

80TH ANNUAL BISMARCK-MANDAN USBC  
2023-2024 WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

\$2,500 added to the prize fund by the Bismarck-Mandan USBC to be distributed in Team, Doubles, and Singles events. (Prorated based upon entries)

**TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

<p><b>1.) Eligibility:</b> All Bismarck-Mandan USBC Association women adult members who have bowled a minimum of 9 games over the last two seasons in a Bis-Man USBC league and are in good standing with the local association and USBC are eligible to enter the tournament.</p>
<p><b>2.) Entry Forms:</b> Online registration is preferred. Forms are to be completely filled out and all entry fees are to be included when the entry form is submitted. To obtain USBC membership numbers for the entry forms, please go to Bowl.com or ask for individual membership cards. Please leave completed entry form and fees in a sealed envelope at Midway Lanes ATTN: Shelly or Ten Spot Lanes ATTN: Shelly. Teams whose members are bowling doubles together on the same shift should send entry forms together, if possible. A \$35 fee will be assessed for returned checks.</p>
<p><b>3.)</b> All reserved entries must be accompanied by entry fee and received by Shelly Portschteller, Tournament Manager, before <b>Midnight, December 31, 2023</b>. For any questions, please contact Shelly through email at bismanusbctourney@aol.com. <b>Any entry not received by that date will be subject to shift availability.</b></p>
<p><b>4.) Entries after December 31, 2023:</b> <b>Entries and payment for all shifts close one (1) hour prior to the scheduled shift start time, subject to lane availability.</b> In the event of increased shift demand, additional squads may be added during the tournament prior to the last scheduled squad. Contact Shelly Portschteller at bismanusbctourney@aol.com with any questions.</p>
<p><b>5.) Average:</b> Entrants will use their highest USBC average of (A), (B), or (C). If no qualifying average under these options, then use (D). A.) Average of all games bowled in last three (3) Bismarck-Mandan USBC Women's Tournaments based on a minimum of 18 games. B.) The highest USBC league average, 21 games or more, from the previous season. C.) The highest Mid-Season Bismarck-Mandan USBC league average, 21 games or more for the current season; as of <b>11:59 PM on December 3, 2023</b>. D.) If no average under (A), (B), or (C), the highest Bismarck-Mandan USBC league average as of the date 21 games are bowled up to the time of competing in tournament; all others will bowl SCRATCH.  <i>Note:</i> Sport and challenge league averages will be adjusted based on the Average Adjustment Chart at Bowl.com. - The tournament entering average is to be verified by the tournament manager and/or local association manager. Prior to distribution of prize funds, all bowlers' averages are subject to further verification by the Bismarck-Mandan USBC.</p>
<p><b>6.) Average Verification:</b> Bowlers are responsible for verifying their own average. Per USBC rules 319b and 319c, tournament management has the right to re-rate any bowler's average. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded. Tournament management will perform an audit on tournament results and records at the conclusion of the tournament and averages will be verified prior to distribution of the prize fund. USBC Rule 319e is applicable to all participants. However, the following USBC tournament rules do not apply: 319a, 319d, and 319f.</p>
<p><b>7.) Handicap:</b> Handicap shall be based on 90% of the difference between 220 and the participant's tournament entering average. Each event is to be handicapped on a three (3) game basis, no limit.</p>
<p><b>8.) Entry Fees:</b> Team, doubles, singles, handicap all-events, scratch all-events, and optional six (6) game scratch are as follows: Entry fees for team, doubles, and singles are \$35 per person per event (\$15.00 for lineage, \$18.50 for prize fund, and \$1.50 for expenses). Entry fees for handicap all-events, scratch all-events, and six (6) game scratch feature are all \$5 each with all entry fees for these events going to the prize fund. Prize funds will be returned 100% within 30 days from completion of the tournament.</p>
<p><b>9.) Tournament Format:</b> The tournament shall consist of a four-person team event, doubles event, and singles event (handicap only). There will also be all-events (handicap and scratch) and a 6-game scratch event. Entrants shall bowl in the same order as listed on the entry form. A.) <b>Team Event:</b> Multiple participation in team event is allowed. However, at least two (2) bowlers on the team must be different in order to compete more than once. B.) <b>Doubles and Singles Event:</b> The doubles event will be bowled first, immediately followed by singles. <i>Please Note:</i> A doubles event must be bowled in conjunction with each singles event bowled and vice versa. Additionally, multiple participation in the doubles and singles event is allowed. A bowler participating more than once in the doubles and singles events may cash more than one time, except that <b>they can only cash once with the same doubles partner, and only one (1) time in the top five (5) in the singles event.</b> If a bowler places twice in the top five in the singles event, they will move down to 6th place in the final prize fund. Bowlers will remain on the same pair of lanes during the doubles and singles event. C.) <b>Handicap and Scratch All-Events:</b> All-events consists of the bowler's first appearance in team, doubles, and singles. D.) <b>6-Game Scratch:</b> The 6-game scratch scores will be based on the bowler's first appearance in the doubles and singles event.</p>
<p><b>10.) Tournament Competition:</b> If a team is bowling alone on a pair of lanes, the third bowler must complete their frame before the lead-off bowler may start the next frame on the adjoining lane. There will be a maximum of three sets of doubles on a pair of lanes. Lane assignments may be done automatically by the computer system.</p>
<p><b>11.) Substitutions and Refunds:</b> Tournament management shall be notified of all substitutions at least one (1) hour before the scheduled time of bowling. An all-events entry may be transferred provided the substitute is replacing the original bowler in all three (3) events. In case of an emergency, a substitute shall be allowed, if one is available, after competition has started in the team and doubles events only. All substitutions made in such cases are subject to the approval of tournament management. If approved, the combined scores are to count in either of these events. If a substitute is not available, only the actual score of the frames bowled shall count. Pacers will not be permitted. Refunds will be issued on a case-by-case basis at tournament management discretion.</p>
<p><b>12.) Scoring:</b> Automatic scoring will be the official scores. Any dispute or disagreement or any obvious error in scores shall be immediately referred to and decided by the tournament manager. Errors in scoring or in calculations must be reported to a tournament official not later than 24 hours after the game has been completed. Each bowler is responsible for checking their own score as games are being bowled and for immediately calling the attention of a tournament official to correct any error before further frames are bowled.</p>
<p><b>13.) Awards:</b> Awards shall be distributed for winners of the following: Handicap and Scratch Team (4 team members), Handicap and Scratch Doubles, Handicap and Scratch Singles, Handicap and Scratch All-Events, and High Game. Awards will be combined if the same participant earns more than one.</p>
<p><b>14.) Prize Money:</b> Prize money will be based on one prize for each four (4) entries or minor fraction thereof, for handicap team, handicap doubles, handicap singles, and the six game scratch feature. Payout for both handicap and scratch all-events will be one for every six (6) entries or minor fraction thereof.</p>
<p><b>15.) Tournament Arrival:</b> Team captains and all doubles and singles entrants shall report to the tournament management at least 30 minutes before the assigned shift start time. Please refer to Rule 11 regarding any substitutions.</p>
<p><b>16.) Tardy Bowlers:</b> Bowlers arriving late are permitted to bowl. Their scoring begins with the frame being bowled; they receive zeros for any frames missed (USBC Rule 322). If an entrant is late for the doubles event, the entrant present shall bowl their singles event first. If the partner has not arrived by the time the singles event is finished and a substitute cannot be found, the entrant present shall be permitted to bowl the doubles event, so they can qualify for all-events.</p>
<p><b>17.) Practice:</b> There will be fifteen (15) minutes of practice prior to the team event and ten (10) minutes of practice prior to the doubles event, with no practice before the singles event.</p>
<p><b>18.) Shift Cancellations:</b> In case of cancellation due to weather or emergencies, bowlers may be able to reschedule to open dates (if available) or additional weekends may be added. Refunds will be issued on a case-by-case basis at tournament management discretion. If shifts are cancelled beyond the control of the Bismarck-Mandan USBC and rescheduling is not an option, full refunds will be granted.</p>
<p><b>19.) Dress Code:</b> All bowlers shall be neat, clean and dressed in an appropriate manner. All bowlers shall be dressed modestly and should not reveal one's undergarments. Clothing with inappropriate language or gestures shall not be worn. Any matters not covered shall be handled by tournament management. It is the responsibility of the bowler to follow the dress code.</p>
<p><b>20.) Tournament Protests:</b> Any protest affecting eligibility or playing rules must be filed with tournament management within 72 hours of the infraction, or prior to tournament prizes being paid, whichever occurs first (USBC Rule 329).</p>