

RULES & INFORMATION for the 2012 USBC MASTERS

Jan. 23-29, 2012

-A-

Administrative fees are charged to any individuals who withdraw from the tournament. A fee of \$50 for those withdrawing between Jan. 1-Jan. 15 and \$100 for those withdrawing after Jan.15.

Alternates will not be used in match play. Players arriving late for their match will bowl beginning with the frame then being bowled by their opponent. Failure to appear, regardless of cause, will constitute a forfeiture of the match; the opponent must still bowl his or her three games to advance to the succeeding round.

If a forfeiture occurs in the first round or any succeeding winner's bracket match, the player forfeiting the match would still be eligible to bowl in their next scheduled loser's bracket match.

-B-

Bowling balls including "plugged" balls, must meet USBC specifications. Once competition begins for each block, the outer surface of the ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel.

-C-

Check-in is in the registration area. All bowlers must check in prior to their scheduled Official Practice session. If a bowler is unable to check-in prior to their practice session then that bowler must check-in at least 60 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled squad. A bowler who does not check in 60 minutes prior to his/her scheduled squad is subject to a \$50 fine. Last call will be five minutes before the scheduled start time of each squad. If you are not present, you may be replaced. A bowler thus removed will be placed at the bottom of the standby list.

Current USBC Membership must be shown at check-in.

-D-

Dates: Masters competition will start with qualifying on Tuesday and Wednesday (Jan. 24 and 25), match play on Thursday and Friday (Jan. 26 and 27), with the stepladder finals on Sunday, Jan. 29.

Defending Champion will bowl qualifying squads on Tuesday and Wednesday and if necessary (being in the top 25% after the first two rounds) will bowl the third qualifying squad on Thursday. He/she will be seeded appropriately according to total qualifying score unless finishing lower than 64th. If defending champion is lower than 64th after qualifying, he/she will be seeded 64th for match play.

If the defending champion withdraws from the tournament before match play begins, he/she will forfeit the opportunity to compete in match play and will be automatically placed in the 64th position for match play and will cash in that position. The first two matches (double elimination) for that seed would be forfeited with the opponent still having to bowl their three games to advance.

Double-elimination format is used in match play to determine stepladder finalists. The survivor of the winner's bracket earns the top position. Once defeated, players are placed in the elimination bracket and the match play grid determines the other finalists. Double-elimination determines winner's bracket champion (#1 seed), as well as the #2, 3 and 4 seed for TV.

Dress code requirements are a shirt with bowler's name (lettering must be two-inches in height, either embroidered or sewn) on back during all qualifying and match play competition. Dress slacks (no jeans or cords) are required during all qualifying, match play and stepladder finals competition. Those players not following dress code requirements will be assessed \$50 (for each offense) at tournament director's discretion. All fines payable before future competition in the Masters. NOTE: Please see "practice dress code" for additional dress code requirements.

-E-

Entry To enter players can complete the entry form and mail it with the entry fee to:
USBC Masters, c/o Brian Whitman, 621 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011

OR complete the on-line entry posted on bowl.com.

Eligibility for the Masters is based on the following:

1. USBC State Representative who has placed first or second in the “actual” all-events division in his/her association tournament.
2. USBC league members with a minimum 190 average for 21 games or more for the past two seasons or 173 Sport Bowling Average.
3. A non-USBC league bowler classified by the Professional Bowlers Association as a Full Member.
4. Bowler who holds 190 or better average in the past five USBC Open Championships.
5. All participants must be 16 years of age or older at time of participation. 16 and 17 year old participants must have a USBC Parental Consent Form (available on bowl.com) on file with tournament management prior to the first day of competition.

Youth Eligibility: If a bowler has a USBC Youth membership they can still maintain their Youth eligibility to participate in Youth certified competition by signing a USBC Prize Waiver (available on site). Tournament winnings will be deposited in the SMART scholarship program unless the player waives claim to their winnings. Collegiate bowlers should verify prize acceptance policies with their Compliance Offices prior to participating in the competition.

NOTE: In all cases, entrant must be a current USBC member either through a certified league or associate membership.

Entry Fee Early Bird entry fee of \$450 until Dec. 1, 2011 ~ \$500 from Dec. 2, 2011 through Jan. 19, 2012 ~ \$550 from Jan. 20, 2012 through Jan. 22, 2012 (onsite entry only).
\$425 from each entry will be placed into the prize fund.

-F-

Forfeited matches require the winner to complete all three games.

-L-

Lost games (or portion of a game) which are irretrievably lost in the scoring process shall be re-bowled at a time determined by tournament management.

-M-

Match game procedure will be used with the higher seed from qualifying having choice of starting lane. Bowler on the “odd” numbered lane will start the match. The bowler shall bowl one frame. The opponent shall then bowl two consecutive frames starting on the even-numbered lane, then the odd-numbered lane. The starting bowler then bowls two frames. This procedure continues throughout the match. The player who ends a game first starts the following game. All matches start on the left lane.

Match play will consist of three-game matches until the stepladder finals. Total pins will determine the winner of each match. The schedule for the opening match play round will be determined by qualifying score as matched with a pre-arranged listing. The complete schedule with lane assignments will be on display prior to the completion of qualifying.

-P-

PBA Members: Current and former PBA members must be in good-standing with the PBA

Plugged bowling balls may be used as long as they meet USBC specifications.

Practice will be allowed before the start of each qualifying block and each match. Ten minutes will be allowed for practice in qualifying and five minutes in match play. In case of a lane breakdown causing at least a 10 minute delay, one practice ball per lane will be allowed by the bowlers on that pair of lanes.

Practice dress code requires that all players wear a shirt (name not required) and dress pants (**no jeans or cords**). Those not following dress code requirements will be assessed a \$25 fine by tournament management.

Practice sessions will be scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23. Practice times will be provided with qualifying squad time notification. Players must bowl assigned practice squad unless granted permission to switch squad by tournament management. Bowling balls do not have to be checked for practice sessions.

Prize checks are issued at the Masters Tournament office shortly after a player has been eliminated from match play competition. Prize checks for players cashing but not making match play will be available the day after qualifying ends. At least one player out of every four entrants will cash. The entire prize fund will be returned 100%.

Protests concerning scoring accuracy must be filed with tournament management immediately. Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to the attention of the chief supervisor on duty. An inspection then will be made and, if needed, corrections made. However, if the complaint is determined to be unwarranted the contestant must proceed to bowl or the games will be declared forfeited.

-Q-

Qualifying: All entrants will bowl one five-game block on each of the first two days. The field will be cut to the top 25% (or 63 bowlers plus defending champion, whichever number is greater) for an additional five game block on the third day. The field will then be cut to the top 63 bowlers plus defending champion for match play.

Lane assignments are randomly selected by the tournament computer.

Bowlers compete “across the house” during their five-game blocks. Tournament management will determine how many lanes are skipped.

-R-

Refunds: After a player’s entry for the Masters has been accepted, USBC is not obligated to refund the entry fee if the player fails to appear or elects to withdraw. USBC retains the right to transfer that player’s entry fee to anyone on the waiting list.

Re-racks: Each contestant may take two re-racks per game throughout qualifying and match play competition (includes stepladder finals). Additional re-racks may be granted with tournament official’s permission.

-S-

Squad drawings are determined by a random computer selection process.

Substitutes in qualifying play are used only from the official “waiting list” on the first day of qualifying. Substitutes (alternates) are not used in match play.

-T-

Telecast: USBC retains the right to arrange for telecasts or broadcasts of the tournament without costs to the participants or the participant sharing in any revenue derived there from.

Ties for the last qualifying spot after the first 10-games of qualifying will be broken by a one-game roll-off immediately following the Wednesday night squad. If the tie is not broken after the one-game roll-off, two additional frames will be bowled and scored as the 9th and 10th frames with bowlers starting on their finishing lanes. This two-frame roll-off will continue until the tie is broken.

After the third qualifying round, any ties for the 64th and final qualifying spot (unless defending champion will occupy the 64th spot) will be broken by a one-game roll-off and will be scheduled by the tournament management shortly after the completion of qualifying play. The players will draw for starting positions. The pair of lanes to be used will be determined by tournament management.

Ties involving any positions except the final qualifying position are to be broken by the highest five-game total in any qualifying block. If a tie still exists, the next highest five game total in any qualifying block will break the tie.

Ties in match play require an additional game on the same pair of lanes with the first finishing bowler starting the match. If the tie is not broken after the one-game roll-off, two additional frames will be bowled and scored as a 9th and 10th frame with bowlers starting on their finishing lanes. This two-frame roll-off will continue until the tie is broken.

-U-

Unsportsmanlike conduct as determined by the tournament management may result in disqualification and/or the player being declared ineligible to enter future Masters tournaments. The individual also may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$200.

-W-

Waiting list is started after available entries and reserved entries are filled. When openings occur through withdrawals, the waiting list is used to fill the vacancies. Individuals on the waiting list are notified as soon as an opening occurs. Also, a roll-call for those on the waiting list will be held 30 minutes prior to the first qualifying squad to determine a standby list. Players on the standby list are used to replace players who fail to show up for their scheduled qualifying squad.

Withdrawals after competition has started must be granted by tournament management. Once a five-game qualifying block or three-game match has started, the player must complete the series unless given permission to withdraw. Unauthorized withdrawal will be considered an unsportsmanlike act and subject to penalty.

Withdrawals before competition has started – see “Administrative fee”.

For the 2012 Masters: Any issues relating to player conduct that may arise during the TV finals, including but not limited to player apparel, product registration and logo guidelines, shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the PBA.

USBC reserves the right to adjust squad times if necessary.