



OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE & RULEBOOK – October 1, 2021



**PART 1**  
**OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE**

**PART 2**  
**OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

Effective Date: October 1, 2021



OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE & RULEBOOK – October 1, 2021



**PART 1**  
**OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE**



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## ONE - INTRODUCTION

**1.1 General** As professional athletes, PBA members must maintain the highest standards when representing the public image of bowlers in general and the PBA in particular. At all times during competition and attendance at any PBA event or other bowling related functions, members must hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct and decorum.

**1.2 Fan Relations** Fans come to PBA events primarily to see the players. No other sport offers such access to its athletes. PBA members should take advantage of the opportunity to encourage greater attendance at tournaments and a broader awareness of the PBA by interacting with fans; responding to greetings, signing autographs and answering questions. Young fans are particularly impressionable and PBA members have the chance to form a lasting positive image of professional bowlers through friendly interaction with young fans.

**1.3 PBA Professional-Amateur Events (Pro-Ams)** Pro-Am events can be the most exciting part of the tournament for hundreds of amateurs. It is extremely important that customers and fans walk away with the feeling that the most valuable aspect of the experience was the opportunity to bowl with the professionals. Members can help amateurs enjoy their experience by doing the following:

**1.3.1 Shake Hands** Shake hands; make introductions, converse with the amateurs and offer encouragement. A little conversation will go a long way toward creating a fan for life.

**1.3.2 Bowling Tips** Offer some helpful instructions or tips and take the time to explain technical points or terms that may be unfamiliar.

**1.3.3 Trick Shots** Perform "trick shots" when the Professional's scores do not count.

**1.3.4 Thank Amateurs** Thank the amateurs for the opportunity to have bowled with them when the game is over. Expressing appreciation for the host city and center will encourage fans to come back when a PBA event returns.

**1.4 Media** PBA members may be asked to speak to the media during competition or prior to PBA events. As with any professional sports coverage, representatives of the press are interested in the athlete's perspective on the competition, the challenges posed by winning or accepting defeat and expression of the athlete's personality or individual characteristics.

**1.4.1 Public Persona** When speaking to the press, PBA members should be polite, personable and informative about the sport of bowling.

**1.4.2 Notify the PBA PR Department** All interviews should be arranged and/or pre-approved by a member of the PBA Public Relations (PR) staff. Media should go through PR for any and all interview requests; if a member of the media approaches you about an interview, please make the PBA PR staff aware of it. Interviews should never take place in Host Center lounges or bars.

## TWO - MEMBERSHIP

### 2.1 Classes of Membership

**2.1.1 Standard Membership** Members receive all non-competitive membership benefits except for the Pro Shop listing on the [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) website and the Pro Shop logo benefit. In addition to the USBC Masters. Standard Members may participate in:

- a. Up to three (3) PBA Regional Tour events per calendar year.



- b. One (1) Regional Players Championship Series (RPCS) event per calendar year.
- c. One (1) PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour event.
- d. The U.S. Open.
- e. The USBC Masters
- f. The Senior U.S. Open (senior members only).
- g. Other designated PBA Tour open field events.

**2.1.2 Full Membership** Full Members will receive all non-competitive membership benefits. In addition to the USBC Masters, Full Members may compete in any PBA tournament for which they are eligible.

### **2.1.3 PBA24 Membership**

- a. Eligibility. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 24 may join the PBA at a discounted monthly rate per year (no initiation fee). Once a PBA24 member reaches their 25th birthday or wins a PBA title they must upgrade to PBA Standard or Full Membership.
- b. Benefits of Membership. PBA24 Members will receive all standard membership benefits. PBA24 members will also receive \$50 off their first PBA Regional Tour entry fee. If a PBA24 member is referred for membership by another PBA member, that member will also receive a \$50 coupon for a PBA Regional Tour event.

### **2.1.4 International Membership**

- a. Eligibility. Any WTBA member in good standing may join the PBA at a reduced rate per year (no initiation fee). However, if a PBA International member wins a PBA Tour title, they will be required to upgrade to Full Membership.
  - b. Benefits of Membership. PBA International members will receive all standard membership benefits except for the Bowlers Journal subscription.
- NOTE:** If an International member wishes to list their pro shop on [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) or on their shirts, they must join as a PBA Full Member.

**2.2 Average Criteria for Membership** Competitive membership in the PBA is open to any bowler who meets the following criteria:

- 2.2.1 Average 200** Possess at least a two hundred (200) average for a minimum of thirty-six (36) games in any USBC certified league or tournament club within the previous twelve months.
- 2.2.2 Average 190** Possess at least a one hundred and ninety (190) average for a minimum of thirty-six (36) games in an USBC certified Sport Bowling League within the previous twelve months.
- 2.2.3 Cash in a PBA Tournament** In lieu of the average requirement, an applicant may qualify for competitive membership by cashing in one (1) PBA tournament of any kind within the last two (2) years.

## **2.3 Conditions of Membership**

**2.3.1 United States Bowling Congress (USBC)** The PBA recognizes the USBC as the national governing body of bowling. PBA members who are not in good standing with the USBC shall not be permitted to compete in PBA competition.

**2.3.2 Average Verification** Applicants must provide evidence of average in one (1) of the following forms:

- a. PBA membership application signed and dated by a league secretary or tournament club director.



- b. League sheets that clearly show the name, date, average and games.
- c. An average book copy that clearly show the name, date, average and games.
- d. Averages can be downloaded from bowl.com (USBC).

**2.3.3 Verification of Identity** Applicants must provide identification by providing a copy of one of the following forms:

- a. Birth certificate.
- b. Driver's license or Real Identification Card.
- c. State identification card.
- d. Passport.

**2.3.4 International Members** Individuals living outside of the United States may join the PBA if they meet the following conditions:

- a. Provide verification of a two hundred (200) average from their local Federation or tournament organization.
- b. Provide a copy of at least one (1) document equivalent to those listed in Paragraph 2.3.2 of the Official Membership Guide to establish proof of residence.

**2.3.5 Consent for Minors** Applicants who have not reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday must submit a letter of consent from a parent or guardian giving permission to join the PBA. Additionally, when participating as a non-member in PBA tournaments, the applicant must submit a USBC prize fund waiver form (available as a download at bowl.com).

## THREE - MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

**3.1 Guidelines for Discounted Practice** In select centers across the country, PBA members may practice for up to \$2 per game upon presentation of a current PBA membership card.

**3.1.1 Participating Centers** For a complete list of participating centers, please visit [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) and click on "PBA Centers." Cards must be presented prior to bowling. Lanes are subject to availability. Discounted practice is subject to the following restrictions:

### 3.1.2 Restrictions

- a. This benefit is for open play only (the rate does not apply for league, "Cosmic" or "Glow" bowling or tournament lineage).
- b. This benefit is non-transferable (it may only be used by the cardholder). Members must agree to give up the lane if the proprietor expects league, a tournament or heavy open play.
- c. Members must pay for lineage upon the proprietor's request.

## 3.2 PBA 300 Ring Program

**3.2.1 First 300 Game** Upon bowling a first perfect game in PBA competition, members will be awarded a ring or pendant.

**3.2.2 Additional 300 Games** For every succeeding 300 game in PBA competition, members will be rewarded with a diamond for the existing PBA 300 ring or pendant; each holds up to 13 diamonds.

**3.2.3 Website Access** After bowling a 300 game in PBA competition, the member may access the 300 Ring order form by logging onto the Members site at [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) or by filling out the form received from the PBA office approximately three weeks after the 300 game is bowled.



**3.2.4 Processing Orders** All ring orders must be processed within six months of the date the game was bowled. After six months, the member is responsible for the cost of the ring or diamond.

**NOTE:** Members submitting orders for rings after the six-month time period must pay full price to receive their award

**3.2.5 Ring Delivery** Once the PBA 300 ring or pendant is custom crafted, it will be sent to the member's home address and will be delivered in approximately three to six weeks.

**3.3 Bowlers Journal International (BJI) Subscription** Each month, full members will receive a new issue of the magazine widely regarded as the industry leader for its incisive and insightful worldwide bowling coverage, Bowlers Journal International. In addition to the most thorough tournament results and in-depth articles, Bowlers Journal International also offers a wealth of information for Host Center and pro shop operators

**3.4 Pro Shop Listing on pba.com** A Full Member, who works in or owns a pro shop, may request a pro shop listing on the www.pba.com website. With millions of hits each year, exposure on the www.pba.com website can drive local customers to the business and promote the PBA members' expertise on equipment, drilling techniques and instruction.

**NOTE:** Full Members may also wear the pro shop logo during all levels of PBA competition, subject to PBA rules pertaining to logo size. The position of the logo may be on the single left/right chest, left sleeve or collar only.

**3.5 Members Only Website** As a PBA Member, you will be able to access the Members Only Website at www.pba.com. Once you log on as a member, you will be able to find exclusive PBA member content, including access to the PBA oil pattern information, the latest product registered company offers, 300 game jewelry details, personal account information, listing of tournaments attended and online tournament entry capabilities.

## FOUR - MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

**4.1 General** The PBA Membership Services Department is available to provide support and service for all aspects of membership. If you wish to speak to someone in Membership Services or need assistance taking care of the procedures outlined below, contact us at:

Professional Bowlers Association, LLC  
Membership Services  
55 E Jackson Blvd., Suite 401  
Chicago, IL 60604  
(206) 332-9688, (206) 332-9722 (FAX)  
[membership@pba.com](mailto:membership@pba.com)

### 4.2 Changing Membership Account Information

**4.2.1 Login** Type in your user name (PBA Number) and password; then click on account.

**4.2.2 New Members** New members will be assigned and emailed a temporary password that can then be changed. This will also work when logging in to "Members Login" within 24 hours of becoming a member.

#### 4.2.3 Available Members Login Features

- a. Enter PBA tournaments.
- b. Change password

**4.3 Changing Membership Status** Any member who wishes to resign his or her membership from the PBA must notify Membership Services in writing. If you cancel your membership with the PBA, please be aware that while you can reinstate at any time, you will be subject to a reinstatement fee. Any questions regarding change of membership status should be directed to the Membership Department at (206) 332-9688 or email [membership@pba.com](mailto:membership@pba.com).

**4.3.1 Downgrading Membership** If you are currently a full member, you might like to consider downgrading your membership to a standard membership for a fraction of the price. Changing your membership status from full to standard (or standard to full) can be done at any time and does not cost any additional fees.

**NOTE:** If you are a member of the Armed Forces and have questions about suspending your membership while you are deployed overseas, please call (206) 332-9688.

**4.3.2 Outstanding Balances** Any outstanding balances shall be paid in full at the time of the request. Any member with an outstanding invoice will not be permitted to enter any tournament, either as a member or non-member, until the outstanding balance is paid in full.

**4.3.3 Opting Out of Auto-Deduction of Dues Payments** A member who wishes to opt out of automatic deduction of monthly dues, the member must notify Membership Services at least thirty (30) days prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month to ensure that additional payments will not be processed.

**4.4 Reinstatement of Membership** A member who was dropped, terminated or resigned from membership and elects to reinstate will be charged a reinstatement fee plus any outstanding balance. All outstanding balances must be paid in full before membership will be reinstated. Contact Membership Services at (206) 332-9688 to obtain the applicable fee amount for reinstatement.

**4.5 Financial Obligations** Upon paying the initiation fee, the member agrees to abide by the terms of the Official PBA Membership Guide and PBA Rules and Regulations and is entitled to the privileges of PBA membership.

**4.5.1 Dues Payments** Dues are billed annually or monthly. It is recommended to maintain a credit card on file to ensure uninterrupted membership and associated privileges.

- a. Annual dues must be paid within 10 days of the membership expiration date.
- b. To qualify for monthly billing, dues must be paid with a debit or credit card.

**4.5.2 Returned Checks** In the event a check is returned to the PBA from the bank, the PBA Accounting Department will send you an invoice.

- a. **Member Error.** If a check is returned due to an error on the member's part, it must be paid by money order, cashier's check or credit card. The total amount paid must include the amount of the check plus all additional fees and penalties.
- b. **Bank Error.** If a check is returned due to a bank error, the member must provide proof in the form of a letter from the bank.
- c. In the event of a returned check, an invoice will be issued and will include a \$50 administrative fee. Any member with an outstanding invoice will not be permitted to enter any tournament, either as a member or non-member, until the outstanding balance is paid in full.

**4.5.3 Declined Debit Cards and Credit Cards** Any member who has a debit or credit card charge returned will be sent a statement. The member has thirty (30) days to remit a check or credit card number to pay the balance of his or her obligation. Members failing to pay this obligation within 90 days will be dropped from membership.

**4.5.4 Miscellaneous Administrative Fees** Additional fees may be charged to cover costs involved in special requests such as, but not limited to, reissuing lost checks, duplicate copies of archived tax forms, reports, credit letters, tournament entry fees deducted from prize fund checks, etc.

**4.6 Membership Card Replacement** In the event a membership card is lost or stolen, members may call the PBA office at (206) 332-9688 or email at [membership@pba.com](mailto:membership@pba.com) and request a replacement card.

**4.7 Standard Contract** A new or reinstated PBA member must submit a signed copy of the Standard Professional Contract to the PBA Office prior to participating in a PBA event as a member.

## FIVE - PBA REGIONAL TOUR

**5.1 General** The PBA Regional Tour provides a unique opportunity to compete in challenging tournament competition throughout the eight PBA regions. This program provides a chance to face the world's greatest bowlers while gaining valuable experience against a first-rate competitive field. The PBA Regional Tour also serves a training ground for the next superstars on the PBA Tour.

**5.2 Geographic Areas of the Regions** The geographical areas for the regions are as follows:

**5.2.1 East Region** Washington, D.C., Maine, Connecticut, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Delaware, Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York & Pennsylvania

**5.2.2 Midwest Region** North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri & Illinois

**5.2.3 Central Region** Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia & Ohio

**5.2.4 South Region** Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Virginia & North Carolina

**5.2.5 Southwest Region** New Mexico, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas & Louisiana

**5.2.6 West Region** California, Utah, Nevada, Hawaii & Arizona

**5.2.7 Northwest Region** Oregon, Montana, Washington, Wyoming, Idaho & Alaska

**5.2.8 PBA Japan Region** The country of Japan

**5.3 Regional Managers** The Commissioner will appoint a Regional Manager for each of the eight (8) regions. Regional Managers implement the policies, judgments, decisions, courses of action and all other matters performed at the regional level, as prescribed by the PBA.

**5.4 Regional Points of Contact**

**JOHN WEBER** Director, Regional Tour [john.weber@pba.com](mailto:john.weber@pba.com)

**GARY MAGE** West/Northwest Regions [gary.mage@pba.com](mailto:gary.mage@pba.com)

**BOBBY JAKEL** Central/Midwest Regions [bobby.jakel@pba.com](mailto:bobby.jakel@pba.com)

**SAM ZURICH** South Region [sam.zurich@pba.com](mailto:sam.zurich@pba.com)

**PETE McCORDIC** Southwest Region [pete.mccordic@pba.com](mailto:pete.mccordic@pba.com)

**RUSS MILLS** East Region [russ.mills@pba.com](mailto:russ.mills@pba.com)



**SHINICHIRO KINOSHITA** PBA Japan Region [shin-k@yo.mitene.or.jp](mailto:shin-k@yo.mitene.or.jp)

## SIX - PBA50 TOUR

**6.1 General** The PBA50 Tour provides bowlers age 50 and over with the opportunity to continue their careers in a competitive and professional environment. Tournaments take place across the country, with multiple Major events awarding added prize money and prestige. Bowlers age 60 and over also benefit from an additional prize fund.

**6.2 PBA50 Tour Director** The Commissioner will appoint a PBA50 Tour Director who will implement the policies, judgments, decisions, courses of action and all other matters pertaining to the PBA50 Tour, as prescribed by the PBA. The PBA50 Tour Director or designated Tournament Director shall be responsible for ensuring that PBA50 Tour events are conducted in accordance with PBA Rules and Regulations.

### 6.3 PBA50 Tour Point of Contact

**JOHN WEBER** PBA50 Tour Director [john.weber@pba.com](mailto:john.weber@pba.com)

**6.4 PBA50 Tour Schedule** The PBA50 Tour schedule shall be set by the PBA50 Tour Director on an annual basis as prescribed by PBA policies and procedures.

**6.5 PBA50 Tournament Format** PBA50 Tour standard tournaments formats may include qualifying and match play rounds as determined by the PBA50 Tour Director.

## SEVEN - PBA TOUR

**7.1 General** The PBA Tour features a schedule of television and streaming events highlighted by the prestigious World Series of Bowling (WSOB), the five PBA Major Tournaments, PBA Playoffs and the PBA League which is a team based pro bowling league featuring current PBA stars and professionals selected by a draft of PBA members to fill out the five-player team rosters. All PBA members are eligible to participate in selected PBA Tour events which take place throughout the country.

**7.2 PBA Tour Open Field Events** Selected events on the PBA Tour schedule shall be designated as open field events. Any PBA member in good standing may compete depending on membership status.

**7.3 PBA Tour Invitational Events** Selected events on the PBA Tour schedule may be designated as invitational events.

### 7.4 PBA Tour Points of Contact

**KIRK VON KRUEGER** Deputy Commissioner [kirkv@pba.com](mailto:kirkv@pba.com)

## EIGHT - PBA PLAYER SERVICES

**8.1 PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour** PBA Player Services will be available to drill bowling equipment for players bowling in that week's event.





**8.1.1 Drilling Specifications** Due to the large number of bowling balls drilled each week, players must be knowledgeable about their personal drilling specifications to ensure that equipment is drilled quickly and correctly.

**8.1.2 Span Measurement Criteria** The PBA uses 'cut-to-cut' (distance from the cut edge of each hole not to include the width of any grips used) span measurements when drilling bowling equipment.

**8.1.3 Player Locker Room** The PBA will establish a weekly player locker room and provide a work-out table with tools such as disc sanders and ball spinners to aid players in fine-tuning their equipment.

**8.2 PBA Regional Tour** The PBA does not provide any services at PBA Regional Tour events. However, at the discretion of the Regional Manager, some regions may provide tools such as disc sanders or ball spinners to aid players with fine-tuning their equipment.

## **NINE - PBA LANE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (LMP)**

**9.1 PBA Lane Maintenance Philosophy** The PBA Lane Maintenance Program (LMP) exists to balance the many complicated variables associated with cleaning and conditioning lanes during multi-day PBA tournaments. The LMP strives to provide the most equitable and competitive conditions for all members with heavy premiums being placed on day-to-day and squad-to-squad uniformity.

**9.2 PBA Patterns** For all regular events on the PBA Tour, PBA Regional Tour and PBA50 Tour, one or more of the PBA's patterns may be used at any given tournament. These patterns make up the "Official Playing Conditions of the PBA."

**9.2.1 Lane Pattern Information and Restrictions** PBA patterns may not be used for promotional purposes or by other bowling leagues or tournaments without the express written permission of the PBA.

**9.2.2 Lane Pattern Information Availability** Lane condition patterns for every tournament are available on [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com). Technical lane pattern information is available on the PBA member site.

**9.2.3 Posting Tournament Pattern Information** Basic lane maintenance information will be posted in the locker room no later than the start of the official practice session.

**9.2.4 Pattern Changes** It is the policy of the PBA that a pattern will not be adjusted in any way for the duration of a tournament once that pattern has been introduced at the official practice session. Please note that due to the wide range of variables associated with different lane surfaces and topographies encountered at many PBA host centers, individual pattern volumes may be adjusted prior to the official practice session to address any surface/topography issues that might compromise the integrity of that week's lane conditions.

**9.3 Observing the Lane Maintenance Process** Any competitor may observe the lane maintenance procedure, inspect the equipment and ask questions on a not-to-interfere basis with the performance of duties by lane maintenance personnel.

**9.4 Approach Maintenance Procedure** Approaches will be maintained in accordance with host center directives and the maintenance procedure will be conducted before every squad of qualifying and match play.

**9.5 Lane Maintenance Comments and Criticism** The PBA recognizes the issues that can arise with the maintenance of bowling lanes for competitive purposes.

**9.5.1 Tournament Site** All questions and concerns about lane conditioning should be addressed to the presiding Tournament Director on site.

**9.5.2 Public Comments** PBA members and tournament participants are prohibited from making public critical comments concerning lane conditions (proprietor, host center management and employees, spectators, fans, reporters, etc.).

**9.5.3 PBA Lane Maintenance Staff** Competitors may not harass, intimidate, criticize or make defamatory public statements concerning any member of the PBA Lane Maintenance staff or its policies and conditions.

**NOTE:** Please refer to Rule 15.6 and 15.7 in the PBA Rulebook for additional information and penalties.

## TEN - AWARDS & HONORS

**10.1 Trophy** An appropriate trophy will be awarded to the champion of each tournament.

**10.2 Perfect Game (300) Award** Any member who bowls a 300 game in PBA competition (excluding Pro-Am events) will receive a PBA award.

### 10.3 PBA Tour Awards and Honors

**10.3.1 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Award** The Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Award will be determined annually by a vote consisting of selected media and the entire membership. In order to qualify for the ballot, a member in good standing must have won at least one PBA Tour title during the calendar year and finished among the top 10 in PBA Tour earnings. Any eligible player who has won multiple titles within the calendar year will automatically be included on the official ballot.

**10.3.2 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Award** The Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year Award will be determined annually by a vote of selected media and the entire membership. In order to qualify for the ballot, the member must meet the definition of PBA Tour Rookie who are among the top five (5) in PBA Tour earnings and points among rookies will be placed on the official ballot. A minimum of two rookies will be listed on the official ballot.

- a.** A member will be considered a rookie if he or she competes in at least three (3) PBA Tour events within a PBA Tour season or the season in which he or she competes in their seventh PBA Tour event, whichever comes first.
- b.** PBA events that include multiple qualifying stages with a single, entry fee (i.e. PBA World Series of Bowling, and/or Summer Swing) shall be considered as one tournament for the purpose of Rookie of the Year consideration.
- c.** Participation in a PBA Pro Tournament Qualifier (PTQ) event shall count as a tournament bowled.
- d.** The Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year award may not be awarded at the discretion of the PBA.

**NOTE:** A reinstated member who has participated in more than three (3) PBA Tour events in one (1) calendar year or more than seven (7) PBA Tour events total during his or her previous tenure, will not be eligible for any first-year (rookie) awards.

**10.3.3 George Young Memorial High Average Award** The George Young Memorial High Average Award will be given to the member with the highest average completing at least one hundred eighty (180) games of PBA Tour competition. World Bowling Tour events shall not be included in the tally.

**10.3.4 Harry Smith Point Leader Award** The Harry Smith Point Leader Award will be given to the member who accumulates the most points on the PBA Tour over the course of a season.

**10.3.5 Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award** The Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award will be determined annually by a vote of the members who participated in at least fifty percent (50%) of the PBA Tour tournaments for that season.

**10.3.6 Tony Reyes Memorial Community Service Award** The Tony Reyes Community Service Award is awarded annually, recognizing a current PBA Member who does extraordinary community service, charitable and/or educational contributions over the course of a PBA Tour Season. To be eligible, the PBA Member must be in good standing to be nominated.

## 10.4 PBA Regional Tour Awards and Honors

**10.4.1 PBA Regional Player of the Year Award** The individual PBA Regional Player of the Year awards will be chosen by a panel made up of all PBA Regional Managers and the Director of the PBA Regional Tour. All players who finished the season among the top ten (10) in earnings or average (based on a minimum number of games to be decided upon in each region) in each region will be placed on the ballot.

**10.4.2 PBA Regional Rookie of the Year Award** The PBA Regional Rookie of the Year awards will be chosen by a panel made up of all PBA Regional Managers and the Director of the PBA Regional Tour. All rookies who finished the season among the top five (5) in regional earnings or average (based on a minimum number of games to be decided upon in each region) among rookies in each region will be placed on the ballot.

- a. A member will be considered a rookie if he or she competes in at least three (3) PBA events (PBA Tour, regional or PBA50) as a member within a calendar year or the year in which he or she competes in their seventh PBA event, whichever comes first.
- b. PBA events that include multiple qualifying stages with a single, entry fee (i.e. PBA World Series of Bowling, and/or Summer Swing) shall be considered as one tournament for the purpose of Rookie of the Year consideration.
- c. Participation in a PBA Pro Tournament Qualifier (PTQ) event shall count as a tournament bowled.
- d. PBA Regional Rookie of the Year award may not be awarded at the discretion of the PBA.

**NOTE:** A reinstated member who has participated in more than three (3) PBA tournaments of any kind in one (1) calendar year or more than seven (7) PBA tournaments total during his or her previous tenure, will not be eligible for any first-year (rookie) awards.

## 10.5 PBA50 and PBA60 Tour Awards and Honors

**10.5.1 PBA50 Player of the Year Award** The PBA50 Player of the Year Award will be determined annually using the season PBA50 Tour Season Point List. The PBA50 Tour official earnings list shall be used to break a tie.



**10.5.2 PBA60 Player of the Year Award** The PBA Super Senior Player of the Year Award will be determined annually using the season PBA50 Tour Season Point List. The PBA50 Tour official earnings list shall be used to break a tie.

**10.5.3 PBA50 Rookie of the Year Award** The PBA50 Rookie of the Year Award will be determined annually using the season PBA50 Tour Point List. The PBA50 Tour official earnings list shall be used to break a tie.

a. A member will be considered a rookie if he or she competes in at least three (3) PBA50 Tour events as a member within a PBA50 Tour season or the season in which he or she competes in their seventh PBA event, whichever comes first.

b. PBA50 Rookie of the Year Award may not be awarded at the discretion of the PBA.

**NOTE:** A reinstated member who has participated in more than three (3) PBA50 tournaments of any kind within a PBA50 Tour season or more than seven (7) PBA50 Tour tournaments total during his or her previous tenure, will not be eligible for any first-year (rookie) awards.

**10.5.4 PBA50 Tour High Average Award** The PBA50 Tour High Average Award will be given to the member with the highest average in at least one hundred-fifty (150) games of PBA50 Tour competition.

**10.5.5 Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award** The Dick Weber Sportsmanship Award will be determined annually by a vote of the members who participated in at least fifty percent (50%) of the PBA50 Tour tournaments for that season.

**10.6 Naming and Distribution of Awards and Honors** The PBA reserves the right to rename awards as well as the choice not to distribute certain awards at its discretion.

## ELEVEN - OFFICIAL TITLES

**11.1 General** The following guidelines provide the recommended minimum requirements for designating a tournament win as an official PBA title. The PBA reserves the right to declare any tournament title as "official" at its discretion.

**11.2 PBA Tournaments within the U.S. and its Territories** The field size for any PBA tournament including an invitational, within the United States should consist of at least twenty (20) PBA members and cover a minimum of eight (8) games (bowled by the winner) for an official title to be awarded.

**11.3 International Tournaments** Designated World Bowling Tour (WBT) International Tournaments may be included as part of the official PBA Tour Schedule. The winner of the event must be a PBA member in good standing for an official PBA title to be awarded. Handicap may not be awarded during any phase of WBT competition.

**11.4 USBC Masters and USBC Senior Masters Tournaments** The USBC Masters and Senior Masters shall be considered an official PBA title for PBA members only, including recognition for points, average and earnings.

**11.5 U. S. Open and Senior U. S. Open Tournaments** The US Open and Senior US Open shall be considered an official PBA title for PBA members only, including recognition for points, average and earnings.

**11.6 Designation of Major Tournaments** The PBA reserves the right to designate certain tournaments as Majors and denote them as such within ninety (90) days of the tournament start date.

## TWELVE - PBA STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

**12.1 Code of Ethics** Members shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner commensurate with the PBA Code of Ethics. The title "Professional Bowler" must remain synonymous with honor, service and fair dealing. Integrity, fidelity to the sport of bowling and a sense of great responsibility to employers, employees, manufacturers, clients and other professionals should transcend all thought of material gain in the motives of the true professional bowler. The conduct of each member must always be in keeping with this ongoing standard. If at any time PBA officials have reason to believe that a member is acting in violation of the PBA Code of Ethics, disciplinary action will be taken.

**12.2 Code of Ethics Violations** Specific violations of the PBA Code of Ethics include, but are not limited to, the following:

**12.2.1 Defaming the Sport of Bowling** Any member may not allow the use of his or her name or likeness in such a manner as to defame the sport of bowling and/or the PBA.

**12.2.2 Failure to Meet Obligations** Any member failing to promptly meet his or her membership or PBA contractual obligations or otherwise acting in a manner that is reasonably likely to injure the reputation and standing of the PBA and/or its members.

**12.2.3 PBA Rules Violations** Any member who violates PBA Rules and Regulations may be subject to a code of ethics violations if the circumstances warrant.

**12.3 Disciplinary Action** In the event a member violates the PBA Code of Ethics, any provisions of these rules and regulations or whose conduct is otherwise likely to injure or affect the reputation or standing of the PBA, will be subject to disciplinary action and hereby agrees and acknowledges the right and authority of the appropriate agents to take any of the following actions pursuant to the provisions of this rule:

**12.3.1 Fines** Assess a fine against the member.

**12.3.2 Probation** Place the member on probation.

**12.3.3 Revocation of Participation Rights** Revoke the right of the member to participate in PBA tournaments and/or any other membership activities.

**12.3.4 Suspension** Suspend the member from membership.

**12.3.5 Expulsion** Expel the member from membership.

**12.4 Notification of Charges** All charges brought against a member by another member must be in written form and submitted to either the Tournament Director responsible for the conduct of the tournament in question or the Commissioner.

**12.4.1 Notification of Charges** The Tournament Director or Commissioner will then notify the accused member of the substance of those charges.

**12.4.2 Action and Disposition of Offense** Within ten (10) days of the date of such notification, the PBA will issue a ruling on the situation and notify the member of any penalties to be imposed.

### 12.5 Classes of Penalties

**12.5.1 Minor Penalties** A Minor Penalty is a fine of no more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

**12.5.2 Intermediate Penalties** An Intermediate Penalty is a fine of between five-hundred one dollars (\$501) and one-thousand dollars (\$1,000) and/or probation (with a specific time limit) or suspension from participation in up to three (3) tournaments, including the tournament in progress.

**12.5.3 Major Penalties** A Major Penalty is a fine in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and/or probation (no time limit) or suspension from participation in more than three (3) tournaments and/or expulsion from the PBA. Only the Commissioner may impose a Major Penalty.

## 12.6 Forms of Violation

**12.6.1 Bowling Conduct Violations** Members judged guilty of Bowling Conduct Violations will be penalized as follows; penalties will be assessed per season:

1st Offense: \$100

2nd Offense: \$200 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)  
\$500 (PBA Tour)

3rd Offense: One (1) year probation and a fine of:  
\$500 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)  
\$1,000 (PBA Tour)

**12.6.2 Non-Bowling Conduct Violations** Unless otherwise specified in the PBA Rules and Regulations and Membership Guide, the Commissioner will determine the appropriate penalty for any Non-Bowling Conduct Violation. Members judged guilty of violations designated as Non-Bowling Conduct Violations, if they do not result in the imposition of an Intermediate or Major Penalty, will result in a fine of between one hundred dollars (\$100) and five hundred dollars (\$500), the amount to be determined by rule or the Commissioner, as appropriate.

**12.6.3 Conduct Fine While on Probation** Any conduct offense while on probation will result in a fine and suspension, the length and/or amount to be determined by the Commissioner.

## 12.7 Appeal Process

**12.7.1 Time Limit to File an Appeal** The Commissioner must receive an appeal within ten (10) days from the date of the written notification of the imposition of the penalty. Failure to make an appeal in a timely manner will preclude the member from any later attempt to contest the charges brought and the penalty imposed against him or her.

**12.7.2 Appeal Review Process and Member Notification** The Commissioner will notify the member of the decision on the initial appeal within ten (10) days of its receipt.

**12.7.3 Exhausting the Appeals Process** After exhausting the appeals process, the member must pay all fines and/or serve the full term of suspension or expulsion. Additionally, if at the conclusion of the appeals process the original penalty is upheld, the member will be required to pay for all expenses incurred by the PBA during the appeals process.

**12.7.4 Eligibility to Compete** A member who files an appeal may compete in tournaments pending the outcome provided the appeal is in writing and includes all defenses or mitigating circumstances claimed. The member may include signed statements of witnesses.

**12.7.5 Hold Harmless** All members agree to release and hold harmless all employees of the Professional Bowlers Association, LLC, any Appeals Committee formed, any individual member thereof, and all officers, employees, agents and other PBA representatives, for so long as they are acting as a delegate with the authority of the PBA, in their official and individual capacities, from any

and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action whatsoever, in law or in equity, arising in connection with any charges brought and/or penalties imposed against him or her.

## THIRTEEN - TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

### 13.1 Member Entries

#### 13.1.1 PBA Tour Tournament Eligibility

- a. **Full Member.** Any member in good standing who holds a full membership is eligible to compete in any PBA Tour event in which he or she is eligible.
- b. **Standard Member.** Any member in good standing who holds a standard membership is eligible to compete in one (1) PBA Tour event in which he or she is eligible, the U.S. Open and the USBC Masters.
- c. **PBA24 Member.** Any member in good standing who holds a PBA24 membership is eligible to compete in one (1) PBA Tour event in which he or she is eligible, the U.S. Open and the USBC Masters.
- d. **PBA International Member.** Any member in good standing who holds an international membership is eligible to compete in the WSOB, (1) PBA Tour event and all major tournaments for which he or she is eligible

**NOTE:** Refer to Paragraph 2.1 of the Official Membership Guide for detailed tournament eligibility information.

#### 13.1.2 PBA50 Tour Tournament Eligibility

- a. **Full Member.** Any member in good standing, who holds a full membership and is at least fifty (50) years of age (prior to the tournament start date), is eligible to compete in all PBA50 Tour events.
- b. **Standard Member.** Any member in good standing, who holds a standard membership and is at least fifty (50) years of age (prior to the tournament start date) is eligible to compete in one (1) PBA50 Tour event and all major tournaments for which he or she is eligible.
- c. **International Member.** Any member in good standing who holds an international membership is eligible to compete in the WSOB, (1) PBA50 Tour event and all major tournaments for which he or she is eligible.

#### 13.1.3 PBA Regional Tour Tournament Eligibility

- a. **Full Member.** Any member in good standing who holds a full membership is eligible to compete in any PBA Regional Tour event in which he or she is eligible.
- b. **Standard Member.** Any member in good standing who holds a standard membership is eligible to compete in three (3) PBA Regional Tour events and one Regional Players Championship Series (RPCS) event per calendar year.
- c. **PBA24 Member.** Any member in good standing who holds a PBA24 membership is eligible to compete in three (3) PBA Regional Tour events and one Regional Players Championship Series (RPCS) event per calendar year.
- d. **International Member.** Any member in good standing who holds an International membership is eligible to compete in three (3) PBA Regional Tour event and one Regional Players Championship Series (RPCS) event per calendar year.

#### 13.1.4 Senior Regional Tour Tournament Eligibility



- a. Full Member.** Any member in good standing who holds full membership and is at least fifty (50) years of age (prior to the tournament start date), is eligible to compete in any PBA Regional Tour or Senior Regional event and one Regional Players Championship Series (RPCS) event per calendar year.
- b. Standard Member.** Any member in good standing who holds standard membership and is at least fifty (50) years of age (prior to the tournament start date), is eligible to compete in any combination of three (3) PBA Regional Tour or Senior Regional Tour events.
- c. International Member.** Any member in good standing who holds standard membership and is at least fifty (50) years of age (prior to the tournament start date), is eligible to compete in any combination of three (3) PBA Regional Tour or Senior Regional Tour events.

**13.1.5 PBA Super Senior Meta Tournaments** Any PBA member in good standing who is at least sixty (60) years of age (prior to the tournament start date) is eligible to compete in any Super Senior competition held in conjunction with a PBA50 Tour or Senior Regional Tour event.

**13.1.6 Invitational Tournaments** The PBA reserves the right to determine eligibility for Invitational Tournaments. Eligibility requirements for Invitational Tournaments will be posted no less than sixty (60) days prior to the tournament start date.

**13.2 Amateur Entries** Amateurs may be permitted to bowl in selected PBA Regional Tour, Senior Regional Tour and PBA50 Tour tournaments under the following conditions:

**13.2.1 Proof of Average** When requested, an amateur must provide proof in the form of verification by the USBC on bowl.com, a letter from a league secretary or Tournament Director, a current league sheet or a copy of an average book.

**13.2.2 Minimum Average Requirement** Competing amateurs must have a two hundred (200) average or a one hundred and ninety (190) average in an USBC-Certified Sport League for twenty-one (21) games within the last calendar year.

**13.2.3 Amateur Conduct** Amateurs shall abide by all PBA Rules and Regulations while competing in PBA events.

**13.2.4 Amateur Cash Rule** An amateur may cash in a maximum of two (2) PBA events per season (aggregate PBA Tour, PBA50 Tour, PBA Regional).

- a.** Once an amateur cashes in two (2) PBA events in a season and wishes to participate in another event, he or she must declare prior to the tournament that if he or she cashes he or she will not be allowed to accept the prize money unless he or she becomes a member.
- b.** If an amateur chooses to accept the prize money, an application for membership must be completed and the initiation fee and dues for a full year will be deducted from the prize money won.
- c.** Whenever a region conducts a Member/Non-Member doubles event, this event shall not count toward the two cash rule.
- d.** Scholarship Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpins (SMART). The two cash rule shall not apply to amateur bowlers whose prize money earnings are deferred to a SMART account for continuing education.
- e.** The non-member maximum two-cash rule is waived for current collegiate bowlers who are able to provide proof of status as a current member of a USBC Collegiate bowling team. Approved collegiate players may cash and compete as often as they'd like.



- i. Collegiate players may compete in PBA-member-only events (if entries are available after PBA members have first priority).
- ii. Collegiate players must still pay non-member entry fees for all events they enter.
- iii. Collegiate players will not earn Official titles, Champions banners, competition points or seasonal awards while competing as a non-PBA member.
- iv. It is the collegiate players responsibility to determine whether or not participation in a PBA event as a non-member violates his college or athletic association rules, or if participation will affect his or her amateur status.

#### **13.2.5 Restrictions Pertaining to Former Members**

- a. Any former PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour champion may not partner with another PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour champion when participating in any Member/Non-Member doubles competition.
- b. A reinstated member who has participated in more than three (3) PBA tournaments in one (1) calendar year or more than seven (7) PBA tournaments total during his or her previous tenure, will not be eligible for any first-year (rookie) awards.

**13.2.6 Permission to Compete as a Minor** Any amateur competitor under the age of eighteen (18) shall provide a letter of parental consent prior to competing for prize money.

## **FOURTEEN - TOURNAMENT ENTRY**

**14.1 General** This section provides information and procedures for the proper way to enter PBA. Tour, PBA50 Tour, PBA Regional Tour and Senior Regional Tour tournaments.

### **14.2 Transfer of Fees, Dues or Funds**

**14.2.1 Transfer Authority** Only PBA members or their designated representatives can transfer fees, dues or funds. All requests must be in writing and submitted to either the appropriate Regional Manager or Membership Services for the PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour.

**14.2.2 Permission to Compete** Members will not be allowed to compete in any phase of the tournament until their entry fees are paid.

**14.3 PBA Tournament Starting Date** The official starting date shall be the day of the PBA official practice session.

**14.4 PBA Tournament Entry Deadlines** All established deadlines will be determined by using the official start date of each respective event as a base reference.

**14.4.1 PBA Tour Entry Deadline** The deadline for entering a PBA Tour tournament is fourteen (14) days prior to the official starting date (practice day) of each event.

**NOTE:** Refer to paragraph 14.9.1 Tournament Entry Priority, PBA Tour, Open Field Events, for additional information.

**14.4.2 PBA50 Tour Entry Deadline** The deadline for entering a PBA50 Tour tournament is fourteen (14) days prior to the official starting date (practice day) of each event.

**NOTE:** Refer to paragraph 14.9.3 Tournament Entry Priority, PBA50 Tour, for additional information.

**14.4.3 PBA Regional Tour and Senior Regional Entry Deadline** The deadline for entering a PBA Regional Tour or Senior Regional tournament is four (4) days prior to the official starting date of each event.

**NOTE:** Refer to paragraph 14.9.4 Tournament Entry Priority, PBA Regional and Senior Regional for additional information.

## **14.5 PBA Tournament Entry Fee Deadlines**

**14.5.1 PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour Seven (7) Day Deadline** Entry fees shall be considered late if received at the PBA office after the fourteen (14) day deadline but prior to the official start date of the tournament.

Administrative Fee: \$25

**14.5.2 PBA Regional and Senior Regional Tournament Four (4) Day Deadline** Entry fees shall be considered late if received by the appropriate Regional Manager later than four (4) days prior to the scheduled tournament start date.

Administrative Fee: \$10

## **14.6 Administrative Fee for Payment On-Site**

### **14.6.1 PBA Tour**

**a.** Payment can be made on-line, by check or credit card. In the event an entry fee is not paid prior to the fourteen-day deadline, both the entry fee and appropriate administrative fee will be deducted from the prize fund check.

Administrative Fee: \$25

**b.** Any competitor whose entry fee is received on-site at a PBA Tour event after the fourteen (14) day entry fee deadline but prior to the tournament start date must pay an additional fee.

Administrative Fee: \$50

**c.** Any competitor whose entry fee is received on-site at a PBA event after start date of the current tournament must pay an additional fee.

Administrative Fee: \$100

### **14.6.2 PBA50 Tour**

**a.** Any competitor whose entry fee is received on-site at a PBA50 Tour event more than fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament start date must pay an additional processing fee.

Administrative Fee: \$25

**b.** Any competitor whose entry fee is received on-site at a PBA50 Tour event after the fourteen (14) day entry fee deadline but prior to the tournament start date must pay an additional fee.

Administrative Fee: \$50

**c.** Any competitor whose entry fee is received on-site at a PBA50 Tour event after the start date of the current tournament must pay an additional fee.

Administrative Fee: \$100

## **14.7 On-Line Tournament Entry Procedures**

**14.7.1 Members** Members may enter a PBA event at ANY level by going to [pba.com](http://pba.com), click on “Members Login”, enter your user name (PBA Number), password and then click on “Tournaments”.



**NOTE:** In order to properly accommodate the PBA Tour priority entry procedures, the online entry system may be suspended for selected PBA events at the discretion of the PBA.

**14.7.2 New Members** New members will be assigned and emailed a temporary password that can then be changed. This password will also allow access to the Members Login within 24 hours of becoming a member. Additionally, the entry site may be accessed by going to the schedule page on pba.com, selecting the desired tournament and then clicking on “Enter on Line.”

## **14.8 Alternative Tournament Entry Procedures**

**14.8.1 PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour** In the event you do not have access to a computer, entry information can be sent by FAX or mailed to:

Professional Bowlers Association, LLC  
ATTN: Entry Processing  
55 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 410  
Chicago, IL 60604  
FAX: (206) 332-9722

**14.8.2 PBA Regional Tour** Send all regional tournament entries to the appropriate Regional Manager.

## **14.9 Tournament Entry Priority**

**14.9.1 PBA Tour** The PBA Tour Season Point List shall be used to establish entry priority for all PBA Tour open field events. Priority entrants shall have entry priority over other entrants until thirty (30) days prior to the start of the appropriate PBA Tour season schedule segment (Winter, Summer and Fall). In the event the tournament is full, entrants shall be placed on the standby list based on the date and time the entry was received.

- a.** All eligible PBA members are encouraged to enter each tournament when entries open. Those members entering by benefit of priority entry will be confirmed immediately upon receipt. All other members will be placed on confirmed-standby until the priority entry period ends and then placed into the tournament by date and time of entry. If the tournament fills, any remaining entrants will be automatically placed on the PTQ roster.
- b.** Any PBA Hall of member who wishes to enter the event will be given priority over non-Hall ofFame members on the standby list, regardless of date of entry.
- c.** Any PBA national tour title holder who wishes to enter the event will be given priority over non-national title holders regardless of date and time of entry.

**14.9.2 PBA Pro Tournament Qualifier (PTQ)** Entry into the tournament via PTQ may be accomplished by winning one of the spots guaranteed by participating in the PTQ. The number of guaranteed spots will vary from tournament to tournament depending on the size of the field and the number of national title holders entering the event prior to the priority entry deadline who are not on the priority entry point list for the tournament. If the tournament does not fill seven days prior to the tournament start date, the PTQ will be cancelled. Additional entries will be taken on a first-com first served basis until the tournament is full.

**14.9.3 PBA50 Tour** Members shall have entry priority over non-members until thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled tournament start date. In the event the tournament is full, entries shall be placed on the standby list based on the date and time the entry was received using the following criteria:

- a. Any PBA Hall of Fame member who wishes to enter the event will be given priority over non-Hall of Fame entrants on the standby list, regardless of the date and time of entry.
- b. Any PBA member who wishes to enter the event will be given priority over non-members on the standby list, regardless of the date and time of entry.

**14.9.4 PBA Regional Tour (and Senior Regional)** Members shall have entry priority over nonmembers up until four (4) days prior to the scheduled tournament start date. Beginning three (3) days prior to the scheduled tournament start date, all entries will be processed on a first come, first served basis, regardless of membership classification. In the event the tournament is full, entries shall be placed on the standby list based on the date and time the entry was received using the following criteria:

- a. Any PBA Hall of Fame member who wishes to enter the event will be given priority over non-Hall of Fame entrants on the standby list, regardless of the date and time of entry.
- b. Any PBA member who wishes to enter the event will be given priority of non-members on the standby list, regardless of the date and time of entry.

**14.10 Tournament Entry Confirmation** Entrants will be placed on the tournament roster (available on the pba.com tournament details page) when confirmed into the tournament. If there are any questions regarding tournament entry, please call the Tournament Entries Coordinator or appropriate regional manager for clarification.

**14.10.1 PBA Tour** Once confirmed into the tournament, the member is obligated to compete unless he or she submits a written withdraw request to the Tournament Entries Coordinator or Tournament Director no later than one (1) day prior to the start of the tournament.

**14.10.2 PBA50 Tour** Once confirmed into the tournament, the member is obligated to compete unless he or she submits a written withdraw request to the PBA Office no later than one (1) day prior to the start of the tournament.

**14.10.3 PBA Regional Tour (and Senior Regional)**

- a. Confirmation is automatic upon receipt of entry unless otherwise notified by the Regional Manager. If the tournament is filled, the entry fee will be refunded as soon as possible.
- b. Once confirmed into the tournament, the member is obligated to compete unless he or she submits a written withdraw request to the Regional Manager no later than one (1) day prior to the start of the tournament.
- c. Entrants in regional competition can check the tournament roster online for confirmation and squad time, two days before the official start date.

**14.11 Withdrawing from a PBA Tournament**

**14.11.1 PBA Regional and Senior Regional Tour** Members who wish to withdraw from a regional or senior regional tournament must do so by text or email to the presiding Regional Tournament Director. Additionally, members who wish to withdraw on or after the official practice session day must call the host center and speak with the presiding Tournament Director.

Administrative Fee: \$20

**14.11.2 PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour** If a member withdraws from a tournament, it must be confirmed via email to the Tournament Entries Coordinator. Additionally, if it is after the fourteen (14) day deadline, the appropriate Tournament Director must be notified via phone or email.

Administrative Fee: \$50



**14.11.3 Withdrawing While Tournament is in Progress** Any competitor who wishes to withdraw while the tournament is in progress must notify the bowlers on his or her pair and then receive permission from the Tournament Director. Failure to comply will result in the following **PENALTY:**

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100



OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE & RULEBOOK – October 1, 2021



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## RULE 1 - TOURNAMENT COMMITMENT

**1.1 General** For all PBA Tour, PBA50 Tour and Regional Tour events, receipt of entry confirmation obligates the participant to compete in that tournament. Any competitor who is confirmed as a tournament entrant and fails to compete shall be classified as a no-show.

**PENALTY:** Loss of Entry Fee

**1.2 Defense of Title** The defending champion must defend his or her title provided that the tournament is held within two (2) years after the title is won.

**PENALTY:** \$200

**1.2.1 Permission to Be Excused** The defending champion must submit a request to the PBA office, in writing, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the tournament title defense in order to be excused from his or her obligations. If the Commissioner has not rendered a decision at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the tournament title defense, the player will be excused from his or her obligation to defend.

**1.2.2 Sponsor Change in Venue** In the event a sponsor moves its tournament the following year, the defending champion must defend his or her title in both the city where he or she won the tournament as well as the site of the new tournament. If a sponsor stages more than one (1) tournament in a calendar year, the champion will only be required to defend the tournament that is held in the city where he or she previously won.

### 1.3 Participating in Conflicting Events

**1.3.1 Concurrently Scheduled Events** Any member of the PBA Hall of Fame, current PBA Rookie of the Year or any member who has won a PBA Tour title who wishes to participate in any non-PBA sponsored tournament scheduled concurrently within five hundred (500) miles of any PBA tournament must receive written permission from the Commissioner or delegated representative.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - \$500 or a Fine Equal to the Amount Received for Participating in the Conflicting Tournament, whichever is greater

**1.3.2 Events Scheduled Before or After a PBA Event** Any member of the PBA Hall of Fame, current PBA Rookie of the Year, current PBA Player of the Year or any member who has won a PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour title who wishes to take part in any non-PBA sponsored exhibition, appearance, tournament or clinic within a radius of two hundred (200) miles and scheduled within four (4) days before or after a PBA Tour or PBA50 Tour tournament must receive written permission from the Commissioner or delegated representative.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - \$500 or a Fine Equal to the Amount Received for Participating in the Conflicting Event or Tournament, whichever is greater

**1.3.3 PBA Regional Tour** Any member who is not a PBA Tour champion who wishes to participate in a concurrently run non-PBA sponsored tournament within a radius of 100 miles of a PBA Regional Tour or PBA Senior Regional Tour tournament must receive written permission from the appropriate Regional Manager.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - \$100 or a Fine Equal to the Amount Received for Participating in the Conflicting Tournament, whichever is greater

**1.3.4 Live or Recorded Bowling Programs & Electronic Media** Any member scheduled to appear in any live or recorded bowling-related program for any form of electronic media must receive written permission from the PBA office no less than ten (10) days prior to the air date of the program.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - As Determined by the Commissioner

**1.3.5 Competing in Concurrently Run PBA Events** Members competing in a PBA event may not compete in a concurrently-run PBA event.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification in each event with no points or prize money awarded

**1.3.6 Use of Player Image or Likeness** Members may not allow their image or likeness to be used for any promotional purposes without prior written approval from the PBA.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - As Determined by the Commissioner

## **RULE 2 - ADMITTANCE TO PBA EVENTS**

**2.1 General** Members who are not competing in the event in progress may use their PBA membership cards to gain admittance (excluding all TV finals and arena events) but will not receive any guest benefits

**2.2 Player Entrance** Tournament competitors only, will be admitted through a designated entrance. Players must have their membership cards or proper picture identification (I.D.) available to gain admittance for all rounds of competition.

### **2.3 Guest Policy**

**2.3.1 PBA Tour** Each competing PBA member will be permitted two (2) guests in addition to his or her spouse, parents and children under eighteen (18) for all rounds of competition and official practice sessions, excluding TV and FloBowling Championship Round Finals.

**a.** All complimentary guest admittances must be submitted to the PBA Tournament Director or designated representative on-site before the start of the event.

**b.** All guest policies are in effect for all event days, times and locations (including arena events, FloBowling and television broadcasts).

**c.** During television and arena finals, only the Championship Round competitors will be allowed two (2) guests and all immediate family members (parents, spouse and all children).

**d.** Players who have been eliminated from competition must accompany their guests to take advantage of complimentary entry. Eliminated competitors do not have complimentary admittance to FloBowling Championship Round Finals.

**2.3.2 PBA50 Tour** Each competing PBA member will be permitted two (2) guests in addition to his or her spouse, children and grandchildren less than eighteen (18) years of age for all rounds of competition, including any practice session. Players who have been eliminated from competition must accompany their guests to take advantage of complimentary entry.

**2.3.3 PBA Regional Tour** An admission charge for PBA Regional Tour events will be at the discretion of individual tournament hosts and Regional Managers.

## **RULE 3 - SQUAD ASSIGNMENTS**

**3.1 Responsibility** It is the responsibility of the competitor to verify his or her scheduled squad times for both the Pro-Am and tournament proper at the tournament site or by contacting the Tournament Director.

**3.2 Alphabetical Squad Roster**



**3.2.1 Alphabetical Roster in the Host Center** An alphabetical squad assignment sheet containing squad assignments and times will be posted in the locker room and available at the control counter of the tournament at least one day prior to the official start date of the event.

**3.2.2 Alphabetical Roster on the PBA Website**

- a. PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour tournament rosters will be posted on [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) approximately two (2) weeks prior to the event.
- b. Regional Tour tournament rosters will be posted on [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) no later than two (2) days prior to the event.

**3.3 Mandatory Rules Review** All amateurs and members competing in their first tournament must attend a mandatory rules review meeting prior to competing in the event.

**PENALTY:** Possible Disqualification

**3.4 Tournament Roll Call** Roll will be called thirty (30) minutes prior to the first round of competition in all PBA events. Additional roll calls may be scheduled as necessary at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Players are considered tardy if they do not acknowledge their name during roll call.

**PENALTY:** \$10

**3.5 Player Distribution**

**3.5.1 PBA Tour** Players will be distributed randomly for qualifying rounds. Players may be distributed according to the qualifying total pins for designated qualifying rounds following a cut.

- a. Three (3) competitors will be assigned per pair when an adequate number of lanes are available during qualifying rounds.
- b. Qualifying rounds may accommodate a maximum of five (5) competitors per pair.
- c. Touring Professionals, PBA Tour champions and other distinguished competitors will be divided equally between qualifying squads during all open field tournaments for competitive balance and spectator appeal.

**3.5.2 PBA Regional Tour/PBA50 Tour**

- a. Three (3) competitors will be assigned per pair when an adequate number of lanes are available during qualifying rounds.
- b. PBA Regional Tour fields will accommodate as many competitors per pair as determined by respective Regional Managers.

**3.5.3 Player Squad Assignments** Members who compete consistently in a given jurisdiction will alternate each tournament between squads and may request one (1) voluntary temporary or permanent squad change per season.

**3.6 Penalty for Late Arrival**

**3.6.1 Tournament Standby List** A competitor not available to bowl at the official starting time posted for the first round will be disqualified and replaced by the next standby in line.

**PENALTY:** Disqualification

**3.6.2 No Tournament Standby List** If there is not an active standby list, the competitor may choose to enter play in progress. No score will be received for frames missed. Any game in which frames were missed will count as a missed game when assessing a penalty.

**PENALTY:** \$50 for each missed game

**3.6.3 Re-Entry after Being Disqualified** A disqualified competitor who appears after his or her official starting time will be placed at the bottom of the standby list. If an opening is available, he or she may pay another entry fee to compete in a later squad.

**3.6.4 Re-Entry after Completing a Previous Round of Competition** If late for a subsequent round of the tournament, the competitor must enter play in progress. No score will be received for frames missed. Any game in which frames were missed will count as a missed game when assessing a penalty.

**PENALTY:** \$50 for each missed game

**3.6.5 Use of an Alternate** A competitor not available to bowl at the scheduled starting time for a round robin match play (alternate is not used for elimination or eliminator round matches) round will be disqualified and replaced by the alternate.

**PENALTY:** Disqualification

**NOTE:** Additional competitors who fail to show for a match play round will be replaced by the next highest finishing player available.

**3.6.6 Elimination Matches** A competitor not available to bowl at the scheduled starting time of an elimination round will receive no score for frames missed. If the competitor misses all frames for a game, the game shall be a forfeit. Players bowling unopposed must complete all games necessary to win a forfeited match.

**3.6.7 Eliminator Round Matches** A competitor not available to bowl at the scheduled starting time of an elimination round match will receive no score for frames missed. Players bowling unopposed must complete all games necessary to win a forfeited match.

## **RULE 4 – PROFESSIONAL AMATEUR EVENTS (PRO-AMS)**

**4.1 PBA Tour Regular Pro-Ams** All members entered in the tournament must be available for the Pro-Am and may only be excused by the presiding Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** \$1,000

**4.1.1 Mandatory Participation by PBA Members** All PBA Members may be required to bowl in a maximum of two (2) complimentary Pro-Am squads for the event in which they entered. Unless excused by the Tournament Director, all bowlers scheduled to participate in the Pro-Am (including standbys) must report to roll call and fulfill their pro-am obligation, as required.

**PENALTY:** \$1,000

**4.1.2 Mandatory Participation by PBA Tour Pro Tournament Qualifier (PTQ) Professionals** If scheduled, all PBA entrants in the Pro Tournament Qualifier (PTQ) who make the cut must report to roll call and fulfill their pro-am obligation, as required.

**4.2 PBA50 Tour Pro-Ams** Unless excused by the Tournament Director, all professionals scheduled to compete in PBA50 Tour Pro-Am must report to roll call and fulfill their pro-am obligation, as required.

**PENALTY:** \$200

**4.3 PBA Regional/Senior Regional Tour Pro-Ams** All professionals scheduled to compete in PBA Regional Tour and Senior Regional Tour Pro-Ams (including standbys) must attend.

**PENALTY:** \$200

- 4.4 Pro-Am Roll Call** Roll will be called prior to the start of each Pro-Am squad in all PBA events.
- 4.4.1 PBA Tour Host Center** Roll will be called fifteen (15) minutes prior to start of each Pro-Am squad. Players are considered tardy if they do not acknowledge their names being called during roll call.  
**PENALTY:** \$10
- 4.4.2 PBA Tour Satellite Center** Roll will be called thirty (30) minutes prior to start of each Pro-Am squad. Players are considered tardy if they do not acknowledge their names being called during roll call.  
**PENALTY:** \$10
- 4.5 Permission to be Excused from a PBA Tour Pro-Am**
- 4.5.1 Requests for Withdraw** A competitor who wishes to be excused from the Pro-Am must request permission from the presiding Tournament Director.
- 4.5.2 Injury** The Tournament Director may require the presence of any competitor excused for injury from his or her Pro-Am squad to sign autographs.
- 4.6 Special Pro-Am Squads**
- 4.6.1 Withdraws** Any competitor who wishes to withdraw from his or her assigned special Pro-Am squad must do so at least two (2) days prior to the start of the squad.  
**PENALTY:** \$500
- 4.6.2 Attendance** All professionals scheduled to compete in the special Pro-Am squad (including standbys) must attend.  
**PENALTY:** \$500
- 4.6.3 Special Pro-Am Compensation**
- a. PBA Tour. Any professional who competes in a special Pro-Am squad will be paid at least one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) for adult squads and one hundred dollars (\$100) for junior and senior squads.
  - b. PBA50 Tour and PBA Regional Tour. The presiding Tournament Director will determine compensation for participating professionals.

## **RULE 5 - PBA LOCKER ROOM**

- 5.1 General** Only PBA members, tournament participants and staff are permitted in the locker room except as noted in Rule 5.2 below.
- 5.2 Authorized Personnel in the Locker Room**
- 5.2.1 Host Center Employees** Host center employees may be authorized in conduct of normal business.
- 5.2.2 Relatives and Friends** Relatives or friends, when accompanied by a member and cleared by Player Services Staff may be authorized.
- 5.2.3 Media** Media may be authorized only when accompanied by a PBA staff member.
- 5.2.4 Other Personnel** The PBA Staff may authorize additional persons on a case-by-case basis.



**5.3 Co-Ed Locker Room** During tournaments with both male and female competitors, the locker room common area shall be accessible to all tournament entrants. Clothing changes must be made in the designated locker room dressing area. During events when a designated dressing area is not available, tournament participants must use the restroom to change clothes, as appropriate.

**5.4 Bowling Balls** The maximum number of bowling balls allowed in the locker room may be adjusted at the discretion of the Tournament Director based on the amount of locker room space available, not to exceed twelve (12) balls per entrant. Any changes to the number of balls allowed will be prominently posted in the locker room on a weekly basis.

**5.4.1 Loose Bowling Balls** Loose bowling balls will not be permitted in the locker room. Ball boxes may be used but the players name and PBA number must be clearly visible on the box.

**5.4.2 PBA Pro Tournament Qualifier (PTQ)** Any PBA PTQ participant who fails to qualify (Exception: The three (3) standbys), must remove his or her equipment from the locker room within one (1) hour after the final PTQ standings are posted.

**5.4.3 Match Play Finalists** Players advancing to match play will be allowed an unlimited number of bowling balls in the locker room.

## **5.5 Bags, Shirts, Shoes and Miscellaneous Equipment**

**5.5.1 Bowling and Accessory Bags** All bags must be secured and display an approved PBA bag tag with the name clearly marked.

**5.5.2 Shirts** All shirts must be stored on shirt racks when provided.

**5.5.3 Shoes and Miscellaneous Equipment** All shoes and equipment must be stored within labeled bags.

**5.6 Penalties for Locker Room Rules Violations** Penalties for locker room violations shall be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning

**PENALTY:** 2nd to 5th Offense - \$50 (PBA Tour)  
- \$10 (PBA50 & Regional Tour)

**PENALTY:** 6th Offense - Code of Ethics, to be determined by the Commissioner

## **RULE 6 - THE PBA POINT SYSTEM**

**6.1 General** The PBA point system has been designed so that every position in the tournament field is awarded a unique point value. The procedures for assigning point values for individual positions are contained in the following paragraphs.

**6.2 Designating Tournaments with Points.** The PBA reserves the right to determine in which tournaments points will be awarded. Competitors will only receive credit for points in PBA sanctioned or co-sponsored tournaments as described below. Current point lists may be found at [www.pba.com](http://www.pba.com) under the "Resources" tab.

**6.3 Tournament Points – Tier Classifications** Tournaments awarding points will be classified as either a Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 event.





**6.2.1 Tier 1 Tournament Points** Major Championships

**6.2.2 Tier 2 Tournament Points** Traditional Events

**6.2.3 Tier 3 Tournament Points** Small or limited field, short format events or World Bowling Tour events.

**6.2.4 Point Values by Finishing Position** Point values by finishing position can be found on pba.com (<https://www.pba.com/SeasonStats/Points/132>).

**6.4 Point Distribution** Points will be awarded to competitors based on their finishing position in each tournament.

**6.5 Determining Final Finishing Position (Elimination Match Play)** When players are eliminated from an elimination match play format, each competitor will be placed according to his or her match play win/loss record within the round from which he or she was eliminated.

**6.4.1 PBA Tour - Point List Tie Breaking Procedures** If competitors share the same match play record within the round from which they were eliminated, the tie shall be broken by using the individual average from the current tournament (computed to the nearest 100th of a pin).

**6.4.2 PBA50 Tour and PBA Regional Tour - Point List Tie Breaking Procedures** If a tie still exists, then each tied competitor shall receive the points derived from averaging the sum of the point totals of each tied position.

**6.6 Determining Final Finishing (Eliminator Round Format)** When players are eliminated during an eliminator round match play format, each competitor eliminated in the same game will be placed according to his or her total pinfall. Players shall receive points for their final finishing position.

**6.7 Cumulative Point Total Jurisdiction** Point lists will be established for each jurisdiction of the PBA (PBA Tour, PBA50 Tour, PBA Regional Tour and Senior Regional Tour) and will be awarded for each official tournament on the schedule of each particular jurisdiction. Point totals are not transferable among jurisdictions

**6.8 Regional Points Eligibility** Competitors shall receive the appropriate regional points within the jurisdiction for which they were classified at the time they participated in the event.

## **RULE 7 - PRIZE MONEY**

**7.1 Official Money** Competitors will only receive credit for official prize money in PBA sanctioned or co-sponsored tournaments.

**7.2 Prize Fund Distribution**

**7.2.1 1st Place Prize Amounts and Cashing Ratios** All first-place prize amounts and cashing ratios will be available to all members prior to the start of the tournament proper.

**7.2.2 Last Cash Guaranteed Amount** The last check in any tournament will be an amount no less than the member entry fee for that tournament.

**7.2.3 PBA Tour, PBA50 Tour and Regional Tour Ties** In the event of a tie for any finishing position other than first place, prize money will be divided equally among the competitors who finish tied.



**7.2.4 Super Senior Ties** A super senior who ties for last cash in the regular prize fund shall be paid the difference between his or her share of the last cash amount and the normal super senior check awarded for the event. Additionally, all guaranteed super senior cash spots advertised for the event will also be paid.

**7.2.5 Declined Prize Money** If any competitor declines prize money for which he or she qualifies then the prize money for that finishing position will not be paid.

## **RULE 8 - PLAYER INCENTIVES, ENDORSEMENTS & SPONSORSHIPS**

**8.1 Incentive Offers** PBA members may not accept unauthorized incentives.

**PENALTY:** Code of Ethics Violation, Major - \$1,000 plus an amount equal to the value of the incentive.

**8.2 Tournament Incentives** Any incentives will be posted in the locker room prior to the beginning of the first round of each tournament.

**8.3 Endorsement Relationships and Individual Sponsorships** Members who are retained by a valid endorsement, sponsorship contract or incentive must provide a signed and dated agreement to the PBA no less than twelve (12) hours prior to the effective starting date of the contract.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - \$1,000 plus suspension from the PBA for the duration of the contract.

## **RULE 9 - PRODUCT REGISTRATION PROGRAM**

**9.1 Purpose** The PBA reserves the exclusive right to regulate the use of its names, trademarks and logos. The PBA will provide opportunities, in the form of licensing and sponsorships, for companies to promote and display its products, product names, trademarks and logos to consumers. Companies that desire to take advantage of these opportunities must first register its products with the PBA, so that these products may be cleared for use during PBA competition.

**9.2 Guidelines for Registered Products**

**9.2.1 Use of Non-Registered Bowling Products** Use of Non-Registered Bowling Products.

Competitors may not use any nonregistered bowling-related product in PBA competition unless special exceptions have been approved by the PBA.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$500 and the product must be removed

**9.2.2 Use of Non-Registered Bowling Balls** Competitors may not use a ball that has not been registered and cleared by the PBA during competition.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

**9.2.3 Bowling Balls Featuring Unauthorized Logos** Bowling Balls featuring trademarked characters, college logos, sports team logos or corporate logos shall not be permitted during PBA competition.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

**NOTE:** United States military logos (Coast Guard, Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force and National Guard) are not considered corporate logos and may be used in PBA competition. The presiding Tournament Director shall have final authority when determining if a logo is authorized for competition.

**9.2.4 Use of International Bowling Balls** International bowling balls are defined as bowling balls that are not available for purchase within the United States and may be used in designated PBA events provided that:

- a. The bowling ball was manufactured by a PBA registered company and has an equivalent bowling ball available within the United States.
- b. The bowler has received written approval prior to using any international bowling ball in PBA competition.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

**9.2.5 Use of Indiscriminate Accessory Items** Items without visible logos and those that are not easily identifiable by their unique design are considered indiscriminate accessory items. The following products fall into this category: rosin bags (kept in a pouch or container), cork inserts, ball tape, slugs, ball polishes and molded thumbs. See Rule 9.4 for additional information.

**NOTE:** The use of non-product registered kinesiology tape or similar products designed for use on the body may not be used in any PBA competition.

**9.3 Logos** Logos are defined as any lettering and/or illustration promoting a company, product and service or membership organization.

**9.3.1 Logo Approval** All logos used on apparel and bowling equipment must be product registered and/or formally approved by the PBA in writing.

**9.3.2 Guidelines for Displaying Product Registered Logos and Trademarks** Competitors may NOT display non-registered company names and/or product logos in PBA competition.

**PENALTY:** \$500 (PBA Tour)

\$100 (PBA50 Tour/Regional Tour)

**9.3.3 Procedures for Obscuring Non-Registered Logos**

a. **Shirt.** If the company name or logo in question resides on a shirt, the name or logo must be immediately removed or obscured by an approved logo.

b. **Pants/Skirts.** If the company name or logo in question resides on pants, the name or logo must be immediately removed.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification if logo is not immediately covered or removed as appropriate.

**9.3.4 Fashion Logos** Small fashion logos may be left on clothing worn during competition provided that the competitor has not received compensation for wearing the logo.

**9.3.5 Altering or Obscuring Product Registered Logos** Any registered product whose brand name, color or logo has been altered from the condition under which it was originally registered may not be used in PBA competition unless the competitor has received prior written permission from the PBA. Penalties will be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning and product must be removed from play

Subsequent Offenses - \$1,000

**NOTE:** In extraordinary circumstances, competitors may be permitted to obscure product registered logos on a case-by-case basis. A written request must be submitted to the presiding Tournament Director and permission must be granted in writing prior to using the equipment in PBA competition

**9.3.6 Television Broadcast Production Restrictions** Any product that, in the opinion of the TV Coordinating Producer, would distort acceptable production techniques or would contradict the image content of paid advertisements may not be used in PBA competition.

**9.4 Use of Non-Product Registered Accessory Products** Accessory items without visible logos and those not easily identifiable by their unique design are excluded from the product registration program. The following products fall into this category: rosin bags (kept in a pouch or container), cork inserts, ball tape, slugs, ball polishes and molded thumbs if permanently attached to the bowling ball or product registered device.

**NOTE:** Kinesiology Tape does not fall into this category and must be product registered for use.

**9.4.1 Ball Polish** Competitors may not use or display any non-registered bowling ball polish outside of the locker room area.

**9.4.2 Enforcement Authority** The Tournament Director will have the authority to determine whether the use of a product is in violation of the intent of the Product Registration rule and that decision will be final.

## **RULE 10 - TWO-HANDED TECHNIQUE**

**10.1 Two-Handed Delivery** Both hands impart force on the ball to get it down the lane; normally done by swinging the ball between one's legs. Differing greatly from the two-handed approach. Individuals who deliver the ball from the chest using both hands would be using a two-handed delivery.

**10.2 Two-Handed Approach** Not to be confused with the two-handed delivery, this style places both hands on the ball and are left on the ball throughout the swing until the release. An evolution of the thumbless technique, this can be done with or without the thumb on the dominant hand in the ball.

**10.3 Dominant Hand** When determining drilling specifications, it is important to verify which is the dominant hand. This is determined by the side of the body by which the ball swings and, if utilized by the player, the hand which is used to grip the bowling ball.

**10.4 Holes** The limitations governing the drilling of holes in the ball can be found in Drilling Specifications. Note that for two-handed techniques, the holes or indentations for gripping purposes must be capable of being used by the same hand.

## **RULE 11 - BOWLING BALL SPECIFICATIONS**

**11.1 General** It is the player's responsibility to make sure all bowling balls used in PBA competition are cleared for use by the PBA and meet all PBA and USBC weight and balance specifications. For further information regarding ball weights and specifications, please refer to the USBC Equipment Certifications and Specifications Manual.

**11.2 Ball Weighing Scales** Equipment to weigh bowling balls will be made available to all competitors throughout the event.

### **11.3 Bowling Ball Size and Weight**

**11.3.1 Ball Circumference and Diameter** The circumference of a ball may not exceed twenty seven (27) inches. The ball diameter must remain constant.

**11.3.2 Gross Weights** The gross weight of a bowling ball may not exceed sixteen (16) lbs.

**11.4 Bowling Ball Holes** The following limitations shall govern the drilling of holes in the ball:

**11.4.1 Holes or Indention for Gripping Purposes** Shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand.

a. The player is not required to use all the finger holes in any specific delivery, but they must be able to demonstrate, with the same hand, that each hole can be used simultaneously for gripping purposes.

b. Any thumb hole that is not used with the thumb inserted during the start of the delivery would be classified as a balance hole.

**NOTE:** Effective August 1, 2020 item 1 to be changed to read:

Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand with no drilled holes exceeding 1- 9/16” diameter and 4-1/2” deep. (Note: This includes holes required to install remove- able devices). The player is required to use all the gripping holes on every delivery with the same hand.

c. Any gripping hole that does not have the thumb or fingers inserted into it throughout the approach would be classified as a balance hole, which is not allowed. Any secondary hole drilled inside of a gripping hole that is not intended for gripping purpose is considered a void and not allowed except for vent holes.

**11.4.2 No Thumb Hole** If a bowler does not have a thumb hole, there must be a scribed or engraved “+” near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e. palm must cover the “+”).

**11.4.3 Balance Hole** One hole for balance purposes not to exceed 1. inches in diameter at any point through the depth of the hole (slugs and tape will be allowed; however interchangeable devices are not allowed).

**NOTE:** Effective August 1, 2020 paragraph 11.4.2 will be changed to read, “Balance holes are not permitted.”

**11.4.4 Mill Hole** One mill hole for inspection purposes not to exceed 5/8” in diameter and 1/8” in depth.

**11.4.4 Vent Hole** No more than one vent hole for each finger and/or thumb hole not to exceed ¼” in diameter. USBC considers a vent hole to be any non-gripping hole that intersects with a gripping hole at any depth. Any hole intended for use as a balance hole that intersects with a gripping hole will instantly be considered a vent hole. This hole may not exceed ¼” at any point throughout the depth of the hole.

**11.5 Balance for a Ball Weighing more than 10 pounds****11.5.1 Without a Balance Hole**

a. Not more than 3 ounces difference between the top half of the ball (gripping holes side) and the bottom half of the ball (side opposite the gripping holes).

b. Not more than 3 ounces difference between the half of the ball to the left and the half of the ball to the right of the center of grip (side weight).

c. Not more than 3 ounces difference between the half of the ball toward the thumb hole side of the center of grip and toward the finger holes side of the center of grip (thumb/ finger weight).

d. A ball used without any gripping holes or indentations may not have more than 3 ounces of difference between any two halves of the ball.

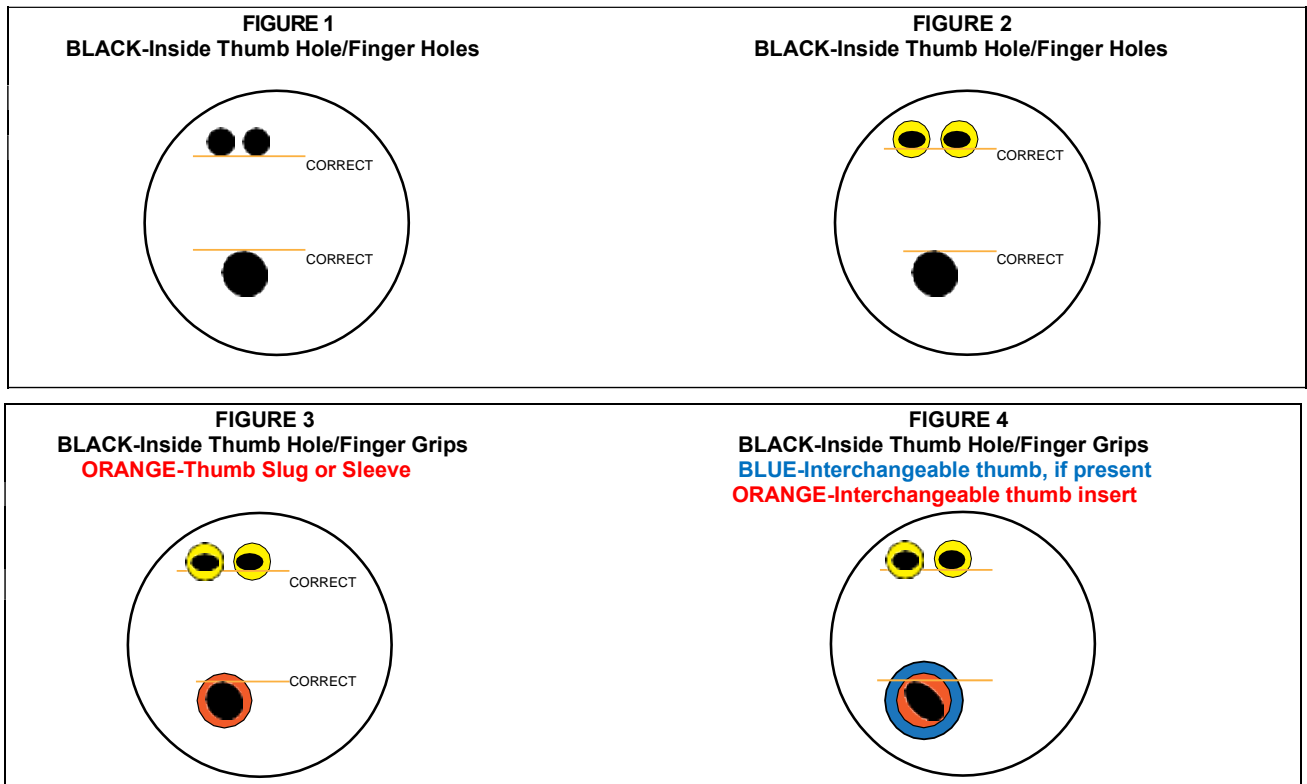
- e. If a bowler does not have a thumb hole and drills a ball to meet the new 3 oz. of imbalance requirement, there must be a scribed or engraved “+” near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (palm must cover the “+”).

**11.5.2 With a Balance Hole**

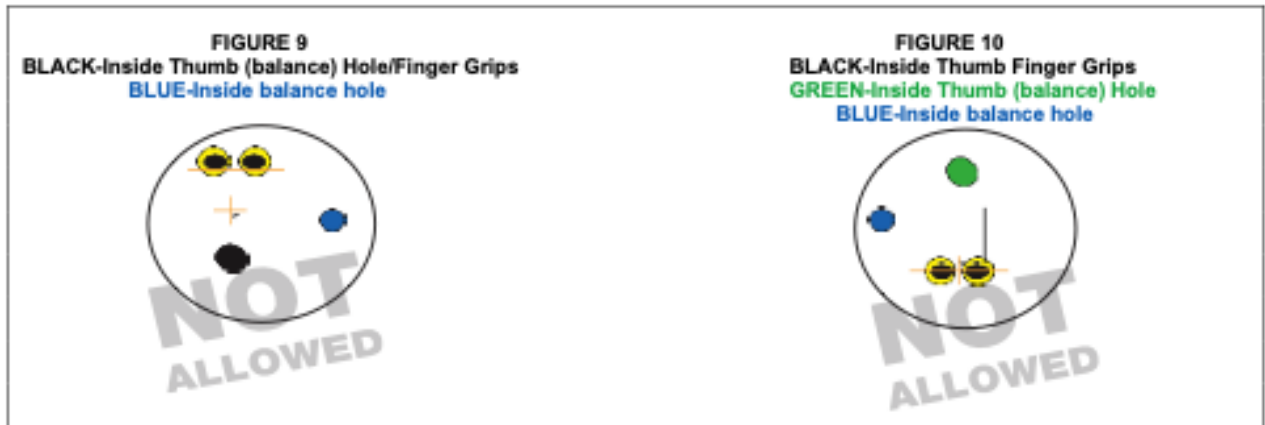
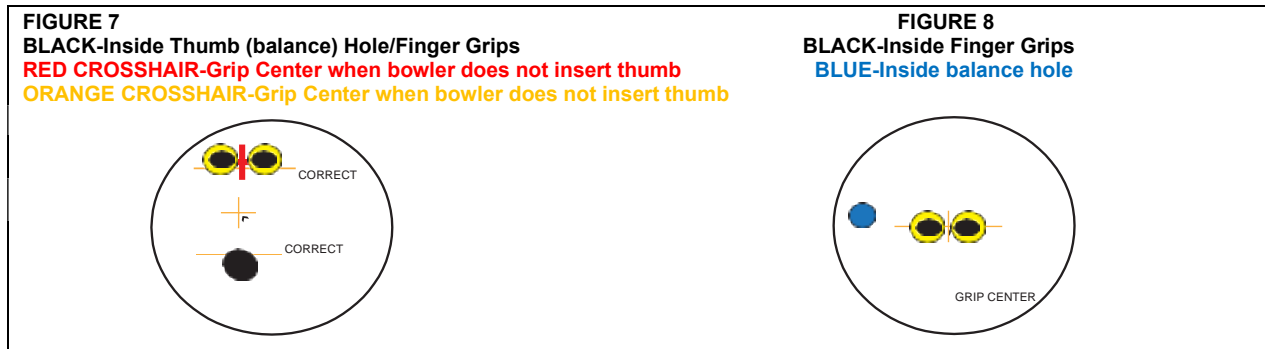
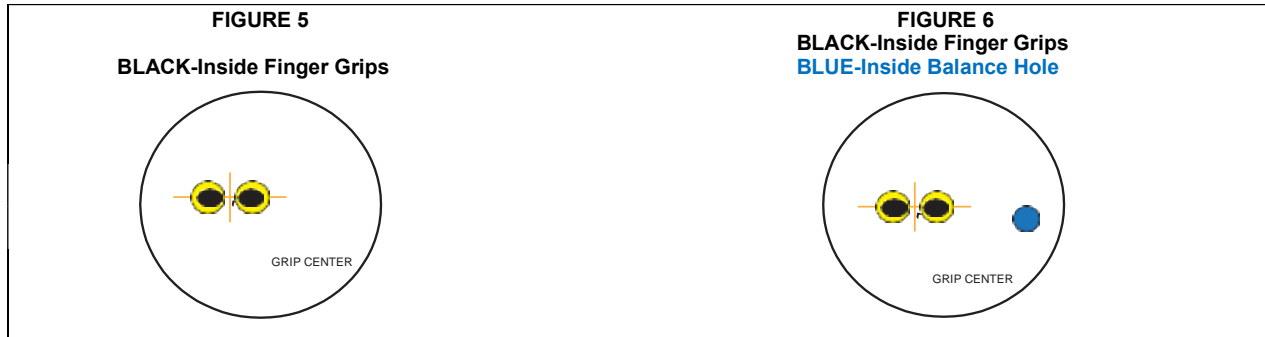
- a. Not more than 3 ounces difference between the top half of the ball (gripping holes side) and the bottom half of the ball (side opposite the gripping holes). Not more than 1-ounce difference between the half of the ball to the left and the half of the ball to the right of the center of grip (side weight).
- b. Not more than 1-ounce difference between the half of the ball toward the thumb hole side of the center of grip and toward the finger holes side of the center of grip (thumb/ finger weight).
- c. A ball used without any gripping holes or indentations may not have more than 1 ounce of difference between any two halves of the ball.

**NOTE:** Paragraph 11.5.2 will be eliminated on Aug 1, 2020 when balance holes are no longer allowed.

**11.5.3 Determining the Grip Center** The center of grip is determined by measuring from the front edge of each finger hole to the front edge of the thumb hole. If more than two fingers holes are used, the center of grip will be determined by averaging the distance between each finger and thumb holes.



**11.5.4 No Thumb Delivery** The following example shows specifically how to determine grip center as it relates to bowlers who do not use their thumb.



**11.6 Plug and Designs**

**11.6.1 Ball Plug or Slugs** May be used for re-drilling a ball. When a slug is used, there must be a hole drilled completely through the slug leaving no void at the base.

**11.6.2 Interior Voids** In all cases, there shall be no interior voids.

**11.6.3 Plugs and Design Material** Must be made of material like, although not the same as, the original material out of which the ball was made. Plugs and designs must comply with other specifications of a bowling ball.

**11.6.4 Foreign Material** No foreign material may be placed on the outer surface of the ball or in the balance hole, including but not limited to paint, marker or whiteout.

**11.6.5 Density** Must be within a range of 0.9 g/ml and 1.5 g/ml.

**11.7 Weigh-in Violation Penalties** Penalties for bowling ball specifications noted in Rules 11.1 through Rule 11.5. All weigh-in penalties shall be assessed per season.

**11.7.1 PBA Tour** Penalties for exceeding the specifications noted in Rules 11.1 through 11.5.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$500

2nd Offense- \$1,000

3rd Offense - PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

**11.7.2 PBA Regional Tour/PBA50 Tour** Penalties for exceeding the specifications noted in Rules 11.1 through 11.5.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$200

2nd Offense - \$500

3rd Offense - PBA Code of Ethics Violation – Disqualification

## **11.8 Bowling Ball Surface Specifications**

**11.8.1 Surface Hardness** A ball may only be subject to removal from competition, if the subject ball hardness averages below 68D as measured on a D scale Durometer with Max readout mounted in an approved stand, as determined by an approved field test.

**NOTE:** A field test may only be conducted by qualified USBC personnel. In the event that a field test cannot be conducted, any ball/s in question will be sent to USBC Headquarters, Arlington for testing.

### **11.8.2 Surface Hardness Field Test**

**a.** Ball is to be tested at room temperature (70-77 degrees Fahrenheit) with a clean surface, and in compliance with ASTM 2240-15, using a certified D type durometer with test stand.

**b.** A ball must be acclimated to the test environment before testing (may require several hours), and the ball surface temperature should be verified with an infrared temperature gauge

**c.** Balls should be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) before testing.

**d.** The ball must have an average hardness from 10 readings of at least 68D. The difference between the field specification and the manufacturing specification is due to variation between durometers documented by both the tool manufacturer and ASTM.

**PENALTY:** \$500 (PBA Tour) and the ball is removed from play

\$250 (PBA50 and Regional Tour) and the ball is removed from play

**11.8.3 Altering the Surface of a Ball** The use of chemicals, or other methods, to change the hardness of the surface of the ball after it is manufactured is prohibited.

**a.** If the surface friction of the ball is altered by sanding or polishing, the entire surface of the ball must be sanded or polished in a uniform manner.

**b.** A player may not alter the surface of a ball during any round in which he or she is competing. The position round shall be considered a separate round.

**c.** Each match during a championship round finals shall be considered a separate round.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation – Disqualification

**11.8.4 Unauthorized Coatings on a Ball Surface** Bowling balls coated with anything other than polishes may not be used in PBA competition.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

**11.8.5 Acetone and Acetone Based Products** Acetone and acetone-based products may be used only for the removal of excess glue around the gripping area.

**PENALTY:** \$500 (PBA Tour) and the ball is removed from play

\$250 (PBA50 and Regional Tour) and the ball is removed from play



**11.8.6 Protruding Objects** No foreign objects may protrude from the surface of a ball. Penalties shall be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning  
2nd Offense - \$250 (PBA Tour)  
- \$100 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)  
3rd Offense - PBA Code of Ethics Violation, Disqualification

**11.8.7 Foreign Material on Ball Surface** All foreign material (such as rosin, powder or lane conditioner) may not be applied directly to the surface of the ball.

**PENALTY:** \$250 (PBA Tour)  
\$100 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**NOTE:** The Tournament Director may allow a player to remove foreign substances from the bowling ball surface with authorized cleaners on a case-by-case basis.

**11.9 Plugged Equipment** Plugging material may be used in accordance with current USB specifications. No foreign matter may be placed within the plug area and all equipment shall otherwise comply with PBA regulations. Penalties shall be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$500 and the ball must be immediately removed from play  
2nd Offense - PBA Code of Ethics Violation, Disqualification

#### 11.10 Gripping Devices

**11.10.1 Gripping Material** Material used solely for gripping purposes may be used provided it may readily be removed for spot checks and complies with current Product Registration guidelines.

**11.10.2 Removable Devices** Removable devices may be used provided such devices are:

- a. In compliance with current Product Registration guidelines.
- b. Used for changing the span, pitch or size of the gripping holes.
- c. Constructed of a non-metallic material.
- d. Locked in position during delivery.
- e. Not used to alter the static balance of the ball.

**11.10.3 Penalties for Non-Compliance of Gripping Devices Rule**

**PENALTY:** \$500 (PBA Tour) and the ball is removed from play  
\$250 (PBA50 and Regional Tour) and the ball is removed from play

#### 11.11 Damaged Equipment

**11.11.1 Ball Damage during Competition** If a bowling ball is damaged during tournament play in such a fashion that it does not meet PBA specifications, the player must immediately notify the Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** \$250 (PBA Tour)  
\$100 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**11.11.2 Removing Damaged Ball from Competition** The Tournament Director has the option to remove a ball from competition if determined that the ball could adversely affect the lane surface.

## **RULE 12 - EQUIPMENT REGISTRATION AND WEIGH-IN**

**12.1 Bowling Ball Serial Number** Each ball must have a serial number clearly engraved on the surface of the ball. Penalties shall be assessed per season.

**NOTE:** The ball must be removed from competition until a four (4) digit serial number is permanently engraved.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning  
2nd Offense - \$100

**12.2 Weigh-in Procedures for Bowling Balls Used in Competition** Competitors in specified finishing positions after qualifying and/or match play may be required to produce all bowling balls documented on their score sheets for an official weigh-in beginning one-half (1/2) hour prior to the roll call for the next round. Weigh-in penalties will be assessed per season.

**12.2.1 PBA Tour** Equipment weigh-in may be conducted at the discretion of the Tournament Director. In all cases, entrants are responsible for ensuring that their equipment complies with all rules and specifications for competition. The Tournament Director also reserves the right to spot check equipment at any time prior to, during or after competition.

**NOTE:** Official scales and D-Scale Durometer will be provided by Player Services for any entrant to verify correct bowling ball balance and/or hardness.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$250  
2nd Offense - \$500  
Additional Offenses in a Calendar Year - Disqualification

**12.2.2 PBA50 Tour and PBA Regional Tour** Equipment weigh in may be conducted at the discretion of the Tournament Director. In all cases, entrants are responsible for ensuring that their equipment complies with all rules and specifications for competition. Additionally, the Tournament Director reserves the right to spot check equipment at any time prior to, during or after competition.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$100  
2nd Offense - \$200  
Additional Offenses in Calendar Year- Disqualification

**12.3 Ball Spot Checks** The Tournament Director may spot check equipment for legality at any time prior to, during or after competition. A competitor is subject to disqualification and forfeiture of all points and prize money earned from the tournament if any bowling ball recorded on the competitor's scorecard cannot be produced within thirty (30) minutes after being requested by the Tournament Director or has been knowingly tampered with as to no longer meet USBC specifications as stated in the USBC Equipment Specifications and Certification Manual.

**12.4 Request for a Ball Spot Check by a Tournament Participant** If a competitor suspects that a bowling ball used by another competitor does not meet specifications or was tampered with, they must inform the Tournament Director in writing. The Tournament director reserves the right to request evidence that the participant attempted to gain an unfair advantage in tournament play.

**12.4.1 Notifying the Competitor** The Tournament Director will notify the competitor and inspect the bowling ball in question at the time of the Tournament Director's choosing. A decision will be rendered as soon as the appropriate measurements or USBC field test can be completed. See Rule 11 Bowling Ball Specifications; Paragraph 11.8 for information regarding USBC Field testing.

**12.4.2 If the Ball Passes Inspection** The competitor who requested the inspection will be assessed a Code of Ethics violation, a \$500 fine and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

## **RULE 13 - APPEARANCE GUIDELINES**

**13.1 General** All members must maintain a professional appearance in both clothing and personal grooming while in the tournament host center. The Tournament Director shall have final authority to interpret this regulation.

**13.1.1 PBA Tour** When competing on the PBA Tour, members must maintain a professional image, subject to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** \$100

**13.1.2 PBA50 Tour, PBA Regional Tour and Senior Regional Tour** Competitive attire and logo guidelines only apply while competing. A professional image must be maintained, subject to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** \$50

**13.2 Media Photographs and Interviews** Any competitor being photographed or interviewed for television in conjunction with a PBA tournament, whether before or after the event, must meet all competitive attire guidelines.

**PENALTY:** \$100 (PBA Tour)

\$50 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**13.3 Attire While Practicing in the Host Center** Any member who practices in a host center must dress according to competitive attire guidelines.

**PENALTY:** \$100 (PBA Tour)

\$50 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**13.4 Formal Sponsor Functions** The Tournament Director shall determine the necessity of formal attire for any corporate functions.

**PENALTY:** \$100 (PBA Tour)

\$50 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**13.5 Competitive Attire Guidelines** The following rules dictate apparel guidelines for competing in PBA tournaments. The Tournament Director must approve all questionable apparel before it is worn during a tournament.

**13.5.1 Pants** Dress pants must be worn in competition and the length must extend to the top of the shoe. Denim type jeans, drawstring or parachute pants may NOT be worn during competition.

**13.5.2 Skirts** Skirts may be worn in competition by female competitors. If a competitor's fingers are below the hemline (with arms hanging naturally), the skirt is considered too short and not suitable.

**13.5.3 Shorts** Shorts may NOT be worn during competition.

**13.5.4 T-Shirts** T-Shirts may NOT be worn during competition, but mock turtlenecks will be permitted.

**13.5.5 Earrings** Earrings are permitted but may be subject to the approval of the Tournament Director.

**13.5.6 Items Protruding from Clothing** Items that hang or protrude from apparel may NOT be worn during competition.

**13.5.7 Headwear** Hats, scarves, bandannas or non-elastic sweatbands may NOT be worn during competition.

**NOTE:** Elastic sweatbands may be worn in PBA competition. They must be clean, in good condition, free of manufacturer's logo and are subject to the approval of the presiding Tournament Director.

**13.5.8 Belts** If a shirt is tucked into pants with belt loops, a belt must be worn.

**13.5.9 Shirts** Sleeveless shirts or blouses may NOT be worn during any phase of tournament competition.

**13.5.10 Standard Lettering on Shirts** During all portions of any PBA tournament, competitors must wear their last name (first names are optional) in permanently attached, color-contrasting letters at least two inches (2") high in the center back area of the shirt. Airbrush names and designs are not permitted.

**13.5.11 Competitors with Long Names** Competitors with names longer than seven (7) letters may use letters less than two inches (2") in height, provided the name is visible from a reasonable spectator distance and approval is given by the Tournament Director.

**13.5.12 Script Lettering on Shirts** Letters written in script may be less than two inches (2") in height, provided the name is legible, is visible from a reasonable spectator distance and approval is given by the Tournament Director.

**13.5.13 TV Finalists Shirt Color and Style** The PBA Television Production Coordinator will have final approval over television finalists' shirt color and style.

**13.6 PBA Tour Uniform** The PBA reserves the right to introduce a uniform shirt, pants/skirt and jacket for PBA Touring professionals.

**13.6.1 Player Responsibilities** Official PBA shirts, pants/skirts and/or jackets must be worn by Professionals while competing in PBA Tour Pro-Am events, special events and media appearances or as otherwise directed by PBA management.

**13.6.2 Dye-sublimated Jersey Program** The top sixty (60) professionals as determined by the PBA Annual Point List shall be issued an allotment of official dye-sublimated jerseys. These jerseys must be worn during all assigned pro-am squads, televised events and other special events as required by the PBA. Guidelines for the placement of logos for the Dye-sublimated Jersey Program are contained in Rule 14.6.1.

**PENALTY:** \$500 (PBA Tour)

**13.6.3 Discretionary Apparel** Other apparel items may be worn subject to appearance guideline rules and final approval by the PBA. Apparel falling into this category includes headgear such as hats or caps.

**13.7 Violation of Appearance Guidelines** Unless otherwise specified, violations of the appearance guidelines shall be as follows. Penalties for violations of appearance guidelines shall be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$100 (PBA Tour)

- \$ 50 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

2nd Offense - \$250 (PBA Tour)

- \$100 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**13.8 Severe Violations of Appearance Guidelines** The presiding Tournament Director has the authority to make decisions concerning severe violations of the dress code.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

## **RULE 14 - LOGO GUIDELINES**

**14.1 PBA Logo** Members must wear a PBA logo on the lower right sleeve of their shirts. Embroidered logos are not permitted.

**14.2 Small Fashion Logos** Small fashion logos may be worn during PBA tournament competition, but NEVER during portions of the tournament intended for broadcast.

**14.3 Other Sponsor Logos and Patches** Members competing in all levels of PBA competition must wear sponsor patches and logos when mandated by the PBA to fulfill official sponsor obligations.

**14.3.1 PBA Tour** Sponsor patches or logos must be worn in designated locations.

**14.3.2 PBA Regional Tour** Regional members must wear PBA Regional Tour sponsor patches or logos when mandated by the PBA to fulfill official sponsor obligations during PBA Regional Tour competition.

**14.3.3 PBA50 Tour** PBA50 members must wear PBA50 Tour sponsor patches or logos on the upper right sleeve when mandated by the PBA.

### **14.4 Logo Size**

**14.4.1 Individual Logos on Non-Dye Sublimated Shirts.** Individual logos applied as patches on non-dye-sublimated shirts may not exceed six (6) square inches. (The product of its maximum length and maximum width will determine the area of an individual logo.)

**14.4.2 Individual Logos on Dye Sublimated Shirts.** Individual logos applied as patches on dye-sublimated shirts must follow the dye-sublimated guidelines for logo size and placement.

**NOTE:** Corporate logo designs that do not conform to the square inch rule may be approved by the PBA on a case-by-case basis.

**14.5 Redundant Logos** Fully registered companies in the ball category may display up to three (3) logos. All other product registered companies may display up to two (2) logos. See Rule 14.6 for size and placement guidelines.

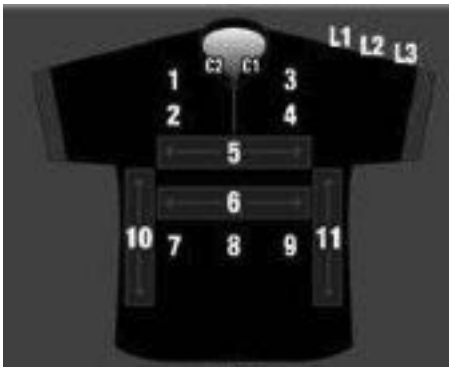
### **14.6 Logo Size and Placement Guidelines**

**14.6.1 Dye-sublimated Shirts** The PBA may designate a company exclusive rights to 'sublimated dye' shirts in PBA Competition. Dye sublimation is a process whereby logos, artwork and bowler names have been dyed into the fabric of the shirt. All other dyed shirts will be considered nonregistered equipment. For non-Dye-sublimated shirt guidelines, please refer to 14.6.2 Non-Dye-Sublimated Shirt Logo Placement.

**a. Dye-Sublimated Left Sleeve Logo Location (L1, L2 & L3).** The left sleeve has three (3) approved positions (upper, middle, lower or a combination of any two) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA-approved commercial logos.

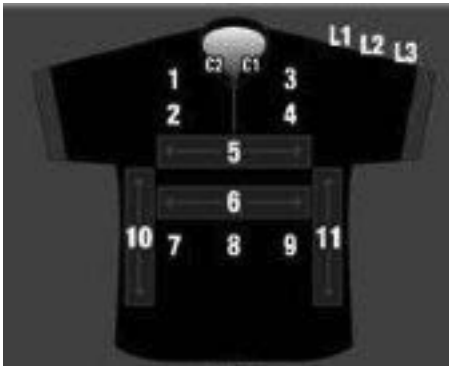
- b. Dye-Sublimated Right Sleeve Logo Location.** The right sleeve of the shirt shall be reserved for use by the PBA.
- c. Dye-Sublimated Left and Right Chest Logo Location (1, 2, 3 & 4).** The upper front of the shirt will carry four (4) approved positions (upper/lower right chest and upper/lower left chest) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos. The upper and lower logo positions may be combined to accommodate one logo not to exceed twelve square inches.
- d. Dye-Sublimated Center Chest Logo Location (5 & 6).** The center chest will carry two (2) approved positions (upper chest and lower chest) reserved for product registered ball manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos. Two (2) logo positions may also be combined to accommodate one (1) logo not to exceed 12 square inches wide.
- e. Dye-Sublimated Abdomen Logo Location (7, 8 & 9).** The abdomen will carry three (3) approved positions (left, center, right) reserved for product registered ball manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos.
- f. Dye-Sublimated Side Logo Location (10 & 11).** The front side will carry two (2) approved positions (left vertical and right vertical) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos.
- g. Dye-Sublimated Front of Collar Logo Location (C1 & C2).** The collar will carry two (2) approved positions (right and left) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos.
- h. Dye-Sublimated Back Logo Location (13, 14, 15 & 16).** The back will carry four (4) approved positions (yoke, upper, center and lower back)) reserved for product registered ball manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos. Two (2) logo positions may also be combined to accommodate one (1) logo not to exceed 12 square inches wide
- i. Dye-Sublimated Back of Collar Logo Location (12).** The collar will carry one (1) approved position (back) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos.

**NOTE:** Combining any two (2) logo positions into one (1) logo shall count as two (2) logos per the PBA Product Registration Program rules. Combined sleeve and upper chest logos may not exceed twelve (12) square inches or the designated logo space(s).



**14.6.2 Non-Dye-sublimated Shirt Logo Size and Placement Criteria**

- a. **Left Sleeve Logo Location (L1, L2 & L3).** The left sleeve will carry three (3) approved positions (upper, middle, lower or a combination of any two) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA-approved commercial logos.
- b. **Right Sleeve and Yoke Logo Locations.** The right sleeve of the shirt shall be reserved for use by the PBA.
- c. **Left and Right Chest Logo Location (1, 2, 3, & 4).** The upper front of the shirt will carry four (4) approved positions (upper/lower right chest and upper/lower left chest) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsors and/or PBA approved commercial logos. The upper and lower logo positions may be combined to accommodate one logo not to exceed twelve square inches.
- d. **Center Chest Logo Location (5 & 6).** Positions not approved for non-dye-sublimated shirts.
- e. **Abdomen Logo Location (7, 8 & 9).** Positions not approved for non-dye-sublimated shirts
- f. **Front of Collar Logo Location (C1 & C2).** The front collar will carry two (2) approved positions (right and left) reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsor logos and/or PBA approved commercial logos.
- g. **Side Logo Location (10 & 11).** Positions not approved for non-dye-sublimated shirts.
- h. **Back Logo Location (13, 14, 15 & 16).** Positions not approved for non-dye-sublimated shirts
- i. **Back of Collar Logo Location (12).** The rear center collar location reserved for product registered manufacturer logos, individual sponsor logos and/or PBA approved commercial logos.



**14.6.3 The American Flag Patch** The American Flag may be substituted for any approved logo position.

**14.6.4 Network Logos** Competitors may not wear the logo of any television network unless authorized by the PBA.

**14.6.5 Bowling Pro Shop Logo** A Full Member who works in or owns a pro shop may wear the pro shop logo during all levels of PBA competition, subject to PBA rules pertaining to logo size. The position of the logo may be on the single left/right chest, left sleeve or collar only.

**NOTE:** Pro shop patch may NOT include "PBA" or PBA marks without the express written consent of the PBA.



**14.7 Violation of Logo Guidelines** Unless otherwise specific, the cited violation must be immediately corrected and are subject to the following penalties. Penalties for violation of logo guidelines shall be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense: \$100 (PBA Tour)  
\$50 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)  
2nd Offense: \$250 (PBA Tour)  
\$100 (PBA50 and Regional Tour)

**14.8 Severe Violations of Logo Guidelines** The presiding Tournament Director has the authority to make decisions concerning severe logo violations of the dress code.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation - Disqualification

## **RULE 15 - PLAYER CONDUCT**

**15.1 General** Members may not publicly criticize or defame the integrity of the PBA, its members, officers, staff, tournament sponsor, host center, pins, host center employees or spectators.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics Violation (To Be Determined by the Commissioner)

**NOTE:** The Penalties listed in this section are listed as minimum penalties. Any violation of Rules 15.1 – 15.22 may result in a Code of Ethics Violation depending on severity of the infraction with the penalty to be determined by the PBA Commissioner.

**15.2 Host Center Rules** Members must abide by host center rules.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.3 Fine Slips** A competitor who is assessed a fine must sign the fine slip.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

### **15.4 Player Disqualification**

**15.4.1 Authority** The Tournament Director will make all decisions and apply all associated penalties regarding whether a violation resulting in the disqualification of any competitor has occurred.

**15.4.2 Scope of Disqualification** The Tournament Director shall determine whether a competitor will receive credit (points and earnings) for bowling a tournament from which he or she is disqualified.

**15.5 Conduct Unbecoming a Professional** As professional athletes, members are responsible for their public image as bowlers as well as that of the Professional Bowlers Association.

**15.5.1 Bowling Conduct Violations** During competition, members may not verbally abuse PBA or host center staff. Additionally, members may not physically abuse PBA or host center equipment including but not limited to locker room tools, locker room shelves, ball returns and computer scorers. The cost of repair or replacement of damaged equipment shall be added to the total penalty amount as appropriate. The following fines are cumulative per calendar year.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$100  
2nd Offense - \$250  
3rd Offense - Code of Ethics; penalty as determined by the Commissioner



**15.5.2 Non-Bowling Conduct Violations** Members must maintain a professional demeanor during all non-competitive events, including but not limited to public appearances, interviews or other media obligations.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$100

2nd Offense - \$250 and 1-year probation

3rd Offense - Code of Ethics; penalty as determined by the Commissioner

**15.5.3 Electronic Media** The PBA regards electronic media such as message boards, conversation pages and other forms of social networking (such as Facebook and Twitter) as important tools of communication and fan interaction. Members may not use these platforms to publicly report or speculate about PBA policies or defame the integrity of the PBA, its members, officers, staff, sponsors, host center or host center employees.

**NOTE:** Use of electronic devices during PBA Competition is permitted providing the bowler is using the device for social networking in support of the PBA and tournament in progress.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$500

2nd Offense - \$1,000 and 1-year probation

3rd Offense - Code of Ethics Violation; penalty as determined by the Commissioner

**15.6 Lane Maintenance** Competitors may not harass, intimidate, criticize or make defamatory public statements concerning any member of the PBA Lane Maintenance staff or its policies and conditions.

**15.7 Complaints** All complaints must be registered in writing to the presiding Tournament Director. Members may not register a complaint with the host proprietor, host center employees, tournament volunteers or other PBA members.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.8 Refusal to Bowl** Competitors must bowl when it is their turn. Decision concerning the disposition of tournament points and prize money distribution will be at the discretion of the presiding Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** Disqualification

**15.9 Sponsorship of Another Member** Members may not sponsor other bowlers competing in the same PBA tournament.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics - As Determined by the Commissioner

**15.10 Gambling** Members may not gamble or make wagers in reference to a tournament in progress.

**PENALTY:** PBA Code of Ethics - As Determined by the Commissioner

**15.11 Substance Abuse Policy** The following policy regards the use, abuse and distribution of controlled substances at PBA tournament sites:

**15.11.1 Assuring the Well-Being of the Member** The PBA's number one priority is to help assure the well-being of each member and to provide any member having a problem with substance or alcohol abuse to obtain confidential, professional assistance.

**15.11.2 Protect the Membership** The second priority of the PBA is to protect all members from those who would induce them to use controlled substances.

**15.11.3 Uphold the Law** To the fullest extent of the law, the PBA will cooperate to assist with the prosecution of any person who sells or distributes controlled substances at PBA tournament sites.

**15.11.4 Sale and Distribution of Controlled Substances** Members may not participate in the sale or distribution of controlled substances.

**PENALTY:** Expulsion

## **15.12 Public Consumption of Alcohol**

**15.12.1 Consumption of Alcohol While Competing** Competitors may not consume alcohol on the tournament host premises until their competition is completed for the day (including Pro-Ams).

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - Disqualification

**15.12.2 Designated Area** Competitors may only consume alcohol in a designated area to be determined by the Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.12.3 Wearing Name Shirt** Competitors may not consume alcohol while wearing their name shirts.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.12.4 Media Sessions** Competitors may not possess or consume alcohol during any media session.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.13 Driving Under the Influence (DUI)** Any bowler who is convicted with driving under the Influence of drugs and/or alcohol in any jurisdiction shall be subject to the following penalties.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense, PBA Code of Ethics - Not less than \$2,500 and/or suspension and probation at the discretion of the Commissioner

2nd Offense, PBA Code of Ethics - Not less than \$5,000 and suspension of not less than 2 events at the discretion of the Commissioner

Subsequent Offense - Not less than one-year suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the Commissioner

**15.14 Use of Tobacco Products** PBA will make every effort to ensure that the Host Center be designated smoke-free during tournament week (with a designated smoking room or area).

**15.14.1 Use of Tobacco Products While Competing** Competitors may not use any type of tobacco product or nicotine delivery systems (e-cigarettes, for example) while competing (including Pro-Ams).

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation, Disqualification

**15.14.2 Designated Smoking Area** Competitors may only use tobacco products in a designated area to be determined by the Tournament Director. (Subject to host center rules and local laws).

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.14.3 While Wearing Name Shirt** Competitors may not use tobacco products while wearing their name shirts.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.14.4 Media Sessions** Competitors may not use or display tobacco products during any media session.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.15 Pipes, Cigars, E-Cigarettes, etc.** Competitors may not carry a pipe, cigar, cigarette, electronic cigarette or toothpick in their mouths while on the approach during a tournament.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.16 Selling Equipment** Competitors may not sell equipment on Host Center premises.

**PENALTY:** Non-Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.17 Removal of Bowling Balls and Equipment** Unless excused by the Tournament Director, a championship round finalist may not depart the bowlers' area or remove bowling balls from the ball return before all frames are completed.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**15.18 Mandatory Functions** Members must attend all functions designated as mandatory by the PBA during a tournament in which they are competing.

**PENALTY:** \$250

**15.19 Press and Media Obligations** The tournament leader and other designated competitors must report to the Media Office no later than 10 minutes after the conclusion of their match play or qualifying round. If the request is made on practice day, professionals may opt to finish practice, put away their equipment and then immediately report to the media room.

**PENALTY:** \$250

**15.19.1 Coordination** All interviews should be arranged and approved by a member of the PBA PR staff. Media should be going through PR for any and all interview requests. If approached by a member of the media about an interview, please make the PBA PR staff aware of it.

**15.19.2 Interview Location Restrictions** Unless otherwise approved by PBA Tournament Staff, interviews shall not take place in Host Center lounges or bars.

**PENALTY:** \$100

**NOTE:** Professional must inform PBA Public Relations staff if he or she is unable to attend a scheduled interview within 24 hours of the interview.

## **15.20 Television Finals Production Interviews**

**15.20.1 Pre-Television Finals Interviews** Professionals advancing to the televised round will be interviewed by TV announcers at a time and place to be determined by the TV Coordinating Producer.

**PENALTY:** \$100

### **15.20.2 Post-Television Finals Interviews**

**a.** Tournament winner and runner-up are required to report to the media room at the conclusion of the TV show.

**PENALTY:** \$100

**b.** On TV finals day, finalists must check with a member of the PR staff before leaving the Host Center.

**PENALTY:** \$100



**15.21 Player Introductions** Competitors must be present for player introductions prior to the Pro-Am and match play squads.

**PENALTY:** \$100 (PBA Tour)  
\$50 (PBA50 & Regional Tour)

**15.22 Player Appearances at Events** Professionals may be requested to appear at additional even appearances (not including Pro-Ams, media/sponsor related appearances or autograph sessions).

EXAMPLE: Youth Baker tournament, rock concert, charity event or other "non-bowling" events

**15.22.1 Personal Appearances** Professional, upon the request of an authorized representative of the PBA, may be asked to make personal appearances on behalf of the PBA and its sponsors, promoters or other business partners or designees at a mutually agreed upon time and location.

**15.22.2 Charity Autographs** Professional must sign a reasonable number of items for donation to charities throughout the year.

## RULE 16 - PRACTICE & WARM-UP

**16.1 The Official Practice Session** Competitors may not bowl any practice squad other than their own without permission from the Tournament Director. Penalties for violations of the practice session rule shall be assessed per season.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense: \$100  
Subsequent Offenses: Disqualification

**16.2 Other Practice Sessions** Any member entered in a PBA event may practice on tournament lanes at any time lanes are available subject to availability and the Tournament Director's discretion.

**16.2.1 Lane Availability** Members must vacate lanes when asked by a representative of the host center.

**16.2.2 Practice for Authorized Persons** PBA staff and manufacturer's representatives may practice on designated non-finalist practice pairs provided they comply with PBA Rules and Appearance Guidelines and allow PBA members priority on the lanes.

**16.2.3 Non-Complimentary Practice** If required to do so by the Host Center, a competitor must pay for any practice games bowled.

**PENALTY:** \$100

### 16.3 Warm-Up Prior to Qualifying and Match Play Rounds

**16.3.1 Warm-Up** Warm-Up. Prior to each qualifying round or match play round, competitors will receive warm-up as specified below:

- a. Two Bowlers on a Pair – 5 minutes
- b. Three Bowlers on a Pair – 8 minutes
- c. Four Bowlers on a Pair – 10 minutes
- d. Five Bowlers on a Pair – 13 minutes

**NOTE:** The amount of warm-up given for each squad of qualifying will be based on the pair with the highest number of bowlers assigned to a pair taking all qualifying squads into account.

EXAMPLE: A squad consisting of both three bowlers on a pair and four bowlers on a pair would receive 10 minutes of warm-up.

**16.3.2 Position Round Warm-Up** Competitors will receive two (2) minutes of warm-up prior to a position round game.

**16.3.3 Lane Break-Down Warm-Up** Competitors on a pair that breaks down during warm-up will receive a minimum of five (5) shots on each lane. The amount of warm-up awarded in any situation may be altered or redefined at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**16.4 Warm-Up Prior to Stepladder Championship Round Matches** Championship round finalists shall receive warm-up according to the following guidelines:

**16.4.1 Five (5) Player Stepladder**

**T – 20:** The #3 seeded player will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship round pair.

**T – 18:** The #2 seeded player will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship round pair.

**T – 16:** The #1 seeded player will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship round pair.

**T – 08:** The #4 & #5 seeded players will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship pair.

**NOTE 1:** For matches after the first scheduled match, the winner of preceding match may practice on the alternate pair/lane, only. The incoming finalist shall receive a minimum of four (4) warm-up shots on the championship pair. Time permitting a maximum of six (6) shots may be awarded at the discretion of the presiding Tournament Director with approval from the TV Coordinating Producer (during televised events).

**NOTE 2:** Prior to the semi-final match, the number one (1) seed shall receive four (4) warm-up shots on the championship pair.

**NOTE 3:** Prior to each match, the winner of preceding match may practice on the alternate pair/lane, only.

**NOTE 4:** The number one seed shall receive eight (8) warm-up shots on the championship pair.

**NOTE 5:** When necessary, warm-up times or number of shots may be adjusted at the discretion of the presiding Tournament Director

**16.4.2 Four (4) Player Stepladder**

**T – 18:** The #2 seeded player will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship pair.

**T – 16:** The #1 seeded player will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship pair.

**T – 08:** The #3 & #4 seeded players will have 8 minutes of warm-up on the championship pair.

**NOTE 1:** For matches after the first scheduled match, the winner of preceding match may practice on the alternate pair/lane, only. The incoming finalist shall receive a minimum of four (4) warm-up shots on the championship pair. Time permitting a maximum of six (6) shots may be awarded at the discretion of the presiding Tournament Director with approval from the TV Coordinating Producer (during televised events).

**NOTE 2:** Prior to each match, the winner of preceding match may practice on the alternate pair/lane, only.

**NOTE 3:** The number one seed shall receive eight (8) warm-up shots on the championship pair.

**NOTE 4:** When necessary, warm-up times or number of shots may be adjusted at the discretion of the presiding Tournament Director

## **RULE 17 - RULES OF PLAY**

**17.1 Ball Shavings** Competitors may not leave ball shavings or debris in the defined bowlers' area.

**PENALTY:** \$100

**17.2 Rosin Bags and Powder** Competitors must place any powdered substance they are using in a pouch or container. Penalties shall be assessed per tournament.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning

2nd Offense - \$100

3rd and Subsequent Offenses - \$250

**17.3 Breakdown or Delay** The Tournament Director will make all decisions regarding the continuation or rescheduling of games in the event of a mechanical breakdown.

**17.3.1 Warm-up Shots in the Event of Breakdown** The Tournament Director will make all decisions regarding the awarding of warm-up shots in the event of a mechanical breakdown of ten (10) minutes or more. Timing will begin the moment a tournament official is notified of the breakdown.

a. An alternate pair shall be used whenever possible when awarding warm-up in the event of a breakdown.

b. Competitors may receive up to two (2) shots at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

c. If an alternate pair is not available, two (2) shots will be awarded on the lane opposite that where the competitor will throw his or her next shot for score.

**17.3.2 Use of the Alternate Pair in the Event of Breakdown** If a breakdown requires competitors to move to an alternate pair not previously used in the tournament, each competitor required to move will receive one (1) warm-up shot on each lane.

**NOTE:** If an alternate pair is used through the completion of a squad, practice shots will not be awarded to competitors moving to that pair in subsequent squads.

**17.4 Lane Courtesy and Double Jumping** Competitors must observe one (1) pair lane courtesy. Competitors may not "Double Jump." Double jumping occurs following a delivery when a competitor on the same pair delivers his or her ball before one (1) competitor from the pair to the right and one (1) competitor from the pair to the left have made a delivery, unless those competitors are not ready to bowl, or they give way.

**17.5 Slow Play During Qualifying** A competitor shall have twenty-five (25) seconds to start his or her delivery, once the lane courtesy requirement has been satisfied. Slow bowling penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the presiding tournament official. The following penalties will be assessed per tournament:

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning

Subsequent Offenses - \$100

**17.6 Slow Play During Match Play** Slow bowling penalties will be assessed per tournament at the discretion of the tournament official in accordance with the following guidelines:

**17.6.1 When Lane Courtesy is Used** If lane courtesy is being observed, a competitor shall have twenty-five (25) seconds to start his or her delivery, once the lane courtesy requirement has been satisfied.

**17.6.2 When Lane Courtesy is NOT Used**

a. Competitors will have twenty-five (25) seconds to start their delivery from the time the opponent steps off the approach.

b. When moving to the left lane or shooting a spare, a competitor will have twenty-five (25) seconds to start their delivery from the time his or her bowling ball comes back to the ball return.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning  
Subsequent Offenses - \$100

**17.7 Slow Play During Televised Events** A twenty-five (25) second shot clock shall be used to enforce slow play rules during televised events. Penalties for shot clock violations will be assessed per game.

**17.7.1 When Bowling on the Right Lane** A competitor will have twenty-five (25) seconds to start his or her delivery from the time the opponent steps off the approach.

**17.7.2 When Bowling on the Left Lane** When moving to the left lane or shooting a spare, competitor will have twenty-five (25) seconds to start his or her delivery from the time his or her bowling ball comes back to the ball return.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - \$100  
Subsequent Offenses - \$500

**NOTE:** The shot clock may be stopped to allow competitors to adjust their equipment. These requests may be approved by the Tournament Director on a case-by-case basis.

**17.8 Dead Ball Situations** The Tournament Director must be called and will make all decisions regarding dead ball situations.

**17.8.1 Missing Pins** A competitor must shoot over if it is determined that any pins were missing from the rack at which he or she shot.

**17.8.2 Dead Wood** If a pin is in the channel, a competitor must consult the competitors on the pair to determine if it is in play. If any other competitor feels that the pin is in play, it must be removed before a shot is thrown.

**a.** If the competitor rolls a strike while a pin is in play, he or she must shoot over. If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand.

**b.** If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play and the ball contacts dead wood before leaving the lane surface, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.

**c.** If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play and any pin (after contacting the dead wood) knocks down one or more pins, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.

**17.8.3 Bowling on the Wrong Lane** Bowling on the wrong lane constitutes a dead ball situation provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again. All penalties will be assessed per tournament.

**a.** If a competitor rolls a strike on the wrong lane, he or she must shoot over on the correct lane.

**b.** If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand and he or she must shoot the spare on the same lane.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning  
Subsequent Offenses - \$50

**17.8.4 Bowling Out of Turn** Bowling out of turn constitutes a dead ball situation provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again. All penalties will be assessed per tournament.

**a.** If a competitor rolls a strike out of turn, he or she must shoot over in the correct order of play.

**b.** If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand and he or she must shoot the spare.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning  
Subsequent Offenses - \$50

**17.8.5 Interference** Physical interference of any kind shall be considered a dead ball situation.

**NOTE:** Visual or audio interference shall not be considered and will NOT be awarded at any time.

**17.8.6 Disputed Pinfall** The Tournament Director will settle any dispute regarding a machine causing a pin to fall.

**17.8.7 Use of Instant Replay in Dead Ball Situations** If available for reference, during all televised matches, instant replay may be used in the ruling process, at the Tournament Director's discretion.

**17.9 Re-Spotting of Pins** A tournament official must authorize any re-spotting of pins on the second ball cycle.

**17.10 Order of Shots** The pin count of a first shot thrown while a rack is on the second ball cycle will stand. All penalties will be assessed per tournament.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning  
Subsequent Offenses - \$50

**17.11 Unintentional Fouls** If the foul light is activated at any time during a competitor's delivery it must be scored as a foul.

**17.11.1 Contesting a Foul** If a competitor wishes to contest a foul, all other competitors on the pair must wait for a ruling by the Tournament Director before competition can resume.

**17.11.2 Ruling Authority** All rulings made by the Tournament Director regarding unintentional fouls shall be final.

**17.11.3 Foul Line Judge** During all televised matches, a foul line judge with an unobstructed view shall be used.

**17.11.4 Use of Instant Replay with Regarding Fouls** If available for reference, during all televised matches, instant replay may be used in the ruling process. If a shot is ruled a foul, the foul line judge will signal for a TV replay review to determine if the call will stand.

**17.12 Intentional Fouls** When a player deliberately fouls to benefit by the calling of a foul, the player shall be credited with zero pinfall for that delivery and not allowed further deliveries in that frame. All rulings made by the Tournament Director regarding intentional fouls shall be final.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**17.13 Re-Racks** Two (2) re-racks are permitted per game during all phases of PBA competition.

**PENALTY:** Zero (0) for the shot.

**17.13.1 Re-Racks during Abbreviated Tie-Breaker** During a one shot or ninth and tenth frame roll-off, one (1) re-rack will be permitted.

**PENALTY:** Zero (0) for the shot.

**17.13.2 Re-Rack Accountability** Competitors must notify the opposing competitor responsible for signing his or her score sheet each time a re-rack is taken. The opposing competitor shall be responsible for recording each re-rack taken.



**17.13.3 Re-Rack Requests during Televised Matches** Any competitor who requests a rerack during a televised match must make it his or her first order of business. The tournament official will award re-racks at his discretion.

**17.14 Completion of Frame** A competitor must shoot any spare left to complete the frame.

**PENALTY:** Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**17.15 Coaching** Coaching is permitted at all levels of PBA competition. Coaching is defined as, but not limited to, any advice given to a competitor regarding ball selection, lane strategy, mental thought processes or physical mechanics.

**17.15.1 Non-Televised Rounds** During non-televised portions of an event, coaches and manufacturer representatives (Ball Reps) are not permitted in the bowlers' area at any time during tournament competition.

**17.15.2 Televised Rounds** During televised portions of an event, coaches and/or manufacturer representatives may communicate with a competitor during official television warm-up time or commercial breaks only. Coaches and Ball Reps must vacate the bowler's area immediately upon request of the presiding Tournament Director or television Coordinating Producer. Competitors must remain in the settee area while the game is in progress.

**17.16 Personal Listening Devices** MP3 players or similar devices shall not be permitted in PBA Competition, excluding practice and warm-up. Penalties will be assessed per season.

**17.17 Personnel in the Bowlers' Area** The Tournament Director will define the bowler's area prior to the start of competition each week.

**17.17.1 Authorized Personnel** Only tournament competitors, PBA staff and tournament volunteers will be permitted in the bowler's area during PBA competition. Media personnel covering the event may be permitted into the bowlers' area on a case-by-case basis.

**17.17.2 Ball Manufacturer Representatives (Ball Reps) and Coaches** Bowling ball manufacturer representatives (Ball Reps) and coaches may remain in the bowler's area during official practice sessions and warm-up sessions only and must leave the bowler's area when the warm-up session is complete or at the direction of the Tournament Director.

**17.17.3 Other Spectators** Other spectators may sit adjacent to the bowler's area with the permission of a tournament official.

**17.17.4 Incoming Squads** Competitors on incoming squads may not enter the bowler's area until both their starting and adjacent pairs are finished. Penalties will be assessed per tournament.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense – Warning

**17.18 Bowling Balls in the Bowlers' Area** A maximum of nine (9) bowling balls per competitor will be allowed in the bowlers' area during all PBA Tour events. Bowling equipment must remain with the competitor while moving from pair to pair. Unattended equipment will be removed from the bowlers' area and a penalty assessed.

**PENALTY:** \$25 per Item

**EXAMPLE:** Unattended triple bag with two balls inside - \$75 fine

**NOTE:** Tournament Director may allow storage of equipment on off pairs on a case-by-case basis.



**17.19 Use of Equipment Caddies** Players may employ assistance carrying equipment however, only tournament entrants are permitted to carry equipment into or out of the locker room or bowlers' area. Penalties will be assessed per tournament.

**PENALTY:** 1st Offense - Warning

Subsequent Offenses, Bowling Conduct Violation - \$100

**NOTE:** The Tournament Director may authorize access to restricted areas by caddies on a tournament-by-tournament basis.

**17.20 Interrupted Tournament** The following procedures will be used if a tournament is interrupted.

**17.20.1 When Play is Resumed** The tournament will be completed in the host or an alternate center no later than one (1) day after its originally scheduled completion. If an alternate center is used, the tournament will resume from the last completed round of play.

**17.20.2 Loss of Score** In the event of score loss, play will resume at the beginning of the game following the last completed game in the tournament.

**17.20.3 Play is not Resumed** If it is determined that the tournament will not resume, competitors will be paid according to their finishing positions from the last completed round of play.

**17.20.4 Televised Finals** If a televised final is required by contract, the television round finalists will be determined according to their finishing position from the last completed round of play.

a. If an elimination format is being used, the competitors with the fewest match losses will be awarded the television round positions originally allotted.

b. If there is a tie for any position, the competitor with the highest tournament average among those tied shall be awarded the position in the television round.

**17.20.5 Final Authority** The decision of the Tournament Director in all matters pertaining to the interruption of a tournament shall be final.

## RULE 18 - PBA SCORING

**18.1 PBA Scoring System** The PBA scoring system is derived by adding the total of pins over two hundred (200) or subtracting the total of pins less than two hundred (200) for each game, on a cumulative basis.

EXAMPLE: A 210 game would be scored as "+10". A 190 game would be scored as "-10"

**18.1.1 Singles Event; Bonus Pins for Round Robin Match Play Competition** Thirty (30) bonus pins for a win and fifteen (15) bonus pins for a tie will be awarded for each individual match play game.

**18.1.2 Doubles Event; Bonus Pins for Round Robin Match Play Competition** Ten (10) bonus pins for a win and five (5) bonus pins for a tie will be awarded for each individual match play game. Additionally, thirty (30) bonus pins for a win and fifteen (15) bonus pins for a tie will be awarded to the winner of each team match play game.

### 18.2 Tie Scores

**18.2.1 Tie for Qualifying Position into a Cut Round** If there is a tie for the last qualifying position for a cut round, all tied competitors will compete in a one (1) game roll-off immediately following the completion of the round.

**18.2.2 Tie for the Match Play Alternate** If there is a tie for the match play alternate position, all tied competitors for the alternate position will compete in a one (1) game roll-off immediately following the completion of the round.

**NOTE:** If a one (1) game roll-off ends in a tie, all tied competitors for the alternate position will compete in a one (1) ball sudden death roll-off

**18.2.3 Roll-Off Deadline** Any competitor scheduled for a roll-off who is not in the host center within thirty (30) minutes of the announcement of the tie, will be disqualified from the roll-off.

**18.2.4 Point Distribution in the Event of a Tie** Refer to Rule 6.

**18.2.5 Breaking Ties for Bracket Placement** When determining bracket placement position, ties shall be broken in the following order:

- a. By qualifying total pins for that tournament.
- b. Total of the last qualifying block bowled.
- c. Preceding qualifying block totals.
- d. High games from the last block of qualifying.

**18.2.6 Breaking Ties within a Round Robin Cut Round or Position Round** Ties shall be broken using high scratch pins from the current round bowled. If still tied, then the high game from the current round bowled shall be used until the tie is broken.”

**18.2.7 Breaking Ties to Determine Stepladder Placement** If there is a tie among stepladder finalists that affects stepladder placement, all tied competitors will compete in a one (1) game roll-off.

- a. The competitor with the highest scratch total pins has choice of starting lane for the roll-off. If a tie exists for scratch total pins, a coin toss will be used to determine the starting lane.
- b. If the tie does not affect stepladder placement but does affect which competitor chooses the starting lane for the match, then a one ball, sudden death roll-off will be used to break the tie.

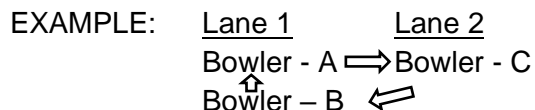
**18.2.8 Breaking Ties in a Stepladder, Elimination Match or Eliminator Round Match** In the event of a tie during any stepladder, elimination match or eliminator round match, all tied competitors will compete in a one (1) ball sudden death roll-off. The highest seeded competitor shall determine starting lane and order for the roll-off. The competitors will alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken.

**18.3 Score Sheet Responsibility**

**18.3.1 Verifying and Signing the Score Sheet (Qualifying)** Competitors are responsible for verifying and signing both their own score sheet as well as that of their competitor. Verification of information includes game scores, total pins, plus/minus totals and bowling balls used in competition.

**PENALTY:** \$25

- a. On a pair of lanes with three (3) players, verify and sign the score sheet of the competitor who is clockwise in the rotation. In the example below: A to C to B to A.



- b. On a pair with four (4) players, verify and sign the score-sheet of the competitor directly across in the rotation. In the example below: A to C, B to D and vice-versa.

EXAMPLE: Lane 1                      Lane 2  
 Bowler - A ⇔ Bowler - C  
 Bowler - B ⇔ Bowler - D

- c. On a pair with five (5) players, verify and sign the score sheet of the competitor who is clockwise in the rotation. In the example below: A to D to E to C to B to A.

EXAMPLE: Lane 1                      Lane 2  
 Bowler - A ⇔ Bowler - D  
 Bowler - B ⇔ Bowler - E  
 Bowler - C ⇔ Bowler - A

**18.3.2 Verifying and Signing the Score Sheet (Match Play)** Verify and initial the opponent's score sheet immediately following each match.

**18.3.3 Documenting Equipment on the Score Sheet** Competitors must document each bowling ball used during the round on their score sheet by the end of the first game the ball is put into play. Documentation of each bowling ball should include:

- a. Last four digits of the serial number.
- b. Grips used, if any (including the manufacturer's name).
- c. Extra holes (if the ball has more than three holes or if holes have been drilled deeper).
- d. Slugs or plugs used.

**18.3.4 Recording Game Scores** As a courtesy, the player finishing the game first should record the game scores along with plus and minus totals on all score sheets during all portions of the tournament. Regardless of who records individual game scores, each bowler is responsible for ensuring that their score is recorded accurately, even when the round is in progress. Failure to do so could result in a scorecard violation at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**PENALTY:** Warning

**18.3.5 Damage to Score Sheets** Competitors may not intentionally damage their score sheets.

**PENALTY:** \$25

**18.3.6 Official Scores** Once a competitor signs his or her score sheet, he or she agrees that, barring any necessary mathematical corrections, the score becomes official. The PBA shall have one hour to make any mathematical corrections, but any other disputes that would result in the improvement of a competitor's score shall not be allowed.

## RULE 19 - SINGLE ELIMINATION MATCH PLAY

**19.1 Single Elimination Match Play Format** Single elimination match play is a "best of" format whereby the player who wins the most games in the match advances to the next round.

EXAMPLE: Best 4 out of 7 games; the first competitor to win four (4) games advances.

**19.2 Order of Play** During single elimination match play competition, the player with the highest bracket placement position has choice of starting lane and/or order for both the match and any sudden death tiebreakers.

## RULE 20 - ROUND ROBIN MATCH PLAY

**20.1 Round Robin Match Play Format** Each player in the match play field will bowl a series of one (1) game matches against other competitors in the match play field. The final game of match play is traditionally a position round where position #1 bowls against position #2, position #3 bowls against position #4, etc.

**20.2 Determining the Match Play Alternate** Any competitor who qualifies for the match play alternate position must inform a tournament official of the decision to accept or decline the position within fifteen (15) minutes of the official announcement.

**PENALTY:** \$100

**20.2.1 Ties for the Match Play Alternate Position** In the event of a tie for the match play alternate position, see Rule 18.2.2.

**20.2.2 Roll Call** The alternate must be present during all roll calls.

**PENALTY:** \$10

**20.2.3 The Alternate's Availability to Compete** The alternate must be prepared to enter competition on short notice and shall remain in the host center throughout all frames of competition.

**PENALTY:** \$100 and possible disqualification.

**20.3 Procedures for Substituting the Alternate** In the event an alternate is used, the following procedures will apply:

**20.3.1 Score Computation (Singles Format)** The alternate's score shall be computed using his or her own qualifying total plus the scratch match play total pins of the competitor being replaced.

**20.3.2 Score Computation (Doubles Format; Competitors Choose Their Own Partners)**

The entire team will be replaced by the alternate team if either member of a team cannot continue.

**NOTE:** The alternate team's score shall be computed using the team's qualifying total plus the scratch match play total pins of the team being replaced.

**20.3.3 Score Computation (Doubles Format; Competitors are Paired with a Partner)** In a tournament where competitors are paired with a partner following a qualifying process, if either member of the team cannot continue, he or she will be replaced by the alternate.

**NOTE:** The team of the competitor who withdraws will lose any individual and team bonus pins the competitor had earned up to that point in the tournament.

**20.3.4 Warm-up for the Alternate** The alternate will receive four (4) warm-up shots. If no other lanes are open, the alternate will warm-up on the pair on which he or she will enter competition.

**20.3.5 Replacing the Alternate** When an alternate enters competition, a new alternate shall be identified. The next highest tournament finisher in the host center will be offered the alternate position until it is filled. If a suitable replacement cannot be found and a subsequent match play withdraw occurs, the remaining opponents in the schedule must beat a blind score of 190 to earn match play bonus pins.

**20.3.6 Assigning Points for the Alternate** In the event an alternate is used, he or she will receive all the points for his final finishing position. The competitor being replaced will receive the points for the first position outside of match play.

**20.3.7 Prize Money Distribution** Both the alternate and the competitor being replaced shall receive an amount of prize money equal to one-half (1/2) of the sum designated for the final finishing position of the alternate and that designated for the position the alternate occupied prior to match play.

**20.3.8 Alternate Fee** The alternate fee will be no less than an amount equal to the product of Five Dollars (\$5) and the number of games in match play. In the event an alternate is used compensation will include the game in which he or she enters competition.

## **RULE 21 – ELIMINATOR ROUND MATCH PLAY**

**21.1 Eliminator Round Match Play Format** Eliminator round match play is a ‘shootout’ type format whereby the player with the lowest score during each round is eliminated. The process continues until there is one player left in the assigned group.

EXAMPLE: Group A with four (4) players bowl one game; low bowler eliminated. The remaining three (3) players bowl another game (no practice); low bowler eliminated. The final two (2) bowlers bowl one game (no practice), the winner advances.

**21.2 Placement of Competitors in the Eliminator Round Match Play Group** Whenever the eliminator round format is used, placement into groups will be determined by a seeding system using qualifying total pins to establish each player seed number.

EXAMPLE: For a sixteen (16) player eliminator round, the four quarter final groups would be set as follows:

- GROUP 1 – Seed #1, Seed #8, Seed #9 and Seed #16
- GROUP 2 – Seed #2, Seed #7, Seed #10 and Seed #15
- GROUP 3 – Seed #3, Seed #6, Seed #11 and Seed #14
- GROUP 4 – Seed #4, Seed #5, Seed #12 and Seed #13

**21.3 Order of Play** Whenever the eliminator round format is used, the highest seeded player shall have first choice of lane and order. The process continues until the lineup is set. The highest seeded player will have choice of starting lane and/or order for any sudden death tiebreakers. Sudden death tiebreak rules shall apply.