



## **2024 RHEINLAND-PFALZ BOWLING ASSOCIATION OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

 **USBC Certified 10206**

### **OFFICIAL RULES, POLICIES AND PLAYING INFORMATION**

**Registration: Apr. 01 to May 24**

**Ramstein Bowling Center, 2139, 66877 Ramstein-Miesenbach**

**Open to current Rheinland-Pfalz Bowling Association (RBA) members**

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#### **1. AVERAGES - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RHEINLAND-PFALZ BOWLING ASSOCIATION OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The average to be used will be determined in the following order:

- A.** Current Average - Bowlers must enter with their current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games in an RBA certified bowling league. League standings sheets or a letter of verification from the league secretary must be presented upon check-in.
- B.** National League Average – Bowlers who do not meet the average requirements of “A” will be entered with the highest average from the 2022/2023 USBC winter or summer season, based on 21 or more games in a USBC certified league with RBA certified leagues taking precedence.
- C.** No Average - Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements of A or B but are current USBC members in good standing with the RBA, will be entered scratch.

#### **FAILURE TO REPORT REQUIRED INFORMATION**

Bowlers must attest to the accuracy of the information provided and understand the consequences of their failure to provide the proper facts.

#### **2. AVERAGE VERIFICATION – CORRECTION**

Bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their averages, whether originally submitted by the bowler, team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower handicap, the bowler’s score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, scores will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler’s first game of a series.

#### **3. AVERAGES – ADJUSTMENTS**

Tournament management has the authority to adjust a bowler’s average upward or downward

before participation in any event. For purposes of average adjustment, tournament management will use current posted league averages and USBC certified league averages. A bowler has the right to appeal adjustments to the USBC Rules department within 15 days of notification. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

#### **4. CLOSE OF ENTRIES/CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY**

Entries into the Open Championships will be accepted until 24 May 2024. Entries received after this date, or the date of the tournament will incur a \$10 fee per entry if available. All entries are subject to the Tournament Cancellation/Refund Policy.

**Note:** The addition of doubles, singles and/or all-events to an existing team entry does not constitute a new entry. The doubles, singles and/or all-events fee must be paid before the participant bowls any of the events.

Refunds will be issued to any captain who pays at least the team entry fee and requests cancellation in writing by the official close of entries date. Refunds are subject to a \$25 service charge. Cancellations received after the close of entry date, or on the date of the tournament, may transfer their entry to a substitute team at no cost. The substitute team will be required to pay in full prior to substitution. The original team captain will not receive any refund until the substitute team is paid in full.

**Note:** There is no tournament credit nor transfer of entry fees

#### **5. TEAM STRUCTURE & ROSTER**

Teams and Doubles events may be composed of all men, all women, or mixed. Youth are not permitted in the competition.

#### **SINGLES AND ALL-EVENTS**

Singles and All Events will comprise of a Men's and a Women's category respectively.

#### **6. DOUBLES & SINGLES-ONLY ENTRIES**

Doubles and singles-only entries are available. Entry fees are \$35 for Doubles and \$35 for Singles.

#### **7. ELIGIBILITY**

All participants must have current USBC Adult membership and be 18 years of age or older at time of competition and a member in good standing with the RBA. Captains must provide proof of membership for each bowler on their roster upon checking in. If current membership cannot be verified, the bowler may not be entered for the competition until USBC and RBA membership is verified. Participants without an RBA membership may purchase a membership at the time of registration. If the participant has a valid USBC membership with another organization within the USBC umbrella, they can fill out the form and join the RBA as well. This will not affect your already existing association membership.

Participants who are not members of the RBA, but do have a valid USBC membership, may enter the tournament by paying for an RBA membership with their entry. If the members are already members of another organization within the USBC umbrella, they can fill out the form and join the RBA as well. This will not affect your already existing association membership.

**Note:** RBA Board members and league officials are allowed entry for competition.

## **8. EQUIPMENT**

The tournament managers will answer any questions or concerns.

### **BOWLING BALLS**

Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for his/her exclusive use.

Only USBC-approved bowling balls will be allowed and MUST have the manufacturer's name, product name and serial number clearly visible.

Bowling balls and drilling must meet all USBC specifications.

Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand. Any thumb or finger hole that is not used for gripping purposes during the delivery would be classified as a balance hole. Balance holes are not allowed.

Any bowler found to be using any bowling ball that does not meet USBC specifications will be warned to discontinue use of the offending equipment. If the bowler continues to use offending equipment, they are subject to disqualification.

### **EQUIPMENT ALTERATIONS**

Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. Bowlers are permitted to sand the surface of their bowling balls prior to certified competition. The use of abrasives strictly is prohibited once the bowler's first ball is thrown in competition. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel or shammy once the bowler has begun competition.

### **FOREIGN SUBSTANCES**

No foreign substance can be applied to bowling shoes or approaches. This includes, but is not limited to rosin, powder, Easy-Slide, dry bags, slide stone, soap stone, polish, wax, alcohol and like products.

- First offense: Individual is warned.
- Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

## **9. ETIQUETTE**

**A. Devices** - The use of an artificial device to listen to music is prohibited without the use of personal headphones. (i.e. radio, boomboxes, Bluetooth speakers, cellular phone speakers)

**B. Unsportsmanlike behavior** will not be tolerated on the lanes or inside the tournament venue. Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical or verbal abuse toward other persons, tournament officials, and bowling center staff.

**C. Pace of Play** – Please be ready to bowl when it is your turn, observing one-lane courtesy. This will help ensure your event is completed in the allotted time. During tournament squads (number of games you play) you may not leave the bowling area for breaks other than restroom. This includes between games in the 3 games set. (*see Tournament Rule 25 – Slow Bowling*)

**D. Food & Drink** – Outside food and beverage is not permitted as stated by the Bowling Center Management. Please keep all food and beverage items in the far back area of the settee away from the immediate bowling area.

**Violation of the rules of etiquette may subject the competitor to removal from the remainder of competition.**

## **10. FEES**

Entry fee is \$40 for Teams, \$35 for Doubles, and \$35 for singles per bowler. All-events fee (optional) is \$25. Total cost for team, doubles, singles and all-events per bowler is \$135.

Entries for the all-events option will be accepted any time prior to the start of practice before the bowler's first event.

- A.** Breakdown for team, doubles, and singles:
  - Team – (Prize fee - \$28 Expense fee - \$12)
  - Doubles – (Prize fee - \$25 Expense fee - \$10)
  - Singles – (Prize fee - \$25 Expense fee - \$10)
- B.** Breakdown for all-events: Prize fee - \$25 No Expense fee

## **11. FORMAT**

- A.** The RBA Open Championships features three divisions, with each consisting of a three-person team event, doubles, singles and all-events.
- B.** Three games will be bowled in each event.
- C.** Scores are recorded and ranked on a handicap basis. Handicap is set at 90% of 220.
- D.** Team event will be held on Saturday May 25, 2024, and doubles/singles will follow on May 26, 2024.
- E.** During the doubles/singles events, doubles will be bowled first, then singles, in that order.
- F.** Entrants bowling doubles are not required to bowl in the team or singles competitions. The registration for both doubles and singles will be held simultaneously before the commencement of the doubles competition.
- G.** An entrant may enter each event only once.

## **12. LANE CONDITIONING**

Lanes will be conditioned before the Team and Doubles competitions. The singles competition will be bowled following the doubles competition and will not receive a reconditioning of the lanes.

The lane condition is set at the current house pattern: CARBON.

## **13. PACERS**

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

## **14. PRIZE CHECKS**

- A.** Prize checks will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (Rule 309)
- B.** In the event a substitute is used, a prize check will be issued in the name of the substitute.
- C.** Any prize check requiring replacement within 90 days of tournament ending will require a \$25 replacement fee and \$50 thereafter.
- D.** Prize checks, or replacement checks, must be cashed by May 26, 2025, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

## **15. PRIZE RATIOS**

All prize money will be returned 100%. The prize ratio will be at least 1:4 for team, doubles, and singles competitions. The prize ratio for all-events will be 1:6.

## **16. PROTESTS**

- A.** Any protest or appeal concerning scoring must be made in writing briefly stating the

grounds of the protest or appeal and submitted to the RBA board no later than 24 hours after the game has been played.

- B.** All foul protests must be filed before the squad is finished.
- C.** Any other protest must be filed in accordance with USBC Rule 329.

## **17. RE-RACKS**

Each bowler is allowed one re-rack per game. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks situationally.

## **18. SLOW BOWLING**

Including practice, competition should be completed in:

**Team Event** - 3 hours and 30 minutes

**Doubles & Singles** - 2 hours and 30 minutes

Any time over this pace of play is considered "slow play"

## **19. BREAKS**

You are responsible to your team and other bowlers to be present during the competition. Taking personal breaks between games is not permitted if pace of play is affected in any way. Be courteous to your team and fellow bowlers and be present.

First reported offense: Warning

Second reported offense: Subject to Disqualification

## **20. SQUAD TIMES/LANE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Team:** 1 p.m.

**Doubles and Singles:** 1 p.m.

**Note:** All lane assignments are assigned after tournament check-in has been completed.

## **21. OTHER RULES**

- A.** Teams and/or individuals arriving late shall begin play, and the scores shall count beginning with the frame being bowled. Entrants will receive a zero for all frames missed or not completed.
- B.** In the event a team or doubles pair is bowling alone on a pair of lanes, each frame shall be completed on one lane before the next frame is started on the adjoining lane.
- C.** All USBC tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.
- D.** Tournament management has the authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered by these rules. All decisions of the tournament management are final unless an appeal is made in accordance with Rule 329.