**2020-2021 Nebraska Open Youth and U20 Bowlers Tour**

**This tournament series is certified (#04355) by the United States Bowling Congress and the following rules will be observed.**

1. **Eligibility:** Open to all USBC sanctioned youth bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2002 or later and all adult (U20) bowlers whose birth date is between 8/1/2000 and 7/31/2002, who are still scholarship eligible. Bowlers must show current 2020-21 USBC sanction card at check-in.
2. **Cost**: $40/yearly membership fee; $50 tournament entry; $5 optional brackets, no limit; optional Junior Gold entry fee. Per tournament: $20.00 lineage, $7.00 expenses, $23.00 to awards and scholarship fund. Membership fee is required and goes to the season end finals, awards, and fees.
3. **Junior Gold Qualifying (optional):** All events except the Invitational Finals will be Junior Gold Qualifiers. *See rule #17 for Junior Gold fee information.*
4. **Entries**: Online entries are encouraged. <<website and entry form to come>> Walk-ins will be accepted based on availability. *See rule #8 for registration information.*
5. **Divisions:**
	* U18 Boys Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2002 to 7/31/2005
	* U18 Girls Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2002 to 7/31/2005
	* U15 Boys Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2005 to 7/31/2008
	* U15 Girls Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2005 to 7/31/2008
	* U12 Mixed Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2008 or later (if at least 6 entries; most U12 will likely opt to bowl handicap)
	* Mixed Handicap, average under 190, 80% of 200; birthdate 8/1/2002 or later
	* U20 Mixed Scratch (must have at least 4 bowlers to hold an event); birthdate 8/1/2000 to 7/31/2002

Starting average for handicap will be book composite average for 2019-2020. If fewer than 6 bowlers in each division, divisions may be combined first by age group and then by gender. U20 age group cannot be combined with any others. There must be at least 4 U20 bowlers to hold an event.

**For 2020-21 tournament season, highest book average for 2019-20, as listed on bowl.com, will be used for the bowler’s first tournament entry**. If the bowler does not have a 2019-20 average, 2018-19 average will be used. If the bowler does not have an established average, please provide a current league standing sheet showing the bowler’s current average for a minimum of 12 games. Bowlers unable to provide an average will bowl scratch.

1. All averages will be verified by tournament officials. Averages for handicap division will be rerated every 15 games.
2. **Sport or challenge oil pattern (TBD).** Pattern will be different each month. Pattern will be released the day of the event.
3. **Registration:** Pre-registration and payment is encouraged and will be available on the tournament webpage. Walk-ins will be accepted based on availability per event. Bowlers may withdraw up to 24 hours prior to the event and receive a full refund. COVID related cancellations will be refunded up to the start of the event.
	* The maximum number of bowlers per tournament will be based on the capacity of the individual bowling center where the event is held. Pre-registration and payment is encouraged, especially for events at small bowling centers.
	* Most events will consist of only one qualifying squad, but it may be necessary to have two squads at small bowling centers.
	* This information will be posted on the website and Facebook and squad choice will be available when registering, where applicable.
	* There will be a $40 charge for any insufficient funds plus any charges levied by our bank. After that, no checks will be accepted.
4. **Format:** All bowlers will bowl five qualifying games, moving lanes between each game. (movement will be finalized day of tournament)
	* After five qualifying games, there will be a cut to the top 5 bowlers in each division. Seeded step-ladder finals in each division will determine the division winner.
	* If two squads are needed, squad 1 bowlers will need to check the online standings to know whether to return for finals. We will work to minimize having to return by having similar divisions bowl together and complete finals before the next divisions arrive whenever possible.
	* Ties will be broken by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off. If a tie still remains after the 9th and 10th frame roll-off, a single ball roll-off will determine the winner.
5. **Scholarships:** Scholarships will be awarded at a minimum of 1:5 in each division. The amount of scholarship available will be based on the number of entries. Scholarship money will be deposited into bowlers’ SMART accounts within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament. Additional scholarship money may be added on the day of the tournament.
6. **Awards:** Each finalist at each stop will receive an embossed plate to attach to a plaque. Customized plaques will be available for purchase by each finalist upon their first time in the finals. Each division winner will have a banner displayed at each subsequent tournament.
7. **Points.** Per tournament, participants will earn points towards the season end finals. Points will be awarded as follows:
	* Participation=5
	* 5th place = 12
	* 4th place = 14
	* 3rd place = 16
	* 2nd place = 18
	* 1st place = 20

Must have a minimum of 2 tournaments and be in top 10 in points of division to be eligible for finals.

1. **Tournament dates**: 9/6/2020, 10/4/2020, 11/8/2020, 3/7/2021, 5/2/2021, 6/6/2021, 6/27/2021 (Invitational Finals). Times may vary based on location and number of squads. In general: Check-in will begin at 8:15 am. Bowling will begin when all participants are checked in or at 9:00 am, whichever is first. Bowlers who arrive after competition has started will be awarded zero for each missed frame. No make ups will be allowed.
2. **Invitational Finals**: Restricted to bowlers who have a minimum of two regular tournaments and who are in the top 10 in points of their division. A four-game qualifier will be bowled for seeding. Then bowlers will compete in a double-elimination bracket format. In addition to the scholarships, the first-place winner in each division at the invitational finals will receive a personalized winner’s banner and matching jersey. There will be no entry fee for the finals; all lineage and scholarship money will come from the season entries and membership fees.
3. **Dress code**: collared shirts or bowling jerseys for boys and girls; slacks or dress shorts for boys; slacks, dress shorts, or skorts for girls. Shorts and skirts/skorts must be at least fingertip length when standing with arms down to the side. No jeans, shorts, sweatpants or yoga-type pants, hats, or sleeveless shirts will be allowed. Any apparel depicting cigarettes, alcohol, drugs or weapons will not be allowed. Tournament director reserves the right to disallow any apparel that does not meet these criteria and tournament director’s decision is final.
4. All current USBC rules applying to equipment and weight/balance holes will be enforced. The USBC playing rules will cover any situations not mentioned.
5. **Junior Gold Qualifying**: Participants in Junior Gold qualifiers must show current a Junior Gold membership card at check-in. If a bowler does not have a current Junior Gold membership card, they can purchase one on the day of the tournament. *A Junior Gold membership consists of bowlers who MUST:*
	1. *Be a USBC youth member in good standing and comply with USBC Rule 400.*
	2. *Purchase an additional Junior Gold membership separate from regular USBC youth/adult (U20) membership.*
* *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2008 or later will participate in the* ***U12*** *division. U12 JG membership fee is $10.00 and entry fee for each U12 bowler at this tournament is $25.00.*
* *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2005 – 07/31/2008 will participate in the* ***U15*** *division. U15 JG membership fee is $30.00 and entry fee for each U15 bowler at this tournament is $37.50.*
* *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2002 - 07/31/2005 will participate in the* ***U18*** *division. U18 JG membership fee is $30.00 and entry fee for each U18 bowler at this tournament is $50.00.*
* *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2000 – 07/31/2002 will participate in the* ***U20*** *division. U20 JG membership fee is $30.00 and entry fee for each U20 bowler at this tournament is $50.00****. Note: a U20 qualifier will only be held if there are enough bowlers to make a complete division. U20 cannot be combined with U18 and below to form a complete division.***
* *The number of advancer spots available in each age group will be determined the day of the tournament based on the number entries that day, per division. Junior Gold is a scratch tournament and each bowler must bowl four games. The scratch scores from the first four tournament qualifying games will determine the bowlers’ Junior Gold scores. Qualifying ratio is 1:4 entries per division. The first non-qualifier above initial ratio with excess entries in each division can advance by paying funds to complete the entry fee.*
* *Junior Gold qualifiers will be announced before the cut to the finals.*
* *Ties for the last qualifying position will be broken by the highest single qualifying game between the tied bowlers. If a tie still exists after comparing all 4 qualifying scores, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will determine the higher qualifier.*
* *If there are not enough entries to have separate boy and girl divisions within an age group, a combined age group will be used. If there are not enough entries for a combined age group, divisions may be combined. U20 cannot be combined with other age divisions. A combined age division will only consist of U18, U15, and/or U12 bowlers.*