

BOWLING RULE INTERPRETATIONS

SECTION A - GENERAL RULES

- A-1. In cases not covered by these interpretations, United States Bowling Congress (USBC) rules will govern. Rules can be downloaded at <http://www.bowl.com>.
- A-2. No advertising or sponsorship is allowed on competition uniforms or warm ups.
- A-3. Athletes will not be allowed to wear awards during competition.
- A-4. If a bowler arrives late, they will be blinded for the first 3 frames. If they show up in those frames, they may bowl the end of that game. If bowlers arrive after the 3rd frame, they will not be able to join that game, but can bowl the remaining games. Bowlers will receive a zero score for all missed games. The score for the completed frames can be used for athletes not able to complete a game due to medical reasons.
- A-5. Absentee scores will not be used at any level of competition.
- A-6. The Games Rules Committee will make all final decisions.
- A-7. Athletes must qualify from a Regional Qualifier to attend the State tournament.
- A-8. At all times athletes are expected to compete to the best of their ability to ensure a quality competition at all levels. Coaches are expected to provide accurate and honest scores of their athlete's ability.
- A-9. Coaches and spectators will not be allowed on the lanes while the athletes are competing. Spectators will be given one warning. If a second offense occurs, the spectator will be asked to leave the premises. If the spectator does not comply, the athlete will be disqualified from the event.

SECTION B - TOURNAMENT PLAY

- B-1. Foul lights will be used in all levels of tournament play.
- B-2. Alternating lane assignments will be used for all levels of tournament play with the exception of ramp divisions, which will stay on their assigned lanes throughout each game.
- B-3. 9 game averages are required for entry with Regional level tournament play. At the regional tournament the qualification score will be the final score from the regional competition. At the state tournament the qualification score will be the final score from the regional competition.
- B-4. Handicaps will not be used at any level of competition.
- B-5. For athletes competing in Singles, Doubles and Team competition, 3 games will be bowled at the State tournament. At Regional events, the number of games bowled is at the discretion of the Regional Manager.
- B-6. Due to facility upgrades, proper ball rolling will be enforced at all bowling events. Facilities are indicating that "lofting" the ball and other actions that can be considered

unsafe will not be tolerated and are grounds for disqualification.

- B-7. In doubles, there will be no alternates allowed. In team bowling, one alternate partner and one alternate athlete will be allowed, and must be listed on the entry form and registered to bowl at the event.
Absentee scores will not be accepted. If a doubles or team is short an athlete, they may still compete. The missing bowler's score will be recorded as zero (0). They will be awarded appropriately based upon their finish within their division. The doubles and team may advance to the next level of competition if they win their division, however the missing bowler will not advance with his/her team. The team must advance exactly as it competed in the qualifying event.

SECTION C - EQUIPMENT

- C-1. Adaptive bowling balls may be used.
- C-2. All competitors must wear bowling shoes unless the bowler uses a wheelchair or the use of bowling shoes is orthopedically impossible.
- C-3. Bowling ramps may be used, but their use is governed by Special Olympics Ramp Rules (see Section E).

SECTION D - OFFICIAL EVENTS AND AGE GROUPS

- D-1. Singles bowling will be offered in both a Male and a Female division with age groups as follows:
Junior (8-15)
Senior (16-29)
Master (30 and over)
- D-2. Doubles and Unified Doubles bowling will be offered with no gender divisioning in the following age groups:
Junior (8-15)
Senior (16 and over)
- D-3. Unified and Traditional Team bowling will be offered with no distinction of age unless entry totals dictate such an option.

SECTION E - RAMP BOWLING

- E-1. Athletes in the ramp event will only bowl 2 games for competition in all levels of tournament play.
- E-2. Bowlers using ramps will be placed in separate divisioning for Singles bowling only. Unassisted ramp bowlers may participate in doubles and teams and will be divisioned with traditional bowlers and bowl 3 games.
- E-3. Bowlers needing stability assistance wheelchairs or other assistive devices will not be placed in ramp divisions unless they, in fact, bowl with a ramp.
- E-4. Ramp bowlers must propel the bowling ball independently.
- E-6. Assisted ramp bowlers may receive assistance on placing the ramp as well as getting the ball to the ramp. They must be able to push the ball on their own.

- E-5. Unassisted ramp bowlers must direct placement of ramp or place ramp independently. Once placement has occurred, the volunteer will stand behind and to the side of the bowler. Permission for coaches to work as aides on lanes for their vision impaired (only) athletes will be granted on a case-by-case basis. The coach must contact the event director to request permission.
- E-6. Illegal assistance will be treated as a foul line violation.
- E-7. Weights may be added to the ramp for stabilization. The Tournament Director for safety concerns and protection of the lanes must inspect ramps with attached weights.
- E-8. The entire ramp must remain behind the foul line.

SECTION F - UNIFORMS

- F-1. Bowling competitors may be allowed to wear "Bowling Team" shirts at the discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee.
- F-2. At no time may a shirt "bowling" style or otherwise be worn during competition that has advertising on it in written or artwork form.

SECTION G - MODIFICATIONS

- G-1. Wheelchair or assistive device bowlers will only be allowed to stay on the lane surface if their placement does not hamper another bowler's approach and play.