

2019

# ELITE BOWLERS TOUR

## Rules & Regulations

The Elite Bowlers Tour Rulebook contains all USBC and EBT tournament rules including tournament director functions.



Revised  
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# Forward

The Elite Bowlers Tour rulebook contains a quick reference to the USBC General Playing Rules. However, the Tournament Playing rules of the USBC and the Tournament Playing rules of the Elite Bowlers Tour are the same. Where ever the EBT rules are unique to the organization, we have highlighted those rules so that the bowlers will clearly see and identify them as EBT only rules. The EBT rule number appears first followed by the corresponding USBC rule and definition. Any questions regarding the rulebook should be addressed to the EBT tournament director. This rulebook shall supersede any Elite Bowlers Tour rulebook published prior to 10/01/2019. All prior EBT rulebooks are null and void, except for the tournament condition and time period under which the specified rulebook was in effect.



## Elite Bowlers Tour Standard Operating Procedure and Rules & Regulations

### **Elite Bowlers Tour Mission:**

The Elite Bowlers Tour shall help grow the sport of bowling by providing fun and competitive tournaments at the lowest cost possible while striving to give the highest level of customer service to all who bowl with us!

### **Membership:**

Membership in the Elite Bowlers Tour (EBT) is composed of adults and youth who have paid the appropriate USBC, and if applicable, state and local association dues/processing fee (youth). Unless an EBT tournament specifies otherwise, all bowlers with the EBT must possess a current USBC membership in good standing. There is no additional or separate membership fee charged to bowlers to be EBT members.

### **Section 1 - General Playing Rules:**

Refer to the current USBC rulebook which is covered by Rule 1 through Rule 54b.

The following rules are ones that the EBT tournament director wishes bowlers to pay attention to:

Rule 5 – Covers fouls

Rule 17 – Covers grounds for disciplinary action

Rule 18 – Addresses the altering of ball surface during tournament play.

Chapter 8 – Equipment specifications covering weight/balance holes for bowlers using only two fingers.

**Section 2 – Sport Average to Standard Average Conversion:**

Refer to the current USBC Rule 202a for the upward conversion of an average from sport to standard. The Elite Bowlers Tour shall use Elite Bowlers Tour proprietary oil patterns which have a vast range from sport conditions to modified house shots. As of the 2018-2019 bowling season, the USBC has classified the Elite Bowlers Tour as a sport bowling tournament and effective immediately, shall use the sport bowling average conversion chart when converting averages. Bowlers who already have a sport only average shall use the highest of their sport averages unconverted to determine their incoming EBT average.

### **Section 3 – EBT Tournament Playing Rules:**

The tournament playing rules of the Elite Bowlers Tour is governed by the current United States Bowling Congress rulebook in Section 300 – 329. Please refer to the current USBC rulebook for questions regarding tournament rules. The following rules are ones specific to the Elite Bowlers Tour:

#### *EBT Rule 3a: EBT Fee Structure*

The Elite Bowlers Tour entry fee for standard EBT Champion of the Year qualifying tournaments range from \$29.00 to \$55.00. The entry fee charged is based on the number of games bowled, lineage, and any fundraiser amount needed to fulfill a special tournament if applicable. The EBT may conduct non-qualifying tournaments and the fee charged is based on the need of that particular tournament.

The EBT charges additional fees per entry to add to the general account which is used to purchase supplies, trophies, shirts, and banners. The unused portion of the EBT per entry fee is added to the Champion of the Year prize fund to enhance and guarantee the first-place prize. This EBT fee may be slightly higher or lower depending on the targeted purpose and the amount charged for lineage. However, as required by the USBC rules, the fee shall be clearly indicated on the entry form or flyer and it shall not be raised once the entry form or flyer is published.

#### *EBT Rule 3b: Side Pot Fees*

The Elite Bowlers Tour may conduct side pots and other tournament enhancements as the tournament director sees necessary, see USBC Rule 307. Those extras include but are not limited to: brackets, Nassau's, high game, and doubles. There is a \$2.00 per doubles team entry fee. The EBT shall charge \$5.00 for each 8-person bracket that has a \$5.00 per person entry fee and shall charge \$10.00 for each 8 person bracket that has a \$10.00 per person entry fee. These fees shall be charged regardless if the bracket is filled or not. The EBT shall not charge a fee for Nassau's, high game, or the "Super Bracket" if it is run.

#### *EBT Rule 3c: Calculation of Average Adjustments/Rerates*

The rerating of a bowler in an EBT tournament is calculated based on the prize amount won. The bowler's average will be adjusted upward as follows:

\$1000 or more = 19 pin upward adjustment  
\$700 - \$999 = 16 pin upward adjustment  
\$500 - \$699 = 13 pin upward adjustment  
\$300 - \$499 = 10 pin upward adjustment  
\$200 - \$299 = 8 pin upward adjustment  
\$150 - \$199 = 6 pin upward adjustment  
\$120 - \$149 = 5 pin upward adjustment

\$100 - \$119 = 4 pin upward adjustment  
\$75 - \$99 = 3 pin upward adjustment  
\$74 and below = 2 pin

The rerate remains in effect until a predetermined time when the EBT management re-evaluates the bowler to determine if an upward or downward adjustment is in order. The EBT management reserves the right to rerate a bowler higher than the prescribed amount if the bowler wins more than \$1000.00 (as one prize or a combination of prizes). Nothing precludes the EBT management from adjusting a bowler's average (upward or downward) to properly reflect the bowler's performance regardless of their winning at any time. When the reevaluation game is reached, the EBT directors shall determine if a rerate is to take place and may adjust the average as they deem necessary. However, the rerate is for EBT internal use only and may not reflect the bowler's actual average. For reporting to outside tournaments, the bowler must request their true EBT average from the tournament director.

#### *EBT Rule 3d (1): Entering Averages*

The Elite Bowlers Tour primarily uses Elite Bowlers Tour proprietary bowling oil patterns, but may use Kegel challenge and tournament patterns, modified house patterns, PBA/WTBA and other patterns that are defined as non-typical house patterns. This may include sport patterns. For this reason, due to the mixture of the pattern difficulty levels, there is no acceptable or fair adjustment scale for house pattern averages to Elite Bowlers Tour tournament averages nor is there a fair adjustment scale for Elite Bowlers Tour tournament averages to typical house pattern averages. However, due to tournament rules as prescribed by the USBC, the Elite Bowlers Tour is a sport tournament event and all bowlers incoming for the first time shall have their averages converted using the current USBC Sport Average Conversion chart.

#### *EBT Rule 3d (2): EBT Established Averages*

Effective beginning the start of the Elite Bowlers Tour 2011-2012 season, the EBT shall keep a running average for all EBT bowlers that achieve a minimum of 21 games during that season based on their division. Once the bowler achieves the 21-game point within a division, they shall use their established or rerated EBT average for all following events. However, the bowler must maintain at least 21 games per season each season following in their division or the rules for entering averages under USBC Rule 319a shall apply.

**The first time a bowler's EBT average or rerate is established or is reestablished after an extended break, it shall not be more than 10 pins lower than their highest current yearbook average of at least 21 games or more.**

### *EBT Rule 3e: EBT Divisions & Division Change Requests*

For the Champion of the Year event (explained in Section 4), bowlers who qualify for the Classic Division may request to bowl upward to the Elite Division. Elite Division qualifiers may not request to bowl downward to the Classic Division.

### *EBT Rule 3f: EBT Maximum Handicaps*

Except where prohibited by USBC rule, the tournament director may establish a maximum handicap for a bowler in any handicap tournament provided that:

1. The tournament flyer clearly indicates what the maximum handicap is
2. The maximum handicap is applied equally to all affected bowlers
3. The maximum handicap may only be used in the Classic Division or in Combination Events.
4. The maximum handicap is not used to prohibit a bowler with an average lower than the minimum from participating in the tournament.

### *EBT Rule 3g: EBT Professional Restriction*

Except where allowed by EBT rule, bowlers who have earned a PBA/WTBA national title within the previous 5 years, an international bowling title within the previous 5 years, or being a member of Team USA within the previous 5 years of the EBT event are prohibited from bowling. A USBC Masters and a US Open title holder within the previous 5 years is also affected by this restriction. Other titles may be added to this restriction as needed and bowlers should verify with the tournament director. Regional PBA titles do not count towards this restriction. Violation of this rule may result in notification to the USBC for willful violation of tournament rules.

### *EBT Rule 3h: Failure to Complete Series*

Except where prohibited by USBC rule, any bowler who fails to complete a series during competition shall forfeit any out-of-cut prizes, sweeper awards, free entries, or any bonus prizes that would go to a bowler who completed their series. However, the bowler shall be entitled to receive the cash award based on their final position standing if the final position is in a cashing spot. In addition, none of the games bowled in an incomplete series shall be used to calculate or adjust the bowler's EBT average and the EBT Tournament Directors have the right refuse a bowler's future entries for repeated failure to complete a series.



## **Section 4 – EBT Tournament Types**

The Elite Bowlers Tour season runs from October 1 to August 31 but may be adjusted as needed. Except where an unforeseeable circumstance occurs (i.e. weather, civil unrest, acts of God, etc.), during that 11-month period the EBT shall conduct a minimum of 11 Champion of the Year qualifiers. The EBT may add or remove as many tournaments as the tournament director deems necessary, and the EBT may add other types of nonqualifier tournaments within that time span. The types of tournaments are defined as follows:

**Champion of the Year Qualifier (COTY Qualifier):** Is any tournament run by the Elite Bowlers Tour in which the singles winner and singles cashers within the tournament become eligible to bowl in the Champion of the Year tournament. The winner(s) of the tournament will receive an exempt (free) entry into the COTY which is paid for by the EBT. Cashers in the tournament receive eligibility to participate in the COTY but are required to pay the COTY entry fee. Cashers are only those who cash in the main singles event, the doubles winners if applicable, or in a sweeper (High Senior, High Lady, High Military). In an **EBT Major event** (Hal Kee's Super Bowling Invitational, Gary Gordon's Plastic Ball Challenge, or any other event so defined), any person finishing in the top predetermined spots automatically qualify regardless if they cash or not. This type of tournament may be a singles, doubles, trios, or team event.

**Non-Champion of the Year Qualifier:** Is any tournament run by the Elite Bowlers Tour in which no bowler who wins or cashes within the tournament becomes eligible to bowl in the Champion of the Year. A tournament of this type shall indicate in the rules that it is not a Champion of the Year qualifier. This type of tournament may be a singles, doubles, trios, or team event.

**Champion of the Year:** This is the final tournament of the season in which all exempt and eligible bowlers from the 11 or more COTY qualifiers bowl for a guaranteed prize amount and the winner is declared the season champion. The COTY may be split into Classic and Elite Divisions or bowled as a combination event. This type of tournament may only be a singles event.

**Subcontracted Tournament:** This is any tournament run or hosted by the Elite Bowlers Tour on behalf of another organization or entity. In the case of this type of tournament, none of the cashers become eligible to bowl in the Champion of the Year and the EBT receives a commission or fee for hosting the tournament. The received fee is decided by the tournament director. This type of tournament may be a singles, doubles, trios, or team event.

## **Section 5 - Elite Bowlers Tour Tournament Directors and Volunteers:**

The Elite Bowlers Tour, LLC is run by a tournament director and appointed co-directors. Each can act in the full capacity of a tournament director as required.

**Volunteer:** A volunteer is an individual temporarily assigned to the EBT for a given event to assist in its operation. A volunteer is not required to be a USBC member, bowler, or a member of the EBT, but must be knowledgeable with the task they are asked to perform.

## **Section 6 – EBT Bowler Conduct**

The Elite Bowlers Tour shall institute rules to govern fair play and professionalism for its bowlers. The rules may duplicate and even supersede USBC rules by being more stringent. EBT Bowlers are required to adhere to the rules of conduct or they may face disciplinary action.

### *EBT Rule 6a: Dress Code*

All bowlers competing in an EBT event shall dress appropriate for certified competition. Bowlers shall refrain from wearing clothing that depicts abusive, discriminatory, profane, pornographic, or other vulgar types of images and/or languages. When professional dress or specific type of clothing is required, the EBT shall indicate such in the rules of the specified tournament.

### *EBT Rule 6b: Disruption*

Any and all bowlers bowling within an EBT event shall refrain from behavior designed to interfere or disrupt the flow of the tournament, interfere with or disrupt the job of the directors and coordinators, or distract other bowlers. Such behavior shall also include protesting anything within in the tournament solely for the purpose of distracting another bowler or disrupting the directors. Any disruptive behavior, as determined by an EBT Director or coordinator, shall result in removal from the tournament and forfeiting all entry fees if bowling has commenced.

### *EBT Rule 6c: Equipment Abuse & Profanity*

No bowler in any EBT event is permitted to abuse the bowling center equipment, their own equipment, equipment of others, or EBT equipment at any time. Abuse of equipment shall result in a verbal warning on the first offense and then the removal of the person from the tournament forfeiting all entry fees for the second and subsequent offenses. No bowler may use profanity or gesture in any way while the tournament is in progress. This will result in a verbal warning on the first offense and removal from the tournament on the second and subsequent offenses forfeiting all entry fees.

### *EBT Rule 6d: Recap Sheets/Signature Required*

All bowlers competing in an EBT event shall sign the recap sheet before submitting it for entry by a director. Failure to sign the recap sheet may result in a zero for all games bowled and forfeiting any prizes awarded. When applicable, an EBT director or coordinator shall verify the scores of the bowler after each game for accuracy.

*EBT Rule 6e: Acceptance of All EBT Rules*

Except where prohibited by USBC rule, all bowlers will have agreed to every rule contained within the tournament flyer, EBT Rulebook, and the USBC Rulebook once they submit payment to the EBT for a squad entry. The bowler may reject payment to the EBT prior to warm-up bowling which shall entitle them to a full refund, except where prohibited by USBC rule. If a penalty fee for early withdrawal from a squad applies, it shall be written in the tournament flyer. Once the bowler begins bowling for score, any and all refunds by the bowler are forfeited.

## **Section 7 – Prize Winnings & Bowler Tax Liability**

All bowlers who participate in an EBT bowling tournament are subject to all applicable federal tax laws based on their earnings. The EBT shall keep a running prize earning journal which depicts each bowler's year to date prize earnings. Once a bowler exceeds the federal minimum earning of \$599.99, they shall receive an IRS form 1099 and the bowler shall bear all tax liability for all earnings above the listed amount. All bowlers exceeding \$599.99 in earnings shall be required to complete an IRS form W-9. If the bowler refuses to complete the form, the bowler becomes ineligible to receive any further prizes from the EBT and may have all future tournament participation rejected.

In addition, any bowler who refuses to provide the information listed above for tax purposes, the prize earnings that they would have been entitled to is automatically added to the Champion of the Year tournament general prize fund (or the general prize fund for non-COTY qualifiers and subcontracted tournaments). The bowler automatically forfeits the rejected prize amount and they are prohibited from laying claim to that prize at any future date. The EBT tournament director may draft a legal document requiring the bowler's signature that indicates the amount of the prize, the date and tournament the prize was earned, and that the bowler voluntarily and of their own free will surrendered their prize. The legal document, if drafted, should also reiterate this section on the form.

## **Section 8 – Conflicting Rules**

Any rule of the Elite Bowlers Tour shall be deemed null and void if the rule conflicts with the rules of the United States Bowling Congress. If a rule is determined to be in conflict, the rule violation must be immediately resolved in the manner prescribed by the USBC and then the EBT tournament director shall permanently correct and remedy the conflicting rule for all future tournaments.