

**WOMEN'S INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
2024 RULES**

A. Sanctioning

1. The 2024 Women's Invitational Tournament (WIT) is a USBC certified tournament (USBC Certification # 06597). WIT is a handicap competition open to those who identify as women and is by invitation only; entries can be denied.
2. All participants must be a current member of USBC.
3. WIT is a member of International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO). Therefore, all participants must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Be a **rostered member** of an IGBO-member league (being a temporary substitute on an IGBO-member league does not meet this criteria); or,
 - b. Be a current **Direct Associate** (formerly an "associate member") of IGBO; or,
 - c. Be a **Lifetime Associate** of IGBO; or,
 - d. Pay a \$25.00 fee to become a "Direct Associate" of IGBO. This fee shall be due and payable at the time of registration. The period that the bowler will be a "Direct Associate" of IGBO shall be from January XX, 2024 through January XX, 2025.

B. Event Participation

4. The tournament events shall be handicapped events and are as follows: Singles, Doubles and Team.
5. 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.
6. 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 five-player lineup.
 - a. Professional bowlers MUST identify themselves to the Tournament Director(s) as such at the time of registration. A bowler will be disqualified if she does not identify as a professional bowler to a tournament director prior to bowling.
7. Each participant may bowl only once in each event.

C. Awards and Prizes

8. All cash awards shall be based on the total pins plus assigned handicap for each except for optional events as defined below.
9. Awards will be given in the Handicap Division for the best Singles, Doubles, and Team.
10. The award ratio for the handicap division shall be at minimum of 1:10.
11. 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.

- 12.** Prizes will be distributed via check or electronic payment (such as PayPal, Venmo, or echeck) payable in US currency within thirty (30) days of the completion of the tournament, barring any protests.

D. Entering Averages

- 13.** 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 2022-2023 single league average of 21 games or more shall be used unless a circumstance as described below would cause the usage of a different average.
 - i.** If the bowler has a current (2023 – 2024) single-league average that is ten (10) or more pins higher than the above average, it is the responsibility of the bowler to report this average to tournament management prior to bowling in which case said higher average shall be used. Failure to report this higher average shall be cause for disqualification and forfeiture of all prize winnings whether the average discrepancy is discovered before, during, or after competition.
 - b.** If the bowler has an IGBO TAD of 18 games or more for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 that is one or more pins higher than the above averages, then the Tournament may opt to use the 18-game IGBTAD.
 - c.** If none of the above are available, the bowler shall be assigned an entering average of 225.
- 14.** Averages from sport bowling leagues will be accepted using the USBC sport bowling average conversion chart to determine entering average.
- 15.** 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.

E. Re-rate Policy

- 16.** 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.
- 17.** 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.

18. WIT has waived USBC Rule 319(d) and does not require bowlers to report winnings from other tournaments.

F. Attendance and Substitutes

19. It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present at the assigned lanes at the time of bowling.
20. 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).
21. 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.
22. 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. Substitutes must meet all eligibility and average requirements enumerated herein.
23. Substitutes may not begin bowling in the middle of a game, substitutes may only enter at the beginning of a game.

G. Entry Requirements

24. The entry fee shall be \$120.00 prior to December 25, 2023. Entries received after December 25, 2023 shall subject to a mandatory late fee of \$15.00.
25. Entry must be completed online and the entry fee must be paid online via PayPal.
26. Registration will close at midnight on January 14, 2024.
27. Entries shall be limited to a maximum of 160 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.
28. **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.**
29. Partial team entries will be accepted and tournament management will make every effort to fill vacancies.
 - a. In the event that partial team entries are accepted, if tournament management is unable to fill the team, bowlers on the partial team shall receive a refund. Tournament management shall bear no responsibility for registered bowlers who are unable to attend or bowl due to illness, injury, or other reason and shall have no obligation to bowlers impacted by absences beyond making diligent efforts to try to find replacement bowlers.
30. 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.
31. Once an entry has been accepted, no refunds will be issued except as specified within rules #16 and #29a.
32. Bowlers who have "free entry" certificates must indicate such on their online entry and present said certificate **prior to** completing online payment.

33. "Free entry" certificates must be redeemed by December 25, 2023. Failure to register and redeem the certificate by this date renders the certificate void.
 - a. No refunds shall be issued for bowlers who have failed to present the "free entry" certificate prior to payment.

H. Distribution of Entry Fee and Prize Fund

34. Entry fee distribution shall be:
 - Lineage \$36.00
 - Awards Ceremony / Catering \$22.00
 - IGBO Fees \$2.00
 - Expenses \$10.00 (Includes trophies)
 - Prize Fund \$50.00
35. Prize fund distribution shall be as follows:
 - Team 50%
 - Doubles 30%
 - Singles 20%

I. Protests

36. 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.
37. In all circumstances, bowlers should report rule violations or other protests to Tournament Director immediately upon occurrence.

J. General

38. There shall be ten (10) minutes of practice before each set.
39. Any person attending WIT that requires special assistance MUST notify a Tournament Director in writing prior to the tournament weekend.
40. All bowlers will adhere to a one-lane courtesy.

K. Optional Events

WIT shall offer the following optional events:

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 1:25

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: 1:25

Scratch Side-pots – The highest scratch game(s) of each event's games will be paid out.

Entry: \$10.00

Payout: 1:25

Handicap Side-pots – The highest handicap game(s) of each event's games will be paid out.

Entry: \$10.00

Payout: 1:25

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

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

Grand Mystery Doubles – Run during each event

Entry: \$35.00

\$5.00 of each entry shall be a fundraiser for WIT

\$10.00 of each entry shall be applied to each event (Singles, Doubles, Team) and each event shall pay out the top three handicap places, regardless of the number of entries.

Each entrant shall be randomly paired with another entrant for each event. Entries shall be shuffled after each event and entrants may have the same or different partners for each event.

The committee of WIT reserves the right to add or remove events at its discretion.