

Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. Entry into Cleveland G.I.F.T bowling tournament is by invitation only.
2. This tournament will be a United States Bowling Congress (USBC) sanctioned tournament. In order to be eligible for USBC awards and recognition, a bowler must hold a current season USBC membership card. It is the responsibility of each bowler to purchase this membership directly from USBC (via bowl.com) if desired. GIFT will pay the participation fee for a non-sanctioned bowler bowling in a USBC tournament, but you are not eligible for any awards from USBC without a full USBC membership.
3. USBC rules shall apply to matters not explicitly covered in these tournament rules.
4. This tournament shall consist of four events: Singles, Doubles, Team and Individual All Events.
5. The number of games per event (Singles, Double and Team) shall be three.
6. The team shall consist of four bowlers.
7. Each entrant may compete only once in each event.
8. Men and women shall compete on an equal basis.
9. Each registration must be accompanied by payment in full. All registration and fee payments will be done electronically. PayPal will be used for the electronic payment method of fees. Once an entry is accepted, there will be no refunds unless there are extenuating circumstances found acceptable by the tournament committee. All directions regarding the registration process can be found in the registration instruction attachment.
10. Cleveland G.I.F.T. will not reserve your spot, or that of another teammate, until both the completed form and payment have been received and verified for each bowler.
11. Substitution will be allowed at the Director's discretion.
12. Claims of errors in scoring must be presented in writing to the Tournament Committee within two (2) hours of the completion of bowling on the day of the alleged error.
13. Late bowlers will start bowling in the current frame upon arrival. Prior frames shall be scored zero.
14. Bowler check-in time shall begin one hour prior to the start of bowling each day.
15. All prize monies collected will be returned in full.
16. NOTICE: Music may be played during all bowling sessions.

Entering Averages

1. Any bowler entering G.I.F.T. should have an established ten-pin average based on 21 or more games of league bowling during the period from August 1, 2021- July 31, 2022 (USBC season). **League standing sheets as of April 1, 2022, name of league bowling house where standing sheets can be found on-line, house and league number that can be used on league secretary to find individual averages (online) or other acceptable verification avenues must be submitted from all leagues (sanctioned or non-sanctioned) in which a bowler has bowled 21 or more games. DO NOT rely on the bowl.com website to help us verify averages. Those averages are often reported long after the conclusion of your season.**

The following rules will apply to entering averages:

- a. Bowlers must submit verification of their averages as of April 1, 2022 (minimum 21 games) to the registration director when they officially register. **The highest average of all leagues will be used.**
 - b. If the bowler does not have an average as of April 1 of the current year, then the bowler must submit their highest average from all leagues bowled in the 2020-2021 season.
 - c. If the bowler does not have either of the above criteria (1a or 1b), then a current summer league average from 2021 can be used (minimum of 21 games).
 - d. If an entrant does not have a verified average in accordance with Rules 1a-1c, then the bowler will enter the tournament with a 230 average. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**
 - e. The G.I.F.T. tournament will NOT accept Sports bowling league averages or make average adjustments for Sport bowling league averages (USBC rules 200-207 will not apply).
2. If a bowler's accumulated 10 month (June 1, 2021 - April 1, 2022) IGBO tournament sanctioned average (minimum of 21 games) is higher than the entering average established under rules 1a-1c, re-rating will occur and bowler's IGBO sanctioned tournament average will be used for the tournament average. Cleveland G.I.F.T. will verify IGBO tournament averages through the IGBO tournament average database. USBC Rule 319e (as modified by this paragraph) will apply.
 3. A bowler is not required to report any previous tournament prize winnings as a condition of entry (USBC rule 319d does not apply).
 4. The average of a bowler may be adjusted upward at the discretion of the tournament directors before the entrant bowls. A bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to a full refund of the entry fee.
 5. Handicap for the tournament shall be based on 90% of the difference between the bowler's entering average and 230. Negative handicaps shall not apply.
 6. **It is each bowler's responsibility to ensure that proper average verification is on file with Cleveland G.I.F.T. and to verify the accuracy of his/her average, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his/her team captain, the league secretary, or others.** Failure to use the proper average or make correction before an entrant bowls shall disqualify the bowler if the submitted average is lower than the actual average.