

Amateur **B**owlers **T**our Members Manual



Amateur **B**owlers **T**our, Inc.

National Headquarters

8537 W. 2700 S. Suite B
Magna, Utah 84044-0007

Phone: **801-508-7830**

Website: ***abtbowling.com***

Amateur



National Headquarters
1,000,000
8537 W. 2700 S. # B
P.O. Box 7
Magna, UT. 84044-0007
(801) 508-7830
(801) 250-7938 fax
mail@abtbowling.com
Myron & Julie Mitchell

Bay Branch 40,000
2904 Hillsdale Dr.
Pleasant Hill, CA. 94523
(925) 945-1204
mail@bay.abtbowling.com
Joe Dailey

Chicagoland 350,000 & 390,000
P.O. Box 72608
Roselle, IL 60172
(847) 608-4779
(847) 608-4780 fax
mail@cln.abtbowling.com
Mike Fagan

Citrus Belt 200,000
P.O. Box 1027
Alta Loma, CA. 91701
(909) 989-0649
Bill Cauble

Denver Branch 20,000
13848 W. 66th Drive
Arvada, CO. 80004
(303) 422-0190
(303) 422-0190 fax
mail@den.abtbowling.com
Nick Lasorsa

Las Vegas Branch 400,000
10999 Turlington Lane
Las Vegas, NV. 89135
(702) 327-1343
mail@lav.abtbowling.com
Jason and Becky Lanktree

Bowlers Tour



Milwaukee Branch 270,000
10240 W. Nat'l Ave. # 1909
West Allis, WI. 53227
(414) 543-8767 (800) 392-2695
(414) 545-9890 fax
mail@mil.abtbowling.com
Lee Jones

Ocala Florida Branch 460,000
4421 NW Blitchton Rd. # 311
Ocala, FL. 34482
(352) 229-4058
mail@ofl.abtbowling.com
Robert Landron

Orange County Branch 0000
6471 Westminster Ave.
Westminster, CA. 92683
(714) 600-8059
mail@org.abtbowling.com
Rick Niedermayer

Orlando Branch 420,000
P.O. Box 1463
Apopka, FL. 32704
(407) 618-4737
(407) 889-7215 fax
mail@orl.abtbowling.com
Gavin and Cheryl Newman

Philadelphia Branch 210,000
158 Merion Circle
Marlton, NJ. 08053
(856) 985 2942
(856) 985-0405 fax
mail@phl.abtbowling.com
Andy Mitchell

Sacramento Branch 100,000
8803 Fobes Dr.
Antelope, CA 95843
(916) 722-4267
(916) 722-4267 fax
mail@sac.abtbowling.com
Jim and Jackie Davis

Salt Lake Branch 250,000
8537 W. 2700 S. # B
P.O. Box 7
Magna, UT. 84044-0007
(801) 250-7829
(801) 250-7938 fax
mail@slc.abtbowling.com
Julie Mitchell

Branch Listing



South Jersey Branch 340,000
158 Merion Circle
Marlton, NJ. 08053
(856) 985-2942
(856) 985-0405 fax
mail@soj.abtbowling.com
Andy Mitchell

Space Coast Branch 440,000
P.O. Box 61200
Palm Bay, FL. 32906-1200
(321) 728-7926
mail@scb.abtbowling.com
Doug Emmons

Tacoma Branch 120,000
P.O. Box 44751
Tacoma, WA. 98444
(253) 875-7231
(253) 875-7231 fax
mail@tac.abtbowling.com
Bill and Raye Brown

Tampa / St. Pete 430,000
P.O. Box 1463
Apopka, FL 32704
(813) 404-8148
(407) 889-7216 fax
mail@tsp.abtbowling.com
Gavin and Cheryl Newman

Twin Cities Branch 260,000
12527 Central Avenue NE
Suite 297
Blaine, MN. 55434
(763) 413 8442
(763) 413 7596 fax
mail@tcb.abtbowling.com
Steve and Bonnie Hawkins

W. Michigan Branch 240,000
2222 28th St. SW
Wyoming, MI. 49519
(616) 530-0901
(616) 534-5884 fax
mail@wmb.abtbowling.com
Fred Garcia

Western New York 480,000
P.O. Box 417
Getzville, NY. 14068
(716) 636-1383
mail@wny.abtbowling.com
Ed and Lorraine Mousseau

AMATEUR BOWLERS TOUR

MEMBER'S MANUAL

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National Membership Benefits

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS CAN VARY BY BRANCH

PLEASE SEE YOUR LOCAL DIRECTOR FOR THE

CURRENT BENEFITS LIST

Participation Member (\$30.00) per year

Silver Member (\$100.00) per year

Gold Member (\$200.00) per year

Membership benefits are subject to change without notice. Please see your local branch director for the current benefits list.

determined would **not** be subject to change. Any bowler unable to complete his/her Final matches would be placed according to his/her qualifying score from Semi-Finals.

G. BOARD of DIRECTORS and THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 31. During the first year of a Branch’s operation, the Director will appoint a Board of Directors to be selected from members who exhibit an above average interest in the *ABT*.
- 32. Following the first year of operation, the membership will elect a Board of Directors each year.
- 33. The Board of Directors will consist of two (2) male members, one (1) female member, the Local Director and his/her spouse, and a representative from the National Office.
- 34. The Board of Directors will serve at least a one (1) year term and will not be eligible to serve consecutive terms.
- 35. The Board of Directors **does not** have the authority to change any of the basic playing rules, policies, regulations, standard operating procedures and by-laws of the *ABT*.
- 36. RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - ee. To act as liaisons between members and Branch Directors.
 - ff. To review tournament operations and make suggestions for improving and better serving the membership, within the scope of the rules, policies, regulations, standard operating procedures, and by-laws of the *ABT*.
 - gg. To assist management whenever, wherever, however, and for whatever amount of time they can devote.
 - hh. To review all applications for re-instatement when membership has been terminated due to graduation, misconduct or any other reason. Any re-instatement requires the unanimous approval by all members of the Board of Directors and the National Office Representative.
 - ii. To review all applications for membership from people with unusual circumstances.
 - jj. To uphold the policies, procedures, rules, regulations and by-laws and protect the reputation of the *ABT*.
 - kk. To settle disputes and grievances on the Local Branch level. To impartially and objectively judge and vote on these protests and grievances. The National Office must be notified of each Board of Directors’ meeting and advised of the planned agenda. Notice should be received by the National Office with sufficient time to make travel arrangements for a representative to attend. If it is impossible for a representative to attend, a proxy will be issued to someone who is attending or a written vote will be mailed to the Director of the Branch.

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Introduction

Welcome to the **Amateur Bowlers Tour (ABT)**. You have just joined the largest and best tournament club in the United States. The **ABT**, founded in September, 1977, was originally designed for bowlers who averaged 189 and under. Its purpose was to give these bowlers the opportunity to compete with those of similar abilities on a handicapped basis for **guaranteed prize funds** and to receive accolades normally reserved for the higher average bowlers. In March, 1995, the **ABT** introduced a Masters Division open to bowlers averaging between 190 and 220. Four years later, in July of 1999, that was changed to 200 and 225. At the same time the Classic maximum entering average was increased to 199.

Although the **ABT** is not a professional organization, it is a private membership bowling tournament organization governed by Rules, Regulations, Policies and Grooming Standards and consists of two (2) handicapped divisions, Classic and Masters. As of January 1, 2008, the Classic Division will include bowlers with averages of 189 and under and the Masters Division will include bowlers with averages of 225 and under. (Maximums for the Masters Division may be imposed by individual Branch Directors at their discretion – See Eligibility Rules.)

The **ABT** was patterned after the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) with some modifications for amateur bowlers. The number of qualifying games for the **ABT** was established at four (4) instead of the usual 18 games used by the PBA. The **ABT's** Semi-Finals were established at three (3) games, whereas the PBA bowls 24 games. The **ABT** Finals follow the PBA format, except that each bowler may receive handicap based on current ability and tournament average.

During its first 31 years, the **ABT** has expanded to 23 branches in eleven (11) states with more than 160,000 members and has paid out in excess of \$194 million dollars in more than 20,000 tournaments to average bowlers. **ABT** conducts a minimum of 24 tournaments annually in each Branch. However, most Branches exceed that, sometimes having one nearly every weekend. A schedule of events is available at the local **ABT** office, in local bowling publications, and at most local bowling centers. You may also access the **ABT** web site: abtbowling.com. **ABT** membership makes you eligible to bowl in any **ABT** Branch.

ABT conducts a minimum of one (1) National Tournament each year. This is scheduled in the Spring at Sam's Town Bowling Center in Las Vegas, NV. A second and possibly additional National/Regional Tournaments may also be scheduled throughout the year.

Thank you for joining the **ABT**. Our goal is to make you feel welcome and provide you with information that will make your first and future tournaments fun and exciting. In this booklet you will find the Rules, Regulations and Policies which govern the **ABT**. They were designed to give each of you fair, equal and impartial treatment. Please read them carefully. Our organization can only be as strong as our membership. Remember that this is a tournament club and each of us needs to accept the responsibility of protecting our members from those who may try to gain any unfair advantages. If you have questions, any of our Directors will be happy to answer them and help you in any way they can. Suggestions for improving our organization are appreciated and must be presented to the Board of Directors in an appropriately signed letter.

- w. Unauthorized withdrawal from a Tournament in progress results in a minimum 30-day suspension and possible membership termination in addition to the fine.
- x. Unbecoming and/or unsportsmanlike conduct by any member. Also includes a minimum 30-day suspension and possible membership termination.
- y. Complaining about lane conditions. Also includes a minimum 30-day suspension and possible membership termination.
- z. Complaining about **ABT** rules. Also includes a minimum 30-day suspension and possible membership termination.
- aa. Soliciting **ABT** members for a competitive tournament club. Also includes a minimum 30-day suspension and possible membership termination.
- bb. Continuous refusal to abide by grooming and dress standards. Tournament entry may be refused and membership termination is possible.
- cc. Complaining about the average and handicapping system. May also include membership termination.
- dd. Unfair tactics will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic fine and possible membership termination. **No warnings will be given.**

The dollar amounts of fines and length of suspensions are only **minimums**. The Tournament Director or an authorized representative will determine the fines and suspensions based on the severity of the incident.

F. TOURNAMENT TERMINATION

- 27. A Tournament may be prematurely terminated due to war, a national emergency or emergency causes relating thereto or therefrom fire, flood, fog, hurricane, tornado, snow, earthquake, natural disaster or any other reason beyond the control of **ABT**. A termination of this nature shall cause, to the extent required thereby, all advertised prizes, guaranteed or otherwise, to be prorated in accordance with the number of entrants who have bowled in the event to the time of such termination.
- 28. If such termination occurs during **qualifying rounds**, the bowlers who have not finished their 4th or last game would be refunded their entry fees. Bowlers who completed their 4th or last game in their qualifying round prior to the termination would be paid based on the number of entries to that point and their respective positions determined by score.
- 29. If such termination occurs during **Semi-Finals** and the bowlers had **not** finished all three (3) games, the prizes would be awarded based on the scores from the qualifying round(s). If the bowlers **had** finished the Semi-Finals but were unable to start Finals, the prizes would be awarded based on the scores from the Semi-Finals.
- 30. If such termination occurs during the first game of the **Finals**, prizes/positions would be determined by the scores bowled in the Semi-Finals. After completion of the first game, any and all completed games would be used to determine prizes/positions. Interrupted games would not be used to determine a position. Any position already

E. FINES, SUSPENSIONS and MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

24. Any outstanding fines **must** be paid before you will be allowed to bowl in the next Tournament. There are **no** exceptions. It is each bowler's responsibility to check the Fine List posted at the check-in table or on the scoreboard prior to bowling. If a bowler is bowling on the lanes with an unpaid outstanding fine, he/she **could** receive an additional fine.
25. All money collected for fines is to be deposited in a special savings account (Super Bowl/Special Event) along with the \$1.00, if deducted from each Singles Tournament entry, within six (6) days after the completion of the Tournament, if this event is run in your area.

If not used for a Super Bowl/Special Event Tournament, the \$1.00, if deducted from each Singles tournament entry fee, the money left in the Progressive Pot fund, and the fine money must be paid out at least once each year in a Special Event.

26. MOST COMMON FINES:

The following rule violations will result in a minimum fine of **\$2.00**:

- i. Not wearing a shirt/blouse with full first/last names
- j. Not having the Official *ABT* patch/logo permanently attached, as previously described, on shirt/blouse
- k. Incorrect score, addition or subtraction
- l. Writing over the top of a score making it unreadable (write-overs)
- m. Failure to sign recap
- n. Failure to initial recap in each box provided
- o. Placing feet and/or sitting on backs of chairs, benches or settees
- p. Failure to stop practice when told to do so
- q. Re-setting for full set of pins during practice
- r. Dirty shoes
- s. Arriving late for Semi-Finals check-in
- t. Arriving late for Finals meeting

The following rule violations will result in a minimum fine of **\$5.00**:

- u. Obscene language and/or gestures with hands, arms or body. This is an automatic fine and possible disqualification.

The following rule violations will result in a minimum fine of **\$10.00**:

- v. Misuse of equipment including, but not limited to, intent to misuse such as: kicking at but missing ball return, foul indicator or settee. A minimum 30-day suspension **must** accompany this fine and disqualification is possible.

I. MEMBERSHIP

A. ELIGIBILITY & MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

1. Membership is open to men and women 18 years of age and over.
2. Membership is open to USBC members or eligible non-members who purchase an unattached individual membership card prior to bowling. Current members of any professional bowling organization (PBA) are **not** eligible for membership in the *ABT*. Former members of the PBA are eligible provided they meet all eligibility requirements and have not won a national title in the last 5 years. (A professional bowling organization is any organization with 'professional' as part of its name.)
3. Membership Options
 - a. *PARTICIPATION* membership requires that an application be submitted with an initial fee of \$30.00. This membership is then renewable annually, also for a fee of \$30.00. Rewards for this level of membership are minimal. Members receive, in the form of Bowling Rewards (BR) Bucks, one percent (1%) of their base entry fees and prize winnings. See the back pages of this membership manual for all the details.
 - b. *SILVER* membership requires a special Bowling Rewards application, in addition to the standard *ABT* membership application. This membership is paid annually for only \$100.00. This higher Rewards Level membership pays more BR Bucks than the standard *ABT* membership.
 - c. The cost of the *GOLD* membership is \$200.00 per year. Gold membership also requires a special Bowling Rewards application in addition to the standard *ABT* membership application. Gold level members receive more than double the BR Bucks of Silver members. Again, please read all the details in the back of this membership manual.
 - d. *GUEST* membership requires that a standard application be submitted. The standard membership fee of \$30.00 or an upgraded membership fee, if requested, will be deducted from the Guest member's first prize check, thus making him/her no less than a standard *ABT* member. Guest members are **NOT** allowed to participate in optional events and must pay a \$5.00 per event fee until they cash. This includes Progressive Pots, Bonus Bucks or anything similar. They are also not allowed to enter any side pot events, such as the High Game Pots, Brackets, Sweepers or any other optional pots for which members only are eligible.

For additional information on the *Rewards Program*, or to **upgrade** your current membership, check with your local branch, or call the national *ABT* headquarters at 801-508-7830.

4. No person is to receive a membership in the *ABT* who fails to meet the eligibility requirements. If there is any question as to the eligibility of a prospective member, he/she should be refused membership. Branch Directors have full discretion as to who can bowl in their territory.
5. Upon submission of a membership application and/or a Tournament entry form, participants are informed that the *ABT* Tournament, or portions thereof, may be photographed, broadcast, recorded, televised, or otherwise exhibited to the public. The participant hereby consents and agrees to the use, and the license to others to use, their respective names, voice sketch, rebroadcast or other exhibition or reproduction of the Tournament or any part thereof and in any advertisement, publicity or promotion thereof, to release all rights, title and interest they or any of them may have hereafter, waiving forever any claim or right to compensation or other consideration on account of such use, exhibition or reproduction.
6. Acceptance of an *ABT* membership card is an agreement by the member that the card is the property of the *ABT* and must be surrendered on demand. The card is **not** transferable and **cannot** be used by a non-member. The card-holding member also agrees to abide by all current Rules, Regulations and Policies governing membership as well as any new ones adopted at a later date. Loss of a membership card must be reported immediately and is subject to a replacement fee.
7. It will be the responsibility of each individual member to understand and comply with USBC Rule 17 and Rules 319a, c, d and e.
8. At its discretion, the Tournament Director, National Office and/or the Board of Directors have the right to refuse membership, entry and/or renewal of membership to any member or applicant.
9. **Membership is revocable without cause.**
10. To maintain active membership status in the *ABT*, a member must maintain his/her yearly dues and participate in a regular singles event at least once every 120 days. In the event these requirements are not met, a re-initiation fee of not less than thirty dollars (\$30.00) will be invoked to re-establish active membership status, provided the member/applicant qualifies under all the current membership rules and regulations. All acquired bonus pins will be forfeited if membership is not kept current. Each member that re-joins may also be forced to re-establish a tournament average.
11. Franchisee's, Licensee's and their immediate family members living at home are not eligible to participate or compete in any **handicapped** Tournaments hosted or conducted by the *ABT*. (Scratch events are exempt from this rule.)
12. JOINT MEMBERSHIPS
 - e. If a bowler wishes to maintain an average in more than one (1) Branch, he/she will be required to pay a Joint Membership fee of \$30.00 for *each* additional Branch.
 - f. Averages may not be kept and bowlers will not be eligible for Super Bowl/Special Event Tournaments at a non-Home Branch unless they have paid the joint membership fee.

17. All shirts/blouses are required to have collars and sleeves. The collars must be two (2)-piece or polo style, not ribbed. Tee shirts, tank tops, muscle shirts, mid-drift blouses and halters are strictly prohibited.

Shirts/blouses are not allowed to be open (unbuttoned or unzipped) more than six (6) inches from the base of the neck and/or top of the shoulders.

18. Proper attire includes pants, shorts, slacks, skirts, split skirts and jeans that are no more than four (4) inches above the knee. All garments must be neat and clean with no holes or tears. Athletic wear, such as sweats or that worn for a specific sport, is **not** allowed.
19. Bowling shoes are to be clean and polished at all Tournaments.
20. Hair must be neat, clean and well groomed and should not include hair curlers or pins used for that purpose. Headbands and hats are not permitted during competition.
21. Beards, goatees, moustaches and sideburns are permitted provided they maintain a neat, trim appearance.

D. FORMS OF PAYMENT

22. Cash, check and credit cards (at Branch Director's discretion) are acceptable forms of payment for membership dues, tournament entry fees, miscellaneous fees/charges and fines.
23. PERSONAL CHECKS
 - c. Personal checks are acceptable at Tournaments or the *ABT* office for entries, memberships, dues, shirts, lettering and jackets.
 - d. The acceptance of personal checks is a privilege which can be revoked at any time. It is the member's responsibility to know the check will be honored by his/her banking institution. Any check returned to *ABT* unpaid will be subject to a minimum fifty dollar (**\$50.00**) handling fee and no more checks will be accepted from that member without the Tournament Director's approval. A second similar occurrence will result in an automatic three (3)-month suspension and possible membership termination.
 - e. No checks are to be accepted from new members without a valid local driver's license or identification card with picture and two (2) credit cards.
 - f. A personal check will not be accepted from any member who refuses to give his/her driver's license number and social security number.
 - g. Two (2)-party checks will **not** be accepted under **any** circumstances.
 - h. Personal checks will not be accepted for amounts greater than entry fees, memberships, dues, shirts/jackets and or lettering.

B. LANES and EQUIPMENT

9. Anyone using the lanes or equipment for any purpose other than intended will be subject to a fine, possible disqualification and membership termination.
10. Placing feet on settee benches or chairs is considered misuse of equipment and bowlers will be fined.
11. Sitting on the backs of benches is considered misuse of equipment and bowlers will be fined.
12. Anyone intentionally fouling will be fined and possibly disqualified and suspended from further participation in the current event and possibly in future events.
13. Anyone kicking, or attempting to kick but missing, a foul light or ball return will be fined, disqualified and suspended from further participation.

C. GROOMING STANDARDS and ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE

14. All members are required to present a professional image by dressing in a neat, clean and appropriate manner at all times while in the Host Center during a Tournament. Any bowler, whose personal hygiene may be considered offensive to others, may be denied entry into any Tournament.

Failure to comply with any of the standards outlined below may result in fines and/or disqualification which may include forfeiting prize monies and entry fees.

15. A bowler is allowed to compete in **only two (2)** Tournaments before being required to wear a shirt/blouse with his/her first and last names on the back. **Nicknames are not permitted.** Upper case letters must be a minimum of 2-1/2 inches and lower case a minimum of 1-1/4 inches and can be embroidered, ironed on or silk screened as long as they look professional. The shirt/blouse must also have the official **ABT** logo permanently attached to the left sleeve or the normal pocket position on the left side.

No other type of lettering or patches (advertising) will be allowed on the back of the shirt/blouse. Any special designs, such as a state logo or the St. Louis Arch, must be approved by **ABT's National Headquarters**.

USBC patches or patches from other tournament organizations may be allowed provided they are permanently attached or ironed on the front or sleeve of the shirt/blouse. Patches can **not** be pinned, stapled or attached with Velcro.

Failure to comply with the above will result in a minimum fine of \$2.00 and a bowler may be refused entry into tournaments if he/she refuses or continually fails to wear the proper attire.

16. **Champions' shirts** from other tournament clubs may be permissible provided they meet the name and **ABT** logo requirements stated above.

- g. Joint fees will **not** be accepted from any member not planning to bowl in ten (10) or more Tournaments in a non-Home Branch during that Branch's calendar year. Bowlers would not be allowed to become Joint Members if they do not plan on entering enough Tournaments to qualify for that Branch's Super Bowl/Special Event Tournaments.
- h. A member is allowed to establish Joint Membership **only** in a Branch that adjoins his/her Home Branch.
- i. Scores for any member bowling in a Branch where he/she does **not** have Joint Membership would automatically be sent back to his/her Home Branch, and if the bowler cashes, those qualifying and cashing scores **may also** be counted in his/her Home Branch.

B. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

13. To maintain active participation membership status in the **ABT**, a member must maintain his/her yearly dues of at least \$25.00, due each year no later than the end of the month in which he/she became a member. **There is no grace period.** Failure to pay membership fees when due will cause a re-initiation fee of \$5.00, plus the renewal fee.
14. Notification will be mailed to the member's home address currently on file with **ABT** before the deadline for renewal. **ABT** cannot nor will not be responsible for any member not receiving his/her notification. Each member's renewal date appears on his/her membership card and it is the member's responsibility to remain current.
15. In the event this renewal requirement is not met, a re-initiation fee will be invoked to re-establish active membership status, provided the member/applicant qualifies under all the current membership rules and regulations.
16. If a member's renewal is paid in a timely manner his/her status **may not** be affected by an outside average. However, if a bowler's membership expires and that bowler wishes to re-join **ABT** he/she would be required to re-qualify as a new member.
17. Joint Membership renewal fees must be paid in the same month regular renewals are paid.

II. AVERAGES

A. ENTERING AVERAGES

1. The *ABT* consists of three (3) divisions: Classic, a handicapped division for bowlers with averages of 189 and under; and Masters for bowlers with averages of 225 and under. (A lower maximum average may be set at the Branch Director's discretion.) Scratch is an open division. All skill levels may participate in these events. Scratch events are NOT open to current PBA members or National PBA title holders from the last five (5) years.

An ABT member can be in both the Classic and Masters Divisions at the same time in his/her Home Branch or any other Branch, only if he/she holds dual averages.

2. The highest of the following averages may be used to determine the bowler's Entering Tournament Average. One of these averages should be for 45 games or more for the bowler to meet minimum entering average requirements. (USBC Rule 319e) Highest averages with less than 21 games could be used if they indicate the bowler has more ability than the averages with the higher amount of games.
 - a. Highest average over the past three (3) years
 - b. Highest current average if it is higher than book average
 - c. Highest summer average
 - d. Highest tournament average
 - e. An average assigned by the Local Director based on his/her evaluation of the bowler's ability.
3. Bowlers with no averages for the past three (3) years, 45 games or more may enter and bowl at an assigned average, if they meet all other membership requirements. They should receive **minimal** handicap until they have established a Tournament Average with 21 or more games, or are assigned an average by the Local Director.
4. Eligible non-members of *ABT* and/or applicants must bring book average verification and/or other verification for the past five (5) years in addition to current highest average(s) for each league they are in, or have bowled in, during the current season (winter or summer) and/or tournaments. League sheet averages of less than 21 games may be used if they are higher than book or other averages.
5. Bowlers are required to report their highest average, no matter how many games, for possible re-rating. Failure to report a highest average may result in disqualification and termination of membership with loss of prize winnings and no return of fees. (USBC Rule 319e)

IV. RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES

In the case of any controversy, *ABT's* rules, regulations and policies will prevail providing they do not conflict with USBC.

If the controversy is **not** specifically covered by *ABT*, the Tournament Director's decision will be final.

A. CONDUCT

1. It is the responsibility of an *ABT* member to conduct himself/herself as a gentleman or lady at all times. Any conduct considered derogatory to the *ABT* organization shall result in a minimum \$10.00 fine and a minimum three (3)-month suspension, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
2. Anyone deliberately throwing channel balls or intentionally trying to miss pins will receive a \$10.00 fine and a three (3)-month suspension. It will be each bowler's responsibility to inform one of the Directors if they observe this behavior.
3. All complaints must be registered in writing to the Tournament Director or such persons authorized by the Tournament Director. Registering a complaint with the host proprietor or any other bowling center employee is cause for a fine and suspension.
4. Any *ABT* member caught soliciting for a competitive bowling club will be suspended with possible loss of membership.
5. Smoking is permitted if allowed by local laws. A bowler may not carry a pipe, cigar or cigarette in his/her mouth, lighted or not, while bowling or on the approach during a tournament.
6. The use of flash cameras during competition is strictly prohibited.
7. Cell phones and pagers are **not** permitted in the bowlers' area unless they are set in a 'silent' or 'vibrate' mode.
8. OBSCENE GESTURES and LANGUAGE
 - a. Anyone seen making obscene gestures will automatically receive a fine and a disqualification warning. A second occurrence will result in automatic disqualification, a forfeit of entry fees, a fine, suspension for a minimum of three (3) months and possible membership termination.
 - b. Anyone heard using obscene language will automatically receive a fine and a disqualification warning. A second occurrence will result in automatic disqualification, a forfeit of entry fees, a fine, suspension for a minimum of three (3) months and possible membership termination.

73. Doubles Tournaments **may not** count toward qualifying for or receiving bonus pins.
74. Doubles Tournaments **may not** count toward qualifying for National, Regional or Super Bowl/Special Event Tournaments as scores **may not** be recorded on average record sheets and money may not be added to the Super Bowl/Special Event savings account.

H. SUPER BOWL/SPECIAL EVENT

75. An **ABT** member must have bowled in a minimum of ten (10) Singles Tournaments during the calendar period in one Branch to be eligible for an original Super Bowl/Special Event entry. Calendar periods will vary in different Branches. Ask the Tour Director for the beginning and ending qualifying dates for that Branch.
76. Unlimited re-entries may be allowed in a Special Event.
77. Super Bowl allows only one (1) entry for members who have bowled a minimum of ten (10) Singles Tournaments, and a maximum of one (1) entry on the Special Entry Only Squad if a bowler has bowled a minimum of 20 or more Singles Tournaments in that Branch during the qualifying period.
78. If a bowler wishes to qualify for a Super Bowl/Special Event in more than one (1) Branch, he/she must bowl a minimum of ten (10) Singles Tournaments in each of those Branches during the qualifying period and have a Joint or Lifetime Membership for those Branches.
79. This may be a **prepaid entry only** Tournament and all eligible members will be advised of the deadline date for entries. **Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the deadline date.**
80. No entries will be accepted until the Tuesday following the last qualifying Tournament. This will vary in different Branches; be sure to check with the Tournament Director in your Branch.
81. Super Bowl/Special Events funds are to be kept in a separate savings account named Super Bowl/Special Events Savings Account. This account is to be open for inspection by the members at any time. It is recommended that the monthly bank statement on this account be prominently displayed on the score board each month.
82. The \$1.00, if deducted from each Singles Tournament entry fee, plus all fine monies collected for infractions of the rules must be deposited in the Super Bowl/Special Event Savings Account no later than six (6) days following the completion of each and every tournament. Monies collected between the last qualifying Tournament and the Super Bowl/Special Event cut-off date will be added to the fund for the next year.
83. Every effort will be made to pay one (1) place for every four (4) entries in this event.
84. The Super Bowl/Special Event prize fund will be proportioned with First Place paying approximately 10% of the total prize fund. Second Place will be allotted 5% and 85% will be divided among the remaining bowlers in cashing positions.

B. HANDICAPS and BONUS PINS

6. Entering handicaps are based on 80% of the difference between a bowler's **assigned** Entering Average and 225.
7. The maximum handicaps are 68 pins (Classic) and 28 pins (Masters) per game. These are based on a minimum Entering Averages of 140 (Classic) and 190 (Masters). The maximum handicap is 68 pins base handicap for combo division events, plus up to 17 bonus pins.
8. BONUS PINS
- f. A bowler will be awarded one (1) Bonus Pin following each Tournament in which he/she does not cash **if** his/her average is less than 160 (Classic) or 195 (Masters).
 - g. Following three (3) Tournaments in which a bowler does not cash, one (1) Bonus Pin will be awarded for each Tournament bowled to a maximum of 100% of the difference between the total of his/her current average, handicap and Bonus Pins and 225. At no time will these three (3) figures total more than 225.
 - h. After cashing in a Tournament, there will be a three (3) Tournament waiting period before Bonus Pins will be awarded again. Exception: If a bowler cashes and loses handicap and/or Bonus Pins to a point where he/she may not be competitive, less than a 160 (Classic) or 195 (Masters) average, **or** if his/her Tournament Average is considerably lower than his/her Entering Average, the three (3) Tournament waiting rule to receive additional Bonus Pins may be waived, on an individual basis, by the local Director.
 - i. The maximum number of Bonus Pins is 17.

C. RE-CALCULATING AVERAGES

9. An **ABT** Tournament Average is established following a minimum of 21 games bowled during **ABT** Tournaments. After establishing a Tournament Average, the bowler will be handicapped at 80% of the difference between his/her current or assigned average and 225.
10. The Tournament Director, Board of Directors, or any representative from the National Office reserves the right to re-rate any bowler prior to his/her competing in any squad or Tournament. It is a goal of the **ABT** to offer fair and equitable averaging to all bowlers.
11. A bowler's average can and will be adjusted based on the bowler's current ability and performance. Total pinfall will be recalculated to coincide with the number of games bowled. Any average adjustment will be made prior to the entrant bowling in a subsequent Tournament and **it is the bowler's responsibility to check his/her current average prior to bowling any squad.** If an adjustment has been made and is not accepted by the bowler, his/her entry fee shall be refunded.
12. Bowlers who are assigned an average will have that assigned average multiplied by the total number of games to arrive at a new calculated pinfall. A Director may use a

calculated average on his/her evaluation of the bowler's ability.

13. In an effort to maintain fair and equal competition for the lower average bowlers, 160 and under, all rules for re-rating and average adjustment may be altered by the Local Director on an individual basis, provided the handicap and bonus pins do not exceed the maximums.
14. Any bowler not competing in a Tournament for 120 days or more must submit himself/herself for an average re-evaluation. Any information available will be used to determine a bowler's current average ability. If this differs from the bowler's Tournament Average, an adjustment will be made accordingly.
15. Should a bowler have a current Tournament Average of 225 or above for **any 50 or more games**, he/she could be suspended from **ABT**, with no membership fees returned. At the Branch Director's discretion, any bowler that has a competitive advantage, through knowledge and/or ability, may be graduated or have his/her membership terminated. The primary goal of the **ABT** is to have a fun, **fair**, and equitable format so all members have a chance to win.
16. A bowler's average may be recalculated when he/she cashes, or enters in a Tournament, except as described above. Local and national directors can assign a tournament average to any member based on current knowledge or ability.
17. RE-CALCULATING AVERAGES FOR BOWLERS WHO CASH IN TOURNAMENTS, based on final positions:
 - j. TOURNAMENT WINNER will have his/her average adjusted to lose a **minimum** of three (3) pins handicap plus all bonus pins. Prior to establishing a Tournament Average, the pinfall adjustment will be 100% with a minimum loss of 3 handicap pins plus all bonus pins.
 - k. SECOND PLACE finisher will have his/her average adjusted to lose a **minimum** of two (2) pins handicap plus 90% of bonus pins. Prior to establishing a Tournament Average, the pinfall adjustment will be 90% with a minimum loss of 2 handicap pins plus 90% of bonus pins.
 - l. THIRD PLACE finisher will have his/her average adjusted to lose a **minimum** of one (1) pin handicap plus 80% of bonus pins. Prior to establishing a Tournament Average, the pinfall adjustment will be 80% with a minimum loss of 1 handicap pin plus 80% of bonus pins.
 - m. FOURTH PLACE finisher will have his/her average adjusted to lose a **minimum** of zero (0) pins handicap plus 70% of bonus pins. Prior to establishing a Tournament Average, the pinfall adjustment will be 70% with a minimum loss of 70% of bonus pins.
 - n. FIFTH PLACE finisher will have his/her average adjusted to lose a **minimum** of zero (0) pins handicap plus 60% of bonus pins. Prior to establishing a Tournament Average, the pinfall adjustment will be 60% with a minimum loss of 60% of bonus pins.
 - o. All SEMI-FINALISTS' handicaps would be re-rated based on 50% of the difference between their average of all previously bowled games and 225. In addition, accumulated bonus pins would be decreased by 40%.

60. **Combo Doubles** may also be open to all teams with no team or handicap max. This may vary by branch. Please check with your local branch as to how their Doubles events are conducted.
61. There should be a minimum of four (4) bowlers per pair of lanes, two (2) sets of doubles. Pacers are **not** to be used except in cases of emergency or injury to one of the bowlers.
62. Entries in Doubles Tournaments are unlimited, allowing any bowler to compete as many times as he/she wishes. However, bowlers will **not** be allowed to sign up to bowl consecutive squads on the same pairs of lanes.
63. The Doubles entry fees will vary in different Branches and will be shared equally by the two (2) members who bowl as partners. It is suggested Branches use the Masters Division entry fee and prize fund.
64. A minimum of one (1) place will be paid for each eight (8) entries.
65. Doubles Tournaments should be tracked as "Beat the Board." Scores will be posted following each squad. After the last squad of the Tournament, averages and handicaps will be verified and the pair of bowlers posting the highest score will be declared Tournament Champions.
66. In case of a tie for 1st and 2nd place, the prize monies for the two (2) positions would be added together and divided equally among the four (4) bowlers, with each of them being declared a Champion.

If one (1) or more ties exist for other positions, the monies from those positions will be combined and divided equally among the participants.
67. A bowler can cash multiple times with **different** partners, but only **once** with any one partner. Exceptions may exist; check with your local branch.
68. Bowling partners will share equally in the prize monies for each position, but will be issued separate checks.
69. All prize checks will be mailed to all bowlers who cash within four (4) days following the last day of the Tournament.
70. Doubles Tournaments will have the same estimated prize fund as Regular Singles events, except where a higher minimum guaranteed prize fund is advertised prior to the start of the Tournament.
71. Prize fund amounts must be listed on bowlers' average record sheets with cashing positions and amounts won.
72. If a bowler cashes in a Doubles Tournament, his/her average may be adjusted under the guidelines set forth in RE-RATING AVERAGES.

57. TOP TWELVE (12) MATCH GAME ELIMINATIONS

This is a special format used for Tournaments where there are a large number of entries. This format can be used without having Semi-Finals by advancing the top 12 qualifiers in Preliminary competition or as a Finals following Semi-Final competition.

- w. In the 1st match, the bowlers seeded in the 3rd through 12th positions will draw for lane assignments and compete against the bowler on the same pair of lanes. The five (5) bowlers losing the 1st match will finish in 8th through 12th place and receive the same prize money.
- x. In the 2nd match, the five (5) bowlers with the highest scores from Match 1, plus the bowler seeded in 2nd position will draw for lane assignments and compete against the bowler on the same pair of lanes. The three (3) bowlers losing the 2nd match will finish in 5th through 7th place and receive the same prize money.
- y. In the 3rd match, the three (3) bowlers with the highest scores from Match 2, plus the bowler seeded in 1st position will draw for lanes and compete against the bowler on the same pair of lanes. The two (2) bowlers losing the 3rd match will finish tied for 3rd place and receive the same amount of prize money with the higher of the two losing scores being listed first.
- z. The two (2) remaining bowlers will compete for the Championship to determine 1st and 2nd place.
- aa. A tie in any match, other than the Championship Match, will be resolved in a one (1) game roll-off. If a tie still exists, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off using 10% of the bowler's handicap plus bonus pins, will be used.

In the Championship Match, an additional game will be rolled each time a tie exists until the Champion is determined.

At the Branch Director's discretion, either of the above tie-breakers can be resolved with a 9th and 10th frame roll-off using 10% of the bowler's handicap plus bonus pins per frame.

G. DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS

- 58. Doubles Tournaments consist of **any two (2) ABT members**, bowling two (2) games, with each game on a different pair of lanes.
 - a. **Regular** Doubles are two (2) bowlers from the same division, i.e. Classic or Masters.
 - b. **Combo** Doubles are two (2) bowlers who may or may not be in the same division.
- 59. For **Combo Doubles only**, the recommended minimum entering average will be 330 with 415 being the maximum team strength. Handicap will be based on 80% of the difference between the total of the combined tournament entering averages, including handicaps, (not to exceed 68) and 415. Bonus Pins **should not** be used for this Tournament format. However, if Bonus Pins are allowed, the maximum allowable handicap would be 85 per game.

- p. All other BOWLERS TO CASH would have their handicaps re-rated based on 40% of the difference between their average of all previously bowled games and 225. In addition, accumulated bonus pins would be decreased by 20%.

In all of the above categories, the bowler(s) may be assigned a higher average based on a Director's evaluation of his/her current ability which could result in a bowler losing considerably more than the minimum pin handicap assigned to each position.

- 18. In an effort to keep a tight control on bowler averages, highs as well as lows, the following system will go into effect once a bowler has bowled 100 games or more in a Branch of the **ABT**. Should a bowler cash in a Tournament from the prize fund or optional pots after bowling 100 games or more, his/her average would be recalculated using only the latest 50 games minimum or as close as possible, dropping a minimum of 50 games and retaining a minimum of 50 games. At **no** time should a bowler be allowed to drop more than five (5) pins in any 50-game block. When a 50-game block average is established and it appears that average is lower than the bowler's true ability, that bowler could and should be assigned a higher average, thereby eliminating any unfair advantage. The assigned average would then be multiplied by the number of games to arrive at a recalculated pinfall. If possible, averages should be calculated at the end of a Tournament. Every effort should be made not to split qualifying and semi-finals, or qualifying, semi-finals and finals. It is not advisable to take one (1) or more games from qualifying, semi-finals, or finals to determine a bowler's 50-game block average. If possible, all calculations should be made at the end of a Tournament. Fifty (50)-game blocks are not figured until a bowler cashes, thus resulting in some bowlers exceeding 100 games.
- 19. Should a bowler roll a game which is 40 pins or more below his/her current **ABT** average, he/she must request to have that game reviewed by one of the Floor Directors and approved by the Tournament Director before it will count toward a bowler's current pinfall and average. This game must be brought to one of the Directors' attention prior to moving to the next pair of lanes or erasing it from the telescore. The following guidelines will be used to determine if a game is to be approved or disapproved.
 - q. A bowler's current Tournament Average should play a very important part in determining whether or not a game should be counted. (A bowler averaging 140 will definitely make more mistakes than a bowler averaging 200 or more.)
 - r. The number of misses (blows) the bowler had, including single and multiple pins, as well as the first and second ball count should be considered.
 - s. The number of splits and gutter balls should be considered.
 - t. The number of washouts should be considered. These must be identified if it is manual scoring.
 - u. In which game of the series did this occur, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th?
 - v. Was the bowler at a plus (+) or minus (-) score at the beginning of this game, and by how much.

- w. Is this a normal occurrence for this bowler or is he/she just trying to gain more handicap pins? Does there appear to be any type of pattern in reviewing his/her average record sheet?
- x. Did this bowler win an optional pot in an earlier or later game during this squad?
- y. Were the majority of scores rolled on this pair of lanes during this squad lower than normal for this Tournament? Were scores overall generally lower for this Tournament?
- z. Does it appear the bowler 'gave up' due to his/her current position in the standings?

Before scores are entered in the bowler's average record sheet, all scores should be reviewed to determine whether any, all, some or no games should be counted. (Ex., If a bowler rolls a low first game which may have been counted, but the remaining games are lower than the normal ability of the bowler, perhaps none of the games should be counted.) The decision will be made by the Local Director.

Floor Directors are **not** allowed to approve or disapprove any score. Their responsibility is to list the information requested in the items above so that the person(s) calculating averages can make an educated decision regarding the acceptance of any scores. Person(s) responsible for calculating averages should be on the concourse and down near the lanes at all times during Tournaments so that they will be more fully informed as to the conditions and scorability of the lanes. It also allows them to gain more knowledge regarding each bowler's current ability.

D. GRADUATED BOWLERS

20. CLASSIC DIVISION

- aa. An *ABT* Classic Division bowler 'graduates' from Classic to Masters when his/her average exceeds 190 in any 50-game block. A member may be 'graduated' from Classic to Masters when his/her ability or knowledge reaches a level that does not allow the *ABT* to conduct an event in a fun, fair, equitable manner for all other members.
- bb. At the local branch manager's discretion once a bowler is 'graduated' from any Branch, he/she would not be allowed to participate in any other Branch in the Classic Division.
- cc. A bowler should be eligible to compete in every Branch to be eligible to bowl in combined Tournaments and those Tournaments considered as National and Regional events. (ALL National Events may be excluded.) Hosting branch director's discretion is final.
- dd. Any member who refuses to bowl in the Masters Division after being graduated by one of the *ABT* Branch officers may not be allowed to participate in any combined, National or Regional Tournaments in the Classic Division. Hosting branch director's discretion is final.

- r. The top four (4), eight (8), sixteen (16) or multiples thereof (32, 64, etc) scores, including handicap and bonus pins, from the Semi-Finals will advance to the Single Game Elimination Finals.

If a tie for 4th, 8th, 16th, 32nd, or 64th place exists, a one (1)-game roll-off will determine which bowler will advance to the Finals. A tie for any other position will be determined by the highest single game, including handicap and bonus pins, bowled during Semi-Finals.

- s. If a top four (4) Single Match Game Elimination format is used, the bowler qualifying in the 1st position will be matched with the bowler qualifying 3rd and the bowler qualifying 2nd will be matched with a bowler qualifying 4th. With more than four (4) qualifiers, the matches and prizes will be adjusted accordingly.

Following the 1st match, the top two (2) scorers will advance to the next match. The remaining two (2) bowlers are eliminated from further competition and will be awarded 3rd and 4th finishing positions, according to their respective scores. However, since they have each lost only one (1) match, they will receive identical prize money determined by equally dividing the total prize money designated for 3rd and 4th positions.

- t. With eight (8) competing in the Single Match Game Elimination format, the 2nd match is determined by the scores bowled during the 1st match with the highest scorer matched against the 3rd highest, and the 2nd highest matched against the 4th highest. Matches and prizes will be adjusted accordingly for additional bowlers.

Following the 2nd match, the two (2) bowlers with the highest scores will advance to the Championship Match. The other two (2) bowlers will finish in 3rd and 4th positions, based on their respective scores in Match 2, with the total prize money for Positions 3 and 4 being equally divided and awarded to them.

- u. With 16 competing in the Single Match Game Elimination format, the 3rd match is determined by the scores bowled during the 2nd match and the pairings follow the same format as above.

Following the 3rd match, the two (2) bowlers with the highest scores will advance to the Championship Match. If at all possible, a pair of lanes should be used for the Championship Match which has not been used in any of the previous matches so neither bowler has an advantage. The Champion will be the bowler with the highest score.

- v. All matches, including the Championship Match, will be determined by scores consisting of the scratch score plus the bowler's current handicap and bonus pins.

A tie in any match, other than the Championship, will be resolved by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off in which each bowler will be handicapped at 10% of his/her total handicap, including bonus pins, per frame.

A tie in a Championship Match will be resolved by bowling another full game or, at the Branch Director's discretion, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off may be used.

- m. If there are ten (10) or more Semi-Finalists, the five (5) with the highest scores, including handicap and bonus pins, from the three (3)-game Semi-Finals will advance to the Pro-Style Stepladder Finals (if this is the format to be used for Finals). If there are less than ten (10) Semi-Finalists, then only half the field will advance. There will be **no carryover of pins** from Qualifying on to Finals.

The highest total score, including handicap and bonus pins, for the three (3)-game Semi-Finals is automatically seeded into the championship match of the Pro-Style Stepladder Finals (if used).

- n. TIES

In the event of a tie for any Finalist position in the Semi-Finals, the bowler with the highest single game, including handicap and bonus pins, will move into the higher position. If this does not break the tie, then the second highest game, including handicap and bonus pins, will be used to determine the bowler who moves into the higher position, etc. Remaining ties may be broken, at the Branch Director's discretion, by a one-game roll-off or a 9th and 10th frame roll-off where the handicap would be determined by dividing a bowler's total handicap by ten (10) for each frame bowled. This could result in a bowler winning a 9th and 10th frame roll-off by a fraction of a pin.

- o. Remaining Semi-Finalists will cash based on their positions from the scores rolled, including handicap and bonus pins, during the three (3) games of Semi-Finals. **All Semi-Finalists are guaranteed to cash** with the minimum payout equivalent to the Tournament's base entry fee.

In the event of a tie among the remaining Semi-Finalists, the committed prize money will be split appropriately.

55. PRO-STYLE STEPLADDER FINALS

- p. Four (4) Single Game Matches will determine the Tournament Champion and 2nd through 5th place finishers. The bowler qualifying in the higher position for the Finals will have his/her choice of starting lanes. Winners will be determined by scratch scores plus current handicap and bonus pins.

1st Match: 4th and 5th place qualifiers in Semi-Finals

2nd Match: Winner of 1st Match and 3rd place qualifier in Semi-Finals

3rd Match: Winner of 2nd Match and 2nd place qualifier in Semi-Finals

4th Match: Winner of 3rd Match and 1st place qualifier in Semi-Finals

- q. If **any Finals Match** results in a tie, the bowlers would bowl another complete game to determine the winner. At the Branch Director's discretion, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off may be used, with each bowler using 10% of his/her handicap plus bonus pins for each frame. Under these circumstances a winner could be determined by a percentage point of a pin.

56. SINGLE MATCH GAME ELIMINATION FINALS

Single Match Game Elimination Finals may be seeded or determined by the luck of a draw. No alternates due to disqualifications or no-shows will be allowed in the Finals.

21. MASTERS DIVISION

- ee. *ABT* Masters Division bowlers 'graduate' when their averages exceed 225 in any 50-game block and/or their ability or knowledge reaches a level that does not allow the *ABT* to conduct an event in a fun, fair, equitable manner for all other members.
- ff. A bowler must be eligible to compete in every Branch to be eligible to bowl in Combined Tournaments and those Tournaments considered as National and Regional events. (National Scratch Events may be excluded.)
- gg. A regular member who is 'graduated' must wait five (5) years before they become eligible to re-apply for active status in the Masters Division..

E. DUAL AVERAGES

- 22. An *ABT* member is allowed to hold an average with either or both hands by paying only one (1) membership fee. However, when changing hands he/she must qualify under the same entering/handicapping rules applied to new applicants.
- 23. A bowler may use only **one** hand during an entire Tournament (excluding Scratch Events), including multiple entries, semi-finals and finals, and must use his/her corresponding average for that hand. Using the opposite hand on **any** delivery during any handicapped Tournament will result in automatic disqualification and forfeit of all prize winnings and entry fees.
- 24. A bowler with dual averages **must identify** which hand they will be using when submitting an entry for any Super Bowl/Special Event, National or Regional Tournament. If the bowler fails to identify the hand of choice, his/her highest average and/or lowest handicap will be assigned by the Tournament Director. Only one (1) average and handicap will be taken to these events.
- 25. Eligibility for National/Regional Tournaments requires the dual average bowler to use the hand and average which he/she is eligible to compete with in all Branches.
- 26. A bowler with dual averages is only allowed to qualify for **one** entry in the Super Bowl/Special Event Tournament. All qualification events must be with one (1) hand, not a combination of both.
- 27. A bowler with dual averages who graduates with one hand is allowed to participate with his/her opposite hand if both hands' averages are in the same division. However, he/she would not be allowed to compete in a new Branch using the graduated hand unless he/she had established an average in that Branch with that hand before graduating.

III. TOURNAMENTS

A. GENERAL RULES

1. A Tournament is defined as any and all events, functions, party or similar terminology which relates to conducting a bowling tournament for *ABT* members. *ABT* conducts Singles, Doubles (Regular and Combo), Team, Super Bowl and Special Event Tournaments, handicapped and scratch. Each event, whether conducted in the same or different bowling centers, is considered a separate Tournament.
2. All Tournaments should be certified by USBC. *ABT* rules, regulations, policies and procedures will apply when not consistent with the rules of USBC.
3. Tournaments will be open to all members of the *ABT* in good standing. The member's dues must be current and he/she must have **no** outstanding bad checks or fines. Non-members or suspended members of *ABT* are **not** permitted to bowl in **any** tournaments. Guest members agree to abide by all *ABT* rules as specified in this member's manual.
4. An *ABT* member is **not** eligible to participate in a Tournament if he/she is currently employed, or has been employed within the past three (3) months, by the Host Center, or if he/she owns any portion of or is employed by a business that conducts business within the Host Center.

Exemption: Owners/employees within the Hosting Center will be allowed to participate in Scratch events, Super Bowl and Special Events, for which they qualify.

5. Squads will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All bowlers must report to Tournament Check-in at least 15 minutes prior to the **scheduled** squad time for lane assignments and other pertinent information. Prepaid entrants checking in at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled squad time will receive special consideration. (Check-in times may vary for different Branches, Host Centers and/or special events. Check with your Branch office.)
6. Filing an entry form with fees so it is received by the Local Branch office prior to the closing time and date of a regular tournament and checking-in at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled squad time, or the time specified on the entry form, shall guarantee preference of squad time unless otherwise notified by the Tournament Director or a staff member. If the bowler misses his/her scheduled squad, the Tournament Director will make every effort to place him/her on the following squad. Should this not be possible, through no fault of the Tournament Director, employees or staff, the bowler may be eliminated from the Tournament.
7. Prepaid entries must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the day prior to the beginning of a tournament.

53. QUALIFYING

- a. The Qualifying Rounds are usually held on Saturdays. While squads vary by branch, they are normally every two (2) hours: noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m. These days and times may be adjusted due to special circumstances. Members will be notified well in advance of squad time changes as well as any venue (bowling center) changes.

It is suggested you check your local bowling publications each week as well as *ABT* newsletters and tournament flyers for any changes.
- b. Qualifying Rounds will vary among Branches and even Divisions. It is recommended that they consist of four (4) games bowled across eight (8) lanes or three (3) games across six (6) lanes.
- c. Many Branches offer a qualifying Special Entry Squad or Squads on the day of the Semi-Finals and Finals. However, **no** Semi-Finalists from the regular qualifying squads will be displaced.
- d. Qualifying scores will consist of scratch scores plus the bowler's current handicap and bonus pins, if any.
- e. Only the highest scores rolled will be considered for the Semi-Finals or for cashing purposes in Beat the Board Tournaments. Multiple cashing singles tournaments are allowed and must be advertised and approved by *ABT* National Headquarters in advance.
- f. A minimum of one (1) bowler out of every eight (8) will advance to the Semi-Finals (based on lane availability) for handicapped events. This could be one (1) in twenty (20) for scratch events.

54. SEMI-FINALS

- g. It is each bowler's responsibility to call the local *ABT* office or voice mail for the Semi-Final cut scores and starting time. The starting time for Semi-Finals will be announced prior to each qualifying round.
- h. If there are five (5) or less Semi-Finalists, the Semi-Finals may be eliminated and these bowlers may advance directly to the Finals.
- i. Semi-Finals will consist of three (3) games bowled across three (3) different pairs of lanes, normally skipping a minimum of one (1) pair of lanes as the bowlers move to the right. This allows each bowler the opportunity to bowl on three (3) different sections of the lanes being used for Semi-Finals.
- j. Semi-Finalists will **not** be allowed to practice on any of the lanes to be used in the Semi-Final competition. If there are not enough additional lanes available for all Semi-Finalists who wish to practice, then no Semi-Finalist will be allowed to practice.
- k. Any bowler that is late for Semi-Finals or is not at his/her assigned lanes and ready to bowl his/her turn will receive a zero (0) for each frame missed. **No makeup** of missed frames will be allowed.
- l. Any Semi-Finalist who no-shows the Semi-Final competition will receive the prize money designated for last place in the Semi-Finals. If more than one (1) Semi-Finalist no-shows, these bowlers will be positioned according to their three (3)-game handicap.

- mm. The recommended entry fee is \$20.00 on the first entry into a tournament. If the bowler does not pay on the first entry, he/she is not eligible for this optional pot. Bowlers **do not** pay on re-entries.
- nn. Bonus Bucks pay 1st and 2nd place in each event; 60% for 1st, 20% for 2nd with 20% carryover.
- oo. If a participant is not in Bonus Bucks, the amount assigned to his/her finishing position will carry over for the next event.

48. HIGH SERIES and HIGH GAME AWARDS:

- pp. Only bowlers who are prepaid for the Tournament are eligible for either of these awards. Current Gold level Members are always considered prepaid for all regular Tournaments. Every member is required to be prepaid for Super Bowl/Special Events, Regional, National Tournaments, etc..., based on that tournament's rule.
- qq. A bowler is only eligible for one of these Special Awards in each Tournament.
- rr. If a bowler qualifies for both awards and the prize money for each is of equal value, he/she will be awarded the High Series prize.
- ss. If a bowler qualifies for both awards but is tied with another bowler for one of the prizes, the bowler qualified for both would be awarded the prize with the highest monetary value.

F. SINGLES TOURNAMENTS

- 49. Entry fees will vary in different Branches because they are based on current costs of lineage and Branch Office operating costs. One dollar (\$1.00) from each Regular Singles entry may be held in trust and placed into a separate savings account (Super Bowl/Special Events Account) to build a prize fund for a Special Event which is usually held in December. (This may vary in some Branches due to their opening date and weather conditions.)
- 50. One (1) in every eight (8) entrants is guaranteed to cash in each handicapped event. Scratch events could have a cashing ratio as low as one (1) in twenty (20).
- 51. Bowlers are only allowed to cash **once** in the regular prize list for a Regular Singles Tournament. (USBC Rule 317) Prize checks will be available to all bowlers who cash immediately following the championship match. Special tournaments will be authorized by ABT in which multiple cashing can be allowed. These tournaments must have the prior written approval of ABT, Inc.
- 52. Bowlers in the regular qualifying squads, as well as those in the Special Entry Squads, are eligible for High Game and High Series awards. The prize amount, if any, will vary among Branches, with the minimum amount for these prizes being \$25.00 for each in regular events.

- 8. **ABT** bowlers will be assigned lanes by the Tournament Staff as they check in, but will **not** be allowed to request special lanes.
 - a. Bowlers from all divisions, Classic, Masters and Scratch, will be paired together. Friends may request to bowl together if they check in early enough to be paired together without requiring other checked-in bowlers to be moved.
 - b. **Any bowler refusing to bowl on lanes assigned to him/her will forfeit his/her entry fee and NOT be allowed to compete in that Tournament.**
 - c. Four (4) bowlers will be assigned to each pair of lanes unless the number of entries and/or available lanes necessitates an adjustment. There should never be less than three (3) nor more than six (6) bowlers per pair of lanes. The last squad of the day cannot be declared full until there are six (6) bowlers on each pair of available lanes. The earlier squads should have four (4) bowlers on each pair of available lanes.
 - d. Any bowler not at his/her assigned lane when scheduled to bowl will receive a zero (0) for each frame missed.
 - e. Bowlers will not be allowed to practice on the lanes where they are assigned to bowl within one (1) hour of scheduled squad time. If a bowler is assigned a lane where he/she has already practiced within the one (1) hour time frame, he/she is required to advise the Tournament Director. Failure to do so could result in disqualification.
 - f. No bowler in the Semi-Finals is allowed to practice on the lanes to be used for Semi-Final matches.
 - g. Every bowler is required to wear a shirt/blouse with his/her first and last name on the back as well as the **ABT** logo on the left front or left sleeve. These must be permanently attached, i.e. embroidered, sewn or ironed on. Failure to comply will result in a fine.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM TOURNAMENTS

- h. Bowlers will **not** be permitted to withdraw from a Tournament **while it is in progress** unless permission is granted by the Tournament Director or his/her designated replacement. The penalty for doing so will be a minimum fine of \$10.00 and a minimum 30-day suspension from tournament participation.
- i. A bowler may withdraw from a Tournament without penalty if he/she has paid in advance and is then unable to participate. An unused entry can be refunded directly to the bowler or transferred to the open entry file to be used at a later date.

Because some squads fill quickly leaving other bowlers on standby, it is always appreciated if the absent bowler notifies the Tournament Director, either directly or through the Host Center.

B. PLAYING CONDITIONS and RULES

10. All Tournaments will be conducted on USBC certified conditions.
11. If an equipment breakdown occurs or the game is delayed due to a pin setting machine or automatic scorer problem, the Tournament Director will make a ruling regarding continuation, using an alternate pair of lanes or rescheduling the game.
12. All re-racks must be approved by the Tournament Director or a Tournament Staff member unless it is obviously due to missing pins.
13. The Tournament Director will make a ruling on the re-bowling of a game or frames irretrievably lost by an automatic scorer. (USBC Rule 328) That decision will be final, except where an appeal is made to USBC for final consideration.
14. Any corrections of scores on automatic scoring devices must be made by an *ABT* Director, bowling center employee or designee. Bowlers are **not** allowed to make any scoring corrections.
15. The Tournament Director is to be called to the lanes to settle any dispute arising over whether or not pins fell as a result of the ball delivery or the machine.
16. USBC Tournament rules will be followed regarding fouls.
 - j. If the foul light comes on, it is considered an automatic foul.
 - k. If there is a question or discrepancy regarding a foul or the function/malfunction of the equipment, the Tournament Director must be called to the lane to determine if the foul detection device is operating correctly. This must be done prior to another ball being thrown. If it is not, the foul will stand.

A ruling, to be accepted as a final decision, will then be made by the Tournament Director after the following tests are performed:

- Test 1: A bowling ball is dropped on the approach behind the foul line.
Test 2: A bowling ball is dropped behind the foul line and rolled through the foul line.
Test 3: The Tournament Director intentionally fouls by stepping on foul line.

- A foul light that does not come on in Tests 1 & 2 but does in Test 3 indicates it is functioning correctly.

- A foul light that comes on in Tests 1 or 2 indicates a malfunction.

- A foul light that does not come on in Test 3 indicates a malfunction.

successive winners in ALL Division will be able to choose the color of their shirt; the Masters and Scratch Divisions will be handled at the Branch Director's discretion.

45. Trophies will be awarded only if supplied by the host proprietor or co-sponsor.
46. PROGRESSIVE POT
 - ff. A Progressive Pot is optional, at the Branch Director's discretion, and open to bowlers in both divisions, Classic and Masters. It requires an entry fee that is in addition to the tournament entry fee.
 - gg. **Only** the Tournament Winner is eligible to win the Progressive Pot, and **only if** he/she paid a Progressive Pot entry fee for the squad in which he/she bowled his/her **highest qualifying score**.
 - hh. The amount a bowler can win is determined by the entry fee he/she pays which directly corresponds to the percentage in the Progressive Pot for that division.

A \$5.00 entry fee has a return of 20% of the Progressive Pot.
A \$10.00 entry fee has a return of 40% of the Progressive Pot.
A \$15.00 entry fee has a return of 60% of the Progressive Pot.
A \$20.00 entry fee has a return of 80% of the Progressive Pot.

20% of the Progressive Pot is always carried over to be added to all funds collected at the current Tournament site, which then becomes the Progressive Pot for the next Tournament. If the Tournament Winner is **not** eligible for the Progressive Pot, the entire amount will carry over to the next Tournament.
 - ii. All funds collected for the Progressive Pot will be returned 100%. *ABT* will **not** take funds from the Progressive Pot.
 - jj. Any remaining funds in the Progressive Pot carryover will be added to the Super Bowl/Special Event fund after the last qualifying Tournament for that event.

A new Progressive Pot will be started at the first Tournament following the last qualifying Tournament for the Super Bowl/Special Event with the income from the last Super Bowl/Special Event qualifying Tournament.
 - kk. Premature termination of a Tournament before the Tournament Winner has been determined due to war, national emergency or emergency causes relating thereto or therefrom, fire, flood, fog, hurricane, tornado, snow, earthquake, natural disaster, power outage or any other reason beyond the control of *ABT* shall cause, to the extent required thereby to have all Progressive Pot income for that Tournament refunded to each entrant who paid into it.
47. BONUS BUCKS
 - ll. Bonus Bucks are optional and may vary by Branch.

initialing in the space provided. If an error appears in a score and/or calculation, it must be corrected by a Director. **No bowler** is allowed to enter his/her own scores on the recap sheet. If the lead bowler on the opposite lane is not available, a Director should be called. If a bowling score error appears to be intentional, the bowler may face suspension and/or termination of membership.

34. The use of red pencils and/or red ink is strictly prohibited on recap sheets.
35. Write-overs are prohibited on recap sheets. Any bowler signing a recap sheet with a write-over or correction which **has not** been approved by one of the **ABT** Directors is subject to a \$2.00 fine.
36. Bowlers are **not** to fill in totals on the last line of the recap sheets. This space is for Tournament Staff use only.
37. It is each bowler's responsibility to be sure that the Original copy of his/her qualifying, re-entry or semi-final recap sheet is turned in to the Tournament Desk or the designated location within five (5) minutes following the end of the squad. Failure to do so will disqualify the bowler(s) and cause forfeiture of prize monies and entry fees.
38. Any bowler who turns in a recap sheet that is not calculated correctly, not initialed or initialed improperly, not signed, or not legible will be fined a minimum of \$2.00.
39. Each bowler is to receive a copy of his/her recap at the conclusion of each squad. Any bowler will have up to 30 minutes after the completion of the squad to make corrections on the recap. The bowler's copy of qualifying scores must accompany the bowler qualifying for a Semi-Final or Finals match.

E. PRIZES and AWARDS

40. All prizes and awards will be determined by scratch scores, plus the bowler's handicap and bonus pins, if any.
41. All cash prizes in ALL Divisions will be fully guaranteed by the **ABT** Branch hosting the Tournament, **not by the National Headquarters.**
42. Prize funds will be returned 100%.
43. All prize checks should be ready at the conclusion of the Championship Match in all Regular Singles Tournaments. Any check not picked up immediately following the Tournament will be mailed the following day.

Management is **not** allowed to give a FREE entry in lieu of a prize check. Each bowler who cashes must receive a check.

44. The winner(s) of each Tournament will receive a specially designed shirt with the official Championship design on the back designating **ABT Champion** with the appropriate year and bowling center location. First-time Champions receive a red shirt. Second-time Champions receive a black shirt. Third-time Champions and

- If the foul light malfunctioned, the bowler would be credited with the pins knocked down and the remaining pins would be re-spotted and the game would continue from where it was interrupted.

- If it is determined the foul light functioned properly and the bowler did foul, he/she would be credited with zero (0) pinfall and would be required to roll at a full set of pins for a spare.

- If the foul light occurred on the second ball and it was functioning properly, the bowler would receive zero (0) for the ball rolled. However, if there was a malfunction the pins would be re-spotted and the bowler would roll the ball again.

- I. If a foul detection device becomes inoperative, the Tournament Director would appoint a foul line judge for that pair of lanes.
- m. During Tournament Finals, the Directors on the championship pair will act as foul line judges. If it becomes apparent that a bowler has fouled, whether the light comes on or not, the Director will make the call and that decision will be accepted as final.

17. One (1) lane courtesy is to be observed at all times, meaning one (1) lane to each bowler's right and left. Bowlers who fail to observe this courtesy and/or require more than one (1) lane will be warned once and then fined for subsequent occurrences.

18. During the practice session (approx. 5 minutes) bowlers are not permitted to reset the pins after each shot to get a full set of pins. They are required to roll the ball at the pins left standing so each person will receive adequate deliveries to warm up. Failure to observe this rule is an automatic fine.

19. SLOW BOWLING

- n. Slow bowling will not be tolerated. You must be at your lanes and ready to bowl when it is your turn.
- o. Each bowler should meet the previous bowler as he/she comes off the approach.
- p. Any bowler not at his/her lane and ready to bowl his/her turn will receive a zero (0) for each frame missed and will not be allowed to make up the frame(s).
- q. Each bowler will be allowed a maximum of 20 seconds to make his/her first ball delivery from the time he/she steps on the approach. For spares or the 10th frame, 20 seconds is allowed from the time the ball is picked up from the ball return.
- r. A bowler using too much time will receive one (1) warning prior to being fined \$10.00.

20. PACERS

- s. Pacers are only allowed when a bowler must withdraw due to illness, injury or emergency.

However, if the number of bowlers on the pair of lanes still meets the minimum requirement, the remaining bowlers could be allowed to complete the game and series without using a pacer.

If, due to the emergency, there are no longer a minimum number of bowlers on the pair of lanes, play could be allowed to continue.

- t. A pacer can **not** have bowled in the current Tournament.
- u. If a bowler is used as a pacer, he/she will not be allowed to compete in that same Tournament.

C. EQUIPMENT

- 21. It is the bowler's responsibility to make sure each bowling ball has an identifying serial number and manufacturer's identity. Most bowling pro shops can engrave a serial number, consisting of a minimum of four (4) alpha/numeric characters, near or in the label area for easy identification. Each bowling ball must have a different serial number. Failure to meet these qualifications may result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of prize monies and entry fees.
- 22. **Each bowler is responsible for meeting USBC weight and hardness specifications on any/all balls used in ABT Tournaments/Special Events.**
- 23. The Tournament Director and/or Staff may randomly select bowling balls for weight and hardness checks at any time. An illegal ball is an automatic disqualification from the Tournament and a forfeiture of prize monies and entry fees.
- 24. A bowler who wins an optional pot is subject to having all his/her balls weighed and checked for hardness following that game. Any ball(s) not meeting USBC specifications will result in the bowler's score being disqualified and forfeiture of all prize monies and entry fees.
- 25. The use of baby powder and/or talcum powder is strictly prohibited on bowlers' hands, in holes of any/all bowling ball(s), in bowling shoes and on approaches and should not be brought into the bowling center.
- 26. The cleaning and/or polishing of any/all bowling ball(s) to be used during competition must be completed **prior** to the start of any squad. Cleaning and/or polishing are **not permitted** during any qualifying squad or Semi-Finals and Finals.
- 27. The use of chemicals or any type of liquid or fluid for cleaning bowling balls is strictly prohibited during competition.
- 28. If a bowler gets a foreign substance on his/her bowling ball from the lanes or equipment, it must be removed by a Director or representative of the Host Center if it cannot be removed by the bowler with a **dry** cloth.
- 29. Rosin is permitted to be used on a bowler's hands and in the holes of a bowling ball, but is prohibited from use on the soles of bowling shoes. When used in the holes of a bowling ball, any excess on the outside must be wiped clean before entering the settee

area and stepping up on the approach. **Rosin bags must be kept behind the bowlers' settee area.**

Rosin is **not** to be applied to the outside of any bowling ball to change its natural roll. Excessive amounts of rosin are **not** permitted. If there is any possibility of rosin coming out of the ball's holes and getting on the lane or approach, it is to be considered excessive.

30. BOWLING BALLS ALLOWED IN ABT PLAY

- v. Any bowling ball currently manufactured which is available in the *ABT Pro Shop* or a majority of bowling pro shops, bowling centers and other retail outlets and meets USBC specifications.
- w. Any bowling ball previously manufactured which, at the time of manufacture, was available in a majority of pro shops, bowling centers and other retail outlets and meets USBC specifications.
- x. Bowling balls which have not been altered in any manner and meet all specifications for weight, hardness, size and number of holes.
- y. Bowling balls which have been resurfaced, scuffed or sanded over the complete ball provided it has been done prior to the beginning of the Tournament in which it will be used. **The manufacturer and serial number must be readable.**
- z. Bowling balls which have been plugged with approved materials that are compatible with the material originally used to manufacture the ball.

31. BOWLING BALLS NOT ALLOWED IN ABT PLAY

- aa. Prototype, experimental or any bowling balls which are not currently available, nor have been available in the past, through bowling pro shops, bowling centers and other retail outlets.
- bb. **New types of bowling balls being tested by the PBA** which are not available to the general public.
- cc. Any bowling ball failing to meet current USBC specifications for weights, hardness, size, number and size of holes, and all other specifications..
- dd. Bowling balls sanded, scuffed or changed in the track area only. Use of a bowling ball altered in this manner will be cause for disqualification and forfeiture of prize monies and entry fees.
- ee. Any ball that has been resurfaced, resulting in the manufacturer and/or serial numbers being unreadable.

D. SCORING

- 32. Any/all corrections on automatic scoring devices **must** be made by an *ABT* Director or their designee.
- 33. Upon completion of each game, it is the responsibility of the lead off bowler on each lane to enter the scores on the respective recap sheets for each bowler on the opposite lane. Each bowler is responsible for verifying his/her score entries/calculations and