressed at the prior CBN Meetings and posted on the Forum and an e-mail blast went out to all Club Presidents and a Representative in each club.

PLEASE PASS ON ALL INFO RECEIVED AT EACH MEETING OR IN AN E-MAIL!!!!

- Tom Laporta suggested that we purchase battery trays (6) for The CBN Tournament Trail after helping with a Clean-up at a Tournament realized this is something we need and they are only 4.88 each. We approved the purchase Sal Messina will get them for us. Thank you Tom, great idea.
- Dave Gilbert brought up the back of our CBN Trailer, he felt we should be advertising for members on the Back of it. We are looking into doing this. Thank you Dave Great idea!
- **Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury (best parking), Micro-tel & Best Western. All information is available on the CBN website!**

OPENS & EVENTS FOR 2015

All applications are available and also on CTBASS.com

Tournaments

- **MBB High School Benefit Open, Nov 1st, Candlewood 7 to 3**
- **Busty Brawlers open Nov 8th Candlewood, Squantz, 50 boats, benefitting Breast Cancer.**
- **Snowball Open to benefit High School Fishing, November 1,**

Other events

- **Toys for Tots Dec 5th, Walmart, Wallingford, Old Colony Road 9:00 to 2:00**

Raffle winners

Whip em baits winner- Ray Bessett

Livingston Lure winner- Chris Warren

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved by the Board of Directors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

NEXT MONTHS MEETING IS A WEEK EARLY – November 19, 2015