

# 2023-2024 Nebraska Youth Open & U23 Bowling Tour

## Full Rules (revised 9/24/2023)

1. **Eligibility:** Open to all USBC sanctioned youth bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2005 or later and all adult bowlers whose birth date is between 8/1/2000 and 7/31/2005. All bowlers who turn 18 on or before 7/31/2023 must be sanctioned as adults before bowling the first event of the season.
2. **Cost:** \$65 tournament entry (\$75 late registration); optional Junior Gold entry fee and optional side pots at select events. Per tournament: \$25 lineage, \$30 awards and scholarships, \$5 to season finals, \$5 expenses. A \$50 yearly membership fee is required upon bowler's second event of the season and goes toward the season finals prize fund, season awards, and general season operating expenses. For families with two or more bowlers, the membership fee will be \$60/family.
3. **Junior Gold Qualifying (optional):** All events will be Junior Gold Qualifiers, provided the minimum number of entries is met. *See rule #13 for full Junior Gold qualifying details.*
4. **Entries:** Pre-registered/pre-paid entries will be accepted first. Walk-ins will be accepted based on availability. *See rule #7 for registration information.*
5. **Divisions:**
  - U12 Boys/Girls Scratch; birthdate 8/1/2011 or later
  - U15 Boys/Girls Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2008 to 7/31/2011
  - U18 Boys/Girls Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2005 to 7/31/2008
  - U23 Mixed Scratch: birthdate 8/1/2000 to 7/31/2005
  - Mixed Handicap: birthdate 8/1/2005 or later, average under 176; 80% of 200. The maximum handicap will be 90 pins per game.

**Note:** Divisions may be combined if there are fewer than 10 entries per division. Divisions will be combined first within age groups and then across age groups, as needed, to make a full division. A bowler who wishes to bowl in a higher age division than where their birthdate places them may do so, but once a bowler has voluntarily moved up in age division or moved from handicap to scratch, the bowler must remain in that division for the remainder of the season. The U23 division is for adult bowlers only: birthdates between 8/1/2000 and 7/31/2005. U18 bowlers may not move up to the U23 division unless they are sanctioned as an adult bowler and forfeit youth eligibility, including Junior Gold eligibility. The exception to these division rules is if the tournament director combines age groups for a single event due to low entries.

**Handicap Averages:** Starting averages for the Handicap division will be the highest book average on bowl.com for the 2022-2023 season. Bowlers whose first event is after January 1, 2024, will use the highest average as of 12/31/2023 for a minimum of 12 games. If the bowler does not have an established average on bowl.com, please provide a current league standing sheet. Bowlers unable to provide a valid average will bowl scratch. Handicap averages will be rerated every 10 games.

6. **Sport or challenge oil pattern:** All events will be held on a sport or challenge oil pattern. Pattern will be released no later than one week prior to each event.
7. **Registration:** Pre-registration and payment is encouraged. Most events will fill quickly and have a waiting list. Walk-ins will be accepted based on availability per event. Walk-in entry fee is \$75. **No-shows and same day cancellations will be assessed a \$25 fee to register at a future event, subject to tournament director's discretion.**
  - Most events will consist of only one qualifying squad, but it may be necessary to have two squads at small bowling centers. Times and divisions for squads will be emailed and posted on Facebook.

- Register online at TournamentBowl.com. Absolutely no email, text, phone, or social media messaging entries will be accepted this year. You must register online or walk-in.
  - Pre-payment is encouraged but not required. Pre-pay using PayPal friends and family to: [neyouthbowl@gmail.com](mailto:neyouthbowl@gmail.com) or using Venmo to @torri-merten. Please add a note indicating bowlers' name(s) and the event name.
8. **Format:** The format for the Tour Stops will change throughout the season but will be emailed to all registered NEYBP bowlers and posted on our Facebook page at least one month prior to each event. (All Tour Stops will include a minimum of five games of qualifying and cut with finals.) Ties for final seeding positions will be broken with a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll-off. Ties within seeding positions will be broken by the highest single game.
- Stop 1-8/6/2023 Big Apple Format: 5 game qualifier with cut to top 5 in each division for stepladder finals
  - Stop 2-8/19-8/20/2023 Legacy Lanes Format: 5 game qualifier with cut to top 5 in each division for stepladder finals
  - Stop 3-9/3/2023 West Lanes Format: 5 game qualifier with cut to top 5 in each division for stepladder finals
  - Stop 4-10/1/2023 Thunderbowl Format: 5 game qualifier with cut to top 8 in each division for seeded bracket finals.
  - Stops 5-9 Formats still to be determined.
  - Season Finals format: Saturday: 4 qualifying games on each of 2 different patterns with cut to the top 8 in each division (top 6 in divisions with 9 or fewer; top 4 in divisions with 7 or fewer). Sunday: Pinfall from Saturday qualifying does not carry over. Round Robin match play with bonus pins will be played. A final position round will be played to determine the top 4 in each division. The top 4 will bowl in seeded step-ladder finals with single game elimination.
9. **Scholarships and Payouts:** Scholarships/payouts will be awarded at a minimum of a 1:5 in each division. The amount of scholarship/payout available will be finalized the day of the event. Scholarship money will be deposited into bowlers' SMART accounts within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament. Additional scholarship/payout money may be added on the day of the tournament. **U23 bowlers (birthdate between 8/1/2000 and 7/31/2005) will have the option to take their payouts in cash or scholarship.** It is the college bowlers' responsibility to know their limits for cash/scholarship awards to maintain collegiate eligibility.
10. **Tour Stop Tournament Dates:** Check-in will begin 45 minutes prior to each start time. Start times may be adjusted based on the center proprietors' discretion and changes will be emailed to all registered bowlers and posted on the Facebook Page.
- 8/6/2023: Big Apple Fun Center, Kearney, NE; 9:00 am
  - 8/19-8/20/2023: Legacy Lanes, Monticello, IA; 2:00 pm on 8/20 (U12, U15, HDCP) and 10:00 am on 8/21 (U18 Boys/Girls, U23)
  - 9/3/2023 West Lanes; Omaha, NE; 9:00 am
  - 10/1/2023 Thunderbowl, Council Bluffs, IA; 9:00 am
  - 11/5/2023: Westside Lanes, Gr. Island, NE; 9:00 am
  - 3/3/2024: Mockingbird Lanes, Omaha, NE; 9:00 am
  - 4/7/2024: Hollywood Bowl, Lincoln, NE; 9:00 am
  - 5/5/2024: King's Lanes, Norfolk, NE; 9:00 am
  - 6/2/2024 Maplewood Lanes; Omaha, NE; 9:00 am
  - Season finals on 6/22/2024-6/23/2024 (see rule #12 for more information).
11. **Dress Code:** Collared shirts or bowling jerseys for boys and girls; slacks or dress shorts for boys; slacks, dress shorts, or skorts for girls. Shorts and skirts/skorts must be at least mid-thigh length in the front, back,

and sides when standing, and a skort must completely cover the shorts underneath at all times, including when bowling. No jeans, shorts, sweatpants or yoga-type pants, hats, or sleeveless shirts will be allowed. Any apparel depicting cigarettes, alcohol, drugs or weapons will not be allowed. Tournament director reserves the right to disallow any apparel that does not meet these criteria and tournament director's decision is final.

12. **Season Finals:** Season finals will be held on 6/22/2024 and 6/23/2024. Bowlers must attend a minimum of five (3) regular season Tour Stops to be eligible for the season finals.
13. **Junior Gold Qualifying for 2024:** Participants in Junior Gold qualifying will be responsible for purchasing their 2023-2024 Junior Gold membership online.
  - *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2011 or later will participate in the U12 division. Entry fee is \$25.*
  - *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2008 to 7/31/2011 will participate in the U15 division. Entry fee is \$37.50.*
  - *Bowlers whose birth date is 08/01/2005 - 07/31/2008 will participate in the U18 division. Entry fee is \$50.*
  - *The number of advancer spots available in each age group will be determined the day of the tournament based on the number entries that day, per division. **The scratch scores from the bowlers' qualifying games will determine the bowlers' Junior Gold scores.** Qualifying ratio is 1:4 entries per division. The first non-qualifier above the initial ratio with excess entries in each division can advance by paying funds to complete the entry fee.*
  - *Junior Gold qualifiers will be announced before the start of the finals for each event.*
  - *Ties for the last qualifying position will be broken by the highest single qualifying game between the tied bowlers. If a tie still exists after comparing all qualifying scores, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will determine the higher qualifier.*
  - *If there are not enough entries to have separate boy and girl divisions within an age group, a combined age group will be used. If there are not enough entries for a combined age group, divisions may be combined. If it is necessary to combine age groups/divisions, the lower age group bowlers will be notified and will decide if they want to proceed. If it is necessary to combine age groups only, the registered girls will be given the option to combine with the boys to make a full division. In the case of combined age divisions, the entry fee for the highest division must be paid by all bowlers. A bowler may qualify through a higher division, but will still bowl in their current age division at Junior Gold.*
  - *The full rules for Junior Gold and Junior Gold qualifying events can be found at <https://bowl.com/juniorgold/>.*
  - *If a bowler qualifies for and decides not to attend Junior Gold in 2024, Detroit, MI, they must notify Junior Gold directly and notify the tournament director of the event where they qualified so that a replacement can be entered. Failure to cancel with Junior Gold by their stated deadline and/or failure to attend the 2024 Junior Gold Championships, may result in the bowler not being allowed to enter a Junior Gold Qualifier through a Nebraska Youth Bowling Partnership tournament in the future.*
14. Any rules not listed here will be covered by USBC playing rules and/or Junior Gold qualifying rules. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations may lead to disqualification from the event. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations will be determined by the Tournament Director. All decisions are final.
15. By entering an NEYBP event you agree to any photos/videos of you at the event to be posted on the NEYBP website, Facebook page, or other NEYBP social media sites. Live streaming of events may also occur.