

# JUNIOR GOLD TOURNAMENTS HANDBOOK 2011-2012

AS OF 9/7/2011

## 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 Tournament Handbook tab. Here you will find the necessary forms to run your event. As always, the Junior Gold staff is available to assist and answer any questions. We can be reached at [USBCJuniorGold@bowl.com](mailto: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 Championships 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 choose to be placed back in the U20 division by filling in the necessary documents that can be downloaded at [Bowl.com/JuniorGold](http://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](http://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](http://bowl.com).

**I see the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships spot counter on [bowl.com](http://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 e-mails 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 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 Championships 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 (during a regular season). 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 regardless.

#### **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.

## **TOURNAMENT QUESTIONS**

#### **What is the minimum number of games that must be bowled in a North Pointe Junior Gold Championships qualifying event?**

All Junior Gold qualifying done during tournaments must have a minimum of three games in the tournament.

**I want to run a Junior Gold qualifying event. What are the steps I must take?**

Certify your tournament online at [bowl.com](http://bowl.com).

Submit a copy of your proposed rules and the completed JUNIOR GOLD TOURNAMENT APPLICATION to Junior Gold at least ONE MONTH prior to the event for review. Junior Gold reserves the right to reject any event that does not submit this information for review PRIOR to the event.

Within fifteen (15) days following the end of the event, the POST EVENT REPORT and the FINALIST REPORT both must be submitted to Junior Gold. Compliance with this requirement is key to Junior Gold maintaining an accurate database of advancers, alternates and Junior Gold memberships.

**I run multiple North Pointe Junior Gold Championships events throughout the year, is there a streamlined procedure I can follow to get them all covered at once?**

When you go to certify your tournament, you will choose the option for "Comprehensive Tournament". This will allow you to enter all your events under one certification number. When you submit your paperwork to Junior Gold, your QUALIFYING EVENT APPLICATION will have the dates of your first and last events and you can submit a listing of the date, city and center of your additional events. If you add events during the season, simply provide us with this same information so we keep our databases up-to-date.

**I have a tournament that has multiple squads. How can I run North Pointe Junior Gold Championships qualifying in this type of event?**

There are two ways of running qualifying for "squad" events. The first is to make each squad a separate qualifying event. Bowlers would pay to enter a squad and each squad must meet the minimum of four Junior Gold boys or four Junior Gold girls or four Junior Gold athletes of either gender. You can then award your ratio based on the number of entries per squad. Junior Gold athletes would then have the opportunity to enter various squads. If you would prefer to award your ratio/champion after all of your squads have bowled, bowlers may only enter a Junior Gold qualifying event once prior to their squad. For example, John is bowling in squads 1, 2 and 3. He decided to participate in Junior Gold during the second squad. Then only his score from squad 2 would count towards Junior Gold, even if squads 1 and 3 were higher scores. Scores are counted immediately after the athlete pays the Junior Gold fee (if applicable).

**I had a tie for my advancer and I'm only able to send one bowler based on my ratio. What do I do?**

As with any tie advancing to the next level, you must hold a roll-off (USBC 326a, Item 2b) and you must have at least a one frame roll-off. In this situation, co-champions are not allowed.

**At the end of my event, I found that one of the advancers did not have a current USBC Junior Gold membership. How should I handle this?**

The first mistake was letting the player participate initially. Junior Gold rules require ALL participants to have a current Junior Gold membership BEFORE they begin the qualifying event. In this case, the player is not eligible to advance and should be replaced with the next eligible player in line.

**I only have three bowlers who have not yet qualified for the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships. Can I pay for a bowler who has already qualified to make my required four bowlers?**

No. There cannot be a "phantom" bowler included to reach the minimum requirement. If a bowler already has obtained a berth to the Junior Gold Championships, he/she may enter another tournament, provided the bowler pays for his/her entry and does so by his/her own choice. This means the bowler must consent to enter the tournament and is not allowed to be "entered into an event without his/her knowledge."

**Are there any tournament formats which are not allowed to be used as a North Pointe Junior Gold Championships qualifying event?**

Currently, the only tournament formats that are not allowed for Junior Gold would be the handicap events, Baker format, 40-frame game, moonlight bowling tournaments, and 9-pin tap tournaments. All of the Junior Gold tournaments must be USBC certified and Junior Gold approved and must follow all USBC rules. If your event is not a typical tenpin format, please contact us directly and we can assist.

**I run an adult/youth tournament. Is this allowed as a North Pointe Junior Gold Championships event?**

Yes! As long as your adult/youth bowlers bowl a minimum of three individual games and it is scratch competition, you can simply take the youth's score and use that as a qualifier. With the youth's score you can then award based on your advancement ratio. You can then award any scholarship money based on the total adult/youth score.

**I run a handicap and scratch tournament. The book says it must be scratch competition. Can I allow my handicap bowlers to participate in Junior Gold if they are members?**

Yes, as long as you are using only their scratch scores in the Junior Gold portion of the event. Please be very specific in your tournament rules as to the eligibility of your Junior Gold qualifier.