



**THE FORTY FRAME GAME
OFFICIAL RULES, POLICIES AND PLAYING INFORMATION**

OCT. 1 to NOV. 22, 2025

**Bowling ITRC
621 Six Flags Dr.
Arlington, TX 76011**

Rule 1. Averages – Reporting Requirements

The average to be used will be determined in the following order:

- A. League Average – Bowlers will enter with the highest average from the 2024/2025 based on 21 or more games in a USBC certified league.
- B. Current Average – Bowlers who do not have an average from A must enter with their current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games in all current USBC certified leagues. League standings sheets or a letter of verification from the association manager must be presented upon check-in.
- C. No Average – Bowlers who do not meet any of the requirements of A or B will be entered with a 220 average.
 - a. Bowlers with averages from B above must also report any current league average for 21 or more games that is 10 or more pins higher than the entering average. (Rule 319a-2).
 - b. Bowlers with averages from A or B above must also answer questions covering USBC rules 319c, 319d and 319e.

Note: All averages not established on a Standard condition will be converted to Standard using the appropriate conversion chart.

- D. Average Integrity - Any bowler found using an average below the player's ability will be disqualified from the competition and subject to suspension charges initiated under USBC Rule 17a, Grounds for Disciplinary Action – Unfair Tactics.

Rule 2. Averages – Verification/Correction

- A. Bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their averages. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a higher handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average.
- B. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's 10th frame (Frame 10 of 40). If an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the 10th frame, the bowler will be entered with a 220 default average pending verification of average, which must be submitted by the bowler within 10 days of the end of the event.

Rule 3. Averages – Adjustments

Tournament management has the authority to adjust a bowler's average upward before participation in any event. For purposes of average adjustment, tournament management will use guidelines including, but not limited to, USBC Open or Women's Championships performance, previous tournament winnings and any records of bowler performance from leagues and/or tournaments.

A bowler has the right to appeal adjustments to the tournament director within 15 days of notification.

If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

- A. Average Relief - Bowlers wanting to apply for relief of average due to injury or disability under the provisions of USBC Rule 4e must apply in writing to USBC Rules at Rules@bowl.com at least one week prior to participation. Please see USBC Playing Rules for information regarding Rule 4e. Tournament staff do not have the authority to grant average relief.

Rule 5. Eligibility

- A. Membership - All participants must have current USBC Adult membership. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC Associate membership must be purchased at the tournament site.
- B. Age - The tournament is open to all adult USBC members.
- C. Employee Policy - USBC National Headquarters employees are not permitted to participate in the event.

Rule 6. Equipment

The ITRC Staff on duty will handle any questionable circumstances.

- A. Bowling Balls - Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for their exclusive use. Only USBC-approved bowling balls will be allowed and MUST have the brand name/logo, model name and serial number clearly visible. Bowling balls and drilling must meet all USBC specifications.
- B. Equipment Alterations - Altering the surface of a bowling ball using abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. Bowlers are permitted to sand the surface of their bowling balls prior to certified competition; however, the use of abrasives strictly is prohibited once the first ball is thrown in competition. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition.
- C. Foreign Substance - No foreign substance can be applied to bowling shoes or approaches. This includes, but is not limited to: rosin, powder, Easy-Slide, dry bags, slide stone, soap stone, polish, wax, alcohol and like products.
- D. Equipment Violation Penalties:
 - i. First offense: Individual is warned, and the ball is removed from competition.
 - ii. Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

Rule 7. Etiquette

Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated on the lanes or inside the tournament venue. Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical and verbal abuse toward other individuals. To maintain a consistent pace of bowling, it is proper etiquette to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the tournament management.

Rule 8. Event

Events are open to any adult USBC member who meets the criteria for the event and the requirements specified in **Rule 5. Eligibility**.

- A. **Main Event** – Open to any adult USBC member. This event is a handicap event. Actual score plus handicap will be used.
- B. **Bonus Side Pots** - Each of the following are included in your main event entry and will be paid out in a separate prize fund:

- i. **Big Whammy** - Strike in the last six (6) frames and receive a share of the super pot. If the required number of strikes (6) are not achieved, the payout will be made for the next highest total of strikes in those frames and shared accordingly.
- ii. **Kingpin Cash** - If the bowler strikes in Frames 2-7 AND has the last six strikes in Frames 37-40 (Big Whammy), they receive a share of the pot. If the required number of strikes (12) are not achieved, the payout will be made for the next highest total of strikes in those frames and shared accordingly.
- iii. **Sweep It Clean** - The bowler must mark (Strike or Spare) in every frame of The Forty Frame Game. If the required number of clean frames (40) are not achieved, the payout will be made for the next highest total of clean frames and shared accordingly.
- iv. **Woof-Woof Strikes** - The bowler must strike in the designated frames. Each frame is awarded a different point value. This will be a handicap event. The maximum score without handicap is 400.
NOTE: Handicap for Woof-Woof Strikes based off 90% of 220 X1, not X4 like the handicap for the main event.

Frame	5	9	16	17	21	25	31	33	34	39
Points	20	20	30	30	40	40	50	50	60	60

Payout for Woof-Woof Strikes will be like the Main Event, with prizes paid based on the highest score with bonus handicap (if applicable). Any ties will be split accordingly.

C. Optional Events

- i. **Gray Pay** – Open to all USBC members who will be 50 years of age or older as of the first day of tournament (October 1, 2025). This event is a handicap event. Actual score plus handicap will be used.
- ii. **175 & Under** – Open to all adult USBC members with an entering average of 175 or less specified under Averages – Reporting Requirements – **Rule 1**.
- iii. **Scratch** - Open to all adult USBC members. Actual scores without handicap will be used.
- iv. **Ladies Only** – Open to all female adult USBC members. This event is a handicap event. Actual score plus handicap will be used.

Rule 9. Fees

A. **Main Event** - Entry fee for the Forty Frame Game Main Event is \$50 per bowler. The breakdown is as follows:

- i. **\$35** total for combined prize funds:
 - a. **\$20** for main prize fund
 - b. **\$3** toward Payday bonus (Frames 3, 5, 19, 21, 34, 35)
 - i. Payday Strikes = one (1) share each
 - c. **\$4** toward the Bingo-Bango-Bongo bonus (Frames 40)
 - i. Bingo (First strike) = 1 share
 - ii. Bango (First and second strike) = 3 shares
 - iii. Bongo (All three strikes) = 5 shares
 - d. **\$2** for **each** bonus side pot (\$8 total)
 - i. Big Whammy
 - ii. Kingpin Cash
 - iii. Sweep It Clean
 - iv. Woof Woof Strikes

ii. **\$15** for lineage/expenses

B. **Optional Events** - The following items are available at an additional cost based on product restrictions.

Entry fee is **\$10**/per event and 100% of the entry is returned as prizes.

- a. Gray Pay
- b. Scratch
- c. 175 & Under
- d. Ladies Only

There will be no daily payout for prizes. All winnings will be paid out at the end of the tournament. See Prize Checks and Awards – **Rule 17**

Rule 10. Format

The Forty Frame Game (FFG) is one continuous game 40 frames long with unique scoring opportunities (and pitfalls!) that lead to a perfect score of 1,305 scratch. The game is a singles event.

There is no plain/normal 10-pin frame of bowling in The Forty Frame Game. Normal scorekeeping and handicapping apply. Handicap is based on 90% of

220, with that number multiplied by four (4) to determine the final handicap for each entrant.

There are also opportunities for bonus or point reductions, see **Rule 22 - Scoring**.

Rule 11. Gambling

All forms of gambling are prohibited while bowling. This includes, but is not limited to, card playing, pushing coins, etc.

Rule 12. Lane Conditioning

Lanes will be conditioned before all squads. The ITRC House Shot will be used for this event.

Rule 13. Lost Scores

In the event a game (or portion of a game) is irretrievably lost in the scoring process, the game (or portion thereof) shall be re-bowled at a time and date determined by tournament management. Should the time and date of re-bowling be refused by the participant, USBC is liable only for the return of the entry fee paid for the event in which the loss occurred.

Rule 14. Membership

See Eligibility – Rule 5

Rule 15. Pacers

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

Rule 16. Participation

A bowler may enter The Forty Frame Game up to four (4) times. However, they will only cash with their highest score in the main event and bonus side pots, except for Woof-Woof Strikes which a competitor may cash multiple times.

A bowler may cash multiple times in the \$10 Optional Events.

Rule 17. Prize Checks and Awards

- A. The IRS requires 1099 forms to be furnished to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 or more annually in any USBC events in which they participate.
- B. Failure to furnish a Social Security number (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number (ITIN) (non-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
- C. Prize winnings will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (Rule 309) unless permission is granted to extend by USBC.
- D. Any prize check requiring replacement within 90 days of the tournament ending will require a \$25 replacement fee and \$50 thereafter.
- E. Prize checks, or replacement checks, must be cashed by July 31, 2026, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

Rule 18. Prize Ratios

All prize money will be returned 100%. Prize ratio will be at least 1:5.

All posted prize funds and low-to-cash figures are estimates.

Bowlers may only cash one time in the Main Event, regardless of the number of times they entered. The highest score will be used.

Optional events such as the GRAY PAY, SCRATCH, 175 & UNDER, and LADIES ONLY will feature a prize fund-style payout with multiple cashing places based on entries. Same for the bonus side pot WOOF-WOOF STRIKES.

The other bonus side pots such as the BIG WHAMMY, SWEEP IT CLEAN AND KINGPIN CASH will feature a jackpot-style payout with each winning entry receiving an equal share of the total prize fund.

Rule 19. Protests

Any protest or appeal concerning scoring must be made in writing briefly stating the grounds of the protest or appeal and submitted to the tournament director no later than 24 hours after the game has been played. Any other protest must be filed in accordance with USBC Rule 329.

Rule 20. Re-Racks

Each bowler is allowed a total of two re-racks per game. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

Rule 21. Scoring

The Forty Frame Game maximum scratch score is 1,305. The following are the details on each of the frames offered in The Forty Frame Game.

- A. **NO TAP** - The system registers a strike when the bowler throws a strike or a nine (9) count on the first ball. The strike is scored as a strike in standard 10 pin bowling.
- B. **BONUS** – If the bowler strikes, the strike is scored as a strike in standard 10 pin bowling, and the bowler is awarded 10 points into the bowler's game total line.
- C. **PAYDAY** – If the bowler strikes, the strike is scored as a strike in standard 10 pin bowling, and the bowler will receive a payout for the strike at the end of the tournament.
- D. **SOUR GRAPES** – For any ball marks, the frame is scored as a standard 10 pin bowling frame. If the bowler does not strike on the first ball, the bowler will lose two (2) points for every pin left standing on the first ball in the bowler's game total line.
- E. **SUPER SOUR GRAPES** – For any ball marks, the frame is scored as a standard 10 pin bowling frame. If the bowler does not strike on the first ball, the bowler will lose five (5) points for every pin left standing on the first ball. The points are removed from the bowler's game total line.
- F. **BIG KAHUNA** – If the bowler strikes in this frame, the strike is scored as a strike in standard 10 pin bowling, and the bowler will receive a bonus of 25 points added to their game total line.
- G. **MULLIGAN FRAME** – In the Mulligan frame, if the bowler does not throw a strike on their first ball, the bowler has the options to "do over" the first ball.
- H. **BINGO-BANGO-BONGO** - This event covers the three (3) balls thrown in the 40th frame and is a successive cumulative award. Bingo – Strike on first ball, get one share of the pot. Bango – Strike on first and second ball, earn an additional two shares (3 total shares) of the pot. Bongo – Strike on all three balls of the 40th frame and earn an additional two shares (5 total shares) of the pot.

Rule 22. Smoking

No smoking or use of tobacco products of any kind are allowed during competition, including the use of "smokeless" cigarettes or any products intended to simulate the tobacco/smoking experience.

Rule 23. Special Needs/Requests

Bowlers requiring aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., or who are blind, must report this if special scheduling consideration needs to be arranged.

Rule 24. Squad Times/Assignments

Squads are limited to 24 bowlers (8 Lanes/3 Bowlers per lane). Not all squads are available each day. Check online Registration for availability.

- A. Times listed are "bowling for score" times. Warm up will start 10 minutes prior.
- B. Squad Times are as follows:
 - a. Wednesday – Friday 6:00 p.m.
 - b. Saturday – 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- C. Reservations made online take priority over walk-up entries. Walk-up entries will close 20 minutes prior to the start of every squad.
- D. Bowlers must check in 20 minutes prior to scheduled squad time or reservation may be forfeited and transferred to someone on the wait list.
- E. Hours are subject to change.

Tournament management has the right to reschedule lane assignments or times, including the number of bowlers per pair, up to the time of bowling for score. Reasons for the rescheduling of lanes may include, but are not limited to, mechanical breakdowns, bowling unopposed, technical problems and booking conflicts.

Note: All squad times are assigned/scheduled in real time when payment is received. Times are not guaranteed from year to year. Special events or circumstances may require squads to be conducted at times other than the times listed above.

Rule 25. Other Rules

- A. Bowlers agree to follow all directives issued by federal, state and local authorities designed to ensure public safety regarding gatherings/events.

B. Individuals arriving late shall begin play and the scores shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Entrant will receive a zero for all frames missed.

C. All USBC tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.

Tournament management has the authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered by these rules.