

**NORTHWEST INDIANA
JUNIOR TOURNAMENT PLAYERS ASSOCIATION**

August 1, 2025



2025-26

RULES AND GUIDELINES

GENERAL

1. The Northwest Indiana Junior Tournament Players Association is open to any certified USBC Youth Bowler All bowlers must be 18 years old or younger as of 7/31/2026.
2. There will be 5 regular season events (tournaments) that will be conducted on a sport condition. Each tournament is a separate event. Additional events may be added throughout the season.
3. There will be 3 “joint” events conducted in partnership with the Bowl Indy Youth Tour series. These events will comprise the Circle City Points Series. These events will count towards NWIJTPA participation requirements. Standard NWIJTPA points will not be awarded at these events.
4. Each tournament will have two divisions: Boys Scratch, Girls Scratch
5. Entries will be accepted in the order they are received.
6. Individual Tournaments will be subject to cancellation if minimum participation levels are not satisfied. Cancellation of events will take place at least 24 hours prior to start time.
7. If you enter a tournament and do not show, you will forfeit your entry fee. If you call/message and cancel within 24 hours of the event, you will be given a credit.
8. Tournament check-in will begin 60 minutes prior to the start of the event. It is recommended that bowlers not wait until the last minute to check in should there be any issues (ie.. dress code violations).
9. The NWIJTPA Board / Tournament Director will have the right to refuse any entry. The bowler, by voluntary participation in the event, acquiesces to the final authority of the Tournament Director/Committee to interpret and enforce all rules, regulations, and procedures.
10. Bowlers arriving late will be given zeros.

FEES

1. There will be a \$25 membership fee during the 2025-26 season. This is an optional fee but does come with several benefits.
2. Entry fees for the standard singles events will be \$55 (member) and \$65 (non-member). Youth Adult Entry fee will be \$110 (member) or \$120 (non-member) per team. Tour Finals, entry fee will be \$100 per entry.
3. There will be no walk-in fee. Entries will be allowed to be paid the day of the event. If a bowler on the roster does not show for the event, that bowler will be required to pre-pay for any future events. If that bowler does not pre-pay, they will be subject to lane availability limits.
4. Payment Methods: All Prepaid entries must be submitted through the NWIJTPA Paypal account (access link thru website). Payment at the event will be by CASH or CREDIT CARD (subject to availability) only. If using credit card, an additional fee will be added. CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

1. Each tournament will also be a Junior Gold Qualifier. The cost to enter the Junior Gold qualifier will be \$25 with an advancing ratio of at least 1:8. The Junior Gold qualifier is open to USBC junior gold members. Should the minimum number of entries not be satisfied, all Junior Gold qualifier entry fees will be returned at the event. Junior Gold spots will be based on standings after the 5-qualifying block UNLESS otherwise specified prior to start of event. If a tie occurs for final JG qualifying spot, a one game roll-off will be used to determine advancer. If still tied, a 9th-10th frame roll-off will be used until advancer is determined.
2. Scholarships will be awarded in a 1:6 ratio or better.
3. Year End Bonus Scholarships will be awarded to the top 5 regular season point finishers in each division.
4. Tournament champions will receive a trophy in addition to any scholarship monies earned.
5. Tournament champions will have the option of selecting a champions jersey and champion's banner in lieu of \$50 scholarship earnings (members only).
6. There will be NO CASH awards given. All bowlers must accept SMART scholarship funds only.

DRESS CODE

1. All shirts must have a collar. It is recommended that bowlers have their names on the backs of shirts. Mock collars will be allowed (no t-shirts). No shirts with any alcohol or tobacco advertising allowed.
2. Boys are allowed to wear dress slacks or dress/golf shorts. No jeans or denim of any color will be allowed. No sweatpants will be allowed. No cargo shorts or shorts with elastic waist bands will be allowed. No gym shorts, no swim shorts. Belts are required when wearing shorts.
3. Girls are allowed to wear dress slacks, shorts, skorts or skirts. All girls wearing Shorts or Slacks must have a belt. All shorts, skorts, skirts must be of appropriate length. No jeans or denim of any color will be allowed. No sweatpants allowed.
4. Bowlers at check in will be advised if they meet the required dress code. Bowlers not meeting the dress code will not be allowed to bowl. If bowler has pre-paid, bowler will be allowed to use entry fee at future event.
5. Tournament Director(s) will have final ruling on dress code.

CONDUCT

1. No smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, chewing of snuff or tobacco, or using any controlled substance (not under a current prescription) by any bowler during times that bowling is taking place. Violators will be disqualified. Anyone who is caught with a controlled substance will be banned from the NWIJTPA and turned into the proper authorities.
2. All bowlers must keep their poise during a tournament. Any person using obscene gestures or conducting himself/herself in a manner deemed by a tournament official to be disruptive/unsportsmanlike will first be given a warning. If the conduct continues the next offense will result in a fine, with any further offenses resulting in disqualification from the event.
3. Any damage or abuse to the bowling center equipment by any bowler will result in immediate disqualification (no warnings) from the event, plus payment to the bowling center for any damages.
4. There will be no altering of the surface of any bowling ball once the event starts scoring, including the use of polishing machines at the center, or the use of USBC approved liquid cleaners (The bowler may only use a dry towel to wipe the surface of the ball). If a ball surface has been altered, 1st offense - the ball will be removed from competition. 2nd Offense – Disqualification from event.

EXCEPTION: If a tournament/event uses multiple fresh lane conditions during event segments (qualifying, advancers round, match play round, and championship round), surface changes will be allowed prior to segment in which the new condition was applied. This exception will be announced by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament/event.

5. The use of powder, easy slide, or any foreign substance on the soles of the shoes will not be permitted. If bowler is found violating this rule, 1st offense - warning will be issued, 2nd offense – Disqualification from event.
6. There are to be no weight/balance holes in a bowling ball. All holes must be used for gripping purposes. First violation of the season will be a verbal warning with removal of bowling ball from competition. Second occurrence on the season will result in ZEROS being recorded for all competition frames prior to identification of violation. Third occurrence, player is suspended from NWIJTPA for balance of season.

SCORESHEETS

- 1. Bowlers are responsible for their own score sheets.**
- 2. All scores must be written down and initialed by an opponent after each game. Failure to do so will result first in warning, 2nd offense in a fine.**
- 3. Bowlers are responsible for adding all scores. Scoresheets must be totaled prior to turning into tournament office. Scoresheets not totaled will be result in fine.**
- 4. Scoresheets must be signed by the participant and an opponent from the same pair of lanes at the conclusion of qualifying.**
- 5. Scoresheets without a player's signature will not be accepted.**
- 6. Scoresheets missing scores but with a player's signature will be given zero's for those scores that are missing.**
- 7. Arithmetic scoring errors will be corrected by the tournament staff
Players will be fined but not disqualified.**
- 8. Scores found to be written down incorrectly will result in the bowler accepting the score if it is lower than the actual scored or disqualified if the score is higher than the actual score bowled provided the bowler's signature was present.**
- 9. Bowlers disqualified due to an incorrect score will be subject to future disciplinary action, including disqualification from future NWIJTPA events, based on a review by the NWIJTPA board.**

MATCH PLAY

- 1. Formats for individual tournaments will be identified on the tournament entry form.**
- 2. If there is a tie for the final match play/advancers position, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be used. Bowlers will be given 2 practice shots on each lane. Lanes will be selected by the tournament officials. Lanes that were used by the affected participants during the final game of qualifying will not be used.**
- 3. Formats using a bracket format, incoming bowlers will receive 2 shots on each lane. Incoming bowlers receiving byes will also have a practice pair available once the preceding round matches begin.**
- 4. Formats using a stepladder, incoming bowlers will receive 2 shots on each lane. Incoming bowlers will have a practice pair available once the preceding match enters the fifth frame.**
- 5. All matches during the championship round or advancers round that end in a tie will be decided using a 9th-10th frame roll-off. A flip of the coin will be used to determine starting lane and order of bowling.**

POINT SYSTEM

1. Players will earn points during each NWIJTPA regular season tournament that will be used to determine year-end bonus scholarships.
2. Points will be awarded in the following manner:
 - a. 1 point for each game (all formats) equal to or exceeding 200 (boys) or 170 (Girls). 1 additional bonus point for games equal to or exceeding 240 (Boys) or 210 (Girls).
 - b. 3 points for advancing from the qualifying round (1st cut).
 - c. 3 points for making a championship (2nd cut) – *only applies if there is a second cut made.*
 - d. Qualifying Round Bonuses: 1st = 5pts, 2nd = 4, 3rd = 3, 4th = 2, 5th = 1.
 - e. Positional point standings will be awarded to the top 75% of the field. Points will be awarded as follows with no fewer than 5 points being awarded to all players in the top 75% of the field.

1. 1 st	35 points
2. 2 nd	30 points
3. 3 rd	27 points
4. 4 th	25 points
5. 5 th	23 points
6. 6 th	20 points
7. 7 th	19 points
8. 8 th	18 points
9. 9 th	17 points
10. 10 th	16 points continuing down thru top 75% of field

- f. For Adult Youth Doubles, all positional points awarded will be based on individual youth scores during 5 game qualifying block. There will be no points awarded for making the 5-game cut or qualifying finish bonus points. High Game points will be awarded.
 - g. For Mystery Mixed Doubles, positional points will be awarded based on individual qualifying scores. Bonus Points for first cut, qualifying finish bonus points, and high game points will be awarded.
 - h. Circle City Points Events will award only positional points and high game points.
2. Up to 4 events will be included in the determination of the year end point standings and NWIJTPA Bowler of the Year Award. If a bowler bowls in more than 4 events, only the top 4 scoring (points) events will be included. Tour Finals is not included in points total and is not a points event. Circle City Point Series event points will not be included in the determination of bowler of the Year, Year End scholarship bonuses, or

automatic spots for the Lake Michigan Cup team (not included in the top 4 scoring regular season events).

- 3. Top 5 finishers in the regular season point race of each division will receive bonus scholarship dollars based on organization fundraising success.**

FINES

- 4. Incorrect or incomplete Scoresheet - \$2 (1st offense), \$5 (2nd offense +)**
- 5. Unsportsmanlike conduct - \$5 (1st Offense), Disqualification (2nd offense)**

TOUR FINALS

- 1. The NWIJTPA Tour finals will be a multi-day event.**
- 2. Bowlers must bowl in two regular season event to be eligible for the Tour Finals. Circle City events count toward this minimum requirement.**

ALL STAR EVENTS (LAKE MICHIGAN CUP/MICHIANA CUP)

Should the NWIJTPA engage in any outside All-Star events, selection of team members will follow these guidelines (based on 10 player team):

- 1. 3 Players from NWIJTPA Year End Points list earn automatic spots**
- 2. 2 Players from NWIJTPA Circle City Points Series earn automatic spots**
- 3. 5 Players from NWIJTPA Tour Finals earn spots**
- 4. If any player that has earned an automatic spot, also earns a spot through the Tour Finals, that spot will then go to the NWIJTPA Year End Points List 6th Place finisher.**
- 5. If additional (more than 1) automatic qualifier earn spots through the Tour Finals, additional spots will be replaced with the next highest finishers from the Tour Finals.**
- 6. If a NWIJTPA Circle City Points Series automatic qualifier also earns an NWIJTPA Year End Points list automatic spot, the NWIJTPA Year End Points list will take precedence and the replacement spot will be awarded to the 3rd place finisher from the NWIJTPA Circle City points ranking.**
- 7. If a player who earns a spot is unable to compete, that player will be replaced with an Adult Board selection from eligible players.**
- 8. Eligible players include any players who have participated during the 2025-26 season that has a tour win (including Circle City events), or ranks in the top 15 of NWIJTPA Year End Points list, or ranks in the top 10 of the Circle City Points Series, or is a NWIJTPA past champion with a minimum of two events bowled during the 25-26 season.**

WEBSITE

The association website will be www.nwijtpa.org . Rosters, event statistics, and other organization information will be maintained on this site.

FACEBOOK

The organization facebook page is NWIJTPA. Tour information for the upcoming event can be found here as well as on the website. This page will be used to communicate current event status.

ORGANIZATION

1. The NWIJTPA will be governed by a board of directors consisting of five adult members.
2. Adult Board Members for the 2025-26 season.
 - i. Mike Kraushaar
 - ii. Paul Mewes
 - iii. Larry Zaideman
 - iv. Jill Swinford
3. Operating procedures for the tour will be determined at the pre-season Board meeting. These procedures will be in place for the current season. Any modifications to the rules during the season must be approved by majority decision.