

Editorial Note

I have done my best to interpret your questions and concerns about the recent move to The Bass Federation, Inc. (TBF). Some questions were edited for brevity and clarity. Many were originally formed as comments then morphed into questions. Since many of us have the same general questions I moved them into logical areas, such as

General, Insurance, Tournaments, Youth, Conservation. Multi-part run-on questions are expanded to capture as much detail as possible. The questions herein were gleaned from various sources which include national Internet web message forums, unsolicited emails and informal conversations with bass clubs. Questions were answered by Gary Bradford, President CA Bass Federation and Tony Stoltz, CA Bass Federation State Tournament Director.

General

Q: How much will it cost?

A: Member of FLW = \$25, Member of CA Bass Federation \$20 (CA State Dues \$5 + \$15 to TBF)

Q: Since I am no longer fishing for the Bassmaster Classic, what am I fishing for now?

A: 2 spots in the FLW Forest L. Wood Cup (FLW Championship)
12 spots in the BFL All American Championships
12 spots in the BassFan Weekend Warrior Championship
1 "Living the Dream" spot on the FLW Tour (provided with wrapped Ranger Z boat, wrapped Chevy Truck)
New State Champions Tournament

Q: Who is our new board of directors?

A: same state board as before

Q: What is the pecking order for TBF? How does it all map out with regards to the organization structure?

A: see www.bassfederation.com

Q: What about the bylaws?

A: Our bylaws have been changed to reflect the move to the TBF.

Q: What is the CA BASS Chapter Federation called now?

A: California Bass Federation

Q: If our club is with TBF, do we have to change our clubs name from Diamond Region *Bassmaster's* name to Diamond Region ____?

A: Unknown if ESPN/BASS will contest the names of individual clubs. There have been many club known as Bassmaster in the past with no affiliation to BASS.

Q: Can our club still be part of BASS and TBF?

A: An individual club can belong to both organizations but you will be paying double for liability insurance.

Q: Our club has a web site with BASS logos, can we replace them with the TBF logo?

A: Yes

Q: What do we gain from joining THE Bass FEDERATION?

A: More major tournament spots for state team members
Priority entry into FLW and BFL events
Better benefits for the state federation
Accurate accounting for federation dues.

Q: Will there still be outstanding achievement awards for clubs and chapters?

A: Not planned at this time. But could be instituted later.

Q: I joined the Federation this year. Am I in the BASS or FLW?

A: You are a member of the California Bass Federation and the TBF, Inc. and you also must be a member of the FLW which is our sponsor.

Q: My business is interested in supporting the new CA Bass Federation: How much does it cost to be a sponsor? Who do I contact to submit my business logo?

A: All interest sponsors should contact the President, Gary Bradford, at 951-244-6320 or by email at fsh4bss@comcast.net for information on sponsorship.

Q: What are Ghost Clubs?

A: Ghost Clubs are clubs that do not have monthly meetings and are established primarily for those members who do not have a regular club near them or that do not have the personal time available to contribute in a reasonable manner to a regular club. We would rather not have any Ghost Clubs but we want to make some kind of membership available to all interested parties.

Q: With everything that is going on is it possible to get bi-monthly reports from the senior officers of TBF and FLW?

A: We publish an internet newsletter twice a year and it has a report from all of our officers and board members. You can get on the mailing list for this on our website or you can read it or download it from there.

Q: What is the most accurate source to get information about the TBF/FLW and CA Bass Federation?

A: Our website at www.californiabass.org.

Q: What are the discounts offered on sponsor product by purchasing through the TBF web site?

A: Federation members can get discounts on Lowrance, All Pro Rods, AFT products (Cul-M-Rite, ProPak, etc.), C.A.S.T. Wireless Lanyards, Fish Hedz, and Pro Tournament Scales. Some of these are available through the TBF website at www.bassfederation.com.

Q: I understand that there is sizable discount by ordering Lowrance product through the CA Bass Federation, how do I order?

A: By contacting the State Federation President

Q: Our club paid its dues to BASS back in late November 2005. Is it too late to join TBF or the CA Bass Federation?

A: No, you can receive a refund from BASS by contacting Patti Morsch and telling her that since they changed their program you would like a refund and then send in your dues (\$15 per member for TBF and \$5 per member for the California Bass Federation) to our Treasurer, Kelly Willis. Each of your members must also join the FLW with a \$25 membership. (available at a \$6.25 discount at this time by entering ***federation*** in the promo code)

Q: Will I receive a membership card when I join the TBF and CA Federation?

A: Yes

Q: Will the TBF have a magazine like BASS Times?

A: That is in the works but there is nothing at this time. We will be getting a minimum of 4 pages for the Federation in the FLW magazine.

Q: What exactly did California Federation get by going with the FLW deal?

A: See the FLW proposal on our website at www.californiabass.org

Q: My club just re-joined BASS Federation, do we have to join TBF?

A: If you want to be a member of the California Bass Federation you must join the TBF.

Insurance

Q: What is the insurance policy coverage?

A: 1M liability, \$9500 AD&D

Q: How much does it cost?

A: It is paid for though your \$15 dues. \$6 goes for insurance and the rest goes to Division and National Championship payouts.

Q: Where can I see or get a copy of the terms and conditions?

A: It will be available on both the TBF and California Bass Federation websites.

Q: Our club hosts a fun tournament with other clubs. We want to make sure that our club members can not get sued. What is covered?

A: You are insured, but I would make sure that any other clubs that are involved have insurance as well.

Q: Do we have to submit a roster?

A: Yes

Tournaments

Q: Is this years 2006 state team trying to qualify for a chance to fish the 2006 FLW Championship and 2006 All American or the 2007 FLW Championship and All American?

A: 2007

Q: Since the FLW Championship is held in mid-summer and the All American is held in late spring are there going to be any changes when our State classic, Western regional, and State Classic are held?

A: No

Q: How will the money offered to each state from FLW be distributed? Would some of this money go towards paying the way for our state team?

A: The monies will be distributed to each state by the TBF on a contract performance basis and with set amounts for Youth and Conservation. None of these monies will be used for the State Teams.

Q: Since the Bassfan weekend warrior tournament is held in the summer are the dates of the (Western divisional and the Fed. Finals) tournaments going to be changed?

A: No

Q: Now that the CA Bass Federation is no longer affiliated with BASS will the tournaments be run differently?

A: No. All federation tournaments will continue to be run as we have been running them.

Q: Do we still have to get people to sign up with?

A: It is best to have a sign up partner. For boaters having a signup partner guarantees the use of your boat in the tournament. For non-boaters, sign up partners guaranteed your participation in a tournament. We do try to match up folks when they can't get a sign up partner but there is not guarantee that we'd be able to do that for everyone in every tournament.

Q: Would you consider a new draw team format?

A: Since some of the tournaments that we are feeding into have an Angler and Co Angler format we may consider that in the future but probably not a draw team format.

Q: Will there be a better payback for Federation tournaments now that money does not have to be sent to National BASS?

A: Same payouts. No tournament monies were ever sent to BASS in the past.

Q: In the past money was not accepted past the Monday before the event. Will the tournament director be able to accept signups on morning of the event?

A: For the time being all tournaments are being run and managed as they have been for the last several years. All tournament entry fees should be sent in by the Monday prior to the event.

Q: Will we still have the man-on-man format?

A: Yes, at this time we are still holding "Draw" tournaments.

Q: I have already signed up to fish Federation tournaments in my region, do I need to join TBF and FLW to fish the rest of the year?

A: All California Bass Federation members will have to join the TBF and FLW. Members will also have to be part of an affiliated club as well.

Conservation

Q: What is the process to start a conservation project?

A: Contact the California Bass Federation Conservation Director, Bob Monsen.

Q: Are there moneys available for our club to use to help plant structure in our lake?

A: Do not know at this time but we expect this in the near future.

Youth

Q: How does this affect our current efforts with Casting Kids?

A: TBF will have Youth Programs. We will have a program similar to BASS's CastingKids and we will have a Youth Angling Program which will culminate at the Junior World Championships to be held at the FLW Forrest L. Wood Cup. We have also been told by Irwin Jacobs that he will do his best to get Kellogg to put the Junior Angler Champions on a Cereal Box! Dues will remain at \$5 per member and that should be sent to our Treasurer, Kelly Willis.

Q: I recently read that Ruth Bozeman has been hired by the TBF. Will she run similar programs like she did at BASS?

A: Yes, along with handling the membership base.