



ORBIT Raleigh Bowling Invitational Tournament

## 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES

### Eligibility

The 2026 ORBIT Raleigh Bowling Invitational Tournament is a USBC-sanctioned handicap tournament held September 4-5, 2026, and open to all genders by invitation only. All USBC rules apply except as noted below:

- A. All participants must be at least 18 years of age.
- B. All participants must be members of United States Bowling Congress (USBC), Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF), or International Bowling Federation (IBF) and provide proof of membership in both tournament application and at registration. Sanction cards or receipt of sanction application are acceptable. To participate, non-members must pay a participation or affiliate membership fee of \$10.00 (USBC Rule 300c).
- C. All non-IGBO members participating must pay an additional \$25.00 IGBO registration fee.
- D. Any person whose IGBO membership has been denied for the current season will not be allowed to participate.

### Event Participation

1. The tournament events shall be handicapped events and are as follows: Singles, Doubles, and Teams.
2. Each participant shall bowl three games per event and must enter all three events. Teams will consist of four members comprising any combination of gender. All participants will compete on an equal basis. Doubles partners must come from the same team.
3. Each participant may only bowl once in each event.
4. A professional bowler that is not a current IGBO league member or current organizational member, with a minimum of 21 games, may not bowl in the tournament. Only one professional bowler per team will be allowed. A professional bowler is defined as any person who has been a "card-carrying" member of the Professional Bowling Association (PBA) within the past twelve months preceding the tournament.

### Entry Requirements

5. The individual participant entry fee (for three (3) events of Singles, Doubles, Teams) is payable in US funds ONLY by PayPal or Credit/Debit merchant card. CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
  - a. All registrations must be submitted and paid by August 1, 2026.
  - b. Registration will not be considered completed until paid in full.
  - c. All online/digital payments must be submitted by midnight, August 1, 2026. Payments submitted after August 1, 2026, will be subject to a \$25 late fee.
  - d. The guest banquet fee is \$49 per individual person.



- e. Online payments may be subject to a transaction fee, per the third-party merchant service used.
6. Entries shall be limited to a maximum of 160 paid bowlers. Once this maximum has been reached, entrants may choose to be placed on a wait list to fill openings created should other registrants drop out of the tournament. Entrants' acceptance will be based on the order in which their payments are received. Once an entry fee has been accepted, no refunds will be issued, except as stated in Rule 20.
7. Partial team entries will be accepted, and the tournament director(s) will make every effort to fill vacancies.
8. Any entries submitted after the deadline date will be accepted at the discretion of the tournament director(s).
9. **The entry fee for ORBIT 2026 is \$129.00.** Discounts will not be applied if registrants choose not to, or are not able to, participate in any tournament activities.

Fees collected shall be budgeted/allocated accordingly:

Fee Description	Amount
Prize Fund	\$ 35.00
Lineage	36.00
Banquet	46.50
Awards/Administrative/Misc.	11.50
Grand Total	\$ 129.00

### Entering Averages

10. Any bowler entering the tournament must use a ten-pin average acceptable to USBC. The following rules shall be used to determine the effective tournament average for ORBIT 2026:
  - A. Bowlers with a 21 game IGBO Tournament (TAD) average for tournaments from August 2025 (including ORBIT 2025) through June 30, 2026 will be used.
  - B. If A) is not available, the 2025-2026 USBC composite average will be used. If bowlers' USBC composite average is 10 or more pins higher than the TAD average, the USBC composite average will be used.
  - C. If not A) or B), the highest 2026 Summer League average of at least 21 games as of August 1, 2026 will be used.
  - D. If not A), B), or C), the bowler will be assigned a scratch average of 230 or highest entering average if higher than 230.

Bowlers in non-USBC leagues will be required to provide FINAL standing sheets for each league and a composite average will be calculated by the ORBIT Committee. If the composite is 10 pins or higher than the TAD average, the composite will be used as the entering average.



The above averages will be verified:

- i. By the ORBIT committee using the IGB0 Tournament Average Database ([tad.igbo.org](http://tad.igbo.org)) and USBC ([www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com)) websites.
  - ii. If using a league average that has not yet been reported to USBC, a copy of the league standing sheet showing at least a 21-game average as of August 1, 2026 must be provided.
  - iii. Non-certified bowlers shall use a minimum average of 230, or highest entering average if higher than 230, and must submit all league averages and tournament scores (12 months immediately preceding the entry cut-off date) for possible average adjustment.
11. The per-game handicap for the tournament shall be based at 90% of the difference between the bowler's entering average (as determined in Rule 10 and 13) and the scratch score of 230, or 90% of the highest entering average, whichever is higher. All calculations will be rounded down to the next whole integer. Negative handicaps shall not apply.
  12. Any bowler who has qualified for monetary awards totaling \$1,000 (USD) or greater for all tournaments, \$500 or more in any one tournament, or \$300 or more in any event during the previous twelve (12) month period from the start date of the ORBIT 2026 Tournament is required to report the name of the tournament, prize amount, scores bowled and prize position (USBC Rule 319d). Failure to comply will result in the automatic and immediate disqualification of the bowler. The disqualified bowler will receive a score of zero (0). No refunds will be issued for disqualified bowlers.
  13. USBC rules regarding the BOWLER'S responsibility to verify the accuracy of his/her entering average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain, or any other individual, applies to all bowlers. Failure to use proper average shall disqualify scores if the submitted average is lower than the actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or greater handicap.
  14. Event placement and/or prize winnings shall be based on the higher average should the submitted average prize be higher than the bowler's actual average.

#### **Average Adjustment**

15. The tournament management has the authority to adjust the entering average of any bowler. Average adjustments will be applied as set forth under USBC rules. All average adjustments will be completed prior to the start of the tournament. A bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to a refund of their entry.
16. It is the bowler's responsibility to report ALL tournament scores that are relevant in calculating their current tournament average. Failure to report this information may result in AUTOMATIC disqualification and loss of all prize winnings—subject to Tournament Management discretion.

#### **Attendance and Substitutes**

17. Tournament registration and check-in must be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of a bowler's first event.
18. It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present on the assigned lanes at the time of bowling. Each bowler shall have the total responsibility to arrive in time to bowl. Mechanical failures, transportation irregularities, improper directions and related reasons DO NOT alter the



application of ORBIT and USBC rules. Changes made to the schedule regarding tournament offered transportation and catastrophic events will be subject to Tournament Management discretion.

19. If a team member is not present for the doubles or team event, the team may use an authorized substitute (Rule 20). If no substitute is available, a zero score will be used for the missing bowler(s).
20. Substitutes may bowl at the discretion of the tournament director(s). A substitute is a bowler selected and approved by the committee to fill in for a registered bowler the weekend of the tournament. Their entering average must comply with Rule 10. Substitutes must complete an entry form. Substitutes who pay the prize fund part of the entry fee prior to their first ball thrown for score are eligible for cash prizes and trophies. Non-paying substitutes' normal entry rules shall apply. Any fee adjustments or refunds are at the discretion of the tournament director(s).
21. Bowlers will be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice at the beginning of each event.

### **Optional Scratch Event**

22. The Optional Scratch Event shall be offered to participants for a fee. Scratch scores from the handicap portion of the tournament shall be used to determine winners. The optional scratch shall be divided into three separate categories within each division: Highest Single Scratch Game (from any of the events); Highest Scratch Series (from any of the events, three games required); and Highest Scratch All-Events (from the nine-game total of all three events).
23. The Optional Scratch Event Divisions are as follows:

<b>Division E:</b>	<b>Averages 0 – 144</b>
<b>Division D:</b>	<b>Averages 145 – 165</b>
<b>Division C:</b>	<b>Averages 166 – 185</b>
<b>Division B:</b>	<b>Averages 186 – 205</b>
<b>Division A:</b>	<b>Averages 206+</b>

### **Age Division Events**

24. The Senior Division Event shall be offered to participants 55 years or older for an additional fee. Scores for all events will be aggregated within the respective divisions to determine the winners.
25. The Youngblood Division Event shall be offered to participants 35 years or younger for an additional fee. Scores for all events will be aggregated within the respective divisions to determine the winners.

### **Awards and Prizes**

26. All cash awards shall be based on the Total Pins PLUS assigned handicap for each event (except for the Optional Scratch Divisions). Payout ratio will be at least 1:10 for Singles, Doubles, Team and All Events.
27. Awards will be given for Singles, Doubles, Team, and Individual All Events. Individual All Events is defined as the nine-game total plus 9 game handicaps of an individual bowler.
28. The award ratio for the Optional Scratch Divisions will be at least 1:8 per division.



29. The award ratio for the Seniors Division and Youngblood Division will be at least 1:8.
30. Prizes will be distributed via a check or digital bank transfer payable in US currency within thirty days of the completion of the tournament, barring any protest. A tie in any position will result in the sum of the prizes being aggregated for the tied positions and divided equally by the number of ties for that place.
31. 100% of the entry fee from each division in the Optional Scratch and age-based Divisions shall be returned to that division.

### **Scoring Errors**

32. After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed unless there has been an obvious error in scoring or calculation has occurred. Obvious errors must be corrected by a tournament official immediately upon discovery. Questionable errors must be reported to a tournament official within two hours of the error and will be decided by tournament management. (USBC Rule 328).

### **Two-Handed Bowling**

33. In accordance with USBC rule 108b, two-handed bowlers are required to use the same dominant hand during their delivery on both their first and second shots (this refers to the hand in which the bowling ball rests). All drilled holes must be used in every delivery. If the ball has a thumb hole drilled, it must be used in every delivery. If no thumb hole is drilled, a mark such as a plus sign (+) must be engraved in the palm area to show proper orientation to grip the ball.

### **Cleaning Bowling Balls**

34. In accordance with USBC rule 18, while bowling in competition, a bowling ball cannot:
  - A. Have the surface altered using an abrasive.
  - B. Be cleaned with any liquid substance or cleaning agent.
  - C. Have any foreign material on it including, but not limited to, powder, rosin, marker or paint.

All bowling balls so altered or cleaned must be removed from the competition.

Bowling balls may be cleaned between competition events/sessions (i.e., between doubles and teams, and between teams and singles).

Note: Should a foreign substance appear on the outer surface of a bowling ball which cannot be removed with a dry towel, an approved cleaner may be used with consent from a tournament officer.

### **Protests**

35. Protests and appeals must be sent via email to [director@bowlorbitnc.org](mailto:director@bowlorbitnc.org), stating the grounds for the protest and/or appeal, and include the protesters name, telephone number, and email details.
  - D. All protests must be filed within 72 hours of the end of the tournament.
  - E. The decision of the tournament management shall be final unless a written appeal is filed with the local association or USBC Headquarters prior to tournament prizes being paid. Upon notification of a protest or appeal, tournament management must withhold all affected prizes until the protest or appeal is resolved.



### **Miscellaneous**

36. All other USBC rules will apply.
37. Any person attending and requiring special needs MUST notify the tournament management.
38. The team captain MUST sign the entry form acknowledging he/she has read the rules. In the case of online registration, the timestamp will be considered the team captain's acknowledgement.