

## 4 Tournament Rules

### Definition and Qualification

**4.1** A bowling Tournament is defined as a pre-arranged contest between teams, individuals or any mixture of both in which members of STB A are eligible. T tournament can be sponsored by a tournament association, company, any individual or a combination of these. Non-members may participate on payment of a registration fee but will not be eligible for High Score Award, High Series Award.

To apply for sanctioning from STBA, a tournament must contain at least four or more teams or individuals.

It should adhere to the rules of the tournament sanctioning guide and allow for an annual champion of the event/s in which individuals are entered. Total pins must decide such a champion and other prize winners in the various events, unless another pin fall system is used and provided in the tournament rules.

When two or more events are held, an all events champion may be determined based on total pin fall or points recorded, providing such provision is in the tournament rules.

All squads must consist of a minimum of four teams or individuals.

When tournament prize winners are decided by using a handicap system, the handicap must be based on the highest average in all sanctioned/unsanctioned leagues or rankings whichever is the highest over a minimum of 12 games. Any player who is unable to provide an average may be required to bowl scratch providing the tournament does not have a rule stating otherwise. Averages must be declared before the start of the tournament, or by a pre-determined date.

### Management

**4.2** The Managing Committee of the tournament must decide on any disputes, complaints or protests relating to any claim, controversy or violation in the tournament involving any STBA or tournament rule. It shall have the authority to hear, and have the power to decide, on proper appeals from tournament secretary, or any other employee of the tournament. The tournament committee has the power to adopt, enforce or revoke any of its own tournament rules, as may be found necessary to conduct a tournament successfully. These rules should be published on the entry form or public material displaying the tournament. The decision of the tournament committee shall be final unless an appeal is made to STBA for consideration.

### Strict Compliance of All Rules

**4.3** Teams and Individuals competing in such tournaments must conduct themselves and play all their games in strict compliance with the rules and regulations governing such games as approved by STBA.

### **Authority of Tournament Manager**

**4.4** The Tournament Manager or where there is no tournament manager appointed, the tournament secretary, shall be the authorised representative to the tournament committee when either in playing session or not. He/she shall have supreme power as to the players who are to bowl in the tournament whether originally entered or those who bowl as authorised substitutes. If accepted each player must bowl each event under his/her own full name, and then only at the time and date designated by the Tournament Manager. The Tournament Manager shall also have the power to decide on any matters pertaining to the operation of the tournament when not inconsistent with its own tournament rules or any provision of the STBA Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

### **Authority of Team Captain in Tournament Play**

**4.5** The team captain is his/her team's representative in all matters pertaining to the behaviour, eligibility, line-up, and compliance with all tournaments rules when entered in a tournament. He/she is responsible to the tournament manager for the conduct of his/her team, and receives in trust any prizes his/her team may win, which all team members are expected to share in accordance with the members' previous understanding.

The acceptance of an entry of a team by the tournament manager of a tournament constitutes an agreement by the team captain on behalf of his/her team to abide by all laws, playing rules and regulations pertaining to STBA. The captain or his/her authorised representative may, authorise the replacement of team players whose names are on the entry and unable to attend or compete in the tournament at the scheduled time providing they conform to the rules of the tournament. No team may remove the captain without his/her consent once the team is entered into the tournament provided he/she has not violated any rules, and appears when scheduled to bowl.

After the closing date for tournament entries, the team captain may only remove a player by a majority team decision. When the team captain replaces a player, he shall give plenty of notice to the player being replaced. If the player to be removed has paid his/her own entry fee then this must be returned, except that any indebtedness may be withheld. When a captain requests a replacement in the two-person and/or individual event it must be understood that the individual originally entered and whose name appears in the tournament schedule must agree to be replaced in these events, or should he/she fail to appear when scheduled, the captain or his/her appointees may make a replacement in order to fulfil the amount paid on the entry fee.

### **Averages**

**4.6** When a bowler has more than one average and the individual average is used to calculate the handicap or classification of the bowler or his/her team, one of the following methods shall be selected to arrive at an average for the tournament:

- a) The highest average based on a minimum of 12 games.
- b) A composite average
- c) A composite average provided it is not more than five pins below the highest average maintained in a league/rankings in which the bowler has competed in for a minimum of 12 games.

Any Tournament Association may, in its opinion, require that the entering average, based on either the highest or composite average system, shall not be more than five pins below the same type of average for the previous season. It is the bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his/her average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether entered by him/her self, his/her team captain or anybody else. Failure to use the proper average may disqualify the score, if the submitted average is lower than actual average thereby resulting in a lower classification or an increased handicap. Prize winnings will be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average. Individual averages which are used to determine the handicap or classification of a bowler's average must be based on a minimum of twelve (12) games in one league/ranking, unless otherwise specified in the tournament rules.

### **Type of Competition**

**4.7** Teams shall be composed of the number of players as determined by the rules of the tournament in which they are entered.

### **Tournament Dates**

**4.8** A tournament calendar, where possible, should be published with dates and centres shown against type of tournament.

### **Closing Dates for Entries-All tournaments**

**4.9.1** Entry closing date in advance of tournament.

When the date for closing entries is in advance of the start of the tournament, it should allow enough time for notification of squad times to teams or individual bowlers. The tournament should post a complete list of all entrants in the tournament at the tournament site.

**4.9.2** Entry closing date to last squad.

When the date for closing entries is set prior to the time of the last squad is scheduled, the tournament management shall post in a conspicuous place in the establishment a notice showing:

- a) Number of entries to date. As entries are accepted the entry forms must be numbered consecutively and the entry number must appear with the contestant's name, whenever current or final results are posted.
- b) Ratio of prizes to tournament entries should be at least 1 to 30, if prize money is charged.
- c) A complete list of all entrants to be kept current and indicating scores bowled by each entrant. This list shall be retained and available for inspection during the entire tournament and for thirty (30) days after the event.
- d) A posted schedule kept current at all times.
- e) The exact time of day the last squad is scheduled to start.
- f) The exact time for closure of entries.

This date and time shall be kept current as of six o'clock each evening. It is also required that a complete prize list be similarly posted within one hour after entries have been closed. Entries after the closing date will not be accepted unless firstly, at the discretion of the

tournament manager, and secondly there are spaces in any of the squads. Entries after the closing date will not be accepted if extra squads are required to be scheduled.

### **Designation of Fees**

**4.10.1** The tournament committee of any sanctioned tournament must in all cases, designate fees separately on the entry form and poster as follows:

#### **Entry Form**

Prize Fee

Total cost per individual/team, per tournament.

#### **Sanction Form**

Prize Fee

Bowling Fee

Expense Fee

Donations and/or levies per person per event.

The prize fee, if collected, must be returned 100% to participants in the event or division of an event for which the entry was made on a ratio of at least one prize for each thirty (30) entries received, except all events where at least one prize for each forty (40) entries shall be paid. When there are more than one hundred (100) entries in an event or a division of an event and the prize money is charged, first place shall not exceed forty (40) per cent of the total amount of the prize fund and second position shall be equal to at least one-half of first place. The balance of the prizes shall be graduated with last place paying at least the amount of the prize fee payment. The bowling fee shall not exceed the open play rate per game in the centre concerned. The tournament expense fee shall be used for expense incurred in running the tournament. Team Fund will be set aside for the use of Scottish Teams. Any other collections such as charity donations, subscriptions or banquet fees can only be authorised by the full tournament committee.

### **Optional Collection of Prize Fees**

**4.10.2** Participants in a tournament may be charged an optional prize fee for an all events contest when two or more events are conducted. In addition, an optional prize fee may be charged to tournament participants for a special feature, such as high single game performance or best two out of three games in a series, under the following conditions:

- a) The all events prize fee shall be limited to the sum designated by the Executive Committee of the STBA.
- b) The prize fee for the special feature shall be limited to the sum designated by the Executive Committee of the STBA.
- c) There shall be only one special feature in an event or a division of an event in the tournament.

Distribution of prizes shall comply with the formula laid down for payment of regular position prizes and the ratio of return to entrants shall be at least one to twenty (20). Please note that all games of an event or all games of all the events of a tournament may not be used for a special event.

## **All Events**

**4.11** When a tournament includes two or more events or when two or more tournaments are conducted under the same management, scores may be combined in determining the all events winners. The all events prize fee must be paid prior to the advertised closing date for entries or before the participant bowls any of the events, whichever comes sooner. The tournament manager shall be required to indicate in the schedule or post at the tournament site the names of all players who are entered into the all events for prizes. Where a trophy or award, excluding cash prizes, is made for the all events winner, the bowler who places first in the all events shall be entitled to the trophy or award regardless of whether he/she has paid the optional prize fee. However in such cases the trophy or award (excluding cash) must not be purchased from the optional fees paid in to the all events prize fund by its participants.

## **No Fees Returned**

**4.12** After entries have been received, and the dates assigned by the tournament manager are not refused by the team or individual entrant prior to the preparation of the schedule, no fees shall be refunded.

## **Entry Conditions May Not Change**

**4.12.1** Conditions which entries are accepted may not be changed or modified after the tournament starts. This includes entry fee charges and the rules governing the competition.

## **Free or Reduced Entries**

**4.12.2** The tournament management may not provide, or arrange to provide, any kind of free or reduced entry that is not fully advertised in the tournament entry form or posters. When a free entry is made available, an amount equal to the prize fee must be placed in the tournament prize fund.

## **Notification of Schedule**

**4.13** Notification shall be given to the person filing the entry in writing or by printed schedule as to the time and date scheduled. No tournament manager shall use the words "partner" or "reserved" or any similar term in lieu of any entry from a team or individual.

## **Tardy Players**

**4.14** Bowling shall begin in accordance with a previously arranged schedule and any player or team arriving late shall begin play with the score counting from the frame being bowled in which they arrived. If a team refuses to start because a full line-up is not present they shall forfeit all games which they decline to bowl at the discretion of the tournament manager. No Absentee scores shall be permitted and a bowler must bowl with, on the same lanes, and at the same time his team bowls. A bowler, who misses one frame or more, by not being present and ready to bowl when it's his/her turn, shall not be credited with any pins for any games missed.

### **Scheduled Position**

**4.15** No Player shall change his/her position in any team line-up after he/she has been registered on to the lanes to bowl. If a change in the line-up is desired it must be made to the tournament manager seventy-two (72) hours before the team is scheduled to bowl. After that, if a team wishes to change any player then the player being added must take the position of the player leaving.

### **Who May Bowl**

**4.16** The receipt of an entry in writing and its acceptance in any tournament by the tournament Manager for one or more events shall regulate the number of players who shall participate. Substitutions and replacements may be made in accordance with the provisions of Rules 4.17 and 4.18. The entry form shall contain the names of the players entered and the correct remittance should be in the hands of the Tournament Manager before the closing date for entries.

### **Replacements**

**4.17** No one may bowl in a sanctioned tournament except those originally entered or such replacements authorised by the team captain or his representative. The team captain may make a replacement in the team event according to Rule 4.5. If an entered and scheduled player is unable to bowl, when scheduled, in the two-person and individual events, the player who withdraws must contact the Tournament Manager confirming this and a person qualified to bowl in this event may take their place. This should be advised at least thirty (30) minutes before the player is scheduled to bowl.

If a replacement request is made after the allotted time, the tournament Manager at his/her discretion may accept the replacement providing the replacement is qualified to bowl in this event.

A replacement may be made in the all events providing it is made before the original player or his/her replacement has bowled in the tournament.

### **Substitutions**

**4.18** After a game has started, no changes shall be made to the order of the players, except that the captain may replace any of his players by a qualified substitute if permitted by the tournament rules. When a substitute is made during the game the scores will be credited to the original player at the start of the game. A player removed from a game cannot return to play in the same game. Scores bowled by more than one player cannot qualify for STBA or tournament individual high game awards, nor can the score be included in the all events totals.

In doubles events, substitutes may be permitted but once a player is removed they cannot return to the line-up for the rest of the competition. No substitutes can be made in singles events except that in elimination or match game tournaments where two or more series or blocks of games are bowled, substitutions may be permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Manager. The player removed may not return for the rest of the competition.

### **Bowler's Responsibility**

**4.19** It is understood that the bowler him/herself should ascertain whether the tournament is sanctioned or not. The excuse the bowler did not know if it had been sanctioned or not will not be upheld. The STBA will be unable to give advice or help to bowlers who bowl in unsanctioned tournaments and then incur problems with the Tournament Organisers.

### **What Constitutes a Game**

**4.20** A natural pair of lanes shall be used in each game of tournament play. The bowling of ten (10) complete frames on the pair of lanes on which the game was started shall constitute an official game, except when the Tournament Official may authorise the completion of a game and series on another pair of certified lanes when equipment failure on the starting lanes would delay the normal progress of the tournament. An interrupted game or series which cannot be completed on the same date must be resumed from the point of interruption.

### **Tournament Series**

**4.21** In tournament play, the first game of the series shall be started on the lane in which the team or individual was scheduled to play. Succeeding games shall be started on the lane in which the team or individual finished the preceding game, unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

### **Order of Bowling**

**4.22** The members of contesting teams, two-person and individuals, shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane, thus alternating between lanes making five (5) frames bowled on each lane which will complete the game. Each player shall bowl two balls in each frame except where a player bowls a strike, or the player strikes or spares in the tenth frame. No pins may be conceded and only those actually knocked down may be counted. Every frame must be completed at the time and in regular order. When a player makes a spare in the tenth frame the player will be permitted to bowl one more ball on the same lane, if a player makes a strike in the tenth frame with his/her first delivery then two more balls shall be bowled on the same lane.

Normally only one two-person team is scheduled to bowl on one lane and both members of the team shall start on the same lane. This may be changed when the tournament schedules three doubles teams on a pair of lanes as part of its normal scheduling pattern.

In that case, the lead off person of each team will start on one lane and the anchor person on the other lane. Players will alternate between lanes after every frame. Succeeding frames shall be started on the lane on which the player finished the preceding game unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

### **Team Bowling Alone**

**4.23** When players entered in the team, two-person or individual event in a tournament are scheduled alone on a pair of lanes, they must, nevertheless bowl any and all games to be bowled as though they were actually contested. Each player must have completed his frame

on one lane before the player bowling as lead-off shall commence his next frame on the adjoining lane.

This rule shall apply to all tournaments except those which schedule each team alone on a pair of lanes and permit players to follow each other immediately in order on the alternate lane. When this option is used then the scores shall not qualify for STBA Awards.

### **Pacers Permitted**

**4.24** Teams or individuals may pace on the same pair of lanes with a team or individual competing in a sanctioned tournament, to provide or maintain equality of competitive conditions.

### **Tournament Tie Scores – How Decided**

**4.25.1** In case of a tie for a team, two-person, individual or all events championship in a tournament, it shall be optional with the Tournament Committee to have a play-off or declare co-champions, unless provision is made in the tournament rules for such an event. If co-champions are declared then the cash prizes for the positions affected are to be equally divided and the Tournament Committee to supply additional medals or other awards it makes to the Champions, from a fund other than the prize fund. At least three games shall be played in deciding all ties, except in match game or an elimination tournament, where the number of games or frames shall be determined by the Tournament Manager. The team, two-person team or individual scoring the greatest number of pins shall be declared first and will receive the first place award or other award offered for such a contest. The team, two-person team or individual making the next greatest number of pins shall be entitled to the second place award or other award offered for such a contest, and so on. In the event of ties other than in the award positions the tournament Manager shall decide on how these are decided, unless provision has been made in the Tournament Rules.

**4.25.2** When multiple participation is permitted in a tournament and one or more bowlers are members of the team tied for the championship, the following procedure shall apply in conducting the play-offs for the championship.

a) If two teams are tied, and the same person or persons are duplicated on both teams, co-champions may be declared. Otherwise, only those members not duplicated on the team shall bowl a three-game series with total pins deciding championship, unless provision in the tournament rules is made.

b) If more than two teams are tied for the championship and there is duplication in bowlers on any of the teams involved there shall be no play-off and co-champions shall be declared. If there is no duplication of bowlers on the teams tied for the championship it shall be optional to have a play-off or declare co-champions.

### **Bowlers Tournament Equipment**

**4.26** Each five-person team must have at least three bowling balls to use in bowling scheduled games, each two-person team must have at least two bowling balls to use in bowling scheduled games, and each individual must have a bowling ball available for his exclusive use to bowl his scheduled individual event games. If the proper numbers of bowling balls for



using are not provided for the team in question, then at the discretion of the tournament manager the team or individual may be required to bowl at a different time as not to interfere with the regular running of the tournament.

### **Scorers in Tournaments**

**4.27** The Tournament Manager of each tournament is required to appoint or hire scorers to officially record any and all games bowled in the tournament. After a score has been passed by the official scorer, the team captain or individual player, it cannot be changed except where there is an obvious error in scoring or calculation. The tournament manager may set a time limit for appealing any scoring errors. No scorer shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any bet or wager on any game or series. If at any time the scorer shall found to be so interested, is incompetent or interferes with the tournament contestants, the tournament manager may remove the scorer.

### **Appeal or Protest**

**4.28** An appeal or protest regarding the decision of the foul judge, scorer or tournament manager may be made to and decided by STBA through its Secretary who shall act for that body when not in session. He/she shall render a decision thereon as soon as possible after submission, upon having notified the secretary of the said tournament regarding the appeal or protest. If the scorer and Secretary are one in the same person then the matter will be referred to National Council. Such an appeal must be made in writing and signed by the party concerned making the appeal or protest and the grounds of appeal or protest shall be briefly outlined. The decision of the STBA will be final and binding upon all entrants and officials of the tournament concerned.

### **Multiple Participation**

**4.29** It shall be optional whether the entrants in a sanctioned tournament may participate more than once in an event providing it is duly publicised in advance. The maximum number of times an entrant can re-enter must be indicated, on the entry form and advertisements regarding the tournament.

Where re-entry participation is permitted, one or more of the following provisions must appear on the entry form and poster.

a) Five Person Team Event

Not more than three players on the same team can place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

b) Three and four Person Team Event

Not more than two players on one team can place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

c) Two Person Team Event

In no case shall the same two-person team be permitted to place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

d) Individual Event

In no case shall the same individual be permitted to place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

- e) When a bowler competes more than once his first appearance in each event shall count to his/her all events score.

### **Must Bowl in Order Entered**

**4.30** All teams must bowl in the order as defined on the original entry form. A change in the line-up or pairings of teams, as reported on the official entry form may be permitted if the request is filed with the tournament manager at least 72 hours prior to the time the players involved are scheduled to bowl. In the case of incomplete teams at the time scheduled to bowl, the tournament manager may team incomplete line-ups together depending on numbers missing from each team.

### **Official Prize List**

**4.31** The tournament manager shall prepare the official prize list promptly following the closing date of entries. The prize list shall contain the number of prizes to be awarded in each event and the amount of each prize.

The official prize list may be included in the official tournament schedule, but if shown separately, the manager shall display the prize list in a prominent position in the establishment at the opening of the tournament. This rule does not apply if the tournament provide in its rules that the prize list is subject to an Annual General Meeting and this meeting is held after the opening date of the tournament.

### **Prize Distribution and Report**

**4.32** within thirty (30) days after the completion of the tournament, the following post tournament requirements must be met:

- a) Distribute all prizes, except when the STBA has authorised holding up payment pending settlement of any claim or protest which affects the position standings.
- b) File a copy of the prize list with the Association Secretary showing the names of the prize winners, their score and the amount awarded to them.
- c) Complete and send a financial statement to the STBA, listing all receipts and disbursements.

### **General Instructions**

All sanctioned tournaments must be organised and conducted in the manner which complies with STBA laws, rules and regulations and only STBA approved equipment may be used. Lanes should conform to STBA requirements.

When tournaments are not conducted under the auspices of STBA, they may be granted a regular or moral sanction.

Tournaments which are conducted without a STBA sanction, will not attract STBA recognition for any high score awards.

In sanctioned tournaments an individual membership card is required for all bowlers to establish their eligibility, in the case of entrants from other countries the player may be granted entry upon payment of a registration fee, but they will not be eligible for STBA services or awards. Membership of the STBA must be paid in advance of participation in the tournament otherwise a registration fee may be taken instead. This fee will not be refunded if membership is taken out at a later date.

Individuals who have been suspended or expelled from the STBA or members who are not of good standing within their federation will not be allowed to participate in any STBA sanctioned tournament.

Moral sanctions for tournaments may be required if operated by single civic, fraternal, benevolent, patriotic, military, service, union and religious organisations which have annual national or sectional bowling contests. These tournaments will be granted a moral support sanction, providing the entrants therein are bone fide members of the said organisation and the said applicant desiring the sanction will guarantee the tournament will be run under STBA rules. No combination of several fraternities or groups will be allowed in any one such tournament. Similarly tournaments which restrict participation to specific individuals or groups may be granted a moral sanction or regular tournament sanction at the discretion of the National Council.

Before a moral sanction can be given the applicant requesting the sanction must complete and submit a tournament sanction form and a copy of all posters and entry forms to be used to the STBA Secretary. No sanction will be given unless a written declaration that all participants are members of good standing within the organisation concerned. This rule is to be strictly enforced. Moral sanctions will not be granted if the tournament allows any entrant who is suspended or refused membership of STBA. Only members who have paid their membership in advance of the tournament will qualify for STBA high score recognition. If any member of STBA knowingly allows the violation of the above rules for moral sanctioning then they may be liable for suspension from STBA.

All sanctioning applications should comply with the rules laid down in the League and Tournament sanctioning booklet which can be applied for from the Secretary of STBA. The Secretary may refuse sanction of any tournament which does not comply with the STBA rules. Members of the STBA who do not hold an International Gold Card may not participate in tournaments abroad.