

WOMEN'S INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2022 RULES

A. Sanctioning

1. The 2022 Women's Invitational Tournament (WIT) is a USBC certified tournament. WIT is a handicap competition open to those who identify as women and is by invitation only, entries can be denied. WIT is a member of International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO).
2. All participants must be a member of USBC

B. Event Participation

3. The tournament events shall be handicapped events and are as follows: Singles, Doubles and Team.
4. Each participant shall bowl three (3) games per event and must enter all three events. Teams will consist of four (4) members. Doubles partners must come from the same team.
5. Professional bowlers, defined as belonging to a professional bowling organization at any time in the prior 12 months, shall be permitted to bowl the tournament as follows: Not more than one professional bowler in a four-player lineup. Not more than one professional bowler in a two-player lineup. Professional bowlers MUST identify themselves to the Tournament Director(s). A bowler will be disqualified if she does not identify as a professional bowler to a tournament director prior to bowling.
6. Each participant may bowl only once in each event.

C. Awards and Prizes

7. All cash awards shall be based on the total pins plus assigned handicap for each event except for optional events as defined below.
8. Awards will be given in the Handicap Division for the best Singles, Doubles, and Team.
9. The award ratio for the handicap division shall be at minimum of 1:10.
10. 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 placement.
11. Prizes will be distributed via check payable in US currency within thirty (30) days of the completion of the tournament, barring any protests.

D. Entering Averages

12. Any bowler entering WIT must have an established ten-pin average acceptable to USBC. The following rules shall be used to determine the entering average:
 - a. The bowler's highest 2021-2022 single league average of 21 games or more shall be used.
If none:
 - b. The bowler's highest 2020-2021 single league average of 21 games or more shall be used.
If none:
 - c. The bowler's highest 2019-2020 single league average of 21 games or more shall be used.
If none:
 - d. If none of the above is available, an entering average of 225 will be used.
 - e. If the bowler has an IGBO TAD of 18 games or more for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 that is one or more pins higher than the above averages, then the Tournament may opt to use the 18-game IGBO TAD.
 - f. If a bowler has not participated in **ANY** league during the three-year period covered by the above rules and does not have an IGBO TAD average for the period addressed above and believes that the 225 tournament scratch score should not be applicable to them, they may submit verified scores from the Directors of all IGBO tournaments bowled over the period of March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 to the Tournament Director for consideration. This period must consist of a minimum of 18 games and the bowler must submit scores for **ALL**

IGBO tournaments bowled over this period. It is the responsibility of the bowler to gather and submit these scores to the Tournament Director prior to December 31, 2021 for consideration. In these circumstances, the final decision for the bowler's average will be at the Tournament Director's discretion.

- g.** Averages from sport bowling leagues will be accepted using the USBC sport bowling average conversion chart to determine entering average.
 - h.** The above averages must be verified with one of the following documents:
 - Bowl.com Average Verification will be acceptable if correct,
 - League Standing sheet or
 - Photocopy of the book average.
- 13.** The handicap for the tournament shall be based on 90% of the difference between the bowler's entering average and a scratch score of 225. Negative handicap will NOT be used for WIT 2020.

E. Re-rate Policy

- 14.** The Tournament Directors have the authority to adjust the entering average of any bowler or assign a provisional average pending verification. Average adjustments will be applied as set forth under USBC Tournament Rules. All average adjustments will be completed prior to any event. A bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to an event refund.
- 15.** A bowler is required to adjust their entering average if, during the 12-month period immediately preceding WIT, the cumulative average for all, but not less than, 21 tournament games in which the bowler has participated, exceeds the average used for entry by one (1) or more pins. It is the bowler's responsibility to submit this adjustment, in writing, before the end of the first frame of tournament play. Failure to accurately report these scores shall be cause for disqualification and forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings if discovered.
- 16.** WIT has waived USBC Rule 319(d) and does not require bowlers to report winnings from other tournaments.

F. Attendance and Substitutes

- 16.** It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present at the assigned lanes at the time of bowling.
- 17.** Complete Doubles and Team entrants must be present for bowling each event. If a Team member or Doubles partner is not present, an authorized substitute may be used. If no substitute is available, a zero score will be used for the missing bowler(s) unless the absence is due to illness or injury as specified in rule 22.
- 18.** Late bowlers will begin bowling in the frame in which they are ready, with prior frames being scored as zero. No practice balls will be allowed for late bowlers.
- 19.** Any substitutes must be registered and approved as substitutes with averages verified a minimum of 72 hours prior to the start of the tournament. No on-site substitute registrations are permitted. The entering average for all substitutes must comply with WIT Rules.
- 20.** There shall be ten (10) minutes of practice before each set.
- 21.** In the event a bowler cannot participate in the tournament or complete any single event due to illness or injury, an authorized substitute may be used in accordance with rule 19 above.
- a. Substitutes may not begin bowling after a registered bowler has started the competition.
 - b. If no substitute is available or if the injured/ill bowler has already started the competition, the injured/ill bowler may take their entering average minus ten (10) pins plus handicap as their score for any incomplete games in Doubles and Team events only. In the Singles event, an injured or ill bowler without a substitute shall take a score of zero (0).
 - c. Bowlers who have withdrawn due to illness or injury will not be permitted to re-enter the tournament.

G. Entry Requirements

22. The entry fee shall be \$115.00 for IGBO members and \$125 for non-IGBO members.
23. Entry must be completed online and the entry fee must be paid online via PayPal.
24. Registration will close at midnight on January 14, 2022.
25. Entries shall be limited to a maximum of 232 bowlers. Once this maximum has been reached, no further entries shall be accepted.
 - a. Additional squads may be added at the discretion of Tournament Management provided said squad(s) are added prior to the start of the first event.
26. **Entries are not considered accepted without all required information and payment in full for the tournament entry and if applicable, late charge. Registrations submitted without payment will be discarded and the bowler will be required to re-register at the time payment is submitted.**
27. Partial team entries will be accepted and tournament management will make every effort to fill vacancies.
 - a. Team spots are not guaranteed until all members of a team have registered **AND** paid. If the tournament sells out prior to a bowler's preferred teammates registering, each paid bowler will be assigned to an available team at the tournament director's discretion. Once an entry has been accepted, no refunds will be issued.
28. Bowlers who have "free entry" certificates must indicate such on their online entry and present said certificate **prior to** completing online payment.
 - a. "Free entry" certificates must be redeemed by January 14, 2022. Failure to register and redeem the certificate by this date renders the certificate void.
 - b. No refunds shall be issued for bowlers who have failed to present the "free entry" certificate prior to payment.

H. Entry Fee and Prize Distribution

29. Entry fee distribution shall be:

Lineage	\$36.00
Awards Ceremony	\$15.00
Expenses	\$14.00 (Includes trophies, IGBO fees)
Prize Fund	\$50.00
IGBO Affiliation	\$10.00
30. Prize fund distribution shall be as follows:

Team	50%
Doubles	30%
Singles	20%

I. Protests

31. Any claims of errors or disputes must be submitted in writing to a Tournament Director or their appointed representative within 72 hours of the disputed incident or prior to tournament prizes being paid, whichever occurs first. The protesting bowler(s) and the Tournament Director(s) shall settle the dispute according to WIT and USBC Tournament Rules.

J. General

32. Any person attending WIT that requires special needs **MUST** notify a Tournament Director in writing prior to the tournament weekend.
33. All bowlers will adhere to a one-lane courtesy.

K. Optional Events

34. WIT shall offer the following optional events:

- a. **Best 3 of 9** – Each entering player's highest 3 games plus handicap compared to other entering player's 3 highest games plus handicap
Entry: \$10.00
Payout 1:20
- b. **Optional All Events** – Each entering player's 9 game total handicap score compared to all other entering player's 9 game handicap score.
Entry: \$10.00
Payout: 1:20
- c. **Scratch Side-pots** – The highest scratch game(s) of each event's games will be paid out.
Entry: \$10.00
Payout: 1:25
- d. **Handicap Side-pots** – The highest handicap game(s) of each event's games will be paid out.
Entry: \$10.00
Payout: 1:25
- e. **Optional Scratch** – Will be based upon the highest 9 game scratch score of each entering player in each division. (Division breakdowns will be available on the date of check-in and registration)
Entry: \$10.00
Payout: 1:20
- f. **Regular Brackets** – per event
Entry: \$5.00 per bracket entry, one entry per bracket
Payout: \$25.00 for 1st place, \$10.00 for 2nd place per bracket
- g. **Mega Brackets** – run during singles and doubles competition, 6 games
Entry: \$5.00 per bracket entry, maximum of 4 entries per bracket
Payout: \$150.00 for 1st place, \$100.00 for 2nd place per bracket of 64 entries

35. The committee of WIT reserves the right to remove optional events or offer additional optional events at their discretion.