

IGBO ANNUAL TOURNAMENT RULES

Sanctioning

1. The International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) Annual **[tournament year]** Tournament, henceforth referred to as “Tournament”, is a mixed handicap competition open to all by invitation only. The Tournament Directors have the authority to extend or revoke the invitation.
2. The Tournament is a United States Bowling Congress (USBC) sanctioned tournament and maintains a Moral Support Certification for non-members of USBC. In part, the Moral Support Certification permits the use of International Bowling Federation (IBF) recognized league averages and tournament scores to determine a bower's entering average for the tournament.
3. IGBO requires all participants to be a member of IGBO. If a participant is not a member, in any of its classes, they must become an IGBO Associate Member and pay the appropriate membership fee. The participant shall have the opportunity to apply for Associate Membership at the time of registration. Associate Membership applications are approved upon clearance of fees.
4. USBC, Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF), or international equivalent members in good standing may participate in a moral support tournament with award recognition automatically extended to their national organizations; however, you must be a member of USBC to be eligible to receive USBC honor score awards. Eligible nonmembers may qualify for USBC award recognition by paying USBC associate membership dues before participation. You can join USBC as an associate member at tournament registration by filling out the appropriate form and paying the membership fee. All participants are subject to USBC rules and jurisdiction for the event.

Event Participation

5. The Tournament events shall be handicap events as follows: Singles, Doubles and Team. Optional Scratch and/or Scratch Masters will be offered, using scores without handicap from Singles, Doubles, and Team.
6. Each participant shall bowl three (3) games per event and must enter and bowl all three events. No substitutes permitted for a specific event other than that covered below (see Rule 25). Teams will consist of four (4) members. All bowlers will compete on an equal basis. Doubles partners must come from the same team.
7. Each participant may only bowl once in each event.
8. A professional bowler that is not a current IGBO league member or current organizational member, with a minimum of 21 games, may not bowl in the Tournament. Only one (1) professional bowler per team will be allowed. A professional bowler is defined as any person who has been a "card-carrying" member of a professional bowling organization within the past twelve months preceding the Tournament.

9. All bowlers must sign their registration sheet verifying their information at the **[Host Hotel or Host Alley]** prior to bowling their first event.
10. Employees of bowling centers being used by the Host City who are not IGBO league members shall not be permitted to participate in the Tournament.

Entering Averages

11. Any bowler entering the Tournament must establish a (10) ten-pin average acceptable to USBC (per USBC Rule 319):

The following rules shall be used to determine the entering average:

- a. The league average as of December 31, **[year prior to Tournament]** with a minimum of 21 games. If competing in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE AVERAGE of all leagues bowled, even if a league has less than 21 games bowled.
 - COMPOSITE average is total pins across all leagues, divided by the total number of games bowled in those leagues.
 - Example – Bowler bowled in 2 leagues, and subbed in 1. League 1 pinfall is 10250 across 60 games. League 2 pinfall is 12581 across 75 games. League 3 pinfall is 750 across 6 games. Composite average is $(10250+12581+750) \text{ divided by } (60+75+6) \text{ for a } 167\text{-composite average.}$
 $(10250+12581+750)/(60+75+6) = 167.$
- b. If “a” is not available, use **[previous season’s years]** book average (minimum 21 games). If competed in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE AVERAGE of all leagues bowled, even if a league has less than 21 games bowled.
- c. If neither “a” or “b” is available, use the **[year prior to Tournament]** final summer league average (minimum 21 games). If competed in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE AVERAGE of all leagues bowled, even if a league has less than 21 games bowled.
- d. If neither “a”, “b” or “c” is available, a current season average (minimum 21 games) as of April 1, **[Tournament year]** will be accepted. If competing in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE AVERAGE of all leagues bowled, even if a league has less than 21 games bowled.
- e. If neither “a”, “b”, “c” or “d” is available an IGBO member with a tournament average (minimum of 21 games) 30 days prior to the start of the event. This will be used as the bowlers entering average.
- f. Non-certified bowlers shall use a minimum average of 130 and must submit all league averages and tournament scores (12-months immediately preceding the entry cut-off date) for possible average adjustment.
- g. If none of the scenarios above are applicable, then the entering average shall be equal to the Tournament Scratch Score (see Rule 12).
- h. The above averages MUST be verified by the use of:
 - TAD at tad.igbo.org or
 - Leaguesecretary.com or

- Bowl.com or
- LeaguePals.com
- Photocopy of book average (with year noted), signed and dated by League Officer.

Reference Section 6.5 (D), IGBO P&P

- i. Averages from “Sports Condition” leagues or “Challenge Leagues” are not acceptable.
 - j. USBC Rule 319d does NOT apply. This is prize fund reporting rule.
12. The Tournament Scratch Score will be set equal to the highest entering average as of the entry cut-off date for the Tournament. Should a substitution and/or bowler replacement be necessary after the entry cut-off date, the Tournament Scratch Score will NOT be affected.
13. The per-game handicap for the Tournament shall be based at 90% of the difference between the bowler’s entering average (see Rule 11) and the Tournament Scratch Score.
14. USBC rules regarding the BOWLER's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their entering average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain, or any other individual, applies to all bowlers. Failure to use proper average shall disqualify scores if the submitted average is lower than the actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification for more handicap. Event placement and/or prize winnings shall be based on the higher average should the submitted average prove to be higher than the bowler's actual average. (USBC Rule 319)

Average Adjustment

15. The Tournament Directors have the authority to adjust the entering average of any bowler. Average adjustments will be applied as set forth under IGBO and USBC rules. All average adjustments will be completed prior to the start of each event or the Tournament. A bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to a refund for that event and all subsequent scheduled events, or entire Tournament entry if adjusted prior to any bowling is done.
16. If a bowler has a current tournament average (comprised of a minimum of 21 games bowled during the 12-months less the 30 days immediately preceding the official start date of this tournament), that is one or more pins higher than their Entering Average (as outlined in Rule 11), then the tournament average will be used.
- a. i.e. Tournaments bowled between *[date of month prior to Tournament start date]*, and *[date of day Tournament starts]* will NOT count.
 - b. Per Rule 14, it is the bowler's responsibility to report ALL tournament scores including:
 - Any tournaments following USBC rules or another affiliated country’s 10-pin rules.

- IGBO tournaments
- No-Tap, Mail-in, or other “fun” style tournaments need not be reported.

Failure to report this information may result in AUTOMATIC disqualification and loss of all prize winnings; subject to Tournament Director discretion.

Optional Scratch Event(s) *(At least one optional scratch event will be offered to all participants using a minimum of five divisions as determined by entering average (see Rule 11). The Host City shall offer an Optional Scratch Event and/or Scratch Masters Event. Remove as necessary if both are not offered)*

17. The Tournament will offer *[insert Optional Scratch and/or Scratch Masters Events]* to all participants using *[number of divisions word form] (number form)* divisions as determined by entering average (see Rule 11).

18. Entry into the Optional Scratch Event(s) must be submitted before the bowler's first ball in the handicap division of the Tournament is thrown, including practice.

The Average Divisions and Entry Fees for Optional Scratch and Scratch Masters will be as follows:

Division	Average Range	Optional Scratch	Scratch Masters
Division A	0 to ###	###	###
Division B	### to ###	###	###
Division C	### to ###	###	###
Division D	### to ###	###	###
Division E	### to ###	###	###
Division F	### and above	###	###

- The Optional Scratch shall use the scratch scores (without handicap) from the Regular Events (Singles, Doubles, and Team) to determine winners in each Division. Prizes will be awarded in:
 - Best Single Game (any event)
 - Best Series (any event)
 - Best All Events (9 game total)
 - The Scratch Masters event shall use the total scratch scores from the Regular Events (the 9-game total from singles, doubles, and team without handicap) to qualify for Scratch Masters. Those scores will NOT carry over into Scratch Masters. Detailed Scratch Masters event rules are provided in the Scratch Masters section of these rules.
19. The award ratio for the Optional Scratch Divisions shall be at a minimum of at least 1:20 per division.

20. 100% the entry fee from each division in the Optional Scratch event shall be returned to that division and 100% of the entry fee less any lineage and trophy expenses shall be returned for Scratch Masters.

Awards and Prizes

21. All cash awards shall be based on the Total Pins PLUS assigned handicap for each event (with the exception of the Optional Scratch and Scratch Masters events).
22. Awards will be given in the Handicap Division for the best Singles, Doubles, Team, Individual All Events, and Team All Events.
 - a. Individual All Events is defined as the nine (9) game total including handicap of an individual bowler.
 - b. Team All Events is defined as the nine game total plus handicap for the four (4) members of the same team who actually bowled the team event. In the event that any member of the team does not bowl the nine games, that team will be ineligible for the Team All Events recognition.
23. The award ratio for the Handicap Division shall be at a minimum of at least 1:10. Individual All Events and Team All Events shall be a minimum of at least 1:20.
24. Prizes will be distributed in U.S. currency within thirty (30) days of the completion of the Tournament, barring any protests. A tie in any position will result in the sum of the prizes being aggregated for the tied positions and divided equally by the number of ties for that placing. Prize funds will be based on 100% participation.

Attendance and Substitutes

25. It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present at the assigned lanes at the start of bowling. Each bowler shall have the total responsibility to arrive in time to bowl. Mechanical failures, transportation irregularities, improper directions and related reasons DO NOT alter the application of Rules 26 and 27 below (USBC rules will apply).

Incidents involving Tournament offered transportation and catastrophic events will be subject to Tournament Directors' discretion.
26. Complete Doubles and Team entrants must be present for bowling each event. If a team member is not present, the team may use an authorized substitute (Rule 28). If no substitute is available, a zero score will be used for the missing bowler or bowlers.
27. Late bowlers will begin bowling in the frame in which they are ready, with prior frames being scored as zero. No practice balls will be allowed to late bowlers.

28. Substitutes may bowl at the discretion of the Tournament Directors. Entering averages must comply with the rules previously stated (Rule 11). Substitutes must complete an entry form. Substitutes DO qualify for awards and prizes for events they bowled in.
29. Bowlers will be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice before the start of singles, doubles and team events.

Entry Requirements

30. The Tournament registration will be available only online with payment available only through *[online payment vendor]*. All entries must be submitted and paid through the Tournament website at time of registration and must be electronically timestamped no later than 11:59 PM *[local Tournament time zone]* on *[registration deadline date]*.
31. Entries shall be limited to a maximum of *[maximum number of bowlers]*. Once this maximum has been reached, no more entries can be accepted. Entrant's acceptance will be based on the order in which the entry is received and paid. Once an entry has been accepted, refunds will only be issued at the discretion of Tournament Directors.
32. Partial team entries will be accepted, and the Tournament Directors will make every effort to fill vacancies.

Scoring Errors

33. After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed unless an obvious error in scoring or calculation has occurred. Obvious errors must be corrected by a Tournament Official immediately upon discovery. Questionable errors must be reported to a Tournament Official within two (2) hours of the error and will be decided by Tournament Directors. (USBC Rule 327b).

Protests

34. Protests and appeals must be in writing, stating the grounds for the protest and/or appeal.
 - a. A protest involving eligibility or playing rules must be filed with the Tournament Directors within 72 hours of the infraction.
 - b. Protests by non-participants or non-attendees of the Tournament will NOT be accepted.
 - c. Anonymous protests will NOT be accepted.
 - d. The decision of the Tournament Directors shall be final unless a written appeal is filed with the local association or USBC Headquarters prior to Tournament prizes being awarded/paid. Upon notification of a protest or appeal, Tournament Directors must withhold all affected prizes until the protest or appeal is resolved.

Miscellaneous

35. All other USBC rules will apply.

36. Any person attending requiring special accommodations MUST notify the Tournament Directors in writing when the application is submitted.
37. The team captain MUST sign the entry form acknowledging they have read and understands the rules. In the case of online registration, the timestamp will be considered the team captain's acknowledgement.

Scratch Masters Rules

Scratch Masters is a separate competition open to the Tournament attendees who paid additional monies to participate in the event.

38. The nine (9) game scratch Singles, Doubles, and Team bowled in the Tournament will be used to determine the top *<insert number of qualifiers>* qualifiers in each division. Scores do not carry over into Scratch Masters. In case of a tie for the last qualifying spot, the bowler with highest scratch series from Singles, Doubles, Team will be used to qualify the bowler.
39. Scratch Masters Divisions (see Rule 18) will be offered to all participants using their entering average (see Rule 11).
40. The bowlers are responsible for checking if they have qualified.
41. The Scratch Masters competition will begin at *[start time and date of Scratch Masters]* at *[location of Scratch Masters]* for all Divisions.
42. Bowlers must check in by *[check in time]*. A bowler who is not checked in at the scheduled time will be disqualified and the first available alternate qualifier), starting with *<insert first alternate's placement>* place and going down, will replace them. Once replaced, the disqualified bowler will NOT be allowed to bowl in Scratch Masters.
43. The Committee member in charge of Scratch Masters will hold a briefing meeting for all qualifiers to distribute lane assignments and discuss the rules. Additionally, one lane/score monitor for each Division will also be in the briefing.
44. Any claims of error must be submitted to the Scratch Master's Committee prior to the start of the next match. In the case of an error in the final match, claims must be made within one (1) hour of the end of the final match.

Format *(See Attachment A for sample formats or insert Tournament's own version)*

Attachment A

Sample 1 (IGBO Mid-Year 2022 – DC) –

45. Each bowler will be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice across all Division lanes. If they want all 10 minutes on one pair or across 4 lanes or across all *<insert number of bowlers in division>* lanes, that is up to the bowler's discretion.
46. A warm-up lane will be provided for the players waiting to bowl.
47. All *<insert number of bowlers in division>* bowlers will bowl an individual 3-game set, two bowlers per pair. Bowlers will shift lanes after each game and bowl different opponents.
48. The 3-game scratch score total will be calculated to seed the bowlers for stepladder final. In case of a tie for seeds 1 to *<insert last seed for stepladder>*, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled by those who tied. If a tie still remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will break the tie.
49. Lowest scoring *<insert number of bowlers eliminated>* bowlers will be eliminated. The top *<insert number of bowlers in stepladder>* will bowl in stepladder format, on a designated pair of lanes:
 - <Update seeds and rules below as necessary>*
 - a. Round 1: 4th seed bowling 3rd seed; 3rd seed will decide who bowls first. Winner advances.
 - b. Round 2: Winner from Round 1 bowls 2nd seed; 2nd seed will decide who bowls first. Winner advances to Champion round.
 - c. Champion Round
 - i. Top seed and winner from Round 2; 1st seed will decide who bowls first for each game.
 - ii. 2 games total bowled.
 - iii. Scratch total from the 2 games will determine Division winner.
 - d. In case of a tie in the stepladder, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled. If a tie still remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will break the tie.

Sample 2 (IGBO Annual 2022 – Rochester) –

44. Each bowler will be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice across all Division lanes. If they want all 10 minutes on one pair or across 4 lanes or across all *<insert number of bowlers in division>* lanes, that is up to the bowler's discretion.
45. A warm-up lane will be provided for the players waiting to bowl.
46. Scratch Masters will be an eliminator style playoff.

- a. Round 1: all *<insert number of bowlers in division>* qualifiers will bowl three (3) games. Players will switch lanes after each game. No bonus pins will be awarded. The three-game series will be calculated, and the top *<insert number of bowlers moving on>* bowlers in each Division will advance.
<Update seeds and rules below as necessary>
- b. Round 2: the remaining four (4) bowlers will be seeded in order of highest cumulative score from the three games in Round 1. A single elimination game with the #1 seed against the #4 seed, and the #2 seed against the #3 seed will occur.
- c. Round 3: the winners from Round 2 will bowl one game to determine the winner of the Division.
- d. In case of a tie for seeds 1 to 4 in Round 1, or a tie in Rounds 2 or 3, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled by those who tied. If a tie still remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will break the tie.

Sample 3 (Original Round Robin) –

44. Each bowler will be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice across all Division lanes. If they want all 10 minutes on one pair or across 4 lanes or across all 8 lanes, that is up to the bowler's discretion.
45. A warm-up lane will be provided for the players waiting to bowl.
46. Scratch Masters will be a round robin format, follow by a stepladder final.
 - a. The round robin portion shall consist of seven matches and one position round, with thirty bonus pins awarded to the winner of each match (fifteen for a tie). The four bowlers with the highest pin total advance to the stepladder final. In case of a tie for seeds 1 to 4, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled by those who tied. If a tie still remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will break the tie.
 - b. The stepladder final shall consist of three rounds:
 - i. Round 1: 4th seed bowling 3rd seed; 3rd seed will decide who bowls first. Winner advances.
 - ii. Round 2: Winner from Round 1 bowls 2nd seed; 2nd seed will decide who bowls first. Winner advances to Champion round.
 - iii. Champion Round: Winner from Round 2 bowls the top seed; the top seed will decide who bowls first.
 - iv. In case of a tie in the stepladder, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled. If a tie still remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will break the tie.

Revisions	Date
Complete update of all the rules	4/16/25