



## Tournament Rules 2009 – 2010

The Tournament is open to each AMF league bowler ("Bowler") who is 18 years of age or older when he or she enters the Tournament and who actively participates in an adult league with a 3 to 4-game format at an AMF center during the 2009-2010 winter season ("AMF League").

- AMF employees and their immediate family members, including persons who are unrelated but reside in the same household, are not eligible to participate in the Tournament.
- Current PBA nationally exempt members are not eligible to participate in the Tournament.
- A Bowler must be active and current in all league fees due to his or her local AMF League as of the first date of the Center Finals and must have completed and paid for 30 games in an AMF League prior to the District Finals in order to participate in the District Finals.

### **I. FORMAT**

The Tournament is a singles, pins-over-average, in-league, ten pin bowling tournament. Men and women will compete in one of four Divisions based on their averages:

Open Division	200+
Division A	180-199
Division B	160-179
Division C	159 and below

### **II. AVERAGES**

A Bowler will be placed in a Division based on an average as follows:

1. Subject to #6 below, a Bowler must use his or her highest 2008-09 USBC yearbook average of 21 games or more.
2. Subject to #6 below, if no 2008-09 USBC yearbook average is available, a Bowler will use his or her highest USBC yearbook average for the 2007-08 season.
3. If a USBC yearbook average is not available as noted in #1 and #2 above, a Bowler must use his or her highest USBC current average or if not participating in a sanctioned league, current average in the 2009-2010 winter season in an AMF League of 21 games or more.
4. A Bowler will not be allowed to move to a lower Division after attempting to qualify for the Center Finals.
5. A Bowler who does not have a USBC yearbook average as noted in #1 and #2 above and who has a Sport Bowling League average of 21 games or more will use the USBC adjustment scale for determining his or her Division when competing in the Tournament. Sport League Bowlers who advance to the District Finals will use the adjusted average when determining his or her pins over average score.
6. If a prior season's USBC yearbook average is used to determine a Bowler's Division but on the date he or she enters the Tournament has a current average in the 2009-2010 winter season at any center (including an AMF center) which is 10 pins or more higher for a minimum of 21 games then such USBC yearbook average, a Bowler's current average will be used for the purpose of determining placement in

a Division. AMF may confirm a Bowler's current average with a Bowler's league secretary or other official in order to verify Bowler's new higher average.

### **III. SCORING**

Pins-over-average will be the scoring system used at every level of the Tournament and in each Division.

A Bowler will use his or her 3-game in-AMF League scores to qualify for the Center Finals. For example:

- If a Bowler's average is 160 (Division B), using that average, a Bowler's 3-game series average would be 480 ( $160 \times 3 = 480$ ).
- A Bowler enters the Tournament and bowls a 3-game score of 510 in an AMF League resulting in a score of 30 pins over average.
- If a Bowler's 3-game score is 465, the score would be 15 pins below average.

If a Bowler participates in a 4-game AMF League, a Bowler must use his or her first 3 game scores in an AMF League to qualify for the Center Finals.

### **IV. CENTER QUALIFYING**

There will be two 5-week in-league qualifying sessions for the Center Finals:

Session #1	Monday, October 12 – Sunday, November 15, 2009
Session #2	Monday, January 11 – Sunday, February 14, 2010

A Bowler must qualify for the Center Finals during in-league play. Pre-bowl and post-bowl scores will not be accepted.

The entry fee is \$3.00 per 3-game series and a Bowler must pay it to AMF prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> frame of the 1<sup>st</sup> game of in-league play. A Bowler may enter as many times as his or her AMF League bowls its regular schedule during the 10 weeks of qualifying sessions.

To enter the Tournament, a Bowler must pay the \$3.00 entry fee (CASH ONLY), obtain a Score Sheet and upon the completion of in-league play on the same day, return it completed and signed to AMF. Failure to return a completed and signed Score Sheet may result in disqualification. Only original, completed Score Sheets will be accepted. No facsimile copies.

A Bowler's qualifying score will be his or her pins-over-average score after calculating the 3-game in-league series minus his entering pins-over-average score (as noted above under **SCORING**).

The top 50 Bowlers in each Division (including ties) will advance to the Center Finals.

### **V. CENTER FINALS**

Each AMF center will host a 2-week in-league Center Finals from Monday, February 22 through Sunday, March 7, 2010 during the center's normal AMF League play. Pre-bowl and post-bowl scores will not be accepted.

The entry fee is \$10.00 per 3-game series and a Bowler must pay it to AMF (cash or credit card – NO CHECKS) prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> frame of the 1<sup>st</sup> game of in-league competition on each day a Bowler elects to participate in the Center Finals to qualify for the District Finals. The top 3 Bowlers from each AMF center in each Division will qualify for the District Finals.

Each Bowler who qualifies for the Center Finals has an opportunity to enter the Center Finals twice for each AMF League in which he or she is an active participant. However, only a Bowler's highest pins-over-average score will be used to establish his or her place in the standings.

Qualifying scores will not carry over to the Center Finals. A Bowler's score in the Center Finals will be his or her pins-over-average score after calculating his or her 3-game series of AMF League competition minus his entering pins-over-average score (as noted above under **SCORING**).

AMF will schedule any make-up date(s) before Friday, March 12, 2010 if an AMF League does not bowl twice during the 2-weeks of Center Finals (i.e. every other week leagues, etc.) or if a regularly scheduled AMF League (as opposed to a Bowler in such AMF League) cannot bowl for reasons outside of its control (i.e. inclement weather, power outage, etc.). The make-up date and time will be at the discretion of AMF and may occur on a day other than a Bowler's regular AMF League day.

Center Level Prizes

For the Center Level Prize Fund, regardless of the number of Bowlers who participate in the Center Finals, AMF guarantees a minimum \$100 prize for the winner of each Division. To increase this amount and number of prizes awarded in each Division, AMF will:

- Allocate \$7 of each \$10 entry fee to the Center Level Prize Fund of each Division.
- Award prizes to winners in each Division based on the number of Bowlers in a Division who participate in the Center Finals.

AMF will calculate the amount of prize money and the number of winners in a Division as follows:

- Center Level Prize Fund money will be awarded using a 1:10 ratio in each Division. There will be at least one and a maximum of five Bowlers who will receive prize money in each Division. In addition, the top three Bowlers will advance to the District Finals. Below is a summary of how the Center Level Prize Fund will be awarded based on the number of Bowlers participating in each Division of the Center Finals:
- **50 or more Bowlers**  
1st = 40% (including the \$100 guaranteed prize) 2<sup>nd</sup> = 25% 3<sup>rd</sup> = 20% 4<sup>th</sup> = 10% 5<sup>th</sup> = 5%
- **40-49 Bowlers**  
1st = 40% 2<sup>nd</sup> = 30% 3<sup>rd</sup> = 20% 4<sup>th</sup> = 10%
- **30-39 Bowlers**  
1st = 50% 2<sup>nd</sup> = 30% 3<sup>rd</sup> = 20%
- **20-29 Bowlers**  
1st = 60% 2<sup>nd</sup> = 40%
- **1-19 Bowlers**  
The greater of (A) 1<sup>st</sup> = \$100 (guaranteed) or (B) the product of number of Bowlers competing in the Division x \$7.

**Example:** A Division has 59 Bowlers participating in the Center Finals. AMF will award the prize money for that Division as follows:

59 Bowlers (59 Bowlers x \$7.00 per entry) = \$413.00 – Division's total prize money

1 <sup>st</sup>	\$165.20	(\$413 x 40%)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$103.25	(\$413 x 25%)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$82.60	(\$413 x 20%)
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$41.30	(\$413 x 10%)
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$20.65	(\$413 x 5%)

AMF will pay all prize money by check. See Section IX, Rule Number 2 for complete instructions.

CENTER FINALS TIE BREAKER

In the event of a tie for the third place position in a Division, the local AMF general manager ("GM") will schedule a one-game roll-off to take place on either March 13 or 14, 2010 at a time selected by the GM. Most pins-over-average will determine the Division winner. If neither Bowler exceeds his or her average, the closest score to a Bowler's average will determine the winner. The one-game roll off will continue until there is a winner. If for any reason whatsoever a Bowler fails to participate in person at the designated time for the tiebreaker, he or she is disqualified.

The 3 Bowlers in each Division in each AMF center (total of 12 Bowlers) with the highest pins-over average score will advance to the District Finals. If, for any reason whatsoever, any of these top 12 Bowlers cannot or will not attend the District Finals, for any reason whatsoever, the Bowler with the next highest pins-over-average score will advance to the District Finals. This process will continue until 3 Bowlers from each of the 4 Divisions advance to the District Finals.

A Bowler may qualify for only one position in the District Finals. In the event a Bowler bowls in an AMF League at more than one AMF center, qualifies for the Center Finals in more than one AMF center and advances to the District Finals at more than one center, his or her highest *position* at only one AMF center (determined by his or her pins-over average score) will be the score used to advance him or her to the District Finals. The Bowler with the next highest pins-over-average score in the AMF center will then advance.

**VI. DISTRICT FINALS**

District Finals will be held in an AMF center on March 20 – 21, 2010 at times selected by AMF. Bowlers from each of the 4 Divisions will advance to the District Finals (a maximum of 3 Bowlers from each Division). Scores in the Center Finals will not carry over.

There is no entry fee for participating in the District Finals. A Bowler must participate in person to participate in the District Finals.

The District Finals will consist of 4 games. Winners in each Division will be determined by the highest pins-over-average score for their 4-game series minus their entering 4-game series average score. If no Bowler exceeds his or her average, the closest pins-over-average score to a Bowler's average will determine a winner.

Every District winner in each of the four Divisions will advance to the National Finals.

District Final Prizes (per Division)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$375
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$225
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	\$150

AMF will pay all prizes by check. See Section IX, Rule Number 2 for complete instructions.

DISTRICT FINALS TIE BREAKER

In the event of a tie for the winner in any Division at the end of the District Finals, a 1-game roll-off will be bowled immediately following the District Finals. A Bowler with the highest pins-over-average score will be the winner of the Division. If no Bowler exceeds his or her average, the closest score to the Bowler's average will determine the winner. A 1-game roll-off will continue until a winner is determined.

If a Division winner cannot or will not attend the National Finals for any reason whatsoever, he or she will forfeit his or her position and the Bowler with the next highest pins-over-average score will advance to the National Finals.

## **VII. NATIONAL FINALS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The National Finals Championships will be held at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, 2010.

All winners from each of the 4 Divisions in 27 districts (total of 108 Bowlers) will travel to Las Vegas on Thursday, April 15. Subject to daily allowances, AMF will pay air fare, three nights of hotel accommodations and pre-scheduled meals from dinner on Thursday, April 15 through breakfast on April 18, 2010.

27 Bowlers from each Division will compete in an eliminator format to determine the National Champions.

### Day One - Round #1

27 Bowlers in each Division bowl 4 games. The top 16 Bowlers from each Division with either the highest pins-over-average score or the closest to average score for the 4-game series will advance to Round #2.

### Day One - Round #2

16 Bowlers in each Division bowl 3 games. The top 8 Bowlers from each Division with either the highest pins-over-average score or the closest to average score will advance to Round #3.

### Day Two - Round #3

8 Bowlers in each Division bowl 2 games. The top 4 Bowlers from each Division with either the highest pins-over-average score or the closest to average score will advance to the National Championships, Round #4.

### Round #4 – National Championships

4 Bowlers from each Division will be seeded 1 thru 4, according to their pins-over-average score from Round #3. These 4 Bowlers will participate in a PBA-style stepladder format to determine the National Champion in each Division.

Stepladder Format: The #4 and #3 seeds bowl first, the winner facing the #2 seed, and that winner facing #1 seed for the title. The Bowler with the highest pins-over-average or closest to average score will determine the winner.

### National Finals Prizes (per Division)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$50,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$25,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$10,000
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$5,000
5 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$1,500
9 <sup>th</sup> through 16 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$500
17 <sup>th</sup> through 27 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$250

AMF will pay all prize money by check. See Section IX, Rule Number 2 for complete instructions.

NATIONAL FINAL TIE BREAKER

Rounds #1, 2 and 3

In the event of a tie for an advancing position, the Bowler with the highest pins-over-average score (or closest to average if both Bowlers bowl under average) in the final game in that Round will advance to the next Round. If the tie is not broken, previous bowled scores in that Round will be used.

Round #4 – National Championships

At the end of regular competition, if there is a tie for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> position, there will be a 1-game roll off. A Bowler with the highest pins-over-average (or closest to entering average if Bowlers bowl under average) will receive the higher seeded position. Bowlers who are tied after the end of regular competition will bowl only for the place for which they are tied and will not move above the standing for which they are tied.

**IX. Rules**

1. By entering the Tournament, a Bowler agrees to the terms and conditions contained in these Tournament Rules ("Rules").
2. AMF will pay all prize money by AMF check and will be mailed to the Bowler's home address. The IRS requires AMF to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who receive prize money of \$600 or more annually from AMF. Therefore, to receive a prize, a Bowler must provide his or her social security number (as required by IRS regulations). To receive any prize, each winner must submit a complete and executed W-9 form to his or her GM. The information contained on the W-9 form is subject to AMF verification.
3. By entering the Tournament, the Bowler gives permission for his/her name, scores, photographs or videos taken of him or her to be published in AMF's promotional materials and on its websites.
4. A Bowler agrees to abide by AMF's policies and procedures including: (a) no profanity or foul language; (b) no outside food or drinks (except as approved in advance by the AMF center); (c) no items which, in AMF's opinion, may be dangerous or disruptive; (d) wearing bowling shoes while bowling; (e) following AMF's safety rules and not crossing the black foul line; (f) reporting all wet, sticky or slippery conditions to AMF center's staff and stopping bowling until the condition is remedied; (g) keeping hands out of the ball returns; and (h) cleaning shoes before bowling, after a Bowler leaves the settee area and returns to bowl or encounters a spill or slippery or sticky substance. A Bowler agrees that if in AMF's opinion, he or she violates such policies and procedures, AMF may terminate his or her participation in the Tournament.
5. Each Bowler recognizes that he or she bowls at his or her own risk and that bowling, especially in an AMF League and the Tournament, is an active, competitive sport requiring physical conditioning, coordination and experience in order to limit the likelihood of a fall or injuries and that falls, and any resulting injuries, may occur regardless of the condition of the approach and other areas or facilities of the AMF center. In consideration of paying the AMF League fees and paying the Tournament entry fee and participating in an AMF League and the Tournament, each Bowler acknowledges these risks and releases, discharges and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless AMF, its affiliates, directors, officers and employees from any and all losses, claims, liabilities, demands, damages, actions, causes of action or suits of any kind or nature whatsoever (including reasonable attorneys' fees) with respect to all injuries to the Bowler or any person or property, which may result or arise from or relate or be connected with bowling and/or participating in an AMF League (including free practice) and the Tournament (including travel related to the Tournament), the condition of the approach and other areas or facilities of the AMF Center, any incident that may occur during an AMF League (including free practice) and the Tournament (including travel related to the Tournament), any violation of these Rules, or from any negligent or intentional act or omission of the Bowler or any other bowler or person.
6. AMF reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to delay, suspend, cancel or end the Tournament in whole or in part or at any AMF center and at any time or to terminate the participation of any Bowler for any reason without penalty or refund of any kind except as provided in these Rules.

7. AMF may satisfy its obligation to a Bowler with respect to any claim or dispute relating to the Tournament, including the termination of the Tournament in whole or in part or a Bowler's participation or AMF's conduct of the Tournament or the conduct or actions of any other Bowlers in the Tournament or the decision or action taken by AMF or any Tournament Official, by refunding the entry fee to a Bowler.
8. If a Bowler has special needs, he or she agrees to provide any necessary equipment or sufficient persons who will be dedicated to providing him or her with any assistance he or she needs in order to participate in the Tournament.
9. AMF is not liable for delays, postponements or other circumstances related to or caused by circumstances beyond its control including but not limited to loss of electricity, inclement weather, scheduling, fire, earthquake or flood.
10. Neither AMF nor any of its affiliates, directors, officers, employees or agents will have any liability or responsibility for injury to, or loss, theft or property damage suffered by a Bowler or any guest while at an AMF center participating or observing the Tournament, except to the extent such loss/damage is caused by AMF's gross negligence or willful misconduct.
11. AMF will not keep score for Bowlers except by its automatic scoring equipment. AMF is not responsible for equipment failure or any administrative error in conducting the Tournament.
12. AMF or any Tournament Official designated by AMF may make any and all decisions regarding the Tournament or the play or participation of any Bowler or the interpretation of the Rules and all such decisions will be final.
13. A Bowler who has a dispute related to the Tournament must notify (A) a Tournament Official, if one is present at the AMF center, and if not, the GM and also (B) AMF by calling 1-800-DIAL-AMF within 24 hours from the time the dispute happens. The Bowler must tell the GM, if present, and leave a message 1-800-DIAL-AMF explaining in detail the nature of the dispute and his or her contact information for return communication. The National Tournament Director, Kathy Hart, will review the dispute and notify the Bowler of her decision within two (2) business days after she receives the message from 1-800-DIAL-AMF. A decision of the Tournament Director is final and not subject to appeal.
14. In its sole discretion, AMF may re-rate, suspend or disqualify any Bowler at anytime during the Tournament (i.e. Center Qualifying, Center Finals, District and/or National Finals Championships, including any tiebreakers) for any reason including but not limited to the following:
  - Any mistake, error or omission relating to a Bowler's average.
  - A Bowler was previously re-rated by any recognized tournament organization.
  - If AMF, the Tournament Director or a Tournament Official determines that the skill level indicated by a Bowler in entering the Tournament is misrepresented.
  - A Bowler fails to provide satisfactory evidence in support of his or her average.
  - If AMF, the Tournament Director or a Tournament Official determines that a Bowler intentionally bowled below his or her skill level for the sole purpose of gaining any advantage including entering a less difficult Division.