

# 2026 COLORADO STATE ELKS BOWLING TOURNAMENT RULES

**EVENTS** - competition will consist of a 3-game handicap singles event, a 3-game handicap doubles event, and a 3-game handicap team event (four person).

**DIVISIONS** - there will be **two divisions**: a women's division and an open division. All men will be required to bowl in the open division. All women will have the option to bowl in either division. Each bowler's division must be specified on the entry form. Individuals will compete in their selected division for every event. If a team or pair contains one or more bowlers in the open division, then the entire team or pair will compete in the open division for that event.

**CHECK-IN** - all bowlers will check in 30 minutes prior to squad time and present their ELK's membership card. All bowlers must be ready to bowl immediately after practice. All bowlers must bowl promptly when it is their turn.

**ELIGIBILITY** - ELK Members in good standing, both men and women, are eligible to participate. Each team may have a maximum of two (2) non-ELK players. No entrant will be permitted to bowl more than once in any event. All bowlers must hold current USBC membership. Non USBC members may qualify for entry by applying for USBC membership and remitting the USBC fee of \$27.

**PRIZE RATION** - singles, doubles, and team events will be paid **one in eight** entries. All-events will be **one in ten** entries.

**AVERAGES** - entering average will be last year's (2024-2025 season) USBC **composite** average. If a bowler has no last year's average, then they may use the previous year's (2023-2024 season) USBC **composite** average. If a bowler has neither of these, then they may use current year's (as of January 31, 2026) average of 21 games or more provided the average is verified by the League Secretary. If a bowler has none of these, then an average of 230 will be assigned (resulting in no handicap). The "10 Pin Rule" (USBC RULE 319a, Paragraph 2) applies: if an entrant's average of 21 games or more as of January 31, 2026 is 10 pins higher than their entering average, the entrant will use the highest average.

**VERIFICATION OF AVERAGES** - it shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their average. Failure to use the correct average or make correction prior to the completion of the first game of competition shall disqualify the score if the submitted average is less than the actual average. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average.

**HANDICAPS** - each bowler shall receive a handicap of **90%** of the difference between their entering average and **230**.

**OFFICIAL SCORING** - automatic scorekeeping will be used and the computer printout will be the official scoresheet. Any protests must be made within one hour after the squad ends. After a score sheet has been signed by the official scorekeeper and contestant or Team Captain, it cannot be changed except in case of obvious error in scoring or calculation. Bowlers are cautioned to sign the scoresheet only after you are satisfied that the score is correct. Duplicate score sheets will be available for bowlers.

**REPLACEMENTS** - are authorized by the team captain and must occupy the same position in the lineup as the original entrant. Once a replacement bowler has been added to the roster, and he/she has delivered the first ball in competition, the replacement shall be allowed to complete the entire series.

**TARDY BOWLERS** - will start in the frame being bowled with zero score being recorded for all prior frames. No makeup frames will be allowed. Teams refusing to begin on time will be eliminated from competition and all fees will be forfeited.

**RE-SCHEDULING** - if for any valid reason it becomes necessary to re-schedule bowlers in any event, this will be done at the discretion of the Tournament Director. In case of machine failure where it becomes impossible to complete an event within the scheduled time, the event will be rescheduled by the Tournament Director and bowling will resume later at the point where play was discontinued.

**TEAM CAPTAINS** - will serve as team representatives in all matters pertaining to individual behavior and compliance with tournament rules. The Captain will be responsible for the conduct of their team throughout the time they are in competition. The Captain will be responsible for distributing any winning prizes to team members.

**USBC RULES** - will govern in all instances not specifically covered by any of the above rules.