

The Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation Constitution & Bylaws (2023)

The Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation (DBN) composed of affiliated Delaware and Delmarva Peninsula Clubs, and Chartered by The B.A.S.S. Nation, do hereby adopt the following Constitution and Bylaws.

I. PURPOSE

The primary goal of the DBN shall be to preserve and further the sport of bass angling by: (a) Improving our skill as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass catching techniques and ideas; (b) supporting ecological and environmental improvements on regional, state and local levels; (c) promoting and encouraging youth fishing and a love of this great recreation; (d) supporting charities and needy organizations through community service programs; (e) functioning as a dynamic and effective link with all chapters of the DBN embracing the principles and purposes of B.A.S.S.

II. EXECUTIVE

- A. The DBN will be governed by an Executive Board consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The Board of Directors will be composed of one Director from each DBN Chapter on the Delmarva Peninsula. In the event a Director is elected as President his Chapter shall supply another Director.
- C. The Executive Board and Board of Directors shall be responsible for the implementation and execution of the combined interests of all Chapters.
- D. The Executive Board will convene at least twelve times yearly to conduct DBN business. Additional meetings will be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- E. The Board of Directors shall annually elect, by a majority vote, the Executive Board consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the DBN, whose term of office for the ensuing year will commence on January 1st.
 1. Nominations for the Executive Board shall be the first order of business under New Business at the October Board of Directors meeting.
 2. Election of the Executive Board shall be the first order of business under New Business at the November Board of Directors meeting.
 3. The President shall appoint or ask for volunteers from the DBN membership: Tournament Director, Conservation Director, Youth Director, Budget Chairperson, Bylaws Chairperson, and any Special Chairpersons. These persons must then be confirmed by the Board of Directors.
 4. The Executive Board will only have one person from a DBN Chapter when one of those positions is the President. DBN Chapters may have two members on the Executive Board for other positions.

III. OFFICERS

- A. Eligibility of Officers
 1. A member in good standing with B.A.S.S. and active affiliated Chapter of the DBN for one year.
- B. Voting:
 1. Board of Directors shall vote on all matters before the Executive Board; the President voting only in the case of a tie vote.
 2. Each active Chapter in the DBN, shall have only one vote at Board of Director meetings.
- C. Term of Office: Shall be from January 1 through December 31.

IV. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- A. **President-** the President shall preside over all meetings, direct all official business, and appoint and direct all standing and special committees. The President or his replacement as dictated by the elected order of the Executive Board shall attend the Regional, Nation Championship, and Bassmaster Classic if presence is required by B.A.S.S. for the purpose of furthering the goals of the various DBN Chapters. The DBN may cover/reimburse the President and/or designee for out-of-pocket expenses (not covered by B.A.S.S.) deemed necessary while attending these events on behalf of the DBN. These reimbursements must be approved by the Budget Committee.
- B. **Vice President-** the Vice President shall assist the President upon request, preside in the absence of the President. Assume the office of the President should the office be vacated. The DBN may cover/reimburse the Vice President, as a designee for the President, for out-of-pocket expenses (not covered by B.A.S.S.) deemed necessary while attending these events on behalf of the DBN. These reimbursements must be approved by the Budget Committee.
- C. **Secretary-** the Secretary shall record minutes in all regular meetings, call meetings, and maintain correspondence as needed to the Board of Directors and general membership. The DBN may cover/reimburse the Secretary, as a designee for the President, for out-of-pocket expenses (not covered by B.A.S.S.) deemed necessary while attending these events on behalf of the DBN. These reimbursements must be approved by the Budget Committee.
- D. **Treasurer-** the Treasurer shall receive and deposit in the DBN all funds, maintain accurate financial records, present a current balance at each regular Board of Directors meeting. The DBN may cover/reimburse the Treasurer, as a designee for the President, for out-of-pocket expenses (not covered by B.A.S.S.) deemed necessary while attending these events on behalf of the DBN. These reimbursements must be approved by the Budget Committee.
- E. Final approval for actions of all standing committees shall rest with the DBN Executive Board with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- F. Each Chapter's Director is required to attend at least 75% of all meetings in which he/she is a Director. Attendance at the DBN meetings is to act as an official representative of the Chapter, to put forth questions from the Chapter and to make sure the Chapter is in accordance with the guidelines and ideals of B.A.S.S./ DBN, and to act as a liaison between the Chapter and the Executive Board and Board of Directors.

V. AFFILIATION

- A. All DBN Chapters from the Delmarva Peninsula are members in an active status as defined.
 - 1. Active status- contributing DBN Chapters from the Delmarva Peninsula who meet the following requirements:
 - a) All chapters, whether they are new or a veteran to the DBN, must consist of and maintain no less than six primary members on their roster all times and at least six of those members must reside on the Delmarva Peninsula. One hundred percent of the chapter's individual membership shall be members in good standing of B.A.S.S.
 - b) Any club that does not have their roster turned in to the Secretary and their dues, National and State, paid in full to the Treasurer by the regularly scheduled **January meeting**, shall be ineligible to compete in DBN functions, including voting at regular monthly meetings, until the roster is submitted, and dues are paid in full. When roster and dues are turned in, at that time, the club will be reinstated in full. State dues are \$20 per member and can only be changed by a vote of the Board of Directors.
 - 2. A new Chapter will not be recognized as an Official Chapter of the DBN until their roster has been turned in to the Secretary and their dues paid to the Treasurer.
 - 3. Members of the DBN may join multiple clubs within the DBN, as long as their dues

are paid for each club.

4. To remain in active status the Chapter must have representation at 75% of the DBN regular business meetings. The 75% attendance requirement begins with the September meeting and is a requirement for the club to be eligible to fish the state team qualifying tournament (SQT). If a Chapter fails to have representation at 75% of the meetings, its members will be ineligible to fish in DBN sanctioned tournaments (i.e., SQT) and the Regional tournament.

B. In an active status, a chapter is granted the below rights and privileges:

1. All DBN meetings are open to the membership unless otherwise stated.
2. Representation and voice for their Chapter.
3. So that the meetings can be run as smooth as possible, chapter members will go through their Club Directors to discuss business during the business meetings.
4. Participation in DBN SQT, and B.A.S.S. sanctioned tournaments Regional Tournaments.
5. Access to information, newsletters, correspondence and other rights granted to clubs with an active status.
6. Any DBN member, on their 60th birthday, who has been a DBN member for at least five years will receive their DBN membership FREE.

C. **“At large” Membership Status-** this is for any angler not associated with an active DBN chapter (club).

1. Fee for “At-large” members will be \$50 annually.
2. These members must reside on the Delmarva Peninsula.
3. This membership allows these members to fish for the pre-registration codes for the Regional Qualifier.
4. These members will NOT be eligible for any of the National Championship qualifying spots.

VI. **DISAFFILIATION & REMOVAL FROM DBN (Board of Director or Individual Member)**

A. The following is the procedure for severance of Chapters, Director or Individual Member, from the DBN:

1. A formal complaint, stating all of the facts, must be sent to the President and Secretary of the DBN.
2. The President will then contact the club’s President of the accused member to evaluate the situation as accurately and thoroughly as possible.
3. The Executive Board will then vote whether or not to carry the complaint further.
4. If the vote is to further investigate the situation, an email will be sent to the club President and Secretary to notify them of a hearing.
 - a) Failure to answer this email within 30 days will be automatic severance from the DBN.
 - b) A petition for another hearing or reinstatement may be filed within one year from the date of the Executive Board email notification.
5. A closed Board hearing will then be held to give audience to the accused club, the person(s) and/or club(s) filing the complaint and any witnesses.
6. The Board of Directors and Executive Board will then vote on whether to sever the accused from the DBN. Disaffiliation from the DBN has to be approved by at least 75% of the representatives present at the meeting at which the accused chapter is voted upon.
7. Any abuse of official powers by officers of a club is subject to review by the Executive Board. Penalties for abuse of power include probation, suspension, or termination of membership in the DBN and its activities.
8. The results of this hearing and vote will be sent to B.A.S.S. for ratification of the hearing and vote. Once approved by B.A.S.S., all parties will be notified of the results

by the DBN by email.

9. If the DBN should ever dissolve, any balance remaining in the treasury after all debts have been resolved, will be donated to organizations to be determined at a final meeting of all interested DBN representatives.

VII. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

- A. Directors and members of the Executive Board of the DBN may be removed from office for failing to perform or maintain his/her duties by the following procedures listed.
 1. A formal complaint, stating all the facts, must be sent to each of the Executive Board Members. It will be the duty of the Executive Board to present the complaint at the next scheduled monthly meeting. The Board of Directors will then take the information back to their clubs.
 2. The Board of Directors will report its findings and recommendations by email to the Executive Board President and Secretary within 15 days of its findings.
 3. If the matter is to be pursued, a special hearing by the Board of Directors will be called with the Director/Executive Board member being charged. After this hearing, the results have to be approved by at least 75% of the Directors present at the meeting at which the accused Director/Executive Board member is voted upon. A decision will be made whether to replace, put on probation, or dismiss the charges on the Director/Executive Board member.
 4. If the Director/Executive Board member is to be replaced, the Chapter must replace the Director which he is from. If an Executive Board member is replaced, a special election must be held to fill the vacancy with the exception of the President. The office of President will be filled by the Vice President, with a special election held to fill the position of Vice President.
 5. All proceedings should be completed within 60 days of the start.

VIII. BYLAW SUBMISSIONS

A. November/December Meeting

1. Bylaw Committee Chairman appointed by new President and then approved by the Board of Directors.
2. Proposed bylaw changes presented to the Committee Chairman and recorded in the minutes.
3. Chairman of the Bylaw Committee schedules a meeting for review of the bylaws including proposed changes.
4. At the close of the December meeting, bylaw changes are no longer accepted until the November meeting the following year.

B. January Meeting

1. Updated Bylaws including changes submitted to the Directors to be taken back to their respective clubs for review.
2. Any changes will be discussed at the February Meeting.

C. February Meeting

1. Changes to the proposed bylaws are discussed.
2. Any changes that are approved will be recorded in the minutes.
3. The Board of Directors will then vote on the changed bylaws.

D. March Meeting

1. Bylaws are closed at the end of the March Meeting until the November Meeting.
2. The new bylaws will take effect at the end of the March Meeting.

E. Final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws shall rest with the DBN Executive Board.

F. Due to the new format of BASS not being 100% clear, the current bylaws may be reviewed and changed regarding the National Championship/Regional Qualifier when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. Must have 75% agreement from the DBN Chapters to move forward

with a motion.

IX. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. The President of the Executive Board shall appoint Directors of the Standing Committees (listed below) when economically feasible and such other special committees as may become necessary. Term of appointment will stand for one year, beginning on January 1 and expiring on December 31. A Director can be reappointed when appointments are made for the following year. To be eligible for appointment a director candidate must be a member in an affiliated DBN Chapter in active status.

B. Tournament Director

1. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Tournament Director. The members can be volunteers or appointed by the Tournament Director. The members must then be approved by the Board of Directors. It is recommended that the members of this committee be from different clubs.
2. The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all DBN tournaments. The tournament committee will draft tournament rules and a tournament schedule including DBN Team Opens, SQTs, and other tournaments organized by the DBN. The schedule will then be reviewed by the Executive Board and will only be brought to a Board of Directors vote when 50% or less of the BDN Chapters are represented in the Tournament Committee. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules, investigate all protests concerning tournaments, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
3. It will be the primary duty of the DBN Tournament Committee to so conduct its affairs that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship, and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it and thus to each and every member of the DBN.
4. Any changes to the Tournament Rules and Schedules shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

C. Kayak Tournament Director

1. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Kayak Tournament Director. The members can be volunteers or appointed by the Kayak Tournament Director. The members must then be approved by the Board of Directors. It is recommended that the members of this committee be from different clubs.
2. The purpose of the tournament committee shall be to plan, organize and operate all DBN kayak tournaments. The kayak tournament committee will draft tournament rules and a tournament schedule including DBN kayak Opens, SQTs, and etc., which then have to be approved by the Board of Directors. The committee will keep tournament records, enforce all tournament rules, investigate all protests concerning tournaments, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
3. It will be the primary duty of the DBN Kayak Tournament Committee to so conduct its affairs that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship, and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it and thus to each and every member of the DBN Kayak Division.
4. Any changes to the Kayak Tournament Rules and Schedules shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

D. Conservation Director

1. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Conservation Director.
2. The members can be volunteers or appointed by the Conservation Director. The members must then be approved by the Board of Directors.
3. The purpose of this committee shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful changes; to document and report to the proper authorities violations of Local, State, and Federal environmental laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances, and other

regulatory devices; to take political action to improve our environment; undertake information and educational programs to bring to the public a great awareness of threats to our environment; and above all, to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.

E. Youth Director

1. The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by Youth Director.
2. The members can be volunteers or appointed by the Youth Director and approved by the Board of Directors.
3. The purpose of this committee shall be to introduce young fishermen to the goals of the DBN and B.A.S.S. and to give them a basis for respect of our natural heritage.
4. The Youth Director or his replacement as dictated by the elected order of the Executive Board shall attend the Regional, Nation Championship, and Bassmaster Classic if presence is required by B.A.S.S. for the purpose of furthering the goals of the various DBN Chapters. The DBN may cover/reimburse the Youth Director and/or designee for out-of-pocket expenses (not covered by B.A.S.S.) deemed necessary while attending these events on behalf of the DBN. These reimbursements must be approved by the Budget Committee.

F. Media/ Public Relations Director

1. Coordinate media coverage, social media, and local media and DBN website. This Director can be volunteer or appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

G. Budget Chairperson

1. The Budget Chairperson shall be the Treasurer to make recommendations on the financial management aspect of the DBN.
2. The members of this committee shall be the President, Tournament Director, Youth Director, Conservation Director, Media/Public Relations Director approved by the Board of Directors.

H. Bylaws Chairperson

1. The Bylaws Chairperson shall be appointed by the President to select a committee to help the DBN facilitate any and all proper bylaw changes. This committee shall help police existing bylaws so the DBN business can be kept in an orderly state.
2. Members of this committee shall be volunteers or appointed by the Bylaws Chairperson and then must be approved by the Board of Directors.

I. Special Committees

1. The President shall appoint any Chairpersons of any Special Committees as deemed necessary. Any members of any Special Committees are appointed by the Committee Chairperson and then approved by the Board of Directors.

X. RULES

A. Membership Conduct – a member is required at all times to uphold the integrity and respect of the DBN’s reputation. Any variance from this rule that results in a negative opinion, or action based on an individual’s sole actions, may be reason for initial membership warning, probation or termination. All conduct decisions are determined at the discretion of the DBN, by the Board of Directors.

B. Angling Etiquette – a member of DBN is expected to uphold responsible and courteous ideals and values on the waters and generally in public when representing the DBN. DBN anglers are expected to act in a manner that is respectful to other anglers as well as the waters and natural resource areas for which they vow to conserve and protect. All DBN Chapters shall adhere to all DBN tournament safety rules during all club events.

C. State Registrations, Licenses, and Regulations – members of DBN are expected to maintain current angling licenses and boat registrations as necessary for fishing the state waters to which

a license is required. Members of DBN shall also understand and comply with the state natural resource department's rules and regulations regarding sport fishing and boating related to the state in which the sport is conducted.

- D. DBN Sponsored Events** – DBN Chapters are expected to participate in organized functions and events that benefit the DBN as a whole. Events may include fundraisers, conservation projects, youth competitions, and general part-time work to help offset the cost of operating expenses.
- E. DBN SQT** – The SQT is open to all members in good standing with the DBN. To be eligible to fish the SQT, participants must adhere to the following:
1. Registration on club roster in good standing and State dues paid with the DBN by the last day of the month prior to the scheduled SQT. The club is responsible for providing updated rosters when a new member has joined.
 2. Registration on a club roster with B.A.S.S. by the last day of the month prior to the scheduled SQT and the club is in good standing with the DBN.
 3. Present their registration and entry, paid in full, prior to the tournament draw meeting.
 4. Participants that have paid their entry fee and do not show on either day of the tournament will be disqualified for that day, as will a respective boater/non-boater member from their club. Entry fees are not refundable due to disqualification.
 5. Provided that a participant makes contact with a Tournament Committee member after the draw meeting and prior to the 1st day of the tournament, and that the participant is able to make a suitable arrangement for a replacement, (angler or observer from the DBN), at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the participant's entry fee may be refunded. The Board of Directors will determine the basis for refunding a participant's entry fee.
 6. The SQT will qualify individuals for the National Championship spots and the 10 angler and 10 co-angler pre-registration codes for the National Qualifier. The National Championship spots are predetermined by B.A.S.S. Delaware has 1 angler and 1 co-angler reserved.
 7. "At-large" members will be available for one pre-registration code per 10-anglers participating in the SQT; this will be limited to 5 codes. It is the responsibility of the "At-large" anglers to come to the draw meeting with an even number of entrees, meaning each angler must have a co-angler registering for the SQT.
 8. The angler / co-angler National Championship spots will be awarded to the highest finishing DBN Chapter members. Members who receive these spots will not be available for pre-registration codes to the National Qualifier. **These spots are not available to "At-large" members.**
 9. The pre-registration spots will go to the top ten anglers and to ten co-anglers not earning the National Championship spots AND who have the intent on participating in the National Qualifier. Any member who receives a code and does not participate in the National Qualifier will be charge \$100 for the loss of that code (unless extenuating circumstances arise in which time the Board of Directors will then decide if a penalty is assessed.
- F. DBN National Championship / Qualifier** – National Championship / Qualifier members should not expect to be funded 100% by the DBN. Members should understand that there are expenses, such as food, gas, oil, licenses, and tolls which may not be covered by the **National Championship / Qualifier** fund. This means anglers may be required to use personal funding in addition to the tournament entry fee. It is suggested that anglers and co-anglers try to pair up for travel purposes. Expense sharing will be discussed and agreed upon between the anglers before departure.
1. The General Fund should have no less than \$6,000. Any earnings from the Alliance package will bring the General Fund back up to the minimum of \$6,000. The rest of

the earnings from the Alliance package will be deposited in the **National Championship / Qualifier** account.

2. Earnings from the DBN Open tournaments will go towards the following year's **National Championship / Qualifier**. If any tournaments are scheduled by the **National Championship / Qualifier** for fund raising, 100% of the proceeds raised will be deposited into the **National Championship / Qualifier** account. The following year's **National Championship / Qualifiers** will benefit from the fall/winter tournaments held during the current year.
3. All **National Championship / Qualifier** members must sign and adhere to the **National Championship / Qualifier** contract. The **National Championship / Qualifiers** are responsible for their own **National Qualifier** entry fee. They must have their entry and contracts to the DBN by the January DBN meeting prior to the Regional or the next qualified angler will be invited, and they will forfeit their position. The removed State Team member will be responsible for any expenses to the DBN caused by their withdrawal, such as plaques, jerseys, etc. The removed State Team member also forfeits any State Team discounts and benefits. These discounts and benefits will transfer to the replacement member. The Regional entry fee will be refundable only for extenuating circumstances and has to be voted on by the Board of Directors at the ensuing monthly DBN meeting.
4. To remain an active member of the DBN **National Championship / Qualifier** all members must "participate" in at least three Open Team Tournaments, hosted by DBN. The term "participate" is defined as either fish the DBN Open Team Tournament from start to finish OR provide the DBN a monetary payment of \$60.00 per tournament for each event not fished of the 3 required. In the event a **National Championship / Qualifier** member fails to comply with the participation ruling, they will be dropped from the DBN State Team. The next eligible qualifier will move into that boater/non-boater's position.
5. The **National Championship / Qualifier** declared club must also attend 75% of the Board of Directors meetings in the 12 months preceding the **National Championship / Qualifier** date. In the event a State Team member's declared club fails to comply with the 75% meeting rule, they will be dropped from the DBN State Team. The next eligible qualifier(s) will move into those boater/non-boater's position(s).
6. Any individual prizes won by **National Championship / Qualifier** members will be retained by the individual.
7. **National Championship Qualifier** – Qualifiers are not guaranteed funding, but the DBN focus will be to provide funding to cover registration, fuel, tolls, and lodging for all designated tournament practice and tournament days. (Estimation \$3,000 for angler and \$1,000 for co-angler). For tax purposes money will be distributed based on receipts turned into the DBN.
8. **National Qualifiers Pre-registration** – The individuals that finish 2-11 will receive early registration codes for their respective national qualifying tournament. These individuals should not expect to be funded 100% by the DBN. The DBN will distribute the remaining money in the SQT account at a rate of 75% for the angler and 25% for the co-angler. For example, if there was \$10,000 left in the account the anglers would receive \$750 each and the co-angler would receive \$250 each.
9. **National Championship / Qualifier SQT account** – this account will be zeroed out at the distribution of funds to the individuals participating in the **National Championship / Qualifier** tournaments. If all **National Qualifier** spots are not filled by the DBN anglers participating in the SQT then any remaining monies will be distributed to the remaining DBN members participating in the National Qualifier. No funding will be provided to the "At-large" anglers that are registering for the National

Qualifier.

G. National Champion / Qualifiers Account – The National Champion / Qualifiers account consists of funds used to send anglers to the B.A.S.S. National Champion / Qualifiers Tournament. The account is split in 2 sections: Main Account and Fundraiser Funds.

1. **Main Account**- monies in this account come from the SQT, BDN Team Opens, Trailer sponsors (unless sold by State Team members), and Alliance package sales (unless sold by National Champion / Qualifiers members).
 - a) These monies will be used for National Champion / Qualifiers expenses.
2. **Fundraising Funds** – Include any fundraising activities by the National Champion / Qualifier.
 - a) The funds in this account will be depleted every year and divided based upon the decision of the National Champion / Qualifiers.

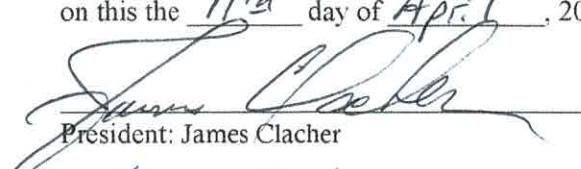
H. High School State Championship – The DBN will oversee the DBN High School State Championship tournament for all High School Bassmaster clubs throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. The tournament is a qualifying event, by invitation only, to all DBN affiliated High School Bassmaster club members.

1. It is the responsibility of the DBN Tournament and Youth Director to establish a tournament date for the High School State Championship. The DBN shall schedule the High School State Championship no less than two (2) months prior to the B.A.S.S. High School National Championship.
2. The High School State Championship will provide all High School competing teams fair opportunities during the event. High School competing teams will compete for the 1st place finish (Champion) and 2nd place finish (Runner-Up) to qualify for the current year's B.A.S.S. High School National Championship. To be eligible to fish the High School State Championship, participants cannot have graduated prior to the previous year's B.A.S.S. High School National Championship and must have completed 8th grade prior to the previous year's B.A.S.S. High School National Championship as of the date of the High School Championship, for which they intend to compete, be a member of an affiliated/chartered High School Club, and have been invited and/or qualified through their respective High School club's qualification process.


XI. Disclosure

When necessary, the executive board may meet and direct the board of directors of meeting postponements or cancelations when mitigating circumstances arise such as COVID-19. When such measures are taken the Executive Board will grant meeting attendance credit to all DBN clubs that are in good standing with the DBN and B.A.S.S.


We the undersigned members do hereby agree to the above by-laws and continuation of the state chapter on this the 11th day of April, 2023.



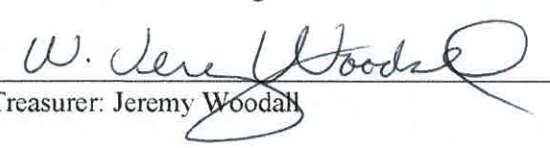
President: James Clacher



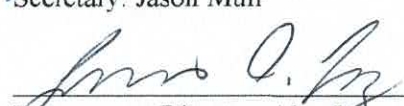
Vice President: JT Fitzgerald



Secretary: Jason Muir



Treasurer: Jeremy Woodall



Tournament Director: Alex Legg

Tournament Director: William Benini

~~Paul Foster~~

Shmily

Jim Fields

Sara Dixon