 

**NASA LANGLEY BASS MASTERS – NOTTOWAY BASS MASTERS - PENINSULA BASS ANGLERS – 5 RIVERS BASS MASTERS – RVA BASSMASTERS – THE TBF BASS BANDITS OF VIRGINIA - FEEL THE PAYNE FISHING**

REGION EIGHT - VIRGINIA BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION, INC.

DEDICATED TO THE REALISTIC CONSERVATION

OF VIRGINIAS WATER RESOURCES

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**2025**

**APPROVED FOR 2025 BY THE PRESIDENTS OF:**

# NASA LANGLEY BASS MASTERS – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOTTOWAY BASS MASTERS**- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PENINSULA BASS ANGLERS – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5 RIVERS BASS MASTERS – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RVA BASSMASTERS- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TBF BASS BANDITS of VIRGINIA- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FEEL THE PAYNE FISHING- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## REGION 8 DIRECTOR – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

  DATE: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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### ARTICLE #1 AREA, ADDRESS AND MEETING LOCATION

####    1.1 AREA.

#### Includes the counties of King William, Hanover, Goochland, New Kent, Henrico, Charles City, James City, York, Northumberland, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, King and Queen, Mathews, and Gloucester, Accomack, Northampton, Isle Of Wight, and Southampton also all the cities within them including Richmond City, Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Suffolk. All of Chesterfield County except the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca and Enon.

####  1.2 PRINCIPAL ADDRESS.

The principal address of the Region shall be the residence of the Director, or such other address as he may select.

#### 1.3 BUSINESS MEETING LOCATIONS.

The business meetings of the Region shall be convened at a site selected by the Director. Committee and other official meetings shall be held at sites selected by the Chairman or other presiding officials.

### ARTICLE #2 PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE REGION

**2.1 PURPOSES.**

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The Region is established to preserve and promote the sport of angling for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass; to introduce youth to sport fishing; to conserve water and other natural resources to work for an abundant, healthy and self-sustaining bass fishery wherever a natural potential exists; and to support the local, state and national agencies which conserve and manage the fresh water sport fishery and other associated natural resources.

#### 2.2 GOALS.

The Region shall pursue the goals of organizing and conducting competitive fishing events which adequately provide for the needs of the bass and the angler, establishing live release of bass back to their habitat; promoting realistic conservation of natural resources and causing the adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards; supporting and cooperating with fishery management agencies for the future; encouraging youth involvement in sport fishing and leading the Chapters in organizing and conducting youth participation activities; promoting public awareness and efficient communications with the membership through a regularly published newsletter, gaining new members and Chapters to The Bass Federation (TBF) and the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation generating revenue sufficient to conduct the programs of the Region; reducing the hazards of boat operation and sport fishing; of supporting the nonprofit purposes and goals of Virginia Bass Chapter Federation; and such other goals as may be established for the Chapters and the committees of the Region.

### ARTICLE #3 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

   **3.1 CONSTITUENCY, MEMBERS, AND CHAPTERS**

**3.1-1 CONSTITUENCY.**

The constituency of the Region shall include individuals who are members of The Bass Federation (TBF) and Virginia Bass Chapter Federation.

The interest of the constituency members shall, within the purposes and goals of the Region, be fully represented by the Region and its officials.

####   3.1-2 MEMBERS.

The members of the Region are the members in good standing with Virginia Bass Chapter Federation, TBF and any of the Chapters of the Region. Virginia Bass Chapter Federation membership shall not alone constitute eligibility to hold elected or appointed office in the Region. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in the Region.

#### 3.1-3 CHAPTERS.

The Chapters of the Region shall include only those Chapters duly chartered by TBF, and approved for membership in the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation.

**3.1-4 REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP:**

To become an individual junior member of an adult chapter/club, a person shall:

(a) Voluntarily express a true interest in becoming a member and supporting the clubs purpose.

(b) Be less than 18 years of age.

(c) Must fish with adult member with permission of a parent or legal guardian.

**\***Individual junior members, who are not a member of a junior club, are not required to pay membership dues and are not entitled to the benefits of a regular membership. The inclusion of individual junior members will not affect a club’s liability insurance policy. Individual junior members are not covered by the accidental death and dismemberment policy. Individual junior members may not hold any office in a regular adult club nor can they be voting members. All individual junior membership ceases on a person’s 18th birthday. Anglers become eligible for regular adult club membership at 16 years of age.

#### 3.2 REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

  **3.2-1 REGION EIGHT DIRECTOR.**

The Region Eight Director shall be elected by the Chapter Presidents no later than the 15th day of November to a term of two years, which shall begin at the January meeting of the Board following the election. Region elections shall be held in even number years.

Mid-term vacancies shall be filled through special elections conducted as soon as practicable after they occur. The term of office shall expire upon installation of his successor.

A year in office shall be measured from the first Board meeting of the following year. The Director shall be elected from among the members of the Region. He shall remain in good standing as a member of a Chapter in good standing throughout his tenure. Loss of good standing shall vacate the office of Director and require that a special election be held to fill the incomplete term as soon as practicable.

The duties of the Director shall include attendance at meetings of the Board and other functions of the Federation. Attendance at meetings of the Region and its Committees, and working with them on Region affairs, supporting the purposes and goals of the Region Constitution and By-Laws, as may be in the best interest of the Chapters and their members. The Director cannot serve as President of a Chapter while in office as Region Director.

 If a vote is called for and it results in a tie, the Region Eight Director will vote and break the tie.

#### 3.2-2 REGION EIGHT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Region Eight Assistant Director will serve in any of the capacities of the Director in his absence. He will be appointed by the Director and will continue to serve until relieved by a successor. The Assistant Director cannot be from the same Chapter as the Director.

#### 3.2-3 REGION EIGHT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Will be responsible for conducting Region Eight Tournaments, including but not limited to, effecting liaison regulatory bodies having jurisdiction of tournament sites, setup and calibration of the official scales, supervising weighing and handling officials, supervising inspection of boats before the start of tournaments, supervision of blast-off for tournament flights, may be asked to maintain tournament records/results, and other duties that may be required. He will resolve protests and rule on interpretation of Tournament Rules in Article 6. I. He will be appointed by the Director and will continue to serve until relieved by a successor.

#### 3.2-4 REGION EIGHT SECRETARY.

The Region Eight Secretary will be appointed by the Director and will continue to serve until relieved by a successor. He will be responsible for recording minutes of Region Eight Presidents meetings and other meetings as designated by the Director. He will maintain records of Region Eight Chapter membership and will coordinate with Tournament Director in determining the eligibility of Region members to fish Region tournaments. He will maintain records of correspondence received by or sent out by any of the Region Board members. He will be responsible for maintenance and distribution of the Region Eight Constitution and Bylaws, and will keep records of formal motions submitted by any of the Region Eight Presidents. He will perform other duties as specified by the Region Eight Director.

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#### 3.2-5 REGION EIGHT TREASURER

The Region Eight Treasurer will be appointed by the Director and remain in that capacity until relieved by his successor. He will maintain an accurate record of expenditures and receipts of funds within the Region. He will provide a financial report periodically, but not less than once each Region Eight President's Meetings.

#### 3.2-6 REGION EIGHT YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Region Eight Youth Director will be appointed by the Director and remain in that capacity until relieved by his successor. He will represent the Region in all matters concerning youth activities.

 **3.2-7 REGION EIGHT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**.

The Region Eight Board of Directors will be the Region 8 Director and the elected Presidents from each of the Chapters in the Region. The Board of Directors will continue to serve until relieved by a successor.

Region members shall observe high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct at all times during activities related to Federation, Region, or Chapter events. The Tournament Director or individual Chapters may call upon the Board of Directors to resolve incidents involving any members actions which violate tournament rules or the principles of fairness, sportsmanship and ethical conduct at any time. Any member referred to the Region 8 Board of Directors for action will be notified by letter of the Board of Directors findings and decision. The Board of Directors judgment may include a members’ suspension from participation in Federation events/activities including participation in any or all future tournaments for the remainder of the membership year. The Region 8 Director will notify the State President by letter of the findings resulting in a decision to suspend a member’s participation in Federation events.

#### 3.2-8 REGION EIGHT CHAPTER PRESIDENTS.

The Region Eight Chapter Presidents shall be elected in a method set forth in respective Chapter's Constitution. In addition to the duties set forth in their respective Constitution they, or their designated representatives, will act as liaison between the respective Chapter members and the Region Officers. They shall attend each Region Eight Presidents Meeting and they will actively support the Region in their Chapter and the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation, Inc. The Chapter President will provide the Region 8 Secretary a current copy of their respective chapter membership roster by the February Board meeting of each year and provide additional copies as additions/changes occur. They will keep their Chapter apprised of all Region and Federation business as required. The Youth Club will have non-voting representation at Region Eight meetings.

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#### 3.2-9 CHAPTERS.

The Region shall assist the federation in aiding any persons desiring to form new chapters by providing information and contact with organizing of Virginia Bass Chapter Federation. Each new Chapter shall be assigned to Region Eight in consideration of its geographical location and the Director, following acceptance by Virginia Bass Chapter Federation, Inc, shall deliver its charter to the new Chapter. The Director shall assist the Chapter in becoming a participant in the affairs of the Region. Chapters not in good standing shall not be eligible to participate in the activities of the Region.

#### 3.2-10 COMMITTEES.

The Region Director may appoint committees as necessary to carry out Region business and projects. The number of individuals assigned to a committee is at the discretion of the Director and/or the committee Chairman.

 **ARTICLE #4 AMENDMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

  **4.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Amendments and changes to the Constitution and By-Laws shall only be changed during the meetings in the month of December during the annual review/up-date.

All submitted motions, proposals and changes must be in writing. All motions, proposals, or changes must have a second, then be voted on and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors present. Changes that are identified and approved during the year will be maintained on file and be incorporated in December during the annual review/up-date. Once approved by the board of Directors by-laws are official from January 1ST to December 31ST. The Region 8 Secretary will distribute an up-dated approved copy of the Constitution and By-Laws to all Chapter Presidents prior to the first tournament of the year.

**4.2 PROCEDURES**

Proposed amendments/changes to the Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Director. The change proposal must include: (1) the ARTlCLE/SECTlON/PARAGRAPH as it presently appears, (2) the ARTICLE/SECTION/PARAGRAPH as it would appear if the change is entered, (3) a list of ALL, ARTICLES/SECTIONS/PARAGRAPHS affected by the proposed change, (4) and a discussion of the reasons for the change. Administrative and typographic errors maybe corrected at any time. Routine business may be conducted and functional motions with seconds voted upon and carried by a simple majority, rather than the two-thirds majority of Art. 4. Sec. 4. 1.

When a vote is called for and it results in a tie, the Region Eight Director will vote and break the tie. The Director shall establish and enforce the rules of order.

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### ARTICLE #5 REVENUE & FUNDS

   **5.1 REGION FUNDS**

Region Eight funds will be handled as described herein.

#### 5.1-1 TREASURER RECEIVES ALL FUNDS.

All funds received by Region Eight and its agents in behalf of the Region shall be turned over to the Treasurer for deposit to the appropriate account

#### 5.2 REVENUE GENERATION

Tournaments, other participation events, sales of goods and services and other business activities not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws may be operated by the Region for the purpose of revenue generation in support of the Region and in advancement of its purposes and goals.

**ARTICLE #6 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

 **6.1 TOURNAMENT RULES**

 **6.1-1 PURPOSE**.

Tournament rules provide equal opportunity for all participants to successfully apply their fishing skills and abilities, improve the safety of both participant and user of the tournament waters, and provide for proper handling of the fish.

#### 6.1-2 INTERPRETATION.

The tournament rules are subject to interpretation only by the Tournament Committee (the Region 8 Board Members in attendance) under the coordination and supervision of the Region Eight Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final.

#### 6.1-3 TOURNAMENT DATES.

The required number of dates will be set aside annually in order to conduct the Region Eight Tournaments. Each tournament will be one day in duration. Tournament dates are considered final once approved by the voting body of Chapter Presidents. Dates will not be changed unless approved by the Region 8 Chapter Presidents, to prevent conflicts with individual Chapter Tournament Schedules and Constitutions after their schedules have been completed and finalized.

Tournament dates and sites will be chosen by the Region Eight Board of Directors in conjunction with the Tournament Director. Once thoroughly reviewed for availability, conflicts, tide cycles etc., the tournament sites chosen will be presented for a vote, for approval to the Region Eight Chapter Presidents. If a vote is called for and it results in a tie, the Region Eight Director will vote and break the tie.

The "Open" tournament(s) may be added to the schedule to serve as a Region Eight Fundraiser. The Board of Directors may declare an Open Tournament as a “Non-Scored Tournament”. In that, a non-scored open tournament weight may not be used towards the season standings and will not count as a regularly scheduled tournament. Region Eight members who participate in a scored “Open” tournament(s) may use their weight(s) to replace a missed tournament or low score from other scheduled tournaments in the following manner:

1.) A Region Eight member fishing with another Region Eight member will be credited with 100% of that team’s weight from the "Open" tournament.

2.) A Region Eight member fishing with a non-Region Eight member will be credited with 50% of that team’s weight from the "Open" tournament.

A Member Appreciation Tournament may be added to the schedule as the last event for the season. This tournament may be declared a “No-Entry-Fee” event where current Region 8 members can bring a non-member guest angler. The Member Appreciation Tournament results will not be used to determine the Region 8 end of season standings. Anglers may be asked to donate tackle items to the Region 8 tackle donation bin to participate in the event. Prize monies will be provided from the Region 8 General Fund in an amount not to exceed $1000 with the amount based upon available funds and approved by the Board of Directors each season. When possible the Region 8 End of Season Awards may be presented at this event.

#### 6.1-4 ENTRY FEES.

Entry fees of $50.00 per two person team, per tournament, are hereby established. The entry fee, once received by the Tournament Officials is non-refundable. Big Fish is $5.00 per participant. If two participants in a boat, they both have to pay big fish to win. Entry fee for one person in a boat would be $55.00 (includes Big Fish).

All boats used in Region 8 tournaments, by members of the Region, must maintain a reasonable amount of liability insurance on these boats. In order to participate and use a boat, proof must be providedto the Chapter President before the tournament.The Chapter President will determine if an insurance policy expires before the tournament trail is over for the year that a policy renewal copy has been presented to the Chapter President.

#### 6.1-5 ELIGIBILITY.

Members and Chapters in good standing whose application/registration forms are completed and received by the Tournament Officials prior to the time established by the Tournament Director for the closing of registration shall be eligible to compete.

#### 6.1-6 REGISTRATION.

Prior to each tournament, all chapters in good standing will be mailed or provide the appropriate registration forms. Chapter Presidents are to insure proper completion of the form prior to submission to the Tournament Officials on the date of the tournament.

 Each Chapter will pay with a single check totaling the sum of $60.00 per team or $55.00 for boater fishing alone as listed on the registration form when presenting the form to the Tournament Officials. Registration fee includes the Big Fish Competition (valued at $5.00 per angler fishing the event).

Under NO circumstances shall a registration form be accepted after the close of registration. Registration will close 30 minutes prior to the first flight of boats departing the tournament headquarters site to begin the competition day. All boats must be off trailer 15 minutes prior to blast off.

**6.1-7 SPORTSMANSHIP AND PERSONAL CONDUCT.**

Participants shall observe high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct. They shall obey the laws, and the authorities having jurisdiction in the tournament area. They shall keep themselves informed and aware of the rules, laws, and conditions applicable to the tournament. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or impairing/intoxicating substance during competition and scoring activities is prohibited during any Federation event. Competitors shall yield to inspection by Tournament Officials at any time during the tournament. During the tournament a competitor may not use CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communications device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or phone only in an emergency. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Sections 6.1-24 and 6.1‑25.

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#### 6.1-8 TOURNAMENT WATERS.

Tournament waters shall be defined as public waters, which are accessible by boat from the tournament headquarters. All fishing by participants shall be done from a boat on tournament waters. All participants and competition boats shall remain in tournament water throughout the competition hours. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1-24.

#### 6.1-9 COMPETITION HOURS.

Shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at registration. The hours may be changed prior to blast off with reasonable notice to competitors during the tournament. Late arrival at the check-in point at the end of competition hours shall not be excused. No make-up time shall be granted for any reason to any competitor who has been unable to compete during any part of the tournament. Violators are subject to the penalties provided in section 6.1-24.

#### 6.1-10 PRACTICE.

#### No restrictions.

#### 6.1-11 SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS.

Safety shall be the concern of and first priority to all participants. All competition equipment shall be presented for inspection before the beginning of competition and all participants shall yield to inspection upon the request of Tournament Officials during the entire tournament event including scoring, award ceremonies, the protest period and during the deliberation of any protest that may be registered by the participants. Competition equipment found to be unsafe or not seaworthy by the Tournament Officials shall not be used in the tournament Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1-24.

#### 6.1-12 SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Participants shall, whenever their primary propulsion engine is in gear, wear a personal floatation device (PFD) of TYP III or better, which is approved by the United States Coast Guard TYP III or better. The PFD must be completely zipped and/or clipped and attached/connected to the Kill Switch. See Sect. 6.1.13 .

#### 6.1-13 BOATER REQUIREMENTS.

Competition boats shall be 14 feet or more in length, powered by a primary propulsion engine of 9.9HP or more horsepower. Boats may be equipped with an electrical motor for low speed maneuvering. It shall be equipped with a functional device, known as a kill switch, which shall terminate the operation of the primary engine when the operator leaves the controls. Each boat shall be equipped with a functional power operated pumping device, which will remove water from the boat effectively and in a manner acceptable to the Tournament Officials. Each boat powered by an engine of 40 horsepower or less, may, as approved by the Tournament Officials, be equipped with stick type steering. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on the rating plate. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1972 must adhere to ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts or motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1‑24.

#### 6.1-14 FISHING TACKLE.

Shall be limited to casting, spinning and spin-casting rods and reels and artificial lures. Only one such rod and reel may be actually in use at one time. No live or dead bait is allowed. Animal skin (pork frogs, for example), fur and feathers may be used to dress artificial lures. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1-24.

#### 6.1-15 FISHING METHODS.

Trolling is prohibited. Participants shall, without assistance, hook, play and land any fish they catch in competition, except that partners may net fish in a landing net and bring them into the boat. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1-24.

**6.1-16 PARTNERS REQUIRED / ANGLER RESPOSIBILITIES.**

Participants are encouraged to fish with a partner. The Tournament Director may allow a participant to fish alone. However, when a non-paired co-angler (non-boater) requests to fish a Region Tournament, the Tournament Committee may select an Angler (boater) that registers to fish alone as the fishing partner for that tournament. Selection will be made: first by request to single boaters to accept a co-angler as a partner then, if unsuccessful, a random draw will be made from all single boater entrants. Pairings will be finalized during the pretournament registration and launch position drawings by the Region 8 Board of Directors/Tournament Committee.

The creel limit for a team/boat will be 5 fish. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1‑24.

All partners need to ensure that there is an understanding to the extent of shared financial responsibilities when fishing as a team. Generally, Co-Anglers are expected to equally share boat fuel and oil costs for the tournament and pre-fishing activities when both anglers are present.

#### 6.1-17 COURTESY TO PARTNERS AND OTHERS.

Competitors shall be in the boat and in a condition of readiness for fishing before the beginning of competition. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1‑24.

#### 6.1-18 CONTACT WITH OTHER BOAT PEOPLE.

Participants shall not approach closer than necessary or otherwise make contact with other boats or persons during competition hours for reasons other than emergencies or a disabled boat. Violators shall be subject to the penalty provided in Section 6.1-24.

Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within legally posted no fishing areas or within 50 yards of another anchored boat when the trolling motor is retracted from the water.

#### 6.1-19 EMERGENCY CONDITIONS DEFINED.

Emergency conditions are defined as conditions, which subject persons or property to imminent danger, or conditions, which are deemed by Tournament Committee to be of emergency in nature, to include leaving the boat for the purpose of using the restroom facilities.

Only under emergency conditions as defined above or in cases where boats are disabled, may participants leave their boats. In the event one contestant leaves the boat for the purpose of using the restroom the partner remaining behind shall cease fishing immediately and shall not resume fishing until such time as the first partner is physically back in the boat.

In cases of dire emergency or where safety is involved, both contestants may choose to leave their boat. Under such conditions (dire emergency or safety), they may ride in another contestant's boat and bring their fish to the weigh-in for scoring subject to all requirements.

Partners shall remain in sight of each other at all times until their fish are turned in. In such cases, both partners, or the non-boating partner alone, may take his fish to the weigh-in in another contestant's boat. If this case exists, only five (5) fish may brought to the weigh-in scales and both contestants will receive credit for the catch.

 **6.1-20 HANDLING OF FISH DURING COMPETITION.**

 Competition boats will be equipped with a functional, adequately aerated live well. No stringers, ropes, or other devices, which would injure fish or subject them to unnecessary stress, shall be used. Dead fish large enough for scoring shall be kept by participants and submitted for scoring.

Fish too small for scoring shall be returned to the water immediately. No more fish than may be scored may be held in captivity at any time during competition hours. Fish shall not be mutilated or otherwise intentionally injured or mistreated. Swallowed single hooks shall be cut free of other tackle and left in place whether the fish is to be kept or released. Lures must be extracted in the least injurious manner available. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1-24.

#### 6.1-21 HANDLING OF FISH DURING WEIGHING AND SCORING.

Participants shall present all bass in their possession when they pass the check in point for scoring by Tournament Officials. All fish, dead or alive, shall be placed in containers SUPPLIED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR with water for transport to the scoring area; water must be added to containers to reduce injury. Only fish received at this time by Tournament Officials shall be eligible for weighing and scoring**.** All fish that are alive after the competition or scoring procedure shall be returned to the water by Tournament Officials, except that the requests of governmental, educational, and research agencies may be honored, and trophy fish may be returned to the participant who caught them when they request them for mounting and display. Fish not judged by Tournament Officials to be alive shall be protected from spoilage and disposed as of food, or otherwise in a manner which complies with the law if they are unfit for use as food. TRAILERING OF BOATS WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. Violators shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 6.1‑24.

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#### 6.1-22 SCORING.

Competitor's scores shall be the weight of the bass they have caught and kept during the competition hours and presented to Tournament Officials, once presented no fish may be culled or added to the creel for scoring. Weight may be deducted from the competitor's score by the Tournament Officials as a penalty under the provisions of Art. #6, Section 6.1-25.

Competitors may present, for weighing and scoring, no more than the legal limit of bass as determined by the tournament site location may be presented for scoring. All fish shall be no less than the minimum length required by state law as governed by the tournament site location. In NO instance will a fish be scored that measure less than 12 inches in length.

Four ounces shall be deducted from the competitors' actual weight for each bass, which is judged by the Tournament Officials to be dead at the time of scoring. All final standings shall be based upon the weight score remaining after deductions have been made for any dead bass and for any other penalties assessed. If a tie exists, it will be resolved by the number of fish weighed. Payout for tied weights will be computed by adding payout values for tied positions then divided equally between tied anglers/teams. Penalty for a short fish will be that fish plus one pound.

#### 6.1-23 PROTESTS.

Participants who suspect that the tournament rules have been violated may protest to the Tournament Officials at any time during the tournament or within 15 minutes after arrival at the tournament headquarters site, followed by a written protest within 30 minutes after the scales have closed. Protest shall be decided upon by the Tournament officials under the direction of the Region Eight Tournament Director.

#### 6.1-24 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Participants shall honor the letter and intent of the Tournament Rules or they shall be judged to have violated them. All judgments are reserved to the Tournament Officials. All participants shall be presumed to be familiar with the tournament rules. Participants held by the Tournament Officials to have violated the principles of fairness, sportsmanship and ethical conduct explicitly or implicitly included in the tournament rules may be declared ineligible to compete in future tournaments and/or events. In such a case, the incident shall be reported to the Region Eight Board of Directors for determination and action. Participants held by the Tournament Officials to be in violation of the tournament rules shall be penalized as provided in applicable sections of the Article.

1. The participants shall be disqualified from further competition in the tournament in progress and receive no credit for that event.
2. The participants shall be penalized by deductions of one (l) pound (lb) of his actual weight for each minute he is late up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, no credit for actual weight shall be awarded. The penalty shall apply on the tournament currently in progress and will not be carried over to a subsequent tournament.

c.)   All fish to be found in violation of established length limits shall be removed from the creel before scoring and then the participants shall be penalized by the additional 1 lb. This penalty applies to each fish remaining in their possession for each such violation. Violation of creel limit will result in the disqualification from further competition in the tournament in progress and violators will receive no credit for that event

d.)    Any Chapter, which fails to attend 50% of the regularly scheduled President's Meetings, and fails to field a minimum of 1 boat at each Region Eight Tournament or to support 50% of all Region Functions, shall be ineligible to compete in the next scheduled State level tournament.

#### 6.1-25 POLYGRAPH TESTS.

Polygraph test may be given in conjunction with Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Region Eight tournaments. These tests will be given at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or the Region Director. Random Region Eight polygraph tests shall be given in the following format:

 a.) Selected participants of Region Eight Tournaments shall submit to Region Eight polygraph examination when directed by the Tournament Director and/or the Region Director. Failure to submit to Region Eight polygraph examination will result in disqualification or the denial of eligibility under Article 6.1‑5.

 b.) Polygraph examinations shall be given by a licensed Polygraph Examiner and shall be given under conditions specified by the Polygraph Examiner.

 c.) Selected tournament participants shall abide by the instructions given by the Polygraph Examiner and cooperate in his efforts to give a thorough and accurate exam.

 d.) All Region 8 polygraph examinations shall be within 10 days of the Tournament.

 e.) The results of the Region Eight polygraph examination shall be scrutinized by the examiner and given to the Region Eight Tournament Director and/or Region Director after completion of the polygraph.

 f.) Retesting of selected participants will be done only at the discretion of the examiner. The retesting will be done at the same site, and on the same day as the previous test, and will be done by the same Polygraph Examiner. Any additional fees for retesting will be the responsibility of the requesting participant.

 g.) Failure to submit to examination by Region Eight Polygraph Examiner or failure to attain a satisfactory result on a Region Eight polygraph examination shall be conclusive evidence of violation and subject to Articles 6.1‑5 and 6.1‑24.

#### 6.1-26 TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION.

Each club and president will be responsible for participation of at least one of the following functions per year (blastoff boat launch or check-in/weigh-in). Club assignments will be determined by draw at the first of the year.

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#### 6.2 AWARDS

#### 6.2-1 TOURNAMENT AWARDS.

At all officially sanctioned Region Eight tournaments the awards will be as follows:

a.)  Payout for Tournament places will be based on the total number of boats participating in each tournament.

b.)  ONE place will be paid for every six boats using the approved Payback Schedule when there are 24 or fewer boats participating in the tournament. When 25 or more boats are participating, the payout will be expanded to ONE place for every FIVE boats using the payout schedule maintained as Attachment #1 to these Bylaws.

c.)  Trophy Optional – As an option, a placing participant may elect to receive a trophy. Cost of the trophy will be deducted from any cash award for which the participant is eligible.

d.)  Lunker (Big Fish) Pot –the funds will be given to the participating members with the largest fish weighed that day of the tournament.

e.) Should a tie occur, the proceeds would be divided equally among the tied members/teams.

f.) The Region may establish a voluntary “Side Pot” that will be paid out to the top participating teams/boats per the Side Pot Payout Schedule maintained as Attachment #2 to these Bylaws. Side Pot entries will be collected during each tournament check in and will pay back 100% of monies collected at the conclusion of each tournament.

#### 6.2-1 END-0F-YEAR-STANDINGS/AWARDS.

#### End of year standings are computed using total of the final weights from each individuals’ best 75% (rounded up) of all scheduled Region 8 tournaments for the season. Examples:

#### If 5 tournaments are scheduled, then 75% of 5 = 3.75 rounded up to equal 4. The season standing is based on the best 4 out of 5 total tournaments.

#### If 6 tournaments are scheduled, then 75% of 6 = 4.50 rounded up to equal 5. The season standing is based on the best 5 out of 6 total tournaments.

Following the last regularly scheduled Region Eight Tournament the following awards will be presented:

a.)  Lunker of the year – Trophy or Plaque.

b.)  Region Eight Team or Angler of the year – $200 for each Angler ($400 per team) and Championship Trophy or Plaque.

c.) Second Place Team or Angler - $100 for each Angler ($200 per team)

Region 8 may pay the following expenses as determined by the Region 8 Board of Directors based upon available funds:

1. Tournament Registration Fees and/or Team apparel (shirts/hats/jackets/etc.)
2. Funds to assist with expenses for Region 8 Anglers advancing to Divisional and National Championship Tournaments.