

# Michiana Bowlers Association

## 2024 - 2025 Season

- I. Association By-Laws
- II. Tournament Rules & Regulations
- III. Tournament Format
- IV. Masters Rules & Regulations
- V. Masters Tournament Format
- VI. Award Qualifications

### **Tournament Staff:**

Jim Artley, Director  
Jeff Cichos, Operations Director  
Tammy Cichos, Administrative Director  
Jasmine Collins, Logistics Director  
Robert Corvin, Director  
Greg Spinner, Executive Director

### **Tournament By-Laws Consultant:**

Neil Vitale

# I. Michiana Bowlers Association By-Laws

1. Membership fee shall be \$35 per year for new members. New members may bowl their first event without paying the membership fee, if they cash the fee will be deducted from their check. If they do not cash, membership fees must be paid prior to their 2<sup>nd</sup> event. Previous members shall pay a \$25 renewal fee. All renewal membership fees must be paid prior to the member's first tournament of the season. Members (new or returning) who bowl their first event after the February tournament will have paid membership through the following season.
2. All membership fees are nonrefundable. Exceptions may only be made under extreme circumstances and must be approved by the board of directors.
3. Certified league averages will be verified on the USBC's website [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com) and will be converted to a "Challenge Average" utilizing the USBC's Challenge Conversion Chart for classification. A true composite average will be calculated using all league averages (21 game minimum) for the previous two seasons. The true composite average will place the bowler in one of eight average classes.
4. New members will stay in his/her class based on the composite of their challenge adjusted certified averages submitted with their application for their first tournament. Existing members will remain in their respective classes for their first two tournaments. All members with 3 or more tournaments bowled will be re-evaluated at the after the end of the current season either upward, downward, or remaining the same based on their two-year MBA Composite Average. All bowlers that did not participate in at least three tournaments will be classified by their previous league averages as in accordance with Section 3. All appeals must be made in writing to the board of directors before their first tournament.
5. **Rerates** - New members will be subject to upwards reclassification after their first tournament. Existing members will be subject to upwards reclassification after their first two tournaments. **After meeting the preceding requirement, any member whose season adjusted average (true bowling average plus 1 pin for each \$300 won (money pins)) exceeds the bottom of the next higher class plus three pins will be rerated to that higher class. If their season adjusted average exceeds the bottom plus 3 of the next two (2) higher classes, they may be re-rated 2 classes, subject to a meeting by the board of directors.**
  - a. The above ruling on re-rating does not apply if you have not **cash**ed any tournament, **since your last re-rate** during the current season.
  - b. If you have bowled three (3) tournaments, **since your last re-rate during the current season**, have not cashed, and your **season** adjusted average is **below the bottom of the next lower class**, you **will be re-rated down one class**
  - c. If you have bowled minimum of three (3) tournaments, **since your last re-rate during the current season**, have not cashed, you can request consideration for a re-rate down one class. This would need to be approved by the board. If granted, the bowler would be eligible for re-rate back up after one (1) event if their average warrants. This will be allowed once per season. The intent of this rule is to give a bowler some relief if they have not come close to cashing and aren't close to earning the automatic re-rate down.
6. The Executive Director will review all membership applications. If time permits, the applicant will be informed in which class they have been placed in or if they have been denied.
7. The board of directors will consist of Executive Director, Administrative Director, Operations Director, Logistics Director and a minimum of **two (2)** other directors.
8. The officers shall consist of the Executive Director, Administrative Director, Operations Director, and Logistics Director and shall be elected by the board of directors.
9. There will be nine (9) tournaments each season. The first tournament will be held in September 2024, with the championship tournament held in May, 2025 (tournament dates may be extended if necessary). Qualifying rounds of each tournament shall be 6 games. The championship tournament will be an 8-game qualifier followed by head-to-head match play finals. The Masters tournament, which will be held in January of each season, will have its own format, rules, and regulations.

10. To be automatically eligible for the championship tournament at the end of the season, a member must pay for 4 tournaments. If a bowler has bowled 2 or 3 tournaments, they may enter the championship by paying a \$100 or \$50 surcharge respectively per tournament. If a tournament is cancelled during the year, the required number of tournaments will be reduced by the number of tournaments cancelled. If a bowler has bowled in every event, they will receive a \$20 discount on their entry to the Championship Tournament.
11. All tournaments will be certified by the USBC as a Challenge Format (Oil ratio between 1:4 and 1:8).
12. All members must be a member of the USBC in good standing and must show proof of membership upon request.
13. The tournament entry fees will be \$70. The approximate entry fee allocation is as follows (Based on 50 entries):

Lane Fees (approximate)	\$19.00
Tournament Expenses	5.00
Prize Fund	51.00
<b>Total Entry</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>

Bowlers may only enter once.

14. As a supplement to the tournament prize fund, the MBA also offers side events such as Jackpots for High Game, Series and Brackets. Youth Bowlers may only enter the High Game/Series Jackpots and are not eligible for Brackets (since a portion of the Bracket proceeds are put into the prize fund). All entries to side events must be paid in cash and all prizes will be paid out in cash (with the exception of youth) immediately after the completion of the qualifying squad. Bowlers that do not stay to pick up their winnings or make arrangements with another bowler to pick up their winnings will be paid by check. There will be a \$5 charge should this be the case. No check will be issued for an amount less than \$10. If the balance owed the bowler goes below \$10, the bowler will forfeit his/her winnings.
15. All bowlers will compete together in the qualifying round with the top twelve (12) bowlers advancing to head-to-head match play finals to determine the champion. The prize fund will be distributed to the top 33% of the playing field. Bowlers finishing in the top 33% but not in the top 12 will receive their prize money based on their finish in the qualifying round. If the tournament field is 34 bowlers or less, then only the bowlers who finish in the top 33% (rounded) will cash and advance into the head-to-head match play tournament finals. All members will use the zero point of their own class during the qualifying portion of the competition.
16. Duties of the Executive Director
  - a. Shall be responsible for overall tournament operations.
  - b. Shall acquire tournament sites
  - c. Shall appoint all committees
  - d. Shall notify all officers and directors of meetings to be held.
  - e. Shall draft and prepare the tournament schedule.
  - f. Shall have charge of and conduct all correspondence of the association including press and media coverage for tournament results.
  - g. Shall file for certification of all tournaments with the USBC prior to the first tournament.
  - h. Shall be responsible for the preparation of all materials necessary to conduct each tournament and shall be authorized to purchase any supplies or items as required for tournament purposes.
  - i. Shall acknowledge and file bona fide entries to each tournament in the order of their receipt.
  - j. Shall determine starting lane assignments for each bowler
  - k. Shall have a recap sheet for each bowler with their lane assignment ready when check-in begins.
  - l. Shall receive, collect, bank, and be responsible for all membership fees and tournament entry fees.
  - m. Shall be responsible for auditing score sheets and compiling true records of position standings.
  - n. Shall assign starting lanes to any walk-in entrants.
  - o. Shall change starting lane assignments in the event of cancellations in order to keep each pair of lanes with a similar number of entries.
  - p. Shall have the power to fine members for conduct derogatory to the best interest of the MBA.
  - q. Shall keep a true record of all scores bowled in all tournaments held by the association for a minimum of two (2) years
  - r. Shall post a prize list and certification at each tournament.
  - s. Shall file a copy of the prize list and financial statement of each tournament with the USBC.

- t. Shall update the MBA Website with Tournament Results, Newsletters, Bowler of the Year Point List, and upcoming tournaments.
- u. Shall receive and pay all bills on behalf of the association and shall forward a monthly report of all bills paid and pending to the President.
- v. Shall countersign all checks.
- w. Shall provide by the end of January following the end of the calendar year, a 1099-MISC tax form to all members who have won more than \$600 during the previous calendar year.
- x. Shall prepare, publish, and provide to all members of the MBA a yearly financial statement.
- y. Shall solicit tournament/advertising sponsors.
- z. Shall receive as compensation in full for services to the association fully paid membership fees, tournament entry fees, and expenses for traveling as may be deemed necessary on official tournament business. In addition, the secretary shall receive a salary of \$6.00 per member, not to exceed \$800.00.

17. Duties of the Administrative Director:

- a. Shall check-in and receive payments at the tournament site.
- b. Shall process cancellations and walk-in entries.
- c. Shall review lane assignments with walk-ins and cancellations to ensure the numbers of bowlers per pair is balanced.
- d. Shall balance tournament entry fees with number of entries and miscellaneous cash received.
- e. Shall assist with the updating of the prize list.
- f. Shall process all prize checks in QuickBooks
- g. Shall be responsible for auditing score sheets and compiling true records of position standings.
- h. Shall review bank reconciliations received from Executive Director to ensure proper handling of cash.
- i. Shall have the power to fine members for conduct derogatory to the best interest of the MBA.
- j. Shall assist with the recruitment of tournament/advertising sponsors.
- k. Shall meet at the call of the Executive Director and be entitled to one (1) vote on any issues requiring a vote.
- l. Shall receive as compensation in full for service to the association, fully paid membership fees, \$50 discount towards each tournament bowled, plus expenses for traveling as may be deemed necessary on official association business.

18. Duties of the Operations Director

- a. Shall coordinate the posting of all championship banners at tournament site
- b. Shall staff/recruit directors or volunteers to handle ball & 50/50 raffle.
- c. Shall coordinate with house to ensure that all lanes are operational and if any lanes are not to be used day of tournament.
- d. Shall be assist in auditing score sheets.
- e. Shall have the power to fine members for conduct derogatory to the best interest of the MBA.
- f. Shall countersign prize and expense checks.
- g. Shall take charge of the match play finals portion of the tournament as follows:
  - Meet with all finalists explaining the match-play procedure
  - Calculation of all handicap for all matches
  - Solicit directors/volunteers to assist with getting scorers loaded and matches started on a timely basis
  - Introduce finalists and announce results of all matches
  - Shall photograph champion and runner-up for posting on website.
- h. Shall assist with the recruitment of tournament/advertising sponsors.
- i. Shall meet at the call of the Executive Director and be entitled to one (1) vote on any issues requiring a vote.
- j. Shall receive as compensation in full for service to the association, fully paid membership fees, \$50 discount towards each tournament bowled, plus expenses for traveling as may be deemed necessary on official association business.

19. Duties of the Logistics Director

- a. Shall transport all advertising signage to tournament site in advance of the upcoming tournament.
- b. Shall ensure that the tournament banners & tournament supplies are at the tournament site at least 90 minutes prior to the start of competition.

- c. Shall be responsible for securing or coordinating with the tournament sponsor all trophies and awards to be presented to the champion at each tournament.
- d. Shall be responsible for the creation of banners for any new tournament champions.
- e. Shall be responsible for the creation of any new signage for new sponsors/advertisers.
- f. Shall be responsible for the procurement of tournament trophies/plaque for the tournament champion.
- g. Shall assist with the posting of all championship banners at tournament site.
- h. Shall assist in auditing score sheets for accuracy and signatures.
- i. Shall have the power to fine members for conduct derogatory to the best interest of the MBA.
- j. Shall countersign prize and expense checks.
- k. Shall assist Operations Director in the smooth operation of the Match Play portion of the tournament.
- l. Shall receive as compensation in full for service to the association, fully paid membership fees, \$50 discount towards each tournament bowled, plus mileage expenses paid at the current IRS rate per mile for any additional trips to/from bowling centers in advance and after the tournament date.

20. Duties of MBA Directors:

- a. Shall carry out the purposes and objectives of the association by transacting business and enforcing the rules and regulations of the association.
- b. Shall meet at the call of the Executive Director.
- c. Shall render final decisions in all protest and disputes arising in the jurisdiction of the association.
- d. Shall have the power to re-rate any member of the association when there is evidence that their certified average submitted or tournament average does not represent the true ability of the bowler.
- e. Shall receive and collect tournament entries paid by check or money order and notify Secretary/Treasurer of such entries for scheduling purposes.
- f. Shall have the power to improve, add, or revise any tournament rule or regulation.
- g. Shall have the power to fine members for conduct derogatory to the best interest of the MBA.
- h. Shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- i. Shall receive as compensation in full for their service to the association, fully-paid membership fees and a \$25 credit toward tournament entry fees for each tournament entered.
- j. Directors shall assist the officers in the smooth running of each tournament. They must be present 90 minutes prior to the start of competition for a regular tournament. They must be present 60 minutes in advance for the Masters. They must remain on site until the completion of competition. During this time, they will be responsible for the following:
  - Display pennants of past champions before the start of competition.
  - Display of the tournament sponsor's sign and the MBA logo sign at each tournament.
  - Selling raffle tickets.
  - Assisting with tournament tear-down upon completion of the tournament.
  - Assisting officers in any other duties required for the smooth operation of each tournament.

## II. Michiana Bowlers Association Rules & Regulations

- The following methods of entry available are as follows:
  - Mailing entry to MBA, 1505 Marigold Way #311, South Bend, IN 46617
  - Via the internet: mba300.com or e-mail (Entries may be paid via PayPal, with a service charge of \$2.50 per entry)
  - You may also give your check or money order to an officer or director. Officers consist of the Executive Director, Administrative Director, Operations Director, or Logistics Director. **CASH may only be given to officers!**
  - On-site entries may be subject to a \$10 late entry fee. Late fees along with entry fee must be paid before bowling or entrant may be disqualified.
- New members are not allowed to bowl in a tournament until their entering certified averages have been verified on [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com). If necessary, current season averages must be verified by submitting copies of league standing sheets that show the bowler's current average. **The membership application should be received at least 7 days prior to the applicant's first tournament.** Any falsification of application will result in disqualification, suspension, and forfeiture of all prize money and membership fees. Members must be minimum of 18 years of age or at least a HS freshman (9<sup>th</sup> grade), bowling in a USBC youth program. All youth bowlers will be paid in SMART funds. Those under 18, if not in a youth program, must have graduated from high school and they must be a member of a USBC adult league. No parental consent forms other than for SMART funds will be accepted.
- Each tournament will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Entries are not considered valid unless one of the above methods is used. **E-Mailed or VERBAL ENTRIES that result in a "no-show" will result in a \$20 fine and suspension from bowling until the fine is paid. Only prepaid entries will be accepted for the remainder of the season.** If you have an emergency and are not able to participate, please call the center (phone numbers are listed on schedule) so that your spot can be filled by another member. Habitual cancellation of verbal entries may result in requirement of a \$20 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT. Prepaid entries will have their remaining \$45 rolled into the next event.
- Any checks returned by the bank, for any other reason other than a bank error, will be subject to a \$25.00 charge.** All checks returned will be immediately redeposited. If they are returned a second time, an additional \$25 charge will be assessed, and suspension proceedings will be initiated with the USBC if the returned item is not immediately paid. Any member whose check is returned twice will only be able to pay for tournament entries via certified check, money order or cash. If the check is returned after the tournament, then the item must be paid prior to the next tournament.
- Any check written to the MBA must include the entry fee and may not exceed the entry fee(s) (and membership fee(s) if applicable) by more than \$50.
- All members must be neat, appropriate and clean in appearance. A shirt with a butterfly collar or a mock turtleneck must be worn during competition. Mock turtlenecks must have a "sport" logo and must be tucked in. **Members may not wear jeans (denim) of any type, cargo pants, stretch pants, athletic apparel or head wear.** Only dress, sports slacks, skirts or skorts (shorts with a skirt front) are permitted. Shorts will be permitted only during September, October, April, and May. The same rules for slacks will apply to shorts, no denim, cargo, cut-offs, stretch/bicycle style, only "golf" or dress style shorts and must have a length to the knee or just above. If shorts are worn the shirt MUST have a collar, mock-collared shirts may not be worn with shorts. Shorts will not be permitted from November through March.  
  
Failure to comply will result in fine up to \$25 (an additional \$5 fine for **each** successive offense) and/or **not being allowed to bowl**. New members may be given a "grace" for their first tournament only.
- Electronics: Wired Earplugs/headphones for iPods, mp3 players or cell phones may not be worn on the approaches while bowling (only Bluetooth; single earbud).** In addition, please limit cell phone use to the time in between games.
- Withdrawals from a tournament must be made to an officer/director no later than the start of the first qualifying round without penalty. Withdrawn entry fees will be rolled to the next tournament. Any unused entries will be refunded at the end of the season. Withdrawals received after the start of the first qualifying round will forfeit entry fees. This includes verbal and e-mailed entries.

9. Withdrawals during the tournament will not be permitted unless an extreme emergency should occur. The tournament manager must be notified immediately. Failure to notify the tournament manager or failure to report for all scheduled games will result in a fine and/or suspension to be determined by the board of directors.
10. Each member must check-in **at least forty-five (45) minutes** prior to the start of each shift if paying the day of the tournament. Members that have prepaid their entry may still check-in 30 minutes prior to the start of their shift. First offense will receive a warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will receive a \$10 fine, and each successive offense will increase by an additional \$5. Entries and tournament check-in close 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the tournament (unless contact has been made by the entrant to a tournament official).
11. If a member is late (walk-ins included), he/she will start in the frame his/her squad is in, provided a spot is available, with all previous frames being zero.
12. Any member who uses a bowling ball which does not meet USBC requirements and specifications shall automatically be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit all prize money. Members in violation may be subject to suspension from the MBA, and possibly the USBC. The board of directors has the discretion to check any equipment at any time it is deemed necessary; entrants may be required to have weight, balance, or surface hardness checked prior to bowling.
13. The tournament manager may authorize the completion of games on another pair of certified lanes when equipment failure would delay the normal progress of the tournament. An interrupted game which cannot be completed on the same date must be resumed from the point of interruption. Practice may be given at the discretion of an MBA officer.
14. The prize ratio is one (1) out of three (3) entrants. All prize fees collected are returned 100%.
15. No one will be permitted on the bowlers' benches (except bowlers competing at the time and officials).
16. Another **bowler** on your pair of lanes must record your scores and affix their initials to each game on your recap sheet. **Each bowler must add their total pins and calculate plus/minus score immediately after each game so that Unofficial Tournament Standings can be prepared and distributed during the qualifying round.** Unofficial results will be tabulated and distributed after the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> games of qualifying and the 6<sup>th</sup> game for the Championship Tournament. **SPECTATORS are NOT permitted to enter or add scores! Each member must verify the accuracy of their own sheet before it is returned to the tournament office.** Each member will be responsible for their own score addition including the plus/minus and signing of their own sheet. Scores and score sheets are considered FINAL when the sheet is submitted to the tournament office. **All shaded parts of the recap sheet must be completed or the member may be subject to a \$5 fine.** After the score sheet has been turned into the office, bowlers may NOT make any changes to their sheets. Any recap sheet that is submitted to the tournament office incomplete will receive zero pins for each missing game. Failure to sign your recap sheet once it has been submitted to the tournament office will result in the member being fined \$5.
17. All recap sheets will be audited for accuracy at the end of each qualifying block. **Any errors that are score related will result in the member being fined \$5.**
18. All scoring corrections on automatic scorers must be witnessed by another member or tournament official. If no one is available to do a score correction, please contact the counter personnel for assistance.
19. In the event of tie scores for the final qualifying spot or that will determine a "bye" placement in the head-to-head match play finals, after the preliminary competition a one game roll-off will be held. The roll-off winner will be the bowler who is higher above their class zero point.
20. The Executive Director or Administrative Director has the right to revise the prize list.
21. Be ready to bowl when it is your turn to avoid unnecessary delays. During qualifying one lane courtesy will be used, two lane courtesy will be used during the match play finals.
22. **No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed during the time you are bowling. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of entry fee. This also applies to being under the influence of any drug that is not legal to consume in a public place or private business (even though it may be legal in that state).**

23. No food or drinks are permitted in the area of the scorer's table. There are no scheduled breaks for smoking outside. Any bowler who wishes to smoke outside must do so without interrupting the flow of the competition. Bowlers not present when it is their turn to bowl will receive zero pins for frames missed. **Smoking by any youth participant will be grounds for immediate disqualification from the tournament per USBC rules. The use of smokeless tobacco will not be permitted by the bowler during competition.**
24. Any protest affecting eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to the board of directors before the tournament prize payments are made. Members have the right to appeal any decision to the USBC in accordance to their rule #329.
25. Complaints, at any time, may **NOT** be made by a member to the bowling proprietor or their employees. Complaints must be made in letter form to the board of directors. Violation of this rule is subject to a \$5 fine.
26. The Operations Director and/or Executive Director have the right to suspend a member on the spot for any infraction of the rules and regulations of the tournament. The length of time for suspension and/or fine will be determined by the board of directors.
27. USBC playing rules and regulations will apply regarding pin fall and fouls to all games bowled and will be enforced.
28. All members have the right to appeal any decision made by any officer of the association, provided it is in writing to the board of directors within one (1) week after the decision has been made. This applies to internal affairs within our association and not to actual tournament operations.
29. New bowler's average classes will be based on a composite of certified averages for the current season (2022-2023) and previous 2 seasons. The calculation uses all USBC certified leagues with a minimum of twenty-one (21) games. Current season averages must be verified by submitting a copy of a league standing sheet showing the bowler's current average. Summer League and Sport League averages will be accepted per USBC rules. All averages will be converted to Challenge Averages using the USBC Challenge Conversion Chart. Any member who does not have a twenty-one (21) game average shall be placed in a class no lower than E.
30. Any unsportsmanlike conduct, i.e., abuse of fixtures, obscene gestures or excessive language is subject to a \$5 fine per occurrence will **not** be tolerated. Any continued abuse should be brought to the attention of a board member for further action up to and including tournament disqualification.
31. Any conduct which may be deemed detrimental to the image of the Michiana Bowlers Association **will NOT be tolerated** while the tournament is in operation. Violation of this rule is subject to a fine and/or suspension of the member pending the decision of the Board.
32. Finalists (Top 5) who do not stay for the check presentation will be subject to a \$25 fine.
33. USBC Rule 319d does not apply.
34. USBC Rule 319e is waived.

The rule regarding the reporting of incorrect averages USBC Rule 319a-3 states "Bowlers are responsible for verifying their own average, whether submitted by the bowler, team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average."
35. All side pots including brackets must be approved by the board of directors.



### III. Michiana Bowlers Association Tournament Format

1. The Michiana Bowlers Association will be divided into eight (8) classes:

Class	Zero Point	House Average	Challenge Average
A	200	225 & Over	211 & Over
B	195	218 – 224	204 – 210
C	190	211 – 217	197 – 203
D	185	204 – 210	190 – 196
E	180	197 – 203	183 – 189
F	175	190 – 196	176 – 182
G	170	184 – 189	170 – 175
H	165	183 & Under	169 & Under

2. A plus/minus scoring system will be used to determine a bowler's position.
3. **Bowlers will qualify with one 6-game block. The 8 classes will compete in the Qualifying round with all bowlers competing against each other while using their own zero point to calculate their plus/minus.**
4. At the completion of the qualifying round, the top **one third** of the tournament field (rounded) will cash. The top 12 finishers (or 33% of the field should there be 34 or less bowlers entered) will advance to the head-to-head match play finals.
5. In case of ties for the finals where a tie breaker has an effect on a bowler making the finals or the number of games he must bowl, a 1 game roll-off must be bowled prior to the finals to determine qualifying positions. The class zero point will be used for scoring in all roll-off games. Should any ties still exist after the roll-off, there will be 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. (PBA Rule 18.2.9)

For ties that do not affect the number of games bowled the following system will be used to break the tie: the bowler with the higher plus/minus after the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last qualifying game will get the higher seeded position. If there is still a tie then the plus/minus after the 3<sup>rd</sup> to last game will be used, and so on.

6. If the bowlers were tied for every qualifying plus/minus score, then the tie will be broken via a coin flip.
7. In the finals, bowlers will bowl in a modified seeded bracket. All finalists' average will be determined by the 6 (or 8 in the case of the championship tournament) game average bowled in that tournament. **Bowlers with the lower average will receive a handicap of 90% of the average difference in that match. The maximum average to be used will be (the lower bound of the A class or 211) or the average for all A class bowlers during the qualifying round, whichever is higher.** In case of a tie there will be 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. (PBA Rule 18.2.9) The highest possible score will be 300, with or without handicap.

- Opening Round: Qualifiers 5-12 will participate. Qualifiers 1-4 will get a bye. Matches will be assigned as follows: 5-12, 6-11, 7-10, 8-9. Winners move on to the Round of 6.

**If there were 34 or fewer bowlers entered in the tournament, only 33% of the bowlers (rounded) will make the finals and the “Opening Round” will adjusted to accommodate the qualifying number of bowlers.**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Round:

Match 1: #3 Seed vs winner of 8-9 match  
 Match 2: winner of 5-12 vs winner of 6-11  
 Match 3: #4 Seed vs winner of 7-10 match

- Quarterfinal Matches:  
Match 4: Winner of Match 1 vs Winner of Match 3  
Match 5: Winner of Match 2 vs #2 Seed
- Semi-final Match:  
Match 6: Winner of Match 4 vs Winner of Match 5
- Final Match:  
Match 6 winner vs #1 Seed

Once bowlers are seeded into the bracket no re-seeding will be done. "Upsets" will advance as in a standard bracket.

- Opening round matches will use lanes 1-2, 7-8, 15-16, 21-22
- Round of 6 Matches will use lanes 3-4, 9-10, 17-18
- Quarterfinal Matches will use lanes 5-6 and 19-20
- Semi-final matches will use lanes 11-12
- Final match will use 13-14
- These lane assignments may be adjusted by adding the same offset to each lane assignment or if the center requires an alteration
- No pair will be used for more than one match, unless the center requires us to use fewer than 11 pairs. If that is the case, lanes will be assigned so that no bowler will compete on the same pair more than once. Higher seeded bowler gets choice of starting lane. All bowlers will get 2 practice balls on each lane before each match except for round 1 matches where bowlers will get 5 minutes of practice.

8. New members' averages from the current season (within 2 weeks of the date the application is submitted) and last two seasons must be submitted to the board of directors to determine which class the applicant will be placed in. All averages will be verified using the "Find a Bowler" link on [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com). All applications must be received at least seven days before the tournament date. Applications may be e-mailed in PDF format to [bowl@mba300.com](mailto:bowl@mba300.com), given to an officer or board member, or mailed to:

**Michiana Bowlers Association**  
**1505 Marigold Way #311**  
**South Bend, IN 46617**

Any existing member who did not bowl at least three tournaments the preceding season must have their league averages reviewed by the Executive Director on [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com). All new members must pay the \$35 membership fee by their second tournament. If a new member cashes during their first tournament, their membership fee will be deducted from their prize check if it has not been previously paid. Bowlers may re-activate their membership simply by paying the **renewal** fee of **\$25**.

9. New members from the junior bowling programs must submit previous season certified league averages for rating. New members with averages that cannot be verified in the USBC must begin no lower than the F class for their first tournament and are subject to re-rating after their first tournament by the board of directors. When previous years averages are used, and at the time of entry, the entrant must submit the current season certified league averages of 21 or more games. If the current season average is 10 or more pins above the previous year's averages the entrant will be rated accordingly.

# IV. Michiana Bowlers Association Masters Invitational Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. Tournament entry fee is \$75. Members may enter by any of the methods listed in the general rules.

Lane Fees (approximate)	\$24.00
Tournament Expenses	5.00
Prize Fund	51.00
<b>Total Entry</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>

2. If there is more than one squad, indicate squad preference when your entry is submitted. Squads will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Verbal entries will be accepted, subject to all rules in the By-Laws.
3. **Any checks returned by the bank, for any other reason other than a bank error, will be subject to a \$25.00 charge.** All checks returned will be immediately redeposited. If they are returned a second time, an additional \$25 charge will be assessed, and suspension proceedings will be initiated with USBC if the returned item is not immediately paid. Any member whose check is returned twice will only be able to pay for tournament entries via certified check, money order or cash.
4. All members must be neat, appropriate and clean in appearance. A shirt with a butterfly collar or a mock turtleneck must be worn during the competition. Mock turtlenecks must have a "sport" logo and must be tucked in. **Members may not wear jeans (denim) of any type, cargo pants, stretch pants, athletic apparel, shorts, or head wear.** Only dress sports slacks, skirts or skorts (shorts with a skirt front) are permitted. Failure to comply will result in a \$5 fine (an additional \$5 fine for **each** successive offense) and/or **not being allowed to bowl.**
5. **Electronics: Earplugs/headphones for iPods, mp3 players or cell phones may not be worn on the approaches while bowling (only Bluetooth).** In addition, please limit cell phone use to the time in between games.
6. Withdrawals from a tournament must be made prior to the start of bowling on Sunday. Notification thereafter, or failure to report the withdrawal, will result in the forfeiture of the entry fee.
7. Withdrawal during the tournament will not be permitted unless an **extreme** emergency should occur. The president or secretary/treasurer must be notified immediately. Failure to do so will result in a fine and/or suspension to be determined by the board of directors.
8. Starting lanes will be done by blind draw. Bowlers will draw for lanes in the order that they check-in. Lane draw will start at approximately 8:30.
9. If a member is late, he/she will start in the frame his/her squad is in, provided a spot is available, with all previous frames being zero. It is the tournament manager's decision if the tardy member should be placed on the next squad or be disqualified from the tournament.
10. Any member who uses a bowling ball which does not meet USBC requirements and specifications shall automatically be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit all prize money. The members may be subject to suspension from the MBA, and possibly the USBC. The board of directors has the discretion to check any equipment at any time it is deemed necessary; entrants may be required to have weight, balance, or surface hardness checked prior to bowling.
11. The Executive or Operations Director may authorize the completion of games on another pair of certified lanes when equipment failure would delay the normal progress of the tournament. An interrupted game which cannot be completed on the same date must be resumed from the point of interruption.
12. No one will be permitted on the bowlers' benches (except bowlers competing at the time and tournament officials).
13. Another **bowler** on your pair of lanes must record your scores and affix their initials to each game on your recap sheet. **Each bowler must add their total pins and calculate plus/minus score immediately after each game so that Unofficial Tournament Standings can be prepared and distributed during the qualifying round.** Unofficial results will be tabulated and distributed after the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> game of qualifying. **SPECTATORS are NOT permitted to**

**enter or add scores! Each member must verify the accuracy of their own sheet before it is returned to the tournament office.** Each member will be responsible for their own score addition including the plus/minus and signing of their own sheet. Scores and score sheets are considered FINAL when the sheet is turned in to the tournament office. **All shaded parts of the recap sheet must be completed or the member may be subject to a \$5 fine.** After the score sheet has been turned into the office, bowlers may NOT make any changes to their sheets. Any recap sheet that is submitted to the tournament office incomplete will receive zero pins for each missing game. Failure to sign your recap sheet once it has been submitted to the tournament office will result in the member being fined \$5.

14. All recap sheets will be audited for accuracy at the end of each qualifying block. Any errors that are score related will result in the member being fined \$5.
15. All scoring corrections on automatic scorers must be witnessed by another member or tournament official. If no one is available to do a score correction, please contact the counter personnel for assistance.
16. In the event of tie scores for the final qualifying spot during the preliminary competition, a one game roll-off will be held. The roll-off winner will be the bowler who is higher above their class zero point. All other ties will be decided per Rule III.6.
17. The Administrative Director or Executive Director has the right to revise the prize list.
18. Be ready to bowl when it is your turn to avoid unnecessary delays. Honor only one lane on your left and right.
19. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed during the time you are bowling. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of entry fee.
20. No food or drinks are permitted in the area of the scorer's table. Any bowler who wished to smoke outside must do so in between games and not interrupt the flow of play. Any bowler who is not up to bowl will receive zero pins for any frames missed. Youth bowlers are not allowed to smoke per USBC rules and are subject to immediate disqualification. The use of smokeless tobacco will not be permitted by the bowler during competition.
21. Any protest affecting eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to the board of directors before the tournament prize payments are made. Members have the right to appeal any decision to the USBC in accordance to their rule #329.
- 22. Complaints, at any time, may NOT be made by a member to the bowling proprietor or their employees. Complaints must be made in letter form to the board of directors. Violation is subject to a \$5 fine.**
23. The Operations or Executive Director has the right to suspend a member on the spot for any infraction of the rules and regulations of the tournament. The length of time for suspension and/or fine will be determined by the board of directors.
24. This tournament will be certified by the USBC as a Challenge Tournament (Oil Ratio between 1:4 and 1:8). USBC playing rules and regulations will apply to all games bowled.
25. All members have the right to appeal against any decision made by any officer of the Association, provided it is in writing to the board of directors within 1 week after the decision has been made. This applies to internal affairs within our Association and not to actual tournament operations.
26. The Executive or Administrative director will determine the prize list and post it on tournament site. All prize fees collected will be returned 100% to the members into the prize list. All MBA officers and directors performing their regular duties will receive the same monetary compensation as was received during regular tournaments.
27. Eligible bowlers that are not active members may participate in the Masters by submitting certified league averages for the past 2 (two) seasons and current season certified league averages based on 21+ games to the Board (Rule II.29 will be used). If they have participated in the Master's in the previous 2 (two) years, the Master's average (converted to Challenge) will also be used for classification purposes. Bowlers will be placed according to the higher class.

## V. Masters Invitational Tournament Format

1. This tournament will be limited to a maximum field of 72 entries with only previous champions and runners-up eligible to enter. The 72 spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Any entries received after the tournament has been declared full will be refunded in full. Bowling will start at 9:00AM. Entries MAY be expanded based on lane availability.
2. All previous MBA champions and runners-up that are no longer active are still eligible to bowl in the Masters by resubmitting their certified league averages for the previous 2 seasons along with their current certified league average of 21 games or more without paying the \$25 membership fee renewal.
3. The plus/minus scoring system will be used to determine each bowler's position for the finals.
4. Bowlers will draw for lane assignments prior to qualifying round on Sunday at roll call.
5. All bowlers will bowl 8 games, with the top 33 1/3% (rounded off to the nearest whole number, based on their class plus/minus), of the total field cashing, the top 8 advance to single elimination, two game total pin fall matches using a modified bracket system (see below). In case of a tie for the last match play spot(s), a one game roll-off will determine who cashes or makes match play respectively. The plus/minus system will be used in the roll-off. If a tie still exists, there will be a one (1) ball sudden death roll-off. The highest seeded competitor shall determine their starting lane and order for the roll-off. The competitors will alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken. (PBA Rule 18.2.9). For all other ties within the top 8, seeds will be assigned using the same tie-breaking formula as regular MBA events, see rule III.6.
6. In the single elimination portion of the tournament, handicap will be given to the bowler with the lower 8 game qualifying average, computed at **90%** of the difference between the two bowlers 8 game tournament average. The maximum average to be used will be 211 (the lower bound of the A class) or the average for all A class bowlers, whichever is higher. In case of a tie match, there will be a one (1) ball sudden death roll-off. The highest seeded competitor shall determine their starting lane and order for the roll-off. The competitors will alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken. (PBA Rule 18.2.9) The modified bracket format will be used as in regular MBA events, see rule III.7. The "23 cut" rule will not apply. The higher seeded bowler has choice of starting lane for EACH game of the 2-game match.

## VI. Michiana Bowlers Association Award Qualifications

- Bowler of the Year

A. You will receive 5 points for each of the first five tournaments you bowl during the season, 10 points for each of the next 3 tournaments bowled and 20 points for the last two tournaments bowled, for a maximum total of 120 points. Points are not awarded for the Masters.

B. Points for the finals and cashing will be computed using the following formula:

1<sup>st</sup> Place = (Number of cuts \* 10)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place = 1<sup>st</sup> Place Points \* 0.9

3<sup>rd</sup> Place = 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Points \* 0.9

4<sup>th</sup> Place = 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Points \* 0.9

Bowlers who do not qualify for the finals but tie for a given place or finalists who lose in the same round will have their points calculated based on the highest position that they tied for. For example, bowlers tying for 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> places will each use place 13, bowlers losing in the opening round of the finals (place 9, 10, 11, 12) will use place 9. Bowlers losing in the second round will get 6<sup>th</sup> place points and bowlers losing in the quarterfinals will get 4<sup>th</sup> place points.

No finalist or casher will receive fewer than 10 points.

Points awarded for the Championship Tournament will be worth 1.5 times the above calculation. Points are not awarded for the Masters.

C. You will receive 1 point for every \$5 won (not including the Masters, side pots or brackets).

D. You will receive 5 points for every pin your true bowling average is over your beginning of the year average class. (Class A: 207, Class B: 200, Class C: 193, Class D: 186, Class E: 179, Class F: 172, Class G: 166, and Class H 160.)

E. You will receive 40 bonus points for being high qualifier in the qualifying round of a tournament, second high qualifier will receive 30 bonus points, third high qualifier will receive 20 bonus points, and fourth high qualifier will receive 10 bonus points. In the case of ties, points will be split. Points are not awarded for the Masters.

F. To be eligible, a member must have bowled 5 tournaments, excluding the Masters.

- MBA Sportsmanship Award

A. Will be voted on by the current MBA paid membership.

B. All members who have bowled 3 tournaments through February will be on the preliminary ballot.

C. Preliminary round ballots will be distributed at the March tournament. Members will vote for 2 members, first choice receiving 5 points, and the second receiving 3 points.

D. Ballots will be totaled. The top 10 vote getters will advance to the semi-final ballot. In case of a tie, both members will advance.

E. In April the semi-final ballot of the top 10 will take place. Members will again vote for 2 members, 5 pts for first, 3 pts for second. Top 3 advance to final ballot in May. Ties will be broken by total # of 1<sup>st</sup> place votes on the previous 2 ballots.

F. Final round ballots will be distributed at the May tournament. Members will vote for 1 member on the final ballot.

G. The member who received the most votes will be named Sportsmanship Winner

H. To honor as many bowlers as possible, winners will be excluded from the balloting for the next 4 years.

- Comeback Bowler of the Year
  - A. Awarded to the bowler with the greatest improvement or accomplishment from the previous year.
  - B. To be eligible, a member must have bowled at least 5 tournaments, excluding the Masters.