



# Tournament Rules



## I. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

### a. Squad Scheduling

It is the responsibility of each tournament bowler to find out her scheduled squad times for both the Pro/Am and professional tournament by checking in at the tournament site. All bowlers must report to the player's equipment area 60 minutes prior to their opening squad of the first round of qualifying and 30 minutes prior to all other squads of the tournament they may advance to. An information sheet will be posted in the player's equipment room listing each bowler's squad assignment. It is the bowler's responsibility to read the information sheet to comply with its instructions and to be available to bowl at her scheduled starting times. A bowler who is late for or misses roll call, may face disqualification in the tournament.

### b. Check-In for TV Finals

Bowlers who are to compete in TV finals are required to be on the premises at the time specified by the BPAA Tournament Committee. A bowler who is late for or misses the scheduled check in time may be replaced with the alternate.

### c. Penalties for Late Arrival

Any player who is not available to bowl at the scheduled starting time for any round of match play will be replaced by alternate.

### d. Official Starting Time

Official starting time for practice and all rounds shall be those published on the tournament schedule.

## II. PRIZE FUND

### a. Tournament Entry

- Entry fee for the tournament will be \$350 US (\$125 expenses, \$225 prizefund) for all entries received postmarked before May 15, 2012. All entries received after this will be \$400 US. (\$125 expenses, \$275 prize fund).
- Entry fee for all US Senior Women's Open will be \$250 and will pay \$10,000 first place based on 150 entries, with a 1:4 cash ratio. There will be a minimum of \$5000 first place regardless of the amount of entries.
- Entry fee for all former US Women's Open champions will be \$300 US.
- Any international players that choose to compete will be charged \$350 US (\$125 expenses, \$225 prizefund) for all entries received postmarked before May 15, 2012. All entries received after this will be \$400 US. (\$125 expenses, \$275 prize fund).

### b. Tournament Proper

Prize fund will be listed on the tournament website and is subject to change based on the amount of entries that are received. A top prize of \$40,000US awarded to the champion and a minimum of \$1,000 US to the last place casher will be guaranteed. Prize fund will be paid out 1:4.

- 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-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.

### c. Senior U.S. Women's Open Prize fund

Any senior (50 years of age or older as of June 21, 2012) that declares they will be participating in the senior division PRIOR TO throwing their first ball in competition will be eligible for the Senior Prize fund. The prize fund for the Senior Women's US Open is TBD.

d. Scholarships

Youth females may enter Bowling's U.S. Women's Open in accordance with USBC Rule 400; prize waiver's **must** be signed and received prior to the start of competition. In the event a youth female bowler cashes in the event, all money will be deposited in to their S.M.A.R.T. account. (#8571). Failure to submit this form may result in disqualification from the tournament.

### III. WITHDRAWAL

a. Withdrawal While Tournament is in Process

Withdrawal of any bowler while the tournament is in progress will not be permitted unless permission is granted by the BPAA Tournament Committee or designated official. The bowler may also be restricted from bowling in subsequent Women's US Open Championships.

b. Withdrawal From Match Play

See Rule IX regarding substitution for a match play finalist.

### IV. BOWLING BALL SPECIFICATIONS

a. Bowling Ball Availability

Any bowling ball, which has been made available to the public as of June 1, 2012, may be used in competition providing in meets USBC specifications.

b. Bowling Ball Identification Bowling balls used in the Women's US Open Bowling Championship competition cannot carry any brand name or logo other than the original under which they were manufactured.

c. Damaged Equipment

If a bowling ball is damaged during tournament play in such a fashion that it does not meet tournament specifications, the player must immediately notify the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director has the option to remove a ball from the competition if it is felt that the damaged ball could adversely affect the lane surface. Use of abrasives will be permitted until a player bowls her first ball in any round of competition.

If the tournament director removes a ball from the competition the player may alter the surface of one replacement ball prior to using it in competition within the same block of games.

All Equipment specifications will follow USBC rules.

### V. PRACTICE SESSIONS

a. Practice Sessions

Bowlers will be assigned to specific practice sessions and are expected to practice only when they are scheduled. This will assist with the flow of bowlers in and out of the center along with keeping the amount of ladies on each lane to a minimum in order to maximize the practice session. Bowlers must follow same guidelines for dresscode as spelled out for the tournament itself.

b. Other Practice Sessions

After tournament competition begins, anyone can bowl at any time there are lanes available that are not being used for competition, even if the lanes are dressed with the tournament condition. Unauthorized practice on a competition pair or back-up pair after tournament competition begins will result in disqualification from the tournament.

c. Warm up

The warm-up period for qualifying will consist of ten (10) minutes of practice on the starting pair of lanes immediately prior to the start of each round. The duration of warm-up periods may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Changes will be posted in the player's equipment area prior to the start of the event.

## VI. SPECIAL RULINGS

a. Affecting Tournament In Progress

1. *Breakdown*

- In case of a breakdown or delay, the Tournament Director will make a decision regarding the continuation or rescheduling of games. Practice shots if any, will be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- In the event of an act of God, the BPAA Tournament Director will determine appropriate cause of action. The BPAA Tournament Director's decisions shall be final.

2. *Re-racks*

- Players are allowed a maximum of one (1) re-rack per game during qualifying and match play. Additional re-racks may be requested from the Tournament Director or other official. Any player who takes additional re-racks during a game without proper approval will be given zero for the frame. During TV finals matches, players will be permitted two re-racks per game. A tournament official must authorize any re-spotting of pins on the second ball cycle other than the continuation of a normal re-rack. In the Bowling's U.S. Women's Open, a game will be construed to have 12 frames.
- To record re-racks, players are required to place a check mark on their own score recap forms for each re-rack taken next to the game number on the recap form and notify other bowlers on her pair for verification.

3. *Tie for Position, Roll-off*

- In case of a tie after the qualifying rounds, there will be a one-game roll-off for the last position advancing to the next round of competition. If tie for position results in a roll-off, the player with the high block from the most recent round will be given the option of who starts the match.
- In case of a tie for position round during match play, the bowler with the highest total actual pin fall prior to position round game will be awarded the higher position. If total actual pins are equal, revert to high block rule for qualifying.
- The roll-offs must take place within one hour of the finish of the last squad.
- All ties for TV positions will be rolled off. A pair of lanes that neither player used during the last round of competition will be utilized. The player with the overall higher actual pin fall will determine who starts the match. If the total pins are equal revert to high block rule for qualifying. Bowlers will receive 10 minutes of practice.
- In the event of a tie during the TV show stepladder finals, a one-ball "sudden death" roll-off will occur. The higher seed will have the option of whether to start first or

second, and their choice of lane. The lower seed will bowl on the opposite lane chosen by the higher seed.

4. *Tournament Leader*

- At the completion of each qualifying squad, the squad leader must report to the tournament/media office within ten (10) minutes of the end of the squad. Failure to report may result in disqualification.
- At completion of each round of match play, the tournament leader must report to the tournament/media office within ten (10) minutes of the end of the round.
- Following the completion of the televised finals, all bowlers in the televised finals must participate in the “after hours” event and may only be relieved from official competition by the tournament director. Activities include a “meet and greet” session and other “media friendly” requests.”

5. *Rules and Regulations*

- USBC rules and regulations will apply unless modified by the Bowling’s U.S. Women’s Open Competition rules. Tournament Director reserves the right to alter or add to these rules prior to start of competition. Any changes will be posted in the player’s equipment area.

6. *Protests*

- Protests involving eligibility or playing rules must be made to tournament management in writing within the time limits in Rule 329. The decision of tournament management will be final unless a written appeal is filed with USBC Headquarters within the time limits in Rule 329.

## **VII. SUBSTITUTION OF ALTERNATE PLAYER**

a. Substitution Procedures

1. *Penalty Procedures*

- The alternate player may enter the tournament in place of match play finalist at the discretion of the Tournament Director in the case of injury, sickness or emergency, subject to the following procedures and penalties to the replacement.
- When the alternate enters the tournament, she must carry her own qualifying total into play. If the alternate enters after play has commenced, the following amount will be deducted from the total of the player the alternate replaces; the difference between their qualifying scores plus any bonus pins won by the original player. The alternate then will assume the net score at that point. Whenever the alternate enters the match play finals, only the prize money will be split with the player she replaces. Each player retains her own actual pin fall and match play record for statistical purposes.
- In the case of a tie for the alternate position for match play, a one-game roll-off will determine the acting alternate.
- The player finishing one position out of cut for any match play round “must” inform the Tournament Director within fifteen (15) minutes of the announcement that she is the alternate. The alternate must be present at all roll calls and remain on the premises through all frames of match play competition, and be prepared to bowl if required. If the alternate fails to fulfill her obligations, she may forfeit a portion of the prize fund.

2. *Dividing Prize Money*

- Prize money for alternate and original finalist will be equally divided at the conclusion of the tournament if the alternate enters match play.

**VIII. CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT PLAYERS**

a. Governing conduct at all times

1. *Behavior*

- All tournament bowlers must at all times behave as professional performers and ladies, and are subject to the same penalties for violation of professional conduct standards outlined herein. Any public criticism that, in the opinion of the Tournament Officials, defames BPAA, its members, officers or staff, shall be a non-bowling conduct violation as determined by the Bowling's U.S. Women's Open Championship Tournament Director and/or Tournament Official.

2. *Complaints*

- All complaints should be registered in writing to the Tournament Committee. In the absence of a tournament official, two or more tournament players who witness an act of misconduct by another tournament player may report the violation to the Tournament Director for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Players and their family members/guests are prohibited from registering complaints with the host proprietor, his staff, news media, any local tournament representatives or to the tournament sponsor's representatives. Penalty may result in being barred from participating in future Bowling's U.S. Women's Open events.

3. *Conduct Unbecoming a Professional*

- Any tournament bowler who publicly discusses the sponsor, host center or personnel, pins, BPAA or fellow players in an unfavorable manner or who otherwise engages in actions unbecoming a professional may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- Profanity, foul and obscene language or any visible gestures which are offensive and unbecoming to a professional are prohibited at any time.

b. Governing conduct at the Host Center

1. *Slow Bowling*

- To maintain the proper pace of bowling, meet the player you follow as she comes off the approach and a bowler on each pair should be at the ball return at all times; do not wait for more than two (2) bowlers to make their shots; do not wait for more than one (1) pair of lanes on either side, whether in use or not; do not double-jump.
- Each bowler is responsible for the pace of her group. Bowlers are to remain within the bowler's area during competition, however they must leave the area to speak with a bowling ball representative. Players should meet the previous bowler as they come off the approach, to keep the pace of play correct.

2. *Gambling*

- Illegal wagering in reference to the tournament will not be tolerated by the BPAA and may result in disqualification. All brackets will be conducted by BPAA.

3. *Alcohol and/or Controlled Substances*

- Tournament participants may not consume alcohol until they are done competing for the day (including pro-ams). Competitors must have changed their attire to no longer include the name on the back of the shirts before consuming alcohol.
- When done competing for the day, a member may only consume alcohol in a designated area to be determined by the Tournament Director, subject to the host center rules and local laws. *Example: The host center lounge.*
- The possession of alcohol is prohibited during any media session.
- Any bowler in the tournament host center, whether competing or not competing in the tournament must adhere to the aforementioned guidelines.

#### 4. *Smoking*

- Tournament participants may not use any type of tobacco product during any phase of competition.
- Once you are done competing for the day, you may only smoke in a designated area to be determined by the tournament director. Subject to the host center rules and local laws.
- The use of any tobacco during any media session is prohibited.
- Any member in the tournament must adhere to the aforementioned guidelines.

#### 5. *Bowlers Settee Area*

- Only tournament bowlers are permitted in the settee area. The tournament director may determine special seating for news media and tournament sponsor's representatives. All tournament bowlers are required to police the bowling area before moving from the area, removing any tape, powder, trash, etc. Rosin bags, hand conditioner or any other powder substances are to be placed on a towel as a consideration to other bowlers and the host center.

#### 6. *Assistance Carrying Equipment*

- Only tournament competitors and tournament staff are permitted in the bowlers' area during competition. Bowling ball manufacturer representatives (Ball Reps) may remain in the bowler's area during official practice sessions and warm-up sessions only and must leave the bowler's area when competition is in process.
- In the event a "Paddock" area is created at the National Bowling Stadium, only tournament participants, BPAA Tournament Committee and National Bowling Stadium employees will be allowed into the paddock area.

### **IX. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT AREA**

#### a. Equipment Storage Procedures

- *Equipment Storages*
  - Due to the limited space that may be available in a paddock area, lockers will be made available to the players for ball storage purposes.

### **X. WEARING APPAREL**

#### a. Name/Logo Shirt Requirements

##### 1. *Lettering on Shirts*

- All tournament bowlers are required to wear their last names (first and last name is recommended) in lettering a minimum one-inch high on the back of shirts during all

tournament play including the television finals. Embroidered lettering is recommended; screened and heat-transferred is allowed. Hand printed lettering and air brushed designs are **not** permitted. Name placards are allowed **only** if attached with double sided tape.

- Bowler's name and sponsors/affiliates name may **ONLY** appear on the player's shirt, in accordance with the rule above.
  - 2. *Clothing on Television*
    - For any television bowling appearance in conjunction with any BPAA approved event, players are required to wear clothing which are in good taste, according to the discretion of the Tournament Director.
  - 3. *Protruding Items*
    - Tournament bowlers are not permitted to have anything hanging or protruding from their apparel while bowling.
- b. General Appearance
- General appearance guidelines will apply to all tournament bowlers, members or amateurs entered in professional competition for tournament play, Pro/Ams, official practice sessions and informal practice sessions in a tournament city prior to or after the tournament.
1. *Appearance Guidelines for Women – General*
    - A bowler's clothing shall be neat, appropriate and clean. Bowlers shall present a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming at all times.
  2. *During Competition*
    - Tournament bowlers are required to wear a shirt and skirt, skorts, capris, walking shorts or slacks as defined below during the Pro/Ams, official practice session and competition.  
**No denim allowed.**
    - Hair must be kept neat, clean and groomed.
    - Personal music players may not be worn during a players delivery, but may be worn during competition while in the settee area.
    - Shirts follow same guidelines as (general) 1. Above.
    - Tank tops may not be worn; sleeveless blouses with collar are acceptable.
    - Questionable apparel shall be referred to the Tournament Committee before it is worn in competition. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to approve or reject questionable apparel.

## **XI. LANE MAINTAINENCE**

- A fair equitable and uniform lane condition of all tournament lanes is the primary objective of the BPAA lane conditioning procedure. Emphasis of the procedure will be on providing a playable condition on the right and left sides of each lane and no condition effect will be made to provide a particular angle because the condition of the lane surface will more or less determine the angle or angles. Should an emergency necessitate a deviation from the set procedure once a tournament begins, a report will be made to all squads. Basic lane maintenance information will be posted in the players' equipment area before the start of each day's competition.
- The lane maintenance personnel shall not be harassed, intimidated or criticized by any bowler. It is prohibited to discuss lane maintenance procedures or lane conditions with lane maintenance personnel. Any complaint regarding lane maintenance must be made to the Tournament Director.

- If there is a change in the lane maintenance procedure after the official practice session and before the start of the tournament, the Tournament Director will report the change at roll call and will direct the player's attention to the report posted in the players' equipment area.
- It shall be the BPAA's responsibility to see that the procedures herein specified are maintained throughout the tournament. It shall be the host proprietor's responsibility to conform to the maintenance procedures outlined by the BPAA.
- Any complaint regarding lane maintenance must be made to the Tournament Director and that complaint will be referred to the tournament office.

## **XII. SCORING**

### a. Score Sheets

Each player is responsible for both her score sheet and that of the player opposite her, i.e. two leadoff women, two anchor women. After each game, the players' scores and her plus or minus must be entered on her score sheet. Thirty (30) bonus pins will be awarded per win during the match play portion of the tournament; fifteen (15) bonus pins will be awarded per tie.

### ***DISCLAIMER:***

The BPAA tournament committee has the right to settle any rule not covered herein, with this decision being final and binding.