



24 AUGUST 2024

NATIONAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CONGRESS

TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL PROVISIONS – T-000

T-001: These Tournament Rules and Regulations (“the Regulations”) have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the National Duckpin Bowling Congress (NDBC) (“the Board”) for the purpose of promoting fairness and consistency in competitive duckpin bowling, as well as financial integrity, in Tournaments and special events. The Board may amend the Regulations from time to time, as necessary.

T-002: The Tournament sanctioning fee is established by the Board and may be changed by the Board from time to time. The current Tournament sanctioning fee is set forth in the Fee Schedule included as an attachment to these Regulations and is also available on-line via the link on the NDBC web page.

T-003: Any reference in these Regulations to the Board includes any designee of the Board for administering some or all these Regulations.

T-004: As used in these Regulations, the term “the Congress” means the NDBC, the term “Tournament” means any Tournament or event sanctioned by the Congress, and the terms “Tournament Director” or “Director” mean the person having responsibility for the conduct of the Tournament. Each tournament must provide a promotional piece. It may be a flyer, an email or a Facebook page announcing the Tournament. For brevity, use of the term “flyer” in these regulations refers to the tournament’s promotional method of choice.

T-005: Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, all references to awards or prizes refer to the cash awards or cash prizes.

T-006: The Board may waive, suspend, or modify for any Tournament or event, the application of any Regulation set forth herein when doing so is consistent with the best interests of duckpin bowling and the overall objectives of these Regulations.

T-007: Tournaments may offer merchandise or service prizes in addition to cash prizes, but the Tournament’s valuation of the merchandise or services, however calculated, may not be included in the advertised amount of Tournament prizes, which shall include only cash prizes. There is no prohibition on advertising in the Tournament flyer or elsewhere that merchandise or service prizes will be awarded by the Tournament. However, merchandise or service prizes must be donated or otherwise acquired by the Tournament without the expenditure of Tournament entry fees.

T-008: In general, and as specifically set forth in these Regulations, it shall be the Tournament Director’s responsibility to ensure that all Tournament conditions on which sanctioning approval by the Board were based are maintained throughout the Tournament, including the full and timely payment of the advertised prizes. The failure of the Tournament Director to comply with these Regulations and any additional requirements imposed by the Board as a condition of sanctioning approval may, at the discretion of the Board, result in any or all, of the following:

- (A) The withdrawal of Board sanctioning of the Tournament and the non-recognition for NDBC purposes of any games rolled or
- (B) The disqualification of the Tournament Director from the organization of and/or participation in future Board-sanctioned Tournaments, or
- (C) The suspension of the Tournament Director from the NDBC.

TOURNAMENT SANCTIONS – T-100

T-101: Only NDBC sanctioned bowlers are allowed to participate in Tournaments or events sanctioned by the Congress. **Unless otherwise stated, the use of “sanctioned average” on a flyer as a tournament requirement always refers to an NDBC sanctioned average.**

T-102: A bowling establishment may not be granted a sanctioned Tournament until the lanes have passed inspection and the bowling center has received its current sanction certificate, except by special permission of the Board.

T-103: Any Tournament which is to be concurrently scheduled for more than one weekend of the scheduled dates of the annual National Tournament shall not be sanctioned by the Congress.

T-104: No event bearing the name of any living person shall be sanctioned without the approval of the Board.

T-105: Tournament sanction fees must be paid at the time the Tournament sanction application is submitted to the Congress.

- (A) All Tournaments will pay a fee calculated in accordance with the current Fee Schedule, which must be remitted with the sanction application.
- (B) If, at the conclusion of a tournament with a graduated prize list, a higher amount for a first-place finish was paid out, the fee owed the Congress must be re-calculated in accordance with the Fee Schedule in effect at the time of the Tournament and the difference sent to the Congress with the results of the event.
- (C) If a series of tournaments with a final event at the end are being sanctioned, the Congress will accept a single payment for all the events using the fees described above for each event. Should the payout for first place for one or more events in the series exceed the payout(s) on which the initial Tournament or event sanction fee was based, then the difference between the fee(s) originally paid for such event(s) and the re-calculated fee(s) must be paid within 30 days after the final event?

T-106: The following must be sanctioned to ensure that all prize monies are paid properly, that all other rules and regulations are observed, and for the purpose of recognizing scores which are regulation compliant:

- (A) Tournaments in which non-regulation Duckpins is bowled (such as 1-2-3 ball, any of the various forms of Scotch Doubles, etc.)
- (B) In which regulation Duckpins is bowled. but that use guaranteed scores or permit the changing of partners during a one-block doubles event

- (C) Or some other non-regulation method to determine winners is used (such as Pro-Am events).

SANCTION APPLICATIONS – T-200

- T-201:** A draft flyer for sanctioning a tournament must be submitted to the Board at least forty-five (45) days prior to the event.
- (A) Unless the flyer contains all the proper information and otherwise complies with these Regulations, it will be returned unapproved to the individual requesting sanctioning for a tournament together with an explanation for the non-approval.
 - (B) The draft flyer, after being brought into compliance with these Regulations, must be resubmitted to the Board for approval.
 - (C) No draft flyers for a tournament will be accepted if the date of the event is less than forty-five (45) days prior to the event.

To be approved, the flyer must contain all the information listed in T-301.

T-202: Each tournament sanction request must be accompanied by a separate flyer and a check for the appropriate sanction fee.

T-203: Each tournament series event must have a separate flyer for each series block. The appropriate sanction fee must be submitted for each series event.

T-204: No Tournament may be advertised publicly until it has been approved by the Congress.

T-205: The Congress will send a Tournament Sanction Certificate to the hosting bowling center, unless otherwise requested by the applicant, for each sanctioned Tournament. In the case of a series of events, a single Certificate may cover all such events.

TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS – T-300

T-301: Each tournament must provide a flyer announcing the tournament. The sanction certificate and the tournament flyer must be posted at the host bowling center during the event.

ALL of the following that are applicable must be included:

- (A) The name of the event
- (B) The establishment name, location and phone number
- (C) The dates the event is to be held
- (D) The number of games to be bowled by each entrant
- (E) A statement that the Tournament is sanctioned by the NDBC
- (F) A statement that all entrants must be sanctioned bowlers
- (G) The entry fee per entrant broken down by:

- (1) The amount of tournament expenses (cost of games, director's fee, etc.)
- (2) The amount of prize fund
- (3) The amount, if any, given to charity
- (H) The guaranteed prizes (minimum of 1st, 2nd, 3rd places);
- (I) the amount of any outside money added and source of such money
- (J) A description of any prizes other than cash to be awarded and, if a value for such prizes is to be advertised, how that value is calculated
- (K) A statement that bowlers may only cash once in a handicap singles event and once with the same partner in a handicap doubles event
- (L) A statement advising bowlers that the approval of the Tournament by the NDBC does not carry a guarantee by the NDBC that any advertised prize will be paid
- (M) The entry acceptance deadline
- (N) In handicap events the following must be included:
 - (1) A statement that sanctioned averages will be used
 - (2) The date of sanctioned average and the number of games required
 - (3) The scratch average limit
 - (4) The handicap percentage
 - (5) The sanctioned average from which handicap is to be figured

Note: A sanctioned average may be "book average" or "highest" or "composite," current year or previous year for X number of games.

NDYA sanctioned averages will be recognized only until a higher NDBC sanctioned average is established.

- (6) The dummy score/average to be used
- (7) If re-rating is to be used, the method must be defined on the flyer
- (O) A statement whether re-entries are allowed
- (P) The procedures to be used for breaking ties

T-302: The entire amount of the fees paid to an individual (or individuals) for running the tournament are to be paid from the tournament expense item listed on the announcement.

T-303: Tournaments run by Tournament Organizations and the National Tournament are exempt from section T-301 and T302.

- (A) Each item in T-301 that applies must be presented to all entrants in advance of the tournament.
- (B) A copy of all prize lists to be used during the tournaments by the organizations must be on file with Congress.

- (C) Each prize list must include an explanation of what would cause that list to be used (i.e. number of entries).

T-304: Once a flyer has been finalized and filed with the Congress, no changes may be made to the flyer without the written permission of the Congress. Failure to comply will result in the Tournament Director being declared ineligible to organize or officiate future Congress-sanctioned tournaments.

T-305: Requests to amend a Board-approved flyer should be directed to the Congress as soon as possible but not later than twenty (20) days before the opening date of the Tournament. If the flyer changes are not approved by the Board, the Tournament Director will be so advised and given three (3) calendar days to bring the flyer into compliance with these Regulations. Failure to do so will result in the withdrawal of Board approval and, in such cases, the sanctioning fee will not be refunded. Under no circumstances may changes be made to a flyer within seven (7) days prior to the start of the event.

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS – T-400

T-401: In all sanctioned events, all entrants' bowling balls may be weighed and measured prior to being used. Tournament Directors will have the right to spot check balls for weight and size before, during, and immediately following any sanctioned competition. The penalty for the use of illegal balls will be immediate disqualification from the event and possible suspension from the NDBC. It is the responsibility of the bowlers to make sure their equipment complies with the NDBC standards.

T-402: In all tournaments, chipped pins shall be removed before the tournament starts and immediately during the operation of the tournament upon being chipped or cracked.

T-403: One foul line judge must be employed for each twelve lanes, or fraction thereof, used in the event, unless such lanes are provided with approved automatic foul-detecting devices. All lanes and foul lights to be used in such events must be checked and must be operational just prior to the starting of each event.

T-404: There should be at least one "open" lane at all times between all sanctioned tournament bowling and any and all bowling by others.

T-405: All warm-up bowling before a sanctioned game should be done without pins.

T-406: In every tournament, if a team is ready to bowl and no other team is present to bowl opposite such team, then the team present shall bowl all games as though another team was paired on the lanes with them. Each member bowling on such team shall have completed his or her frame on one lane before the team shall commence its next frame on the adjoining lane. Failure to comply with this rule may prevent the recognition of any and all records that may be made by such teams, or any record or award claimed by any member thereof. Furthermore, it may disqualify such team from participating in any future Board-sanctioned tournament.

T-407: If it is necessary to cancel tournament shifts, the following protocol must be used:

- (A)** Reschedule on the same day of the week at the same shift times ASAP

(B) If part of a series, the reschedule must occur before the next tournament

(C) If both are not possible, reschedule as close to the original format ASAP.

CHARITABLE EVENTS – T-500

T-501: Charitable organizations must register with the Board in order to have any special event recognized by the Congress. This would include non-tournament events. The purpose for the registration is to assure bowlers that funds designated for charitable purposes will in fact reach their advertised destination.

T-502: Any bowling center and/or organization conducting a sanctioned event for the benefit of one or more organized charities shall state all required items (§ T-301) on their announcement, as well as a complete breakdown of expenses including the amount going for charitable purposes. The amount to be given to the designated charity(ies) shall not be less than twenty percent (20%) of each entry fee.

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION/AVERAGES – T-600

T-601: Teams (composed of one or more bowlers) may re-enter a sanctioned open event provided the tournament announcement notes that re-entries are allowed. The second time a team enters an event, that team shall pay an entry fee that is no more than double and no less than the advertised entry fee. The re-entry fee shall be set prior to the start of the tournament and included in the tournament announcement notes. Monies paid by teams that re-enter an event that are **more than** the advertised entry fee shall be considered donations to the prize fund of the event and shall be used to create additional places on the prize list **in addition to** those required by these regulations.

T-602: Teams (composed of one or more bowlers) may enter a sanctioned handicap event any number of times provided the tournament announcement notes that re-entries are allowed. The entry fee shall be the same regardless of the number of times a team re-enters an event.

T-603: Teams (composed of one or more bowlers) may only cash once in an event, exclusive of scratch, block, individual and/or other special awards, unless specifically stated otherwise on the tournament flyer.

T-604: No team (composed of one or more bowlers) shall be permitted to enter any handicap event with an average that exceeds the scratch average limit of the event.

T-605: At the request of the Tournament Director, and with the approval of the NDBC Board of Directors, non-sanctioned averages may be permitted to determine eligibility and/or handicaps for only an individual event that is not part of a multi-tournament schedule (i.e., Pop Whitten, Tournament Series, etc.). The Tournament Director must have written evidence of all averages being utilized to enter the event. Allowing the use of non-sanctioned averages must be stated on the event flyer. Bowlers who do not have an established average which meets the eligibility requirements of a particular handicap event will be allowed to enter that event at the scratch average limit established for the event, unless restricted from doing so by the tournament announcement.

ENTRY FEES AND PRIZE MONEY – T-700

T-701: All sanctioned events shall have a minimum guarantee for first, second and third place cash prize awards and must pay at least one award for every ten entries, including scratch or block awards. The number of awards will be determined by the final number of entries, i.e., if you have 66-75 entries you must pay at least seven places; if 76-85 entries you must pay at least eight places. Only those prizes which are available to the entire field of entrants may be counted against the one-in-ten payout requirement;

T-702: The second-place award must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the first-place award, and the third-place award must be at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the first-place award. The remaining place awards must be graduated in reasonable amounts with the last place award being at least equal to the amount of one entry fee, except in the case of ties. If brackets are being used to determine final standings, those bowlers who lose their semi-final matches will each be awarded a third-place award equal to one-half (1/2) of the total of the third and fourth place awards with the remaining place awards being unaffected.

T-703: In the event of place award ties, the cash prize awards for all tied positions are to be combined and distributed equally among those winners.

T-704: No sanctioned event shall pay a first-place award of more than fifty (50) times the amount of one entry fee, unless "outside" money (i.e., money other than entry fees) is added to the prize money. In this case, the first-place award may be in excess of fifty (50) times the amount of one entry fee, but such excess shall be no more than the amount of the "outside" money that is added.

T-705: No tournament awards of any type not included in the regular prize list shall be more than the amount of one entry fee, unless such award is from a source other than the bowlers' entry fees.

T-706: If so advertised, a tournament may request an optional entry fee to be used for some specific award outside the regular prize list, such as high game, minor award, etc. The regular prize list is defined as those prizes based on the total number of games in the event. This rule shall not apply to national, sectional, state or city team, doubles and singles tournaments and their associated events.

T-707: A prize fund is created when all advertised expenses are subtracted from the total amount of entry fees collected. All money in the prize fund must be returned to the participants, as advertised on the flyer.

T-708: Once established, no money shall be deducted from the prize fund of any sanctioned event for any purpose.

T-709: When a Tournament director running an event makes an error in the distribution of the prize money:

- (A) The bowler and/or bowlers receiving a greater amount of prize monies than that which he/she is entitled shall immediately return the excess amount to the Tournament director
- (B) A bowler's failure to return any excess funds to the tournament director after he/she has been notified in writing will result in his/her suspension from participating in future sanctioned tournaments until the money is returned.
- (C) At the discretion of the local association, for failure to abide by the request to return said funds, the bowler may ultimately be recommended for suspension from bowling in any sanctioned event regardless of where it is held.
- (D) Conversely, if any bowler fails to receive the proper amount of money to which he/she is entitled, the Tournament director shall make payment in the amount due the bowler.
- (E) All prize money shall be paid within thirty (30) days after completion of the event, **except for** the National Tournament, which will be paid as soon as possible upon the conclusion of the Tournament.

TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATIONS – T-800

T-801: When organizations recognized by the Congress are formed for the purpose of conducting tournaments for bowlers who **are annual members**, these organizations shall have the right to make certain rules to govern themselves.

T-802: Each organization, by any method determined by a majority of its members, may select a governing body from among its membership. This body may make rules and/or regulations for its organization.

T-803: Tournament organizations may determine requirements for membership, tournament formats, and prize lists, as well as impose fines and/or suspensions (from the tournament organization) as deemed necessary.

T-804: Tournament organizations may elect officers, including, but not limited to, a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. They may also appoint an Executive Director to administer their affairs and conduct their tournaments.

T-805: Tournament organizations must submit financial reports on an as-requested basis, to the Board.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS – T-900

T-901: A bowling center conducting a sanctioned event must have a qualified individual, approved by the local association, in charge of that event. Where there is no local association, the director must be approved by the Congress.

T-902: The Congress may at any time designate a member of the Board or other qualified person to take charge of an event. His/her decisions shall be final provided they do not conflict with the playing rules of the Congress.

T-903: The operation and supervision of Tournaments shall be under the jurisdiction of the director. His/her decisions shall be final provided they do not conflict with the playing rules of the Congress.

T-904: A Tournament director's decision to find a bowler ineligible shall be final. If the bowling center hosting the tournament overrides the Tournament director's decision and permits a bowler found to be ineligible to bowl, the Tournament sanctioning by the Board shall be withdrawn and all scores will be declared "null and void" for NDBC purposes. In such cases, there will be no refunding of the tournament director and/or sanctioning fees.

T-905: In all communities where city, area or state bowling associations are operating, the Board shall have the power to delegate to such associations the authority to conduct all handicap events in their area. All rules and procedures normally followed by Tournament directors of the Congress must be observed in these Tournaments.

T-906: In all sanctioned events, the director in charge of the event must certify and file with the Board and the local association where the event was held, within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the event, a report including the following information:

- (A) The official prize list, including a complete financial breakdown of all monies;
- (B) The complete list of the scores of all participants, including the full name of each participant (no nicknames or initials) in alphabetical order, with
- (C) The names of entrants having bowling balls rejected, and whether such persons ultimately bowled in the Tournament
- (D) The names of bowlers disqualified or determined to be ineligible together with a full explanation of the circumstances in each case; and
- (E) The names of all bowlers paying a membership fee in order to participate in the event. (It is the responsibility of the tournament director to ensure that all participants are sanctioned members in good standing with the Congress. Any bowler sanction fees collected by the Tournament shall be remitted to the Congress with the report, together with the full name and address of the bowler.)

T-907: In all sanctioned events (exclusive of national, sectional, state and city tournaments), there may be a Tournament Director's fee paid, the amount to be negotiated by the local association, which shall be deducted as an expense from the total of the entry fees collected. Where there is no local association, the amount of the fee will be negotiated with the Board by the individual approved as Director.

LANES, PACING, FAILURE TO FINISH – T-1000

T-1001: In all sanctioned events, lanes will be assigned in a manner determined by the Tournament Director. No bowler's lane will be changed after assignment unless deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. Should any bowler refuse to bowl when his/her turn comes to be bowl on the assigned lane, his/her entry shall be forfeited (with no refund of the entry fee) and such bowler may not be allowed to roll in the event at any later time.

T-1002: In all singles, doubles or mixed doubles events, the pace shall be the equivalent of not less than four, nor more than six, bowlers to a pair of lanes. If the starting pace is four bowlers per pair of lanes, the assignment of two or three bowlers to a lane pair may be accepted, these bowlers rolling as if they were four bowlers on the pair of lanes. The same conditions shall apply when the starting pace is six bowlers per pair of lanes, except that in this instance the assignment of not less than three bowlers can be accepted. At no time may a single bowler bowl alone.

T-1003: In all sanctioned events, bowlers completing a game on an odd numbered lane must start the next game on that odd numbered lane unless the bowling center's automatic scoring system prevents it. Similarly, unless the automatic scoring system prevents it, bowlers completing the game on an even numbered lane must start the next game on that even numbered lane. Tournament organizations may modify this rule for their events.

T-1004: Any bowler who enters and begins competition in a sanctioned event shall complete each, and every, game of said event unless given permission to withdraw by the Tournament director. A bowler who withdraws during a game with the permission of the Tournament director shall receive one-tenth (1/10) of a dummy score, up to a maximum ten (10) pins for any frames remaining in that game. In team events, the bowler may be replaced by an alternate for any additional games provided this does not create a team that has previously entered the tournament. Handicap, if any, must be adjusted in accordance with Congress playing rules.

T-1005: Any bowler who enters and begins competition in a sanctioned event and then withdraws without the permission of the tournament director shall receive zero pins for any and all frames remaining in the tournament and may be subject to additional disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Tournament director including, but not limited to, disqualification from the event. The bowler may also be recommended by the Tournament director for suspension from the Congress. The penalty scores received by such a bowler shall not count towards a bowler's tournament average for handicap or limited events but shall count towards a bowler's ranking.

T-1006: Any and all tardy bowlers shall receive one-tenth (1/10th) of the dummy score of the event for all frames missed up to a maximum of ten (10) pins per frame.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS T-1100

T-1101: The NDBC National Tournament sites and dates shall be selected by the Board.

T-1102: Scratch pools will be allowed for men and for women, for doubles, singles and teams. Scratch pool re-entries will be allowed each time the bowler enters an event.

T-1103: All sanctioned bowling centers shall have the right to submit a proposal to serve as the host center for the National Tournament.

T-1104: No bowling center, after being awarded the National Tournament, may make any physical changes to the construction of the lobby, entrances, room space or any part of the building which is actually a part of, and used as a part of, the bowling center at the time that the

National Tournament award was made, without the written approval of the Board. Non-compliance of this provision will automatically cancel the tournament award and no refund of fees will be allowed.

T-1105: Eligibility requirements for average for bowlers entering the National Tournament shall be established by the Board.

T-1106: In all tournaments and/or events officially operated by the Congress, the Tournament director in charge shall have full authority to schedule the entrants to the event at such times in the schedule that will insure normal operation of the various shifts of the event, and shall also have the full authority to take such corrective action during the running of the event as may become necessary due to any abnormal delay in the running of the event caused by any particular participant and/or participants.

T-1107: The director of the National Tournament shall have the authority to add shifts, if deemed necessary, with the approval of the host establishment, but cannot add shifts that extend beyond the posted closing date and time.