

## **RULES & INFORMATION for the USBC MASTERS**

Feb. 8-14, 2010

### **-A-**

**Administrative fees** are charged to any individuals who withdraw from the tournament. A fee of \$50 for those withdrawing between Jan. 1-Jan. 15 and \$100 for those withdrawing after Jan.15. An administrative charge of \$50 will be added to the \$450 entry fee for those individuals entering after Jan. 1.

**Alternates** will not be used in match play. Players arriving late for their match 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 or her three games to advance to the succeeding round.

If a forfeiture occurs in the first round or any succeeding winner's bracket match, the player forfeiting the match would still be eligible to bowl in their next scheduled loser's bracket match.

### **-B-**

**Bowling balls** including "plugged" balls, must meet USBC specifications. **Abrasives cannot be used on the bowling ball once competition begins.**

### **-C-**

**Check-in** is in the registration area. All bowlers must check in at least 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled squad. A bowler who does not check in 30 minutes prior to his/her scheduled squad is subject to a \$50 fine. Last call will be five minutes before the scheduled start time of each squad. If you are not present, you may be replaced. A bowler thus removed will be placed at the bottom of the standby list.

USBC Membership must be shown at check-in.

### **-D-**

**Dates:** The Masters will include BowlFest on Saturday, Feb. 6. Actual Masters competition will start with qualifying on Tuesday and Wednesday (Feb.9 and 10), match play on Thursday and Friday (Feb. 11 and 12), with the stepladder finals on Sunday, Feb. 14.

**Defending Champion** is exempt from qualifying and is seeded 32<sup>nd</sup> in the match play field. The defending champion will receive one hour of practice following the third block of qualifying and will be allowed to practice on any lanes except those on which he/she is scheduled to begin competition.

**Double-elimination** format is used in match play to determine stepladder finalists. The survivor of the winner's bracket earns the top position. Once defeated, players are placed in the loser's bracket and the match play grid determines the other finalists. Double-elimination determines winner's bracket champion (#1 seed), as well as the #2, 3 and 4 seed for TV.

**Dress code** requirements are a shirt with bowler's name (lettering must be two-inches in height, either embroidered or sewn) on back during all qualifying competition. Dress slacks

(no jeans or cords) are required during all qualifying, match play and stepladder finals competition. Those players not following dress code requirements will be assessed \$50 (for each offense) at tournament director's discretion. All fines payable before future competition in the Masters. NOTE: Please see "practice dress code" for additional dress code requirements.

**-E-**

**Entry** To enter players can complete the entry form and mail it with the entry fee to:  
**USBC Masters, c/o Brian Whitman, 621 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011**

(or) Complete the on-line entry posted on [www.Bowl.com](http://www.Bowl.com)

**Eligibility for the Masters** is based on the following:

1. USBC State Representative who has placed first or second in the "actual" all-events division in his/her association tournament.
2. USBC league members with a minimum 190 average for 21 games or more for the past two seasons or 173 Sport Bowling Average.
3. A non-USBC league bowler classified by the Professional Bowlers Association as a Full Member.
4. Bowler who holds 190 or better average in the past five USBC Open Championships.

**NOTE:** In all cases, entrant must be a current USBC member either through a certified league or associate membership.

**-F-**

**Forfeited matches** require the winner to complete all three games.

**-L-**

**Lost games** (or portion of a game) which are irretrievably lost in the scoring process shall be re-bowled at a time determined by tournament management.

**-M-**

**Match game procedure** will be used with the bowler on the "odd" numbered lane starting the match. The bowler shall bowl one frame. The opponent shall then bowl two consecutive frames starting on the even-numbered lane, then the odd-numbered lane. The starting bowler then bowls two frames. This procedure continues throughout the match. The player who ends a game first starts the following game. All matches start on the left lane.

**Match play** will consist of three-game matches until the stepladder finals. Total pins will determine the winner of each match. The schedule for the opening match play round will be determined by qualifying score as matched with a pre-arranged listing with the defending champion seeded 32<sup>nd</sup>. The complete schedule with lane assignments will be on display prior to the completion of qualifying.

**-P-**

**PBA Members:** Current and former PBA members must be in good-standing with the PBA

**Plugged bowling balls** may be used as long as they meet USBC specifications.

**Practice** will be allowed before the start of each qualifying block and each match. Ten minutes will be allowed for practice in qualifying and five minutes in match play. In case of a lane breakdown causing at least a 20 minute delay, one practice ball per lane will be allowed by the bowlers on that pair of lanes.

**Practice dress code** requires that all players wear a shirt (name not required) and dress pants (no jeans or cords). Those not following dress code requirements will be assessed a \$25 fine by tournament management.

**Practice sessions** will be scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9. Practice times will be provided with qualifying squad time notification. Bowling balls do not have to be checked for practice sessions.

**Prize checks** are issued at the Masters Tournament office shortly after a player has been eliminated from match play competition. Players qualifying for the third block, but not making the 64-player finals, will receive prize checks the following day. At least one player out of every four entrants will cash. The entire prize fund will be returned 100%.

**Protests** concerning scoring accuracy must be filed with tournament management immediately. Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to the attention of the chief supervisor on duty. An inspection then will be made and, if needed, corrections made. However, if the complaint is determined to be unwarranted the contestant must proceed to bowl or the games will be declared forfeited.

**-Q-**

**Qualifying:** All entrants will bowl one five-game block on each of the first two days. The field will be cut to one-fourth for an additional five-game block on the third day. (NOTE: All players making the first cut will compete on one squad.) The top 63 scorers join the defending champion for the match play finals.

Lane assignments are randomly selected by the tournament computer.

Bowlers compete “across the house” during their five-game blocks. Tournament management will determine how many lanes are skipped.

**-R-**

**Refunds:** After a player’s entry for the Masters has been accepted, USBC is not obligated to refund the entry fee if the player fails to appear or elects to withdraw. USBC retains the right to transfer that player’s entry fee to anyone on the waiting list.

**Re-racks:** Each contestant may take one re-rack per game throughout qualifying and match play competition (includes stepladder finals).

**-S-**

**Squad drawings** are determined by a random computer selection process.

**Substitutes** in qualifying play are used only from the official “waiting list” on the first day of qualifying. Substitutes (alternates) are not used in match play.

**-T-**

**Telecast:** USBC retains the right to arrange for telecasts or broadcasts of the tournament without costs to the participants or the participant sharing in any revenue derived there from.

**Ties** for the last qualifying spot after the first 10-games of qualifying will be broken by a one-game roll-off just prior to the final qualifying round. If the tie is not broken after the one-game roll-off, two additional frames will be bowled and scored as the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> frames with bowlers starting on their finishing lanes. This two-frame roll-off will continue until the tie is broken.

After the third qualifying round, any ties for the 63<sup>rd</sup> and final qualifying spot will be broken by a one-game roll-off and will be scheduled by the tournament management shortly after the completion of qualifying play. The players will draw for starting positions. The pair of lanes to be used will be determined by tournament management.

Ties involving any positions except the final qualifying position are to be determined by the highest five-game total in the third block. If a tie still exists, the high game of that block will break the tie.

Ties in match play require an additional game on the same pair of lanes with the first finishing bowler starting the match. If the tie is not broken after the one-game roll-off, two additional frames will be bowled and scored on their finishing lanes. This two-frame roll-off will continue until the tie is broken.

**-U-**

**Unsportsmanlike conduct** as determined by the tournament management may result in disqualification and/or the player being declared ineligible to enter future Masters tournaments. The individual also may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$200.

**-W-**

**Waiting list** is started after available entries and reserved entries are filled. When openings occur through withdrawals, the waiting list is used to fill the vacancies. Individuals on the waiting list are notified as soon as an opening occurs. Also, a roll-call for those on the waiting list will be held 30 minutes prior to the first qualifying squad to determine a standby list. Players on the standby list are used to replace players who fail to show up for their scheduled qualifying squad.

**Withdrawals** after competition has started must be granted by tournament management. Once a five-game qualifying block or three-game match has started, the player must complete the series unless given permission to withdraw. Unauthorized withdrawal will be considered an unsportsmanlike act and subject to penalty.

**Withdrawals** before competition has started – see “Administrative fee”.

*For the 2010 Masters: Any issues relating to player conduct that may arise during the TV finals, including but not limited to player apparel, product registration and logo guidelines, shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the PBA.*