

JUNIOR GOLD LEAGUE HANDBOOK

2011-2012

AS OF 9/9/2011

FAQS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Where can I obtain North Pointe Junior Gold Championships information?

All forms and this handbook are available on BOWL.com. Simply click on the Tournaments tab and then on the Junior Gold link and proceed to the Qualifier section where you will see the Junior Gold League Handbook tab. Here you will find the necessary forms to run your league. As always, the Junior Gold staff is available to assist and answer any questions. We can be reached at USBCJuniorGold@bowl.com or by calling (800) 514-BOWL, ext. 3171.

What are the new age divisions for the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships?

- U15 Boys
- U15 Girls
- U20 Boys
- U20 Girls

Any bowler whose birth date is 08/01/1996 or later will participate in the U15 division. All others will participate in the U20 division.

NOTE: Bowlers in the U15 division may exercise the option to participate in the U20 division by completing the NPJG Championships Opt Out form.

What are the minimum average requirements for the divisions?

There are no longer any minimum average requirements for participation. Any and all current USBC Youth Standard members are eligible to become a USBC Junior Gold Member and bowl in a North Pointe Junior Gold Qualifying event.

How do these changes affect players who have already qualified for the 2012 Championships?

Any U15 division eligible bowler who has already qualified for the 2012 North Pointe Junior Gold Championships will be automatically entered into the U15 division. They can compete in the U20 division by filling at the necessary documents that can be downloaded at Bowl.com/JuniorGold.

How do these changes affect the current qualifying structure of the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships?

They don't have to change at all. You can run qualifiers in exactly the same way and qualify the athletes into the designated age division. However, we do recommend that qualifying take place by division when possible and have changed the minimum qualifying ratio from 1:5 to 1:4 to accommodate. We have also eliminated the minimum average structure to make it easier to attract more athletes to participate in the qualifiers.

Can a U15 qualifier "play up" and participate in the U20 division instead of the U15 division at the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships?

Yes, they can by filling out the proper documentation referenced above.

How does the new advancer policy work for events using the "major fraction thereof" rule?

Once an event has met their minimum ratio and has entries in excess of that ratio, but short of the "major fraction thereof," they have the opportunity to advance one additional entrant to the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships. The next advancer only, will be allowed to claim a spot by funding the balance of the monies needed to pay for that spot. A detailed explanation of the policy can be found on the Junior Gold page of bowl.com.

How does the new advancer policy work for events NOT using the "major fraction thereof" rule?

Once an event has met their minimum ratio and has entries in excess of that ratio, they have the opportunity to advance one additional entrant to the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships. The next advancer only, will be allowed to claim a spot by funding the balance of the monies needed to pay for that spot. A detailed explanation of the policy can be found on the Junior Gold page of bowl.com.

I see the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships spot counter on bowl.com. How can I reserve a spot before the field is sold out?

All spots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Event coordinators can fax in their applications, rules and credit card information to (817) 385-8262 to expedite the process. Phone calls and emails with event details and credit card information are also accepted. The counter is updated periodically – not instantaneously – as spots are reserved. As the number of reserved spots nears maximum capacity, don't procrastinate. Coordinators can purchase 2012 spots at any time in advance for events held before May 30, 2012.

I have excess funds from the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships qualifier. What should I do with those excess funds?

All excess funds must go back to the athletes who entered the Junior Gold qualifying event. However, if you hold a series of North Pointe Junior Gold Championships events through the season you can keep those funds in a "Junior Gold" account to be used if there are any shortages in future events. If the event was not part of a series, you must return those funds through expenses for the champion (from receipts the champion provides) or it can be returned to the Junior Gold bowlers as a scholarship.

How can I award North Pointe Junior Gold spots? What are my options?

Tournament directors have many options when awarding spots. They can award based on a ratio (1:4, 1:5, 1:6, 1:7, 1:8, 1:9, or 1:10) or they can advance their tournament champion provided they have a sufficient number of entries. You can award your spots after the bowler's three (3) games of qualifying or you can advance bowlers at the end of your tournament.

League directors may award their spot at the end of the season or at the half of their season (provided their half has a minimum of 24 games). League directors can award the champion or a minimum ratio of 1:4 if divisions are used.

Please be very specific in the event rules on how the advancers to the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships will be awarded. Include the words "with major fraction thereof" after the ratio if you intend on awarding two Junior Gold spots with a 1:4 ratio and seven bowlers. If you simply state 1:4, you are not allowed to send the additional bowler until you have an increment of four.

When can I hold North Pointe Junior Gold Championships qualifying events?

Events can be held any time from May 1, 2011 through May 30, 2012. In the case of a sold-out national event, USBC will consider permitting qualifying events earlier. This is on a per-year basis. All qualifying will end on May 30 of the tournament year unless the tournament is sold out prior to this date.

How long do I have to submit my post-event reports?

Junior Gold Finalist and Post-Event Tournament/League Reports are to be submitted to Junior Gold within fifteen (15) days after the end of the event. Holding onto this information longer than this affects the accuracy of our records and can cause eligibility issues for players who may have paid their Junior Gold membership dues at your event.

What benefits are included with the USBC Junior Gold membership?

- USBC Junior Gold membership card
- Member Gift
- Gold Approach E-blasts
- One-year subscription to the online version of *Bowling This Month* Magazine.
- Reduced prices for coaching at ITRC

In the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships, can an individual opt to cross over to the other gender division?

No. Girls may only compete in the girls divisions and boys can only compete in the boys divisions.

How does a player from the U15 division notify USBC of their intention to compete in the U20 division?

The event coordinator should ask each of the U15 qualifiers of their intent and list that information accordingly on the Finalist report. The player can also indicate his/her division choice on the Junior Gold membership application.

Can we hold a North Pointe Junior Gold Championships qualifying event during our association championship event?

You can easily incorporate a Junior Gold qualifying event into your local or state association championship events. Since you only need three (3) games for a qualifying event, you can use the scores from any designated event or events from your championship tournament as a Junior Gold qualifier.

LEAGUE QUESTIONS

Are there modifications to the league qualifiers for 2012?

Yes, the minimum number of games has been reduced from 36 to 24 games and there is now no minimum average to participate.

The rules say I can advance my league champion(s). Who are considered champions?

Junior Gold gives each league director the flexibility to deem the champion. Champion is considered ONE of the following: total point leader, team champion(s) (one for singles; two for doubles; three for trios), high average, high series, high game, etc. Please remember you need the minimum of four males, four females, or a mixed gender group of four to conduct a qualifier for that division. If you are sending the high average boy and girl, there must be at least four male Junior Gold members and four female Junior Gold members to send one in each division.

I run a league. When do I determine how many bowlers will advance?

Advancers are determined by your advancement ratio and how many Junior Gold members are in the league. If your league will award points for having a high game or high series, make sure all athletes are able to earn those points throughout the season to ensure you are advancing the best bowlers you can. Keep in mind you may only award spots based on a 1:4 or higher ratio (major fraction thereof) or your champion(s). Remember that at least half of your league must be Junior Gold members, but your ratio is only taken on those members who are actually participating in the Junior Gold qualifying event. If you charge your athletes a participation fee for Junior Gold, only those athletes would count towards your ratio. If all bowlers are eligible for Junior Gold, then your ratio would be from all those eligible Junior Gold members.

I would like to hold a special tournament for my league bowlers and make it a North Pointe Junior Gold Championships event. Is this possible?

Yes. Junior Gold tournament rules still apply. The tournament must be a minimum of three games and must have a minimum of four Junior Gold boys/four Junior Gold girls or a minimum of four Junior Gold bowlers for a mixed division. You would then be able to advance bowlers through a ratio between 1:4 and 1:10. This tournament must be scheduled by the league where the scores do not count towards regular league standings (USBC Rule 113C). You must also submit a QUALIFYING EVENT APPLICATION.

I ran a league and advanced my champion team. However, one of the bowlers on the team has already won their North Pointe Junior Gold Championships spot. What do I do now?

Since a bowler must accept their first entry unless an alternate entry is a premier entry, you must state in your rules how an alternate will be advanced. For example, you can state that the bowler from the second-place team with the highest average would then be the next person to advance. In the event a top qualifying bowler has already qualified and this entry is at the premier level the top qualifying bowler will be rewarded the additional perks and the qualifying spot would go to the first alternate.