

# AMERICAN WHEELCHAIR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

## National/Regional Sanctioned Tournament Rules

### **Tournament Operation:**

AWBA National/REGIONALLY Sanctioned Tournament rules will govern all Wheelchair bowling tournaments. All entrants must be current members of the USBC and the AWBA and will be entitled all awards earned under sanctioning for these tournaments. USBC rules will apply if there is no AWBA rule exists. AWBA Board of Directors will host or co-host 2 qualifying regional tournaments and the AWBA National Tournament for qualifying for the USBC Team USA try-outs. AWBA will establish a ranking system per classification of W1, W2, or W3 for men's and women's division.

**Tournament Committee:** Per current exclusivity agreement, all announced ball give-a-ways at AWBA sanction tournaments will be either, Storm, Roto Grip, or 900 Global. Other brands donated allowed only as "a bowling ball". Per current exclusivity agreement, shirts from logo infusion and any other shirts that you have gotten from an AWBA Tournament are aloud, no other manufactures logo apparel "bowling shirt company" is aloud.

Management and operation of this tournament shall be vested in the tournament director and the AWBA BOD. The AWBA is the governing body of all wheelchair tournaments sanctioned by the AWBA and/or the USBC to give oversight and enforcement concerning Tournament Rules and Regulations. This oversight can be carried out by an AWBA BOD present or assigned to the tournament as the Director or to assist the TD and his/her tournament committee. They/He/she shall form a committee consisting of the current AWBA board members present and two (2) AWBA members living in or near the tournament site, who shall serve as assistant tournament directors, plus any other individuals of his/her choosing. The tournament director and his/her committee shall be responsible for all records keeping, official scoring and certification of the final position standings. The tournament director shall be responsible for the auditing of the tournament monies received and paid during the tournament AND REPORT FINAL RESULTS AND INDIVIDUAL WINNINGS TO THE AWBA SECRETARY NO LATER THAN 20 DAYS FROM THE END OF THE EVENT.

**Eligibility:** Only bona-fide members of the AWBA, in good standing, shall be eligible to compete in an AWBA National/REGIONAL Tournaments. All disabled bowlers applying for membership in the AWBA must also belong to the USBC. Individuals who have been suspended by the AWBA or USBC are ineligible to compete in this tournament. All bowlers must bowl from a wheelchair and enter under his/her name. Bowlers unattached to a USBC certified league yet has an AWBA Tournament average, may bowl in the division in which they are assigned. As person not possessing a certified average or an AWBA Tournament average, must bowl scratch. The AWBA does not allow multiple entries.

**Closing Date:** All entries must be postmarked no later than the first Post Office business day following the closing date set by the tournament director. Entries postmarked after that date may be deemed ineligible and returned. All entries must be completely filled out, and all applicable fees included with the entry, as well as documentation required to verify the stipulated average information. Incomplete entries may be deemed ineligible and returned. If an entrant is unable to compete, regardless of reason and withdraw within the 2 weeks prior to the start of an event will receive no refund. For individuals withdrawing prior to the two weeks prior will receive a refund minus any set expenses that have already be paid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director may use his/her discretion in making a refund due to special circumstances.

**Registration:** Bowlers shall show membership cards to confirmed membership in both the AWBA and USBC. If the bowler cannot produce proof of membership, he/she must purchase the necessary membership card(s). All bowlers shall register at the Official tournament table at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the time his/her first squad of the day is scheduled, where he/she will receive lane assignments and scheduling information.

**Entering Averages:** The designated individual appointed by the Chairman will be responsible for the calculations of Entering Averages for all bowlers. This individual will provide all Tournament directors entering averages for bowlers entered into a given tournament. The Tournament Director must adhere to the

Adjusted Tournament averages provide. Failure to comply with this rule will have the sanction voided by action of the AWBA board members present and no awards will be recognized for said tournament. If none of the above applies, he/she must bowl scratch. Book averages older than 2 years will not be considered in the calculation of an entering average to an event. For the AWBA National Tournament, the final entering average will be determined using the most current book average posted on bowl.com as of May 25. Any change in book average after that date will not be used to establish entering average. No book average older than 2 years will be used in the calculation of averages. Penalties: If a bowler does not submit his/her highest average to the tournament director, he/she will be subject to disciplinary action. That action will cause him/her to forfeit all money and prizes won and face possible suspension from all AWBA tournaments for up to one (1) year.

**Adjusted Tournament Average:** \_\_\_\_\_ Whereas the AWBA has adopted the adjusted tournament average rule for all events conducted at a Regional or National Tournament only, within the following parameters, to compel competitors to enter tournaments using the following method to determine adjusted tournament Average. This rule applies to all AWBA sanctioned events.

\*A: USBC rule 319 will not apply; money won has no bearing on potential tournament average adjustments of any individual competitor.

Calculation of an Adjusted Tournament Average will be determined in the following fashion:

1. Said adjusted tournament average is based on a minimum of one event, of a minimum of 12 games.
2. The Average will be calculated by taking the most current USBC book average. Should a composite average exist, the composite average will be used. The book average is added together with all AWBA tournaments within the last 12 months divided by the number of tournaments bowled plus the book average. Example: 4 Tournament added together equals 400 plus book of 100 giving a total of 500 divided by 5 (4 Tournaments plus 1 book) giving the individual an Adjusted Tournament Average of 100.

3. For a new bowler\*, a league sheet from a sanctioned league will be accepted for the first tournament entered as long as 12 games have been bowled.

C: The AWBA designee shall be responsible for tracking adjusted tournament averages and will provide tournament directors with updates prior to closing dates of current tournament applications whenever possible.

D: All individuals affected by the adjusted tournament average will be mailed or emailed a confirmation with the adjusted average listed of that event. It remains the individual bowler's responsibility to maintain his/her own record, including scores if a challenge is offered to the accuracy of the designee's calculations.

E: A Bowler that has not bowled an AWBA event for a period of 2 years or longer may enter a tournament under the same conditions as a new bowler.

H. Should a bowler not possess an AWBA tournament average, a USBC Book average or sanctioned leagues sheet must bowl Scratch. \*A new bowler will be defined as an individual which has never participated in an AWBA Sanctioned tournament or one that has not participated in an AWBA event for a period of more than 2 years.

**Division Placement:** \_\_\_\_\_ Entrants must designate on his/her entry form whether he/she will enter the scratch division or the handicap division. Those opting to bowl in the handicap division will be placed in either the "A" or the "B" division according to the tournament rules and will be eligible for awards in the corresponding division.

### **Scratch Division**

By total pin fall, the top eight (8) qualifying scratch scores bowled through the qualifying rounds will advance into match play competition. If a tie exists for 8th place, a full game will be bowled to determine the match play field. All other scratch bowlers will be placed accordingly as to pin fall for final position standings. The bowler entered in the scratch division achieving the highest pin total after qualifying and match play will be declared the High Qualifier in the scratch division. All qualifying pins will be carried forward into match play for the head-to-head competition. Each game won in match play will be awarded 30 bonus pins. The actual pin will determine position standings. The top five (5) qualifiers after match play will compete in a stepladder roll off to determine the

winner of the scratch division who will be declared the AWBA National/REGIONAL Scratch Champion, along with all other awards as appropriate.

### **“A” Division**

After the closing date, the tournament director shall place all entries, not entered in the scratch division in descending order by entering average. The “A” division shall comprise one-half of the entries entering the handicap division. If in the process of making up the roster for the “A” division, he/she finds the split to have more than one individual with the same average, all like averages will be placed into the same division. Once the roster has been set, the tournament director shall not be required to further balance the divisions regardless of one or more bowlers drop out regardless of circumstances. The top five (5) qualifiers of the “A” after qualifying will compete in a stepladder roll off to determine the winner of the “A” division who will be declared the AWBA National/REGIONAL “A” Division Handicap Champion and shall receive all other awards as appropriate.

### **“B” Division**

The “B” division shall be those bowlers not placed into the “A” division as instructed above.

**Roll-off's:** A person that qualifies for the stair step (stepladder) roll-off will complete their given match fully unless their withdrawal from a match is a result of a physical or mechanical nature. Should a person withdraw from a roll-off match for any other reason that individual will be removed from the results of the roll-off and will receive a monetary reward granted to the 6<sup>th</sup> place payout. The 6<sup>th</sup> place person will still receive the monetary funds posted for the tournament.

**Tie Scores:** Should the score be tied at the end of 10 frames, a 9th and 10th frame roll off will be held to calculate a winner. In the case of the tie being in the handicap divisions, the appropriate handicap will be given for each frame to each bowler.

**Handicap percentage:** The percentage of handicap used for sanctioned AWBA tournaments shall be the difference as calculated from 90% of 210 scratch pins. No calculations should be “hand figured” and any calculated value may not be rounded up.

**Individual Awards National Tour.:** Awards will be based on the first twelve (12) games of qualifying in the scratch division and the fifteen (15) qualifying games in the “A” and “B” divisions. Bowlers will only be allowed to receive awards eligible in his/her respective division and the prize money will be split accordingly.

**Special Equipment:** Aid, devices, or mechanism may be used in the delivery of the ball (i.e.) ramp/chute. All other aids must have been previously submitted and approved by the AWBA New Equipment Committee. Each bowler must impart his/her own force or impetus to deliver the ball. Stick and Ramp bowlers may use a helper to position the bowler at the foul line and/or assist in placing the ball prior to delivery. The use of a helper must be reported on the entry form. Stick / Ramp Helpers/Ramps: Once the ball has been positioned, the helper must move him/herself away from the bowler before the ball is delivered. The helper may not hold or touch the bowler after the ball has been put in place. Helpers will be required to adhere to the AWBA dress code. A power chair using an Ikan bowling device may roll to the foul line. All other power chair bowlers must be stationary at the foul line.

**Order of Bowling:** Lane assignments shall change with each scheduled shift. Each bowler shall successively and in regular order bowl on the lanes as assigned. Bowlers in the same division shall not be scheduled to bowl with only members in their own division... i.e., assignments shall include a mix of divisional bowlers. When it is required to bowl split shifts due to lack of sufficient lanes, the tournament director may schedule such shifts to be bowled consecutively.

**Delay of Game:** A bowler that has to leave the lanes (personal emergencies) after the commencement of bowling, shall have thirty (30) minutes make-up time in order to finish the frames/games missed. In cases of wheelchair breakdowns, the tournament director shall be advised of the delay. If, in his/her judgment the repairs shall be lengthy, he/she shall instruct the remaining bowlers to bowl ‘out of turn’. After completion of the repairs, the bowler shall start bowling at the beginning of the next full game. He/she will be allowed to make up the missed frames or games after the completion of the scheduled shift. (A pacer may be used but is not mandatory when making up games.)

**Steadying A Wheelchair:** \_\_\_\_\_ No aid, device, mechanism or person shall be allowed to steady the wheelchair. It has to have been previously submitted and approved by the AWBA New Equipment Committee. In an emergency (wheelchair

**Stabilization:** \_\_\_\_\_ A helper may steady or hold a wheelchair in position if approved by the Board of Director members attending the tournament. No part of the wheelchair (except the wheels) may touch the approach. No feet, hands, brace supports can make contact with the floor. Any additional device or weights attached to a manual wheelchair, or to the wheels of a manual wheelchair. (i.e. power assist wheels) for the expressed purpose of stabilizing the wheelchair or assisting the mobility of the user, shall not be prohibited. Furthermore, any strapping systems used for the express purpose of securing or stabilizing the bowler with their chair shall be allowed. Bowlers must remain fully seated on the wheelchair cushion during delivery of the ball. No part of the bowler's buttocks can be elevated above the seat by using the wheel/tire. Wheelchair cannot be higher than 21 inches (53.34 centimeters) from the wheelchair seat rail frame to the floor. An elevating power chair must be at its lowest normal seat height during competition, it can't be elevated to allow the bowler to stand during competition. The cushion on the wheelchair cannot exceed 5 inches (12.7 centimeters). Each bowler must impart his/her own force or impetus to deliver the ball.

**Stick, Ramp - Ikan:** For participants in an AWBA Bowling Tournament using a push stick or IKAN or any device attached to the wheelchair, such participant will under the USBC rule number 5 should such device touch the lane beyond the foul line. Such device will be considered an extension of the bowler's body making it a foul should any part of the special equipment being used touch the lane beyond the foul line. The Ikan ramp may be of any length as long as it does not extend more than 3 feet past the front of the chair's leg rest and does not exceed the height of the bowler's chin when the chair is at its lowest normal height. For safety reasons, elevator chairs may not be elevated during competition. Ramp may be made of any materials as long as construction and attachment is safe for all. The ramp may extend past the foul line as long as no parts of the ramp or its components touch any part of the alley before, during or after release of the ball. It is up to the Ikan bowler to ensure/prove that the Ikan is not touching should a challenge be called. The Ikan ramp is legal during all competition

**Fouls:** Foul lights will be used for the entire competition. A slow rolling ball shall not constitute a foul. No part of the body shall make contact with the floor beyond the foul line during the delivery of the ball. No objects shall be placed on the approach, or near the foul line, except the wheels of the wheelchair. The wheelchair may not come in contact with any foreign object... i.e., the foul light housings, during the delivery of the ball.

**Scorekeepers:** The BOARD APPROVED SCORING SYSTEM shall be the official scorer of the National/REGIONAL Tournaments and it shall be the responsibility of each bowler to verify the accuracy of his/her score before signing his/her score sheet. Should a signed score sheet be submitted with incorrect scores, the Tournament Director will perform an investigation to determine whether the scores were submitted with the intention of deceiving the Score keeper and Tournament Director. A comparison will be made to compare scores submitted by the bowler with the scores recorded by the host center. Should it be determined that the incorrect scores were submitted by the bowler with the intention of deceiving the Tournament Director, the bowler will be disqualified from the tournament and suspended from the AWBA for a period of one year. The bowler in question must request after serving the period of one year, his/her return to the AWBA. The request must be made to the Board of Directors of the AWBA and their decision will be final.

**Tardy Bowlers:** Tardy bowlers arriving after the beginning of the scheduled shift in progress shall receive 'zero' for each frame missed, and shall be allowed to commence bowling in the next frame after the one in progress.

**Tie Scores:** In the event of a tie for 6th place or higher, a 9th and 10th frame roll off will be bowled to break the tie. If the tie remains, additional 9th and 10th frames SINGLE BALL ROLLOFF will be bowled until the tie is broken. Any other ties below 6th place will remain, and the prize money split accordingly. Ties in the handicap divisions will be allowed the appropriate handicap for each frame (10% per frame.)

**Misconduct/Unfair Tactics:** Any bowler who, in the judgment of the tournament director, conduct themselves in an un-sportsmanlike manner, uses profanity, profane gestures, throws, bangs, hits fixtures, or who engages in improper tactics or conduct, including, but not limited to physical, verbal or

taunting abuse toward other individuals, or becomes drunk, disorderly will be removed from the competition and disqualified. He/she shall forfeit his/her entry fee and rights to all tournament awards and prizes. There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages during any portion of the tournament, unless otherwise stipulated by the tournament director.

**Resetting Pins:** \_\_\_\_\_ Bowlers shall be allowed one re-rack per game during the tournament play. All other re-racks must be approved by a member of the tournament committee. All re-racks during roll off competitions may be requested from the tournament director or his/her designee.

**Dress Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ The AWBA dress code shall be neat, clean and in good taste. The following standards shall be enforced in all AWBA tournaments. Unless cleared by Tournament Director and committee.

1. No headgear, hats, caps, headbands, bandannas, scarves, visors, sunglasses, or earphones.
2. No shorts, tee shirts or tank tops.
3. All shirts must have a butterfly or ribbed collar and be of plain design or only bowling jerseys manufactured by IAMBOWLING aka Logo Infusion will be allowed at AWBA Sanction Tournaments. Also allowed are shirt that have been given out at a previous AWBA sanction tournament. JERSEY WITH SASH COLLARS ARE PERMITTED.
4. Women's blouses must be sleeved. Halter tops, and blouses exposing the back are prohibited as are spaghetti straps.
5. Shirts shall not display inappropriate pictures or phrasing.
6. No exposed leg bag or any other urine receptacle.

**Blind Scores:** \_\_\_\_\_ "Blind scores" shall not be permitted in a National Sanctioned Tournament.

**Appeals or Protests:** \_\_\_\_\_ All appeals or any protest must be made in writing and signed by the individual making such protests or appeal. After review of the appeal or protest the tournament director shall make a decision and rule accordingly. If the tournament director cannot resolve the dispute, the

tournament committee shall meet and render their decision, which shall be final. (The appeal may be presented to the USBC under rule 329 for USBC certified tournaments.

**Ratio of Prize Money:** The tournament director at AWBA Nationals is required to pay the top five (5) places in all divisions equal amounts. The minimum amount paid for 1st place in all division at the AWBA Nationals will be set at \$1500. The balance of the payouts for all other will be determined by the Tournament Committee and the Board of Directors. The minimum payout for all Regional Events shall be a minimum for 1st place of \$800.00. The balance of the top 5 will be determined by the Tournament Director. The remainder of each division will be paid using a ratio of one (1) in five (5) entries (20%) per division as a minimum payout for singles competitions. Other associated events (Welker Doubles, Ramus Triples Team, or future events yet to be named) will be paid out as determined by the tournament director and by the total number of entries, paying a minimum of 25% of the total entries.

**Whereas:** Certain prize funds are established at the National Bowling Tournaments and the categories are listed , numbered and rated as to prizes awarded., and each category is awarded, in full, to individual that made that category. Therefore: if more than one individual made that category each shall be given the full award of that category.

**Distribution of Prizes:** the prize money and that portion of the entry fee designated for the prize fund shall be returned 100% to the bowlers in accordance with the best interest of the bowlers as determined by the AWBA National Tournament Rules Committee and the AWBA Board of Directors.

**Merchandise Contributions:** Merchandise contributions or other monetary contributions to the tournament will be disbursed with the best interest as determined by the tournament committee.

AWBA national/sanctioned tournament rules apply to all AWBA sanctioned tournaments. The AWBA Executive Committee shall decide any questions as to the operation of the National Tournament that cannot be resolved by the tournament committee.

**Side Pots:** NO scratch bowler shall be allowed to enter the Handicap Side Pots, but A or B division bowlers can enter in the Scratch Side Pots. If they want to be Scratch bowlers, their handicap should not be used in any portion of an AWBA sanction tournament other than the up/down event.

**Service Animals:** Service animals are to be kept in the back of the pit area away from bowlers. They can be kept behind the pit area with a partner, wife, or friend. There will be Absolutely NO food or water for the animal maybe in the pit area.

### **AMERICAN WHEELCHAIR BOWLING ASSOCIATION Special Events Awards FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ONLY:**

The AWBA holds several special events and offers certain awards in conjunction with the National Championship Tournament. The following guidelines pertain to each of these events. Specifically, all of these events will conform to previously stated AWBA national/sanctioned tournament rules.

#### **Special Events:**

Tournament Operation: USBC rules and regulations and USBC accepted AWBA National/Sanctioned Tournament Rules will govern this tournament. All entrants must be current members of the USBC and the AWBA and will be entitled all awards earned under sanctioning for this tournament.

**Nelson Welker Doubles:** Doubles competition at the AWBA National Championships will be contested utilizing the USBC Format. Two team members will bowl a three-game set, using their respective handicaps. THE MINIMUM AVERAGE A BOWLER MAY RECEIVE TO COMPETE IN DOUBLES COMPETITION WILL BE 100. Upon completion of the contested 3 game set, winners will be determined by the highest team series with handicap respectively. There will be no cut based upon pins over average. Bowlers entering the competition without a

partner will be paired to the best ability of the tournament director. A maximum handicap for Doubles competition at Nationals is 100 per bowler.

**Gene Ramus Handicap Team:** In addition to the rules governing AWBA tournaments, the following rules will be in effect for the handicap triples. Teams may be composed of any three (3) individuals with A LIMIT OF 500 TOTAL AVERAGE BETWEEN THE 3 TEAM MEMBERS. Total pins for three (3) games, plus the appropriate handicap (90% of 210) will determine the championship. Bowlers entering the competition without one or more partners will be paired to the best ability of the tournament director. The prize fund will be set accordingly as outlined previously. The maximum average for the 3 bowlers combined will not exceed 500.

**Al Uttecht Tournament of Champions:** The Tournament of Champions shall be open to any past singles divisional champion. The tournament director shall set the field from those qualified entries received for this tournament, who will participate in a three (3) game exhibition round. A bowler having won titles in more than one division may select which division he/she will compete within. The champions will be awarded plaques to the scratch and handicap winners of such competitions.

#### **Special Awards:**

**Seniors Classic:** All "A" and "B" bowlers of a minimum age of sixty (60) before the commencement of the tournament shall be eligible to compete for the Seniors Classic Champion honors. The total pin fall after fifteen qualifying games shall determine the winner, who will be awarded an appropriate plaque.

**Richard Carlson All Events:** Scratch competitors achieving the highest pin fall resulting from the three (3) games of scratch doubles, three (3) game scratch scores of the handicap triples and the first twelve (12) games of singles qualifying shall be declared the Scratch All Events Champion and receive an appropriate plaque. Handicap competitors will use the same format except the award will be based on 21 games with appropriate handicap applied. This is the Carlson award.

**Buddy Cole Most Improved:** Only bowlers having bowled in the previous year shall be eligible for the Most Improve Award. The award will be based on improvement in the scratch score from the first twelve (12) qualifying games as compared to his/her scores bowled in the previous year's event. James Woodruff provides an award presented to that individual as appropriate.

**Alma Ladwig Memorial Award:** The Alma Ladwig Memorial Award is presented to the woman achieving the highest total pin fall through fifteen (15) qualifying games, including handicap entered in the National Tournament; supported each year by the Wisconsin Wheelchair Sports Association in memory of Ms. Ladwig.

**Bill Hart "Sportsmanship" Award:** The Bill Hart Memorial Award is presented to that individual who best exemplifies the spirit of sportsmanship.

AWBA national/sanctioned tournament rules apply to all AWBA sanctioned tournaments.

RULES AS AMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD, 2021

Wayne Webber, Vice Chairman