

General Information and Basic Playing Rules

The Amateur Bowlers Tour is a private membership organization open to members only. Non-members or GUEST members **must** agree to be governed by the Rules, Regulations, By-Laws, Standard Operating Policies, Dress Codes and Grooming Standards currently in effect or adopted at any future date to be eligible for membership and participation in this organization.

1. Open to ALL USBC members, or eligible non-members who purchase an individual unattached card prior to bowling.
2. The tournament is open to members only. Tournament Director, and / or Board of Directors reserve the right to re-rate or reject any application for membership or entry. Tournament entries and membership applications are accepted until the start of the last squad in each event.
3. **Membership is revocable without cause.**
4. Highest average over the past three (3) years, current average if it is higher than book average, or highest summer average or highest tournament average will be used to help determine bowlers entering average in this tournament club. One of the above averages should be for forty-five (45) games or more to qualify for handicapped membership. Averages of less than forty-five (45) games will be used, if they are higher than book average.
5. A bowler may enter and bowl, at the **A.B.T.S'** Branch Directors discretion, if they have no average for the last three (3) years and meet other membership requirements.
6. Non-members of the Amateur Bowlers Tour (ABT) must bring book average verification and current highest average for twenty-one (21) games or more, league sheets of less than forty-five (45) games may be used if they are higher than book average, and present at the time of entry. Absolutely **NO HANDICAPPED** Entry will be allowed without verification.
7. The Tournament Director will settle disputes not covered by ABT and / or USBC rules.
8. Handicaps are based on 80% of the difference between your assigned average and 225. Maximum beginning handicap is 68 pins per game. Scores shall be posted using a plus or minus system including handicap with 200 being used as par. This will reflect how much a bowler is averaging above or below 200.
Example: 200 + 20 = 220 or +20 or 170 + 20 = 190 or -10
8. Normal Format: Normal qualifying round (Saturday) is three (3) or four (4) games across six or eight lanes. Re-Entry permitted. However only the higher scores will be considered for prize money. Special tournaments do authorize multiple cashing options. A minimum of one (1) in eight (8) entries will advance to the semi-finals on Sunday. There will be no carry-over of pins. Semi-finalists are to report to the tournament site no later than thirty (30) minutes before designated starting time. They will bowl three (3) games across six (6) lanes, if Pro-Style stepladder finals are used a maximum of the five (5) highest scores, including handicap, if any, will advance to the finals. There will be no carry-over of pins. Finals will follow the semi-finals. The high score, including handicap in the semi-final round will automatically seeded into the final match if Pro-Style stepladder finals are used. If the finals are held Pro-Style stepladder, i.e. No. 5 bowls 4; winner bowls No. 3; winner bowls No. 2; winner bowls seeded bowler for the championship. These games will also be determined with handicap. The bowler in the higher seeded position will have his or her choice of starting lane on the championship pair.
9. All advertised prizes will be **GUARANTEED** by the Amateur Bowlers Tour local Branch. All semi-finalists will cash. All prize money collected will be returned 100%.
10. A more complete set of rules governing tournament conditions, conduct, wearing apparel, infractions, penalties, and entering averages is available at the ABT office, and will be given to each new and rejoin member when their membership application has been approved.
11. All contestants must abide by all Amateur Bowlers Tour rules and regulations. If they refuse, membership will be terminated with no reimbursement of fees.
12. All USBC rules will be observed. USBC Rule 17 and 319 A, D & E will apply to **ALL** participants.
13. Champion's Shirt presented to 1st place finisher for their first **two** (2) championships. Additional championship shirts will be provided at the **A.B.T.** Branch Directors discretion.
14. There should be no less than three (3) bowlers and no more than eight (8) per pair of lanes. Eight (8) only when necessary.
15. Twenty four (24) or more handicapped tournaments per year are planned per year in each area. Two (2) or more every month if possible.
16. You must conduct yourself as a lady or gentleman at all times.
17. At the Branch Directors discretion, any member who is employed or owns any portion of a business doing business in the bowling center where an Amateur Bowlers Tour tournament is being held, will not be allowed to participate in any **HANDICAPPED** tournament. Under no circumstance will an employee receive any handicap in an event held in their bowling center, (Super Bowl, Year End Special or Special Events exempted).
18. Current members of any professional bowling association are not allowed to bowl. National Professional Bowlers Association Title Holders for the last five (5) years are not allowed to be members. Should a members' ability, in the judgment of the **A.B.T.** Branch or National Director, be too great, their membership would be immediately terminated with no return of fees.

NOTICE:

ABT RULES COVERING DRESS CODES AND GROOMING STANDARDS WILL BE STRICKLY ENFORCED. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Bowlers are allowed to compete in only two (2) tournaments without wearing a shirt / blouse with their name on the back and the official logo or patch **PERMANENTLY** attached. Shirts / Blouses purchased through the NATIONAL ABT shirt catalog are not subject to the below rules. Shirts / Blouses must have standard tow (2) piece or Polo collars. No rib neck crew collars. Shirts / Blouses must have sleeve. NO T-SHIRTS or SWEAT SHIRTS!!! Walking shorts, culottes, or split skirts will be permitted at the Discretion of the local DIRECTOR, provided they extend close to the knees. NO short shorts, tight shorts, exercise shorts or cut-offs. Pants, slacks skirts, dresses and jeans are preferred. NO TYPE of athletic wear permitted. NO elastic or tie down cuffs. Straight or regular hemmed cuffs only on pants, slacks or jeans. NO weightlifter (ZUMI'S) or jogging pants permitted. Pants, Slacks and Jeans must have button down or zipper closure. Hair must be NEAT CLEAN and well groomed. NO hair curlers or hair pins for curling purposes permitted. Beards, goatees, moustaches and sideburns will be permitted provided they have a neat and trim appearance. NO Hats or Head bands permitted during practice and competition. No Bowler will be permitted to bowl, unless they meet and agree to all of these specifications.

A Bowler will not be allowed to compete in any handicapped event without verification of his or her average. The applicant must verify the correctness of his or her average. If Bowler's averages is published in local association's average yearbook, and a copy of this is made available to the ABT, averages can be verified at our office. If we do not have a yearbook, average, certified or non-certified verification must appear in writing and be verified by local association secretary. Bowler must also bring current league sheet with highest current average of twenty-one (21) games or more. No other verifications will be accepted. Branch and National Directors reserve the right to assign a competitive average. This assignment can occur during competition.