The 2015 USBC Masters is USBC certified. The game of American Ten Pins will be played. This is a singles, scratch tournament with qualifying rounds and bracketed match play.

**BOWLING EQUIPMENT**

**Bowling Balls**
- All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications.
- Plugged bowling balls are allowed.
- Random bowling ball checking may be done as deemed necessary by tournament management.
- Any bowler may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.
- Any ball on the USBC approved list (posted on BOWL.com) may be used.

**Powder**
- No substance, including but not limited to talcum powder and EZ Slide, can be applied to the bottom of a player’s shoes.

**Rosin**
- Once competition begins, the outer surface of the ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel.

**COMPETITORS GUESTS**
- Each competitor is allowed their spouse, school age children under 18, parents and one additional guest during the practice session, pro-am and all qualifying rounds. In match play each competitor is allowed the aforementioned and one additional guest. Guests for competitors for any televised portion of the event will be handled by the tournament director.

**CONDUCT**
- All tournament bowlers shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times while in the host center or on the property of the host center. Any criticism by a tournament bowler who discusses the sponsor, host center or personnel, lane conditions or pins, USBC or its staff, or their fellow competitors in an unfavorable manner, or who otherwise engages in actions unbecoming a USBC bowler in the opinion of the Tournament Director shall be in violation of the Code of Conduct.
- Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical and verbal abuse toward another person.
- Anyone found to be in violation of the Code of Conduct will be fined or could be disqualified from the competition in which the violation occurred and/or declared ineligible for future competitions.
- First offense: $250; Second offense: $500; Third offense: You’re outta here!

**DEFENDING CHAMPION**
- An allocated position for the defending champion will be held until tournament entry closing date. Entry fees are the responsibility of the defending champion. If the position has not
been claimed by tournament entry closing, the position will be released to the first person on the waiting list.

- The defending champion must bowl all qualifying squads. The bowler will be seeded appropriately according to total qualifying score unless finishing below the lowest match play qualifier, in which case they will be placed in lowest position for match play.
- If the defending champion withdraws from the tournament before match play begins, the bowler will forfeit the opportunity to compete in match play and will be automatically placed in lowest position for match play and will cash in that position. The first two matches (double elimination) for that seed would be forfeited with the opponent still having to bowl their three games to advance.

**DELYAS**
- If a delay of 10 minutes or longer occurs during competition, tournament management, at its discretion, may authorize warm-up ball(s) prior to the re-starting of competition.

**DRESS CODE**

Requirements

- A collared shirt with the participant’s name on the back must be worn during every round of competition. Mock turtlenecks or bowling jerseys without collars are allowed.
- Lettering must be at least two inches in height.
- Detachable name plaques of any kind are not acceptable.
- Men must wear dress slacks.
- Women may wear dress slacks, shorts or skirts. Length of skirt, skorts or shorts must be below the bowler’s fingertips when they are standing and their arms are hanging down at their side. No exceptions.

Logos

- Small fashion logos are permitted on apparel during USBC competition as long as they do not exceed nine square inches. Logos are defined as any lettering and or any illustration promoting a company, product and service or membership organization. Pro shop logos are permitted as long as they do not exceed nine square inches.

  **Exception:** If there is a televised portion of the event and that portion is produced by PBA then PBA logo rules will apply to the televised portion of the tournament.

Examples of prohibited attire include but are not limited to

- Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, hats (medical reason only), etc.
- Workout attire, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls, t-shirts.
- Cords, jeans, or any kind of denim.

**Practice Session & Sweepers**

- The dress code for the official practice session and sweepers will be the same as the tournament dress code.

**Stepladder Finals**

- Name on back of participant’s shirts must be embroidered or sewn if the event is televised. Detachable name plaques are not acceptable.

**Penalty**

- Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management.
- Tournament management has the authority to fine a bowler $50 for each offense.
- Tournament management’s decision will be final.

**EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING**
• Entrants are NOT permitted to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages while participating in this event. This includes from the start of practice to the last ball thrown for score in qualifying, match play and finals.
• Bowlers are permitted to eat a small snack (ex: power bars, candy bars, fruit) during competition.

ELIGIBILITY
• All participants must be current USBC members.
• If current membership cannot be verified, USBC associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site at a cost of $21.00 USD.
• All participants give USBC their unqualified permission to use their photograph for publicity purposes, to arrange for the telecasts or broadcasts of the tournament without cost to the participant and without sharing revenue derived therefrom with them.
• USBC Sport membership is not an eligibility requirement. However, in order to be eligible for USBC Sport awards earned, a USBC Sport membership is required. To upgrade your current USBC membership to a USBC Sport membership, the cost is $15.00 USD. It must be purchased prior to competition and is available at registration.
• Current and former PBA members must be in good standing with the PBA.
• Participants that have not reached their 18th birthday by February 2, 2015 must have a USBC Parental Consent Form (available on BOWL.com) on file with tournament management prior to the first day of competition.
• Participants that have not reached their 16th birthday by February 2, 2015 must be a current member of Junior Team USA. Bowlers entering under these conditions must alert tournament staff upon submitting their entry.
• Youth Eligibility: If a bowler has a USBC Youth membership they can still maintain their youth eligibility to participate in youth certified competition by signing a USBC Prize Waiver (available on site). Tournament winnings will be deposited in the SMART scholarship program unless the player waives claim to her winnings. Collegiate bowlers should verify prize acceptance policies with their Compliance Offices prior to participating in the competition.

ENTRY DEADLINE
• Entry deadline is the start of the first official practice session.

FEES
• $25 processing fee for all entries not done online.
• Prize ratio will be at least 1 for every 4 entrants.
• See “refund policy” for additional information.

FORMAT (see “qualifying”, “match play” and “stepladder finals”)

LANE OIL PATTERN
• Pattern will be posted at the tournament venue, no later than the start of the official practice session.
• Will be Sport compliant.
• To be eligible for USBC Sport awards bowlers must be a USBC Sport Bowling member. Sport upgrade is available at tournament office. The upgrade is $15.

MATCH PLAY
• Match play will be composed of the top 64 bowlers including the defending champion.
• Defending champion is guaranteed a spot in match play. See “defending champion” for more details.
• Each match will consist of three games. Total pin fall shall determine the winner.
• Double-elimination format will be used. A player is eliminated after two losses. See “stepladder finals” for more details.
• All match-play participants start in the Winners’ Bracket. After losing one match they enter the Elimination Bracket.
• If forfeiture occurs in the Winners' Bracket, the forfeiting bowler automatically goes into the proper position in the Elimination Bracket.
• The order of bowling will be according to match-game procedure with the bowler on the odd lane starting first. Higher seed from qualifying will have choice of starting lane throughout match play.
• Alternates will not be used in match play. Bowlers arriving late for his/her match in any round will bowl beginning with the frame then being bowled by their opponent. Failure to appear, regardless of cause, will constitute a forfeiture of the match. The opponent must still bowl his/her three games to advance to the succeeding round. A pacer, if available, will be allowed.
• If forfeiture occurs in any round in the winner’s bracket, the bowler forfeiting the match would still be eligible to bowl in his/her next scheduled match in the Elimination Bracket.
• If a bowler is disabled during the match and is unable to continue, he/she will receive a zero for all missed frames.

PRACTICE SESSIONS
• Official practice sessions will be available to all bowlers. Dates and times of the practice sessions will be posted on the official tournament webpage under “schedule”.
• There are no lane assignments for the practice sessions. Bowlers are free to move around the venue.
• A minimum of 10 minutes of practice will also be available to each bowler prior to each qualifying round and match play round.

PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS
• Bowlers who earn prize money in this event will be paid by check.
• If for any reason a bowler wishes to waive the prize money, it is the participant’s responsibility to notify tournament staff in writing, at time of registration regarding their refusal of the prize money. If the prize money is waived, the amount will be returned to the prize fund for distribution.
• The only sums to which a participant will be entitled for bowling in this tournament are those prizes or awards which may be won by the participant in this tournament.
• The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of $600 or more annually in any USBC event in which they participate. Therefore, social security numbers are required by IRS regulations.
• Failure to furnish a social security number (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number-ITIN (Non US citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
• Prize checks are distributed at the tournament. Prize checks that are not distributed will be mailed to participants within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament to the address supplied at registration.
• If a bowler has a USBC Youth membership they can still maintain their youth eligibility to participate in youth certified competition by signing a USBC Prize Waiver (available on site). Tournament winnings will be deposited in the SMART scholarship program unless the player waives claim to his/her winnings. Collegiate bowlers should verify prize acceptance policies with their Compliance Offices prior to participating in the competition.

PRO-AM
• All players must be available to participate in at least one Pro-Am as needed.
• Failure to participate in an assigned Pro-Am squad may result in a fine or disqualification from tournament.

PROTESTS
• Protests concerning scoring accuracy must be filed with tournament management immediately.
• Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to the Tournament Director.
• An inspection will be made and then, if needed, corrections will be made.
• If complaint is determined to be unwarranted, the contestant must proceed to bowl or the games will be declared forfeited.

QUALIFYING
• Each entrant will bowl three blocks of five games each. Each bowler’s 15-game total will be used to determine qualifiers for match play.
• A bowler arriving late will begin play and his/her score will count beginning with the frame then being bowled.

REFUND POLICY
• A refund will be given, less $50 cancellation fee, to a bowler who withdraws prior to the start of the official practice session.
• Those who withdraw/cancel may obtain their own replacements. Bowlers who obtain replacements will make their own arrangements as to repayment of their individual entry fees.
• USBC must be notified of replacements prior to the close of entries, which is the start of the first official practice session.
• No replacements will be permitted after the tournament begins.

REGISTRATION
• All bowlers must check in prior to the official practice session. Current USBC membership card must be shown at the initial check-in.

NOTE: All efforts will be made to post the tournament roster on BOWL.com four weeks in advance of the tournament with updates occurring on a weekly basis. All efforts will be made to post a squad roster on BOWL.com 10 days prior to the start of the event. It is the bowler’s responsibility to verify what squad they are on before the start of competition.

RE-RACKS
• Each bowler is allowed to take two re-racks per game during qualifying and match play.
• Additional re-racks may be granted with tournament management’s permission.

SCORESHEET
• Verifying and Signing the Score Sheet (Qualifying). Competitors are responsible for verifying and signing both their own score sheet as well as that of their competitor. Verification of information includes game scores, total pin, plus / minus totals and bowling balls used in competition. Penalty: $25
• Verifying and Signing the Score Sheet (Match Play). Verify and initial the opponent’s score sheet immediately following each match.
• Documenting Equipment on the Score Sheet, Competitors must document each bowling ball used during the round on their score sheet by the end of the first game the ball is put into play. Documentation of each bowling ball should include last four digits of the serial number.
• Damage to Score Sheets. Competitors may not intentionally damage their score sheets. Penalty: $25
• Official Scores. Once a competitor signs his or her score sheet, he or she agrees that, barring any necessary mathematical corrections, the score becomes official. The USBC shall have one hour to make any mathematical corrections, but any other disputes that would result in the improvement of a competitor's score shall not be allowed.

SQUADS
• Squad assignments will be posted on the official tournament webpage no later than seven days prior to the first day of qualifying. It is the bowler’s responsibility to know which squad he/she is on.
• If a bowler is late for his/her squad, he/she will receive zero for each frame that he/she has missed. Bowlers who are late for an earlier squad will not be moved to a later squad except for special circumstances.
• Tournament management reserves the right to change the number of qualifying squads in the tournament as late as seven days prior to the first day of qualifying, based on entries.

SLOW PLAY
• A competitor shall have twenty-five (25) seconds to start his or her delivery, once the lane courtesy requirement has been satisfied. Slow bowling penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the tournament director. Penalties will be assessed per tournament:
  PENALTY: 1st Offense - Warning
  o Double Jumping: Competitors must observe one pair lane courtesy at all times. Double jumping occurs following a delivery when a competitor on the same pair delivers his or her ball before one competitor from the pair to the right and one competitor from the pair to the left have made a delivery, unless those competitors are not ready to bowl. Competitors may not "Double Jump."

START OF COMPETITION
• The definition of the “start of competition” is when any participant’s first ball is thrown for score during qualifying, match play and the stepladder finals.

STEPLADDER FINALS
• The stepladder finals will be a single-elimination format.
• Positions are determined as follows:
  • Position #1 – Winner of the final round of the Winners’ Bracket.
  • Position #2 – Loser of the final round of the Winners’ Bracket.
  • Positions #3 - #4 - #5 – Will come from the Elimination Bracket.
    o The four (4) remaining players from the Elimination bracket will bowl a three game match, all on the same pair of lanes.
    o The highest series will be seeded #3
    o The next highest series will be seeded #4
    o The third highest series will be seeded #5
    o The low series will be eliminated
    o Any tie for positions #3 - #4 - #5 will require a one ball roll off. Should a tie still exist a one ball roll off will continue until the tie is broken.
  • Positions #5 and #4 will bowl a one-game match, that winner will bowl against #3 and so on until all bowlers have bowled.
  • The last match will consist of winner of previous match vs. position #1 to declare the champion. If the stepladder finals are not televised and the #1 seed loses the first game in the championship match, they will bowl a second game to determine the champion.
• If a tie exists, a one-ball shootout will be bowled. This procedure will continue until the tie is broken.
• If there is a change in the TV format, notice will be posted in the tournament office and participants will be notified prior to the start of the tournament.

TIEBREAKERS

Qualifying
• If there is a tie for the final position needed to complete the field for match play, one complete game shall be bowled on a neutral pair selected by the tournament director following the final block of qualifying. Bowler with the highest qualifying block chooses the starting lane, and the bowler on the odd lane will start. Bowlers shall have 10 minutes of practice. In case of a tie, failure of any bowler to be available in the bowling center will constitute forfeiture.
• If a tie still exists at the end of the game a one ball roll-off will be bowled on the same pair of lanes to break the tie, with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.
• In the event of a tie for any other position, the bowler with the high five-game qualifying block will be placed in the higher position. Should both bowlers have the same score for their high block, the second-highest five-game qualifying block will be used, and so on. If bowlers should have the same individual block totals, the high single qualifying game will be used, and so on down until the tie is broken.

Match Play & Stepladder Finals
• If a match ends in a tie, a one ball roll-off will be bowled on the same pair of lanes to break the tie, with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.

TOURNAMENT ROLL CALL
• Roll will be called thirty (30) minutes prior to the first round of competition in all USBC events. Roll will be called thirty (30) minutes prior to the first round of match play competition. Additional roll calls may be scheduled as necessary at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Players are considered tardy if they do not acknowledge their name during roll call. This is mandatory. Penalty is $25.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT
• Tournament management has the final authority to make interpretations of any tournament rules and make decisions regarding anything not covered in the rules.

WEBPAGE
• All tournament information can be found at bowl.com/masters.
• It is each bowler’s responsibility to check the tournament webpage periodically for updated information.

TERMINATION /RELEASE CLAUSE
To the Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress: I hereby make application to participate in this USBC championship event listed and tender the entry fees required therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC member. I agree to abide by all tournament playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. I specifically agree for myself and any replacement chosen by me or for me that if I am not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the event, then my prize, bowling, and expense fees shall
be forfeited and all sums tendered by me as prize, bowling and expense fee may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrant whose name appears hereon or my authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when that entrant shall be prevented from bowling any event in the tournament through premature termination of the tournament, which may be brought about by war, national emergency or emergencies or causes relating thereto resulting therefrom, fires, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. I further agree that USBC may use my name and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to me and with no fees being paid to me. The entrant whose name appears on this application and/or authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the event, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.

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