

BASS Nation of WV Board of Directors Meeting

November 1, 2025

Luzaders 3 Girls Diner Conference Room, Flatwoods, WV

Board Members In Attendance: Lyle Atkins, Kevin Postalwait, Tony Keller, Tyler Webb, Matt Myers, Dana Brown, John Cooper, President Ken Hackworth

1. BOD Meeting Minutes, 9-11-2025---Tyler Webb made a motion to waiver the reading of the minutes. Tony Keller seconded. The motion passed and the reading of the minutes was waived.
2. Off-Limits Period. President Ken Hackworth proposed rescinding off limits period. The President believes the off-limits has been detrimental to the organization. Tournament Director Lyle Atkins agreed but brought up the previous member vote and that was discussed and President Hackworth presented that the members were previously informed it would be revisited but not that it would necessarily be placed back in the hands of the members for a vote. Organizationally it is agreed the decision was a bad decision for the business and sponsors. Sponsors want us to spend the night before a tournament as this helps have a positive economic impact on the communities where we hold tournaments. A discussion was held among the Board Members that Marion County tracks sales taxes received during the events they sponsor and have been able to historically show the

impact tournaments have on taxes during the time periods we hold events. Members did not stay at hotels the night before events in the same numbers as before the rule was in effect. In addition, the statistical fish catches were not affected as much as expected with the rule change in light of the negative impact it has on sponsorship and the organization depends on sponsorship to meet its yearly operating budget and still be able to pay for state team expenses. State Team expenses are expected to go up over the next two years as B.A.S.S. has changed the program in a positive way but will require an entry fee in the future which we cannot absorb as an organization without additional sponsorships. President Ken Hackworth made a motion to repeal and remove No. 12 of our tournament rules. Tournament Director Lyle Atkins seconded motion. All board members present voted in favor of the motion.

3. Meeting Dates & Benefit Tournaments

- a. January 10, 2026 Board Only Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- b. March 21, 2026 Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. and General Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- c. October 24, 2026 Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. and General Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

- i. Children's Home Society—Sunday May 3, 2026 on Summersville Lake
 - ii. Putnam County Deputy Sheriff's Association Tournament—July 25, 2026 on Kanawha River @ Winfield.
4. Net usage---President Ken Hackworth made a motion to allow nets at the qualifier and state championship and to rescind tournament rule no. 22(b). Conservation Director Matt Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Opens—Tournament Director Lyle Atkins discussed opens format. President Ken Hackworth made a motion that we no longer give a team trail series berth to winners of the opens. Tournament Director Lyle Atkins seconded the motion. Motion carried. Other opens options will be discussed in the January meeting. Everyone agrees we need to make money on our opens and not lose money.
6. Financial Year Update—Treasurer Kevin Postalwait updated the members on the current budget. Tournament Director Lyle Atkins made a motion to sell the current trailer for a minimum of \$6,000 and place proceeds in the general fund. President Ken Hackworth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. President Ken Hackworth announced the formation of a youth scholarship special committee to be comprised of Youth Director, Sec. Treasurer, and two non-Board of Director appointments. Disbursements from the fund shall be at the discretion of the committee and shall remain confidential to all non-committee members to preserve the confidentiality.
8. Budget 2026—Approve Treasurer to set budget for 2026
9. Team Championship Competitor Supplement—Motion by President Ken Hackworth to pay each team for the Bassmaster Team Championship at \$500 each. Western Delegate John Cooper seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
10. Sponsor Program and Fundraising: President Ken Hackworth announced the forming of a special sponsor committee consisting of President, Sec/Treasurer, and Youth Director for the purpose of increasing sponsorships and outlining a program to push out to potential sponsors. Same members will be on a committee for fundraising.
11. Tournament Rule Sec 15 & 15 possible violations. Potential violation of Angler Code of Conduct and Sportsmanship. Discussion was had and it was decided no action would be taken at this time but future misconduct will be

addressed immediately and may result in a ban from the organization or other appropriate penalty.

12. Pro/Co Format—Discussion from BASS Nation Championship Leadership Meetings. West Virginia is the only state that does boater on co-angler tournament. Everyone else does boaters vs. boaters and cos vs cos. Sec/Treasure Kevin Postalwait made a motion to go to boater/co-angler format that mirrors the BASS Nation Regional format where boaters fish against boaters and cos against cos with a 5 fish limit for boaters and 3 fish for co-anglers at SQTs and State Championship. Western Delegate John Cooper seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
13. Payouts at SQT and State Championship—Conservation Director Matt Myers discussed doing a \$100 entry fee. President Ken Hackworth and Tournament Director Lyle Atkins argued against the change because of already paying the winners to go to our National Championship and/or Regional. President Ken Hackworth mentioned cutting out boaters from getting money from co-anglers since we went to pro on pro and co on co.
14. BASS Nation New Programs—A report was given by Tournament Director Lyle Atkins, Sec/Treas. Kevin Postalwait, and Youth Director Dana Brown about the meetings at the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and the Board of

Directors was informed of new changes for the 2026 and 2027 B.A.S.S.

National Championship and Regional Qualifiers and the system to qualify a

State Team moving forward in 2027 and the 2026 gap year. More

information will be provided at the January and March meetings.

15. Boater Safety Certification Requirement—Sec/Treas. Kevin Postalwait made a motion that Boater Safety Certification be required for 2026 moving forward. President Ken Hackworth seconded the motion. Motion carried and is for all our events—including charity and opens events.
16. Kayak anglers---Tournament Director Lyle Atkins discussed the numbers needed to reach 425 as we now have 401 to qualify two teams in 2027 straight from the State Championship to the B.A.S.S. Nation National Championship. Kayak anglers count as adult members for the total count for membership. There will be a separation of members. The dues payment structure will be as presented by Lyle Atkins which include a fee structure. President Ken Hackworth agreed to include Kayak members as defined by Tournament Director Lyle Atkins. Tournament Director Lyle Atkins made a motion to approve the kayak member division with a dues structure to be presented at a future meeting. Youth Director Dana Brown seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor.

17. Sport Shows: The organization will be getting a booth at Charleston and Morgantown and Spring Valley. Discussed getting a raffle package from Minn Kota. The organization will take expenses from raffle and divide between the entities which include the general fund, youth division, and kayak division.

18. Table Computers and Software to January Meeting.

19. Items from Floor of the Board of Directors—Conservation Director Matt Myers thanked Dana for great fish care and that we only lost 22 fish in the adult tournaments. Conservation Director Matt Myers had record book finished for modern era.

20. Adjournment—Sec/Treas. Kevin Postalwait made a motion to adjourn. Youth Director Dana Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.