

SUBJECT: US OPEN TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Revised: 2007 AGM

Revised: 8/20/2010

Approved: 9/24/2010

Revised: 12/21/2021

Approved: 1/18/2022

GENERAL RULES

- These rules and regulations, as approved by the Bowls USA National Council, shall cover all US Open Tournaments
- It is the duty of the US Open Committee as the Controlling Body to organize the tournament in accordance with, and to enforce, these rules
- The US Open Committee will provide quarterly reports to Bowls USA on activities related to the US Open

US OPEN LIAISON

- Bowls USA will identify an individual to act as liaison between Bowls USA and the Host Division/US Open Committee
- Responsibilities
 - Act as the primary contact person for the Host Division and facilitate Bowls USA's role in the US Open
 - In cooperation with the US Open Chair establish a timeline for tournament development and management once the Host Division has been selected
 - Monitor activities of the US Open Committee
 - Advise Bowls USA if the US Open Committee fails to plan and/or execute activities necessary in the organization and presentation of the tournament

US OPEN FORMAT

- The first day of each event will be qualifying rounds to determine a player's/team's position in a subsequent flight
- The number of entries will assure there are no byes

ORGANIZATION OF THE EVENT

- Tournament dates shall be at the option of the Host Division with the approval of the National Council, but within the year specified
 - The US Open shall not commence after November 15
 - The dates for the US Open should avoid federal and religious holidays, as well as international bowling competitions where BUSA is represented
- The Host Division determines the maximum number of teams or players that can be accommodated on available greens in each of the three events (singles, pairs, and fours)
- Each host Division shall have the option to add other events; however, such events will not be a part of the official US Open

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Funding Sources

- Bowls USA seed money
 - The amount is determined by Council, preferable at the AGM in the year prior to the event
 - This is an expense to BUSA; it is repaid in full or part at the discretion of the Host Division or if the US Open generates earnings greater than expenses
- Entry fees
 - Host Division proposed fees must be approved by Bowls USA in advance of accepting entries, preferably at the AGM in the year prior to the event
 - A minimum 90% of entry fees shall be paid to players in the form of prize money (see **Tables A and B**)
- Host Division seed money
 - The Host Division determines their initial investment in the US Open
 - The amount should be equal to, or greater than, Bowls USA seed money
 - The amount should be repaid to the Division with net earnings from the tournament
- Donations and Sponsorships
 - Both cash and in-kind donations may be used to fund the operations of the US Open. Such cash and in-kind donations may not be added to the prize pool unless specifically designated by the donor or sponsor prior to the start of the event.
- At the conclusion of the event, and after the payment of all designated prize money, any balance remaining after all expenses have been paid, including repaying seed monies, may be distributed by the Host Division at their discretion

The Controlling Body shall submit an itemized account of income and expenses related to the US Open to the Treasurer of Bowls USA at the conclusion of each US Open Tournament. The report is also made available to the Council.

AWARDS

- Player of the Tournament Awards, for men and women, will be determined by a points system and will be recognized with a plaque (see **Table C**)
- Cash awards shall be given to the Championship flight (four places) and all other flights (two places) (see **Tables A and B**)
- Winners in the Championship flight (four places) shall receive, at a minimum, a certificate designating the event, flight, and place
 - This may be replaced with a medal at the discretion of the Host Division
- Winners and runners-up in all other flights shall receive a certificate designating the event, flight, and place

AMENDMENTS

These procedures, rules and regulations may be amended without prior notice at any duly constituted Bowls USA Council meeting or as an emergency matter by email or phone ballot.

REFERENCE TABLES

TABLE A – Distribution of Prize Money based on Number of Flight					
These percentages are guidelines.					
Number of flights	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight
1	60	51	47	45	43
2	20	17	16	15	14
3	15	15	13	13	11
4	5	13	11	10	9
5		4	8	8	8
6			5	6	4
7				3	5
8					3

TABLE B – Distribution of Prize Money within a flight	
** These percentages are guidelines**	
Flight	% of Prize Money
Championship	
1 st	35
2 nd	25
3 rd	21
4 th	19
All other flights	
1 st	60
2 nd	40
The runner-up in the last flight does not merit any prize money, because the player has lost 3 games	

**TABLE C –
Player of the Tournament Award**

Points are awarded to a player according to the following rankings.

Championship Flight	Singles	Pairs	Fours
1 st	98	81	68
2 nd	47	40	34
3 rd	31	27	23
4 th	21	14	12
Second Flight			
1 st	19	16	14
2 nd	9	8	7
Third Flight			
1 st	16	14	12
2 nd	8	7	6