

## **IGBO Annual 2024 Tournament Rules**

### **Sanctioning**

- A. The International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) Annual tournament is a USBC certified tournament through a Moral Support Certification. This Moral Support tournament is a mixed handicap competition open to men and women who are affiliated with IGBO or by invitation.
- B. 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. This must be done at [igbo.org](http://igbo.org) before May 1, 2024.
- C. USBC and CTF 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. This must be done at [bowl.com](http://bowl.com) before May 1, 2024. All participants are subject to USBC rules and jurisdiction for the event.

### **Event Participation**

1. The tournament events shall be handicap events and are as follows: Singles, Doubles and Team. Optional Individual Scratch Divisions will also be offered.
2. Each participant shall bowl three (3) games per event and must enter all three events. Teams will consist of four (4) members comprising any combination of men and women. Men and women will compete on an equal basis. Doubles partners must come from the same team.
3. Each participant may only bowl once in each event.
4. 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 Annual 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 IGBO Annual Tournament.
5. Employees of bowling centers being used by the Host City who are not IGBO league members shall not be permitted to participate in the IGBO Annual Tournament.

### **Optional Scratch Division(s)**

6. At least one optional scratch event will be offered to all participants using a minimum of six divisions as determined by entering average (see Rule 18).
7. IGBO Annual 2024 will offer an Optional Scratch Event and a Scratch Masters Event.

Optional Scratch and Scratch Masters Divisions:

**Division A (Boreal):** Averages 149 and Below

**Division B (Diamond Peak):** Averages 150 - 164

**Division C (Heavenly):** Averages 165 - 179

**Division D (Mt Rose):** Averages 180 - 194

**Division E (North Star):** Averages 195 - 209

**Division F (Squaw Valley):** Averages 210 and over

- a. The Optional Scratch shall use the scratch scores (without handicap) from the handicap portion of the tournament to determine winners. The optional scratch shall be divided

into three separate categories within each division: Highest Single Scratch Game (from any of the events); Highest Scratch Series (from any of the events, three games required); and Highest Scratch All Events (from the nine game total of all three events).

### **Scratch Masters**

8. Scratch Masters shall consist of 3 rounds of play:
  - a. In Round 1, all eight (8) qualifiers will bowl three (3) games. Players will switch lanes after each game. No bonus points will be awarded. The 3-game series will be calculated and the top four (4) bowlers will advance. In the event of a tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place the bowler with the highest individual scratch game shall proceed.
  - b. In Round 2, the remaining four (4) bowlers will be seeded in order of highest cumulative score from the 3 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. (Any ties will be determined by highest 10<sup>th</sup> frame score)
  - c. In Round 3 the winners from Round 2 will bowl one game to determine the winner of the division. (Any ties will be determined by highest 10<sup>th</sup> frame score)
9. Scores used for the Optional Scratch Divisions shall be those Scratch games (without handicap) as bowled in the Handicap Division of the tournament.

### **Awards and Prizes**

10. All cash awards shall be based on the Total Pins PLUS assigned handicap for each event (with exception of the Optional Scratch Divisions).
11. Awards will be given, in the Handicap Division, for the best Singles, Doubles, Team, Individual All Events and Team All Events. Individual All Events is defined as the nine game total plus handicap of an individual bowler. Team All Events is defined as the nine game total plus handicap of 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.
12. 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 at a minimum of at least 1:20.
13. Awards in the Optional Scratch Divisions shall be given for the Best Single Game (from any of the events), Best Three (3) Game Series (from any of the events) and Best All Events (nine game total).
14. The award ratio for the Optional Scratch Divisions shall be at a minimum of at least 1:20 per division.
15. Prizes will be distributed via check payable in US 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.
16. 100% of the entry fee from each division in the Optional Scratch Divisions shall be returned to that division and 100% of the entry fee shall be returned for Scratch Masters.

## Entering Averages

17. Any bowler entering the IGBO Annual Tournament must use a ten-pin average acceptable to USBC. The following rules shall be used to determine the entering average:
  - a. The December 31, 2023 league average (minimum of 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. Challenge and Sport Condition averages will be included and adjusted in accordance with the USBC conversion chart for each average.
  - b. If “a” is not available, use 2022-2023 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. Challenge and Sport Condition averages will be included and adjusted in accordance with the USBC conversion chart for each average.
  - c. If neither “a” or “b” is available, use the 2023 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. Challenge and Sport Condition averages will be included and adjusted in accordance with the USBC conversion charge for each average.
  - d. If neither “a”, “b” or “c” is available, a current season average (minimum 21 games) as of April 1, 2024 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. Challenge and Sport Condition averages will be included and adjusted in accordance with the USBC conversion charge for each average.
  - e. If neither “a”, “b”, or “c” is available an IGBO member with a tournament average (TAD)(minimum of 18 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 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 18). USBC Rule 319a(2) does not apply.
  - h. The above averages MUST be verified by the use of:
    - i. League standing sheet, signed and dated by League Officer, or
    - ii. Letter from League President or Secretary, or
    - iii. Photocopy of book average (with year noted), signed and dated by League Officer.
    - iv. TAD at [igbo.org](http://igbo.org)
18. The Tournament Scratch Score will be set equal to the highest entering average rounded up to the nearest 5 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.
19. The per-game handicap for the tournament shall be based at 90% of the difference between the bowler’s entering average (as determined in Rule 15) and the Tournament Scratch Score. Negative handicaps shall not apply.
20. USBC rules regarding the BOWLER’S responsibility to verify the accuracy of his/her 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 or 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.

### **Average Adjustment**

21. The tournament management has the authority to adjust the entering average of any bowler. Average adjustments will be applied as set forth under USBC rules. All average adjustments will be completed prior to the start of each event. A bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to a full refund for that event.
22. If a bowler has a current tournament average (comprised of a minimum of 18 games bowled during the 12-months immediately preceding the official start date of this tournament) that is one or more pins higher than their Entering Average (as outlined in Rule 17), they must use the higher tournament average as their entering average. Per Rule 20, it is the bowler's responsibility to report ALL (IGBO, USBC, or any other sanctioned or unsanctioned) tournament scores that are relevant in calculating their current tournament average. Failure to report this information will result in AUTOMATIC disqualification and loss of all prize winnings subject to Tournament Management discretion.
23. Per USBC Rule 319d any bowler who has qualified for a cash and/or merchandise prize in the position standings prize list in any tournament (refer to rule 22) May 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024, including all-events, special prizes and donated prizes, must give tournament management the following information by May 6, 2024 for possible average adjustment:
  - a. The name of each tournament in which they have been paid the following prizes, or if not yet paid, in which they have qualified for the prize:
    - i. \$300 or more in any event;
    - ii. Total combined prize winnings of \$500 or more in any one tournament;
    - iii. Total combined prize winnings of \$1000 or more in all tournaments May 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024;
  - b. The amount of the prize.
  - c. The actual score(s) bowled to qualify for the prize.
  - d. The prize position.
24. Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for disqualification.

### **Attendance and Substitutes**

25. It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present at the assigned lanes at the time 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 24 and 25 below (USBC rules will apply). Catastrophic events will be subject to Tournament Management 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 26). 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 for late bowlers.
28. Substitutes may bowl at the discretion of the tournament management. Their entering average must comply with the rules previously stated. Substitutes must complete an entry form.

29. Bowlers will be allowed 10 minutes of practice on each set of lanes per event (unless rule 25 applies).

### **Entry Requirements**

30. The entry fee is payable in US funds only by CREDIT CARD. An additional fee is required to enter the Optional Scratch Divisions. All entries are to be completed online and must be submitted and paid for by midnight CDT May 1, 2024.
31. Entries shall be limited to a maximum of 624. Once this maximum has been reached, no more entries can be accepted. Entrants' acceptance will be based on the order in which received and paid. Once an entry has been accepted, refunds will only be issued at the Host Committee's discretion.
32. Partial team entries will be accepted and the tournament management will make every effort to fill the vacancies.
33. All entrants and non-participants must be 21 as of May 15, 2024. All entrants and non-participants must provide valid government issued ID at registration confirming that that are 21.

### **Scoring Errors**

34. After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed unless there has been an obvious error in scoring or calculation has occurred. Obvious errors must be corrected by a tournament or NBS 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 management. (USBC Rule 328).

### **Protests**

35. 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 management before tournament prizes are paid.
  - b. The decision of the tournament management 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 management must withhold all affected prizes until the protest or appeal is resolved.

### **Miscellaneous**

36. All other USBC rules will apply.
37. Any person attending and requiring special needs MUST notify the tournament management in writing by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
38. The team captain MUST sign the entry form acknowledging he/she has read the rules. In the case of online registration, the timestamp will be considered the team captain's acknowledgement.
39. Any bowler (or their registered non-participant(s)) not complying with any implemented safety protocol(s) will be given 1 (one) warning by tournament committee/NBS/hotel staff or IGBO Board Member. Any non-compliance after this first warning will result in disqualification from the tournament.
40. Bowlers are responsible for the actions of their registered non-participants. Any bowler who has a non-participant that receives a 2<sup>nd</sup> safety protocol violation may be disqualified from the tournament and that non-participant will be asked to surrender their badge and will not be

permitted entrance to any further tournament events with no refund of their non-participant fee.

41. The National Bowling Stadium retains the right to determine entrance requirements to their facility and may deny entry to non-participants.