

# Mermaid Classic 2024 Tournament Rules

## Sanctioning

1. Mermaid Classic is a mixed handicap competition open to all genders by invitation only and is a USBC certified tournament under the Moral Support classification.
2. All participants must be an associate of IGBO. If not, he/she/they must apply for IGBO association before the start of the event.

## Event Participation

3. The tournament events are handicapped and are as follows: Singles, Doubles, Team, and Individual All Events. Optional Scratch event(s) will be offered.
4. Individuals will bowl three (3) games per Singles, Doubles and Team event. The Individual All Events will be the combined total of all nine (9) games plus handicap. Teams will consist of four (4) members. Doubles partners must come from the same team.
5. A professional bowler, defined as a "card-carrying member of a professional bowling organization", may participate provided they are a member of an IGBO league or have a minimum of 21 games in an IGBO league. Only one professional bowler is allowed per team.
6. Employees of the bowling center may participate if they are an IGBO league member.
7. Bowlers will be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice per event.

## Optional Scratch Events

8. Bowlers will have the opportunity to participate in an Optional Scratch event for an additional fee. Participants will compete in one of five (5) divisions determined by their entering average. Those divisions are as follows.
  - Division A: Averages 144 and below
  - Division B: Averages 145 to 169
  - Division C: Averages 170 to 184
  - Division D: Averages 185 to 199
  - Division E: Averages 200 and above
9. The entry fee for Optional Scratch is \$20. Scratch scores (without handicap) from the handicap portion of the tournament will be used to determine the winners. Optional scratch prizes will be awarded for high game, high series and high all events in each division.

## Awards and Prizes

10. All cash awards are based on total pins plus assigned handicap for each event (except for Option Scratch).
11. Awards will be given in the Handicap Division for best Singles, Doubles, Team and Individual All Events and will be paid at a minimum ratio of 1:10.
12. Awards for the Optional Scratch will be awarded by division, are limited to those bowlers who paid to enter the optional event, are scratch scores only, and are High

Game, High Series and Best All Events. Payout ratio will be a minimum of 1:20 per division.

13. Prizes will be distributed by check payable in US currency within thirty (30) days of the completion of the tournament barring any protests. A tie in any position will result in the sum of prizes for the tied positions being aggregated and divided equally by the number of individuals tied.
14. One hundred percent (100%) of the entry fee from each Optional Scratch division will be returned to that division.

## Entering Average and Handicap

15. Bowlers entering the competition must use a ten-pin average acceptable to USBC.
16. The following rules will be used, in order of listing, to determine the entering average. All averages must be based on a minimum of 21 games. If a bowler participated in more than one league in the applicable period, they must report all leagues bowled and will use the highest league average for the period. Averages of Sport and Challenge Condition leagues must be noted as such and will be converted using the published USBC conversion chart.
  - a. The November 30, 2023 league average, if none,
  - b. The 2022-2023 book average as of May 31, 2023, if none,
  - c. The final Summer 2023 average, if none
  - d. The 2021-2022 book average as of May 31, 2022, if none,
  - e. The current season average as of December 31, 2023, if none
  - f. The entering average will be the tournament scratch score.
17. League averages must be verified in one of the following ways.
  - a. Online league standing sheet.
  - b. Scanned or mailed copy of the league standing sheet signed and dated by a league officer with the name, email and phone number for the officer clearly provided.
18. If a bowler has a current tournament average for the 2023 calendar year of 21 games or more which is ten (10) pins, or more, higher than their average in Rule 16, they must use their tournament average as their entering average.
19. The tournament management has the authority to adjust the entering average of any bowler. Average adjustments will be applied as set forth under USBC rules. All average adjustments will be completed prior to the start of each event, and a bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to a full refund for that event.
20. It is the bowler's responsibility to report all tournament scores that are relevant in calculating their tournament average. Failure to report may result in automatic disqualification and/or loss of all prize winnings.
21. The handicap will be 90% of the difference of the bowler's entering average and the tournament scratch score; 250.

## Attendance and substitutes

22. It is the bowler's responsibility to be present at the assigned lanes at the time of bowling. Mechanical failures, transportation irregularities, improper directions and related reasons do not alter application of Rule 23 below.
23. Late bowlers will begin bowling in the frame in which they are ready with prior frames being scored as zero. No practice balls will be allowed for late bowlers.
24. Substitutes may bowl at the discretion of tournament management and must complete an entry form. Their entering average must comply with rules previously stated.
25. Complete Doubles and Teams must be present to bowl each event. If a team member is not present, the team may use an authorized substitute. If a substitute is not available, a zero score will be used for the missing bowler(s).

## Entry requirements

26. The tournament is to be held January 12-14, 2024.
27. Registration is only available online. Registration will close at midnight on Sunday, December 31, 2023 or when the tournament sells out, whichever comes first.
28. The entry fee is \$115. The breakdown of the entry is as follows.

Lineage	\$40.50
Prize Fund	\$40.00
Banquet	\$30.00
Trophies	\$2.50
IGBO Dues	\$2.00
29. Entries are limited to 160 and are accepted in the order in which they are received. An entry is incomplete until payment is received and confirmed. Once an entry has been accepted, refunds will only be issued at the discretion of tournament management.

## Protests and other miscellaneous items.

30. Protests and appeals must be made in writing stating the grounds for said protest or appeal. USBC requires protests to be filed within 72 hours of the event or before the prizes are paid, whichever comes first.
31. All other USBC rules will apply.
32. Any person attending and requiring special needs must notify tournament management in writing.
33. The team captain must sign the entry form acknowledging she/he has read the rules. In the case of online registration, the timestamp will be considered the team captain's acknowledgement.