

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Any bowler failing to comply with the provisions herein shall forfeit tournament fees and all prize winnings.
2. All games bowled in the Midlands SC USBC Association Open championship tournament shall be played in compliance with the rules and their current USBC membership card at check-in.
3. **Eligibility** – the tournament is open to all members of the Midlands SC USBC Association: (a) each bowler must have 21 or more games in a certified 2020-2021 Midlands SC USBC Association league to be eligible to compete in ANY Division of the Association Championship tournament; (b) bowlers classified as professionals are limited to two (2) on a four (4) person team and one (1) on a doubles team. Line ups may consist of any mix of men and women or all men or all women.
4. **Tournament entry fees** – This tournament is a Handicap Tournament. There is a Scratch Option allowing scores bowled in the handicap division to be used in a separate scratch division. The team captain must designate if the scratch option is to be used by any bowlers. Fees are paid as follows: (a) one cashier's check, money order, personal check or business check, covering all tournament fees must accompany a completed entry form; (b) any check that does not clear the bank when first deposited, for any reason, may be cause to reject the entry. The entry will be accepted by the tournament manager if a cashier's check is received within 10 days of notification of the returned check. A \$30 fee will be charged for all returned checks.
5. **Multiple participation** will be allowed: (a) team event (4-person team) not more than two (2) players on one team can place more than once in the prize list for position standings; (b) Singles and Doubles events (1) singles event – in no case shall the same individual be permitted to place more than once in the prize list position standings; (2) doubles event – in no case shall the same two players on a doubles team be permitted to place more than once in the prize list for position standings; (c) the bowler's first appearance in each event counts toward the all events total. Bowlers wanting to enter in all events must be signed up before he or she rolls their first ball of the tournament.
 - Substitution will be allowed as required to complete line-ups.
 - Walk-in or re-entry will be allowed (first come, first served) based on the lane availability, up to 60 minutes prior to scheduled squad time.
 - Any walk-in entry the day of the tournament will pay an entry fee of **\$30.00 cash** per event.
6. **Singles and doubles** will be bowled on the same pair of lanes. Singles event will be bowled first. Walk-in bowlers will be allowed to bowl just singles, just doubles, or both as long as lanes are available.
7. **Handicap allowance** – the handicap allowance is based on 100% of the difference between the bowler's entering average and 225, computed on a three game basis. Averages of 225 and above will receive zero (0) handicap. Any team or bowler entering the Scratch Division of this tournament will receive zero (0) handicap for the Scratch portion of the tournament.
8. **Entering averages** (USBC rule 319) – a bowler's entering average shall be: (1) highest USBC certified (adult) league average, based on 21 or more games, for the 2019-2020 winter season; (2) a bowler having no USBC 2019-2020 winter season average may qualify by using their highest current average with 21 or more games. **ALL BOWLERS MUST BRING A LEAGUE STANDING SHEET FOR EVERY LEAGUE THEY BOWL IN THE MIDLANDS ASSOCIATION, TO VERIFY CURRENT AVERAGE AS OF April 9th, 2021, (USBC rule 319a1 and 319b) (USBC rule 319a2 "ten pin rule" will apply).**
9. **Divisions:**
 - a. Women's Division – Women only, this division will be handicap only. (There are no scratch options)
 - b. Open Division – Any combination of men, women or all men and all women, this division has a handicap and/or scratch option. Scores bowled in the handicap portion will be used for the scratch option if the handicap and scratch option fees are paid; and the scores bowled in the scratch portion will be used for the handicap option if the scratch and handicap option fees are paid.
10. **Distribution of prize funds** – (a) all prize money collected in each event will be returned 100%. Last place prize, including last place ties, will be equal to the entry fee for each event; (b) there will be at least one cash prize for each eight (8) entries or major portion thereof in the team, doubles and singles events, and at least one cash prize for each twelve (12) entries or major portion thereof in all events.
11. The computer printout from the bowling center will be the official score for each event. Any scoring errors must be reported within 24 hours immediately following the alleged infraction or it will be disallowed.
12. Tournament prize money and awards will not be awarded until all winners' averages have been verified by the tournament manager.
13. Rule 319d Reporting Prior Prize Winnings **WILL BE ENFORCED** Bowlers are to report the name of each tournament in which they have been paid the following prizes, or if not yet paid, in which they have qualified for the prize. 1) **\$300 or more in any event.** 2) **Total combined prize winnings of \$500 or more in any one tournament (This includes winnings from brackets).** 3) **Total combined prize winnings of \$1000 or more in all tournaments within the last 12 months. (This includes winnings from brackets).** The information must include the amount of the prize for each tournament, the actual scores bowled to qualify for the prize, and the prize position for each tournament. **FAILURE TO REPORT ANY WINNINGS WILL BECOME CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION AND THE FORFEITURE OF ENTRY FEES AND ANY PRIZE MONEY EARNED. THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOWLER.**
14. **Reserved entry closing date** – March 31st, 2021. All entries must be postmarked on or before midnight March 31st, 2021.
15. Entries will be scheduled "first-in, first-scheduled".
16. All nine games may be bowled in one day.
17. The tournament manager reserves the right to reverse events in order to fill the entry time choices, if the preferred times are filled. Entries will be scheduled on the best available time based on the scheduling comments.
18. **Dress and Smoking Code** – bowlers will wear suitable attire that does not expose any undergarments while bowling. This includes no tank tops, short-shorts, pants (worn below the natural waistline), hats or other head covering (except for medical or religious purposes). All electronic devices such as, but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, cd and mp3 players, shall remain off and stored away during all competition. **SMOKING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE BOWLING CENTER DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO E-CIGARETTES.**