

2009 “The BTM” Tournament Rules

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all members of the USBC with the following exceptions: 1. PBA members who bowled 50% or more of the regular tour in calendar year 2006, 2007, or 2008. 2. Any PBA Regular Tour winner since January 1, 1999. 3. Any employee of Silver Nugget Casino or Silver Nugget Bowling Center 4. Any employee of Bowling This Month Magazine (writers are eligible).
2. **FORMAT:** 1. Singles—four games across 8 lanes. You may enter singles a maximum of 4 times, but cash only once in the main prize list. There will be a separate prize list for 8-game totals. The bowler will use their best two four-game blocks. Tournament runs February 19, 2009 through August 2, 2009, unless extended. Squads will be generally from 9:30 am-4:30 pm... seven days a week based on lane availability. Evening squads may be added, based on lane availability. Call Rick Ramsey at 800-218-1667 for additional information or visit www.bowlingthismonth.com.
3. **DOUBLES:** Bowlers who have already bowled singles and wish to bowl doubles only may do so and the entry is \$30 per bowler (\$30 – prize fund, \$30 lineage and expenses per team). Crossover doubles will be offered. Entry fee for crossover doubles is \$20 per entry for each partner. \$15 – prize fund and \$5 – expenses. You may crossover with up to 6 different partners at the same time. Each partner must be bowling at the same time to be eligible. If bowling singles, the four-game total will count for both doubles and singles.
4. **DIVISIONS:** There are two handicap divisions...Handicap singles and Handicap 8-game totals. All other divisions are scratch. Open Singles—All bowlers 50 years old or over (at time of bowling) may bowl in either the Open Division or Senior Division, but must declare before they bowl. Once they have bowled in either division, they cannot then bowl in the other. A bonus prize list will be generated for bowlers over the age of 60 and Mixed Doubles with no additional entry fee. A bowler who turns 50 after competing in the Regular Division, cannot bowl in the Senior Division in the same year.
5. **HANDICAP DIVISION:** Bowlers who bowl in the handicap division must furnish a book average before they bowl. Bowlers who wish to bowl in the scratch and handicap divisions may do so at the same time, as long as both entry fees have been paid prior to bowling. If a bowler wishes, he/she may enter the Handicap and Scratch Divisions up to four times each, but only cash once in each division.
6. **BOOK AVERAGE:** Highest average (21 games or more, non-Sport bowling avg.) from 2007-2008 season will be used unless their average as of January 1, 2009 (21 games or more) is 10 pins or more higher. Then, that average will be used for handicapping purposes. If the bowler has only a Sport Bowling average, he/she must declare so prior to entry for re-rating. The penalty for failure to do so is disqualification. Those not having a book average for the 2007-2008 season may use highest applicable average from the 2006-2007 season (21 games or more), unless their average as of January 1, 2009 (21 games or more) is 10 pins or more higher. All others must bowl scratch.
7. **HANDICAP:** 80% of 210 will be the handicapping percentage used. There will be a maximum of 56 pins handicap per game. All bowlers above 210 will bowl scratch, but still may enter the handicap division. The tournament director reserves the right to re-rate a bowler before the start of play.
8. **VERIFICATION:** It is each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their own average, whether originally submitted by the bowler, a team captain or others. Failure to use the correct average may disqualify the score if submitted average is lower than the correct average, thereby resulting in more handicap. Prize winnings will be based on the submitted average, if it is higher than the correct average (Rule 319 A, Item 3).
9. **REPORTING OF PREVIOUS TOURNAMENT WINNINGS** will apply. USBC **Rules 319 D** and **319 E** are waived, except those reporting an average of less than 210 and entering the Handicap division. **Rule 319 A** is in effect. Bowlers reporting less than a 210 average must submit scores bowled and amounts won in excess of **\$500 in any one event during the past 24 months**.
10. **PENALTY FOR WRONG AVERAGE:** If a bowler turns in the wrong average, he/she may be rerated or disqualified.
11. **ALIBI SINGLES** – Entry fee \$10. There will be one prize list for all bowlers, regardless of age who enter this event. Bowlers will be allowed to throw out their worst game of the four and the remaining three games will count toward their score in this event. The payout ratio will be 1 for 6 and a bowler may only cash once.
12. **ENTRY FEE:** First singles entry fee is \$85 (\$30-prize fund, \$30- 1 year subscription to BTM, \$25 – Lineage and expenses. Re-entries will be \$65 (\$30- prize fund, \$20 – lineage and expenses, \$15 – separate 8-game prize fund). Bowlers will use their best two 4-game blocks if they bowl singles more than once. Separate prize lists will be awarded in 8-game totals for Seniors and Regulars.
13. **PRIZE DISTRIBUTION:** In the singles event, a bowler may not cash more than once in the main prize list and once in the 8-game prize list. In doubles, multiple cashes are allowed as long as one bowler on the team is different. Prize money will be distributed at a ratio of at least one for every six (1:6) paid entries in Regular Singles, Regular Doubles, Senior Singles and Senior Doubles. Mixed Doubles, Super Senior Singles and 8-game singles will be paid at a ratio of at least one in every twelve (1:12) paid entries. All prize fees collected in a division will be returned 100% in that division. Each bowler will receive a one-year subscription to Bowling This Month Magazine. If a bowler is already a subscriber, one year will be added to their current subscription. Canadian and Mexico residents must pay \$10 extra for the subscription. Other foreign entrants must pay \$45 extra to receive the subscription.
14. **PLAYING RULES:** This tournament will be USBC and Sport Bowling Certified. For rules not covered here, USBC rules will be used and the tournament director's decision is final, unless an appeal is made in accordance with Rule 329.
15. **PAYMENT:** At the tournament site, payment must be made with cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover or Amex. No personal checks will be accepted. A \$5 administrative fee will be added to each credit card transaction.
16. **OFFICIAL SCORE:** Automatic scoring equipment will be the official scorer (transposed to recaps). Bowlers will verify the correctness of their scores at the completion of each game as it is transferred to the official recap. This will be the only opportunity to question the accuracy of the score. Obvious adjustments or errors will be corrected when the score sheet is audited by BTM staff. Each bowler must sign their score sheet to verify correctness and for the score to be eligible.

17. OPEN BOWLING: No practice will be allowed on tournament lanes at any time during tournament hours, except for the five minute warmup period prior to your assigned squad.
18. LANE ASSIGNMENT: Lanes will be assigned by the tournament staff.
19. WALK-IN ENTRIES: Walk-in entries are allowed
20. CLOSE OF ENTRIES: Entries close 30 minutes prior to the last squad of the tournament.
21. USBC rules 319D and 319E are waived. Rule 319A is in effect.
22. HOST BOWLING CENTER: Silver Nugget Bowl, 2140 Las Vegas Blvd, N., North Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-399-1111
23. HOST HOTEL: The Cannery Hotel and Casino, 2121 E. Craig Rd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030 - (702) 866-999-4899 Mention the code "BTM" to receive the special BTM or Bowling This Month bowler rate.