



Types of Tournaments

Tournament Definition

A tournament is a competition, other than a league, in which the game of American Tenpins or a modified format of the game is played. Competition consists of one or more events and two or more teams.

Total pins decide the champions and other prize winners in each of the events unless another system, based on merit pinfall, is stated in the tournament rules.

Benefits

You can perform a valuable service both to your participants and your organization by conducting USBC tournaments.

It is a free service that means you and the bowlers in your tournament benefit from the whole range of USBC services. These are:

1. Guidance on rules for your particular competition
2. Standardized rules.
3. Expert assistance in resolving misunderstandings and problems if they arise.
4. Systematic average adjustment procedures.
5. Special recognition for high scores and other achievements.
6. Assurance of equitable distribution of prize funds.

Types of Tournaments

To better serve tournament organizations and our members, USBC certifies the following types of tournaments:

Regular Tournament

This is the most common type of tournament that covers the widest range of formats. A regular tournament certificate will be issued provided:

1. The tournament consists of two or more teams or a singles event of two or more individual entrants.
2. Tournament rules and advertising material comply with USBC rules.
3. The lanes used are USBC certified for the current season.
4. Competition among entrants in an event, except all-events, is held in the same establishment. When an event is divided in two or more divisions, competition in each division is held in the same establishment.

Moral Support

A moral support may be issued provided the tournament is conducted by one of the following types of organizations:

Civic Fraternal Benevolent Military Service Union Religious

1. It must also meet all the requirements for tournaments granted a regular tournament certification (Rule 301a).
2. Entry is limited to those affiliated with the organization conducting the tournament.
3. Anyone under suspension from, or who has been refused membership in USBC, is not allowed to participate.



For additional information concerning moral support events, contact USBC Tournament Certifications - (Phone: (800) 514-BOWL, ext. 3155 or e-mail: tournamentcert@bowl.com)

Modified Formats

The great thing about bowling is that it can be played at any level, as a recreational activity or as a competitive sport. Modified formats offer many alternatives to traditional tournament bowling. Using modified formats, bowlers must interact much more, thereby creating a more social atmosphere. With today's fast paced lifestyles, modified formats allow the game to move along faster, thereby reducing the time a person would have to devote to his/her bowling.

When tournaments use a modified format, all USBC rules apply except those directly affecting the modified format.

Examples of some of the modified formats are: 9-Pin No-Tap, 8-Pin No-Tap, Best Ball, Scotch Doubles, Baker Format, Mail-O-Graphics, etc.

High score recognition for 300 and 11 Strikes-In-A-Row (299 or less) is in effect provided the score was accomplished by one participant, whereby a full setup of pins (10) is knocked down with the first delivery in each frame and without the benefit of any type of artificial strike. In order for the High Score Recognition to be in effect, tournament management must maintain a scoring system whereby both the natural and artificial pin counts are kept on a score sheet. A copy of the score sheet must be submitted with all high score award claims. Also, certificates for conversion of the 7-10 and 4-6-7-10 splits can be found on BOWL.com.

Note: Tournament formats encouraging participants to bowl less than their ability to win prizes are not eligible for USBC certification.

If you're looking to give your bowlers a new bowling experience, try some of these modified formats.

Modified Formats(cont.)

No-Tap Tournament

There are two types of no-tap formats commonly used, and tournament management must determine by rule which procedure will be followed.

1. A strike is recorded when an individual knocks down a designated number of pins or all 10 pins on the first delivery. For any other pin count, the individual receives the actual value and a second delivery is required.
2. A strike is recorded when an individual leaves a specific pin(s) (such as a 5-pin or a 7-pin) or knocks down all 10 pins on the first delivery. If any other pin(s) remain standing, the bowler receives the actual value and a second delivery is required.

3-6-9 Tournament

In a 3-6-9 tournament, each bowler automatically receives a strike in the third, sixth and ninth frames of each game as designated by tournament rule.

Baker System

In the Baker Scoring System, each bowler rolls two frames per game. The play is fast-paced. The Baker scoring system also is very popular for doubles tournament competition.



The Baker System places the emphasis on team effort, rather than the individual accomplishments of the team members. When the Baker System is used and teams are comprised of five members, all team members follow each other in regular order to bowl a single game.

The leadoff player rolls the first complete frame followed by the No. 2 bowler rolling the second frame; the No. 3 bowler, the third frame; the No. 4 bowler, the fourth frame; and the No. 5 bowler, the fifth frame. The leadoff bowler then continues the game by bowling the sixth frame, followed by the No. 2 bowler rolling the seventh frame; the No. 3 bowler, the eighth frame; the No. 4 bowler, the ninth frame; and finally the fifth bowler, all balls in the 10th frame.

Headpin Bowling Tournaments

In some localities, the entrants count 100 as the highest possible score, allowing the rolling of 10 balls to a game, or one ball to a given frame. When this procedure is followed, they generally require the player to hit the headpin on each delivery for scores to count with no extra ball being allowed in the 10th frame.

Another method of playing the game is to count 120 as the highest possible score, allowing the rolling of 12 balls for a perfect game of 120. In the first nine frames, one ball is permitted for each frame. In the 10th frame, three balls may be bowled provided the player scores a strike on his first two attempts.

When this system of scoring the game of headpins is followed, the tournament does not insist upon the individual actually hitting the headpin. As long as the headpin is knocked down, the particular frame is considered legal.

Scotch Doubles Tournament

Any combination of two bowlers is allowed. The most successful promotions have been husband-wife or "family" scotch doubles where competition is open to father-son, mother-daughter, etc. A three-game series is bowled with Bowler A bowling first in each frame and Bowler B bowling at whatever pins are left. If a strike is bowled, the same bowler would continue. Bowler A starts the first and third games, Bowler B starts the second game. Scoring is the same as regulation Tenpins.

Note: If Bowler A strikes on the first ball in the 10th frame, Bowler A would then bowl again. If Bowler A strikes again, Bowler A would roll the last ball. If no strike on the second ball, Bowler B rolls the last ball.

Since the second player only bowls if pins remain standing after the leadoff bowler's delivery, it is possible that the leadoff player could bowl the entire game without the second player participating in the game.

Best Ball Tournament

Again, a combination of any two bowlers is allowed. Each bowler rolls one ball each frame. The better of the two balls rolled is the score entered for the team. There are no spares recorded since the pins are reset after each ball thrown. The exception to this is the 10th frame where scoring is regulation for each bowler; i.e., if a strike is bowled on the first ball, the bowler would then roll two extra balls.



Mail-O-Graphic

Tournament competition in which a supplemental fee is charged and scores bowled in different centers are compared to qualify for prizes in one common prize list. All scores are submitted to the tournament manager who enters the scores and determines teams and/or individual standings. All scores used must be from USBC certified competition. (Rule 302b)

Pro-Am

Tournament competition conducted for any charitable organization whereby an entrant's scores are paired with a professional or designated organization member for prize consideration.

Note: USBC Association championship tournaments cannot utilize a modified, league or mail-o-graphic format.