

# **Southern Scratch Junior Bowling Association (SSJBA Tour)**

## **TOURNAMENT RULES 2023-24**

1. **Dress Code:** USBC Rules in effect as of the date of competition will govern any tournaments which SSJBA Tour conducts this season. Dress code of slacks/skirts/skorts/shorts (subject to USBC length guidelines) and a collared shirt will be observed (temporary waivers at first event may be allowed by Tournament Director). No denim, regardless of color.
2. **Youth Bowler:** USBC Rule 400 (Youth Membership Eligibility Rule) will be observed. You must not have attained your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at **August 1, 2023** to participate. You must apply any more restrictive eligibility requirements if you participate in activity recognized by your State High School Athletic Association. You must not participate in any activity awarding cash or bonds, unless bowler has accepted awards as scholarship or properly executed the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver. The buying or selling of any earned awards is prohibited. Bowlers not otherwise disqualified by rule 400 and possess a current Special Olympics card, may participate in SSJBA under an age waiver as permitted by USBC rules.
3. **USBC Membership:** Participants must be current USBC Standard Youth members (includes appropriate High School certifications). SSJBA may provide personal achievement awards within the restrictions of the appropriate State High School Associations regulations and USBC Rule 400.
4. **Scholarship Divisions:** Tournaments are scratch with three divisions. Masters division is open to all qualified bowlers. Classic division is open to bowlers with SSJBA tournament averages less than 175\*\*. Minors division is open to bowlers with SSJBA tournament averages less than 155\*\*. Past members will be classified prior to any season competitions. Past SSJBA average, verified USBC youth average or High School competition average (each of 12+ games) will suffice for entering average. Bowlers may not move to lower division than they previously competed in. Bowlers without an eligible SSJBA average may classify using their highest previous season certified league average of 12 or more games, unless their initial competition entry date is preceded by a current season average based on 12+ games. The appropriate average will determine initial division placement. Anyone using their current season average with at least 12 games bowled prior to entry into competition (by closing date of entry) must **VERIFY AVERAGE** (standing sheet, appropriate official, or online). Anyone without an appropriate, verifiable average will be placed in Masters division for competition.
5. **Scholarship Division Modification:** The competitions held on the SSJBA Tour may be conducted by use of combined divisions. Combined divisions may be utilized anytime there are less than 5 competitors for any of the three divisions. Points will be awarded per the higher Division's points table.
6. **Division Moves:** Classic division bowlers will advance to the Masters division, if they have met the following requirements: SSJBA Tour average of 175 and a Championship, including a Super Bowl Championship OR an average of 175 maintained for three competitions in which bowler participated. Minors division bowlers will advance to the Classic division, if they have met the following requirements: SSJBA Tour average of 155 and a Championship, including a Super Bowl Championship OR an SSJBA Tour average of 155 maintained for three competitions in which bowler participated. The Tournament Director or their representatives may move a bowler at their discretion. Voluntary division moves are encouraged to demonstrate a desire to push themselves to the next level of competition.
7. **Division Move Exception:** In the event the bowler qualifies for a mandatory move, the bowler may elect to remain in division they are currently competing in until end of the season provided: 1) has qualified for Super Bowl participation at the conclusion of the current tournament, 2) The season has concluded 50% plus 1 of its scheduled tournaments, and 3) The Tournament Director agrees with the move delay. The bowler will be moved in the following season.
8. **Qualifying Format:** All bowlers will bowl one 5 game block for qualifying and Jr Gold competition, the start of competition is also the closing point for entries. Each scholarship division will advance the top 5 bowlers to a 1-game, single-elimination step-ladder. If a division has more than 20 entries, at the end of 5 game qualifying round, the top 3 will qualify; be set as position 1, 2, and 3. The next 4 competitors will bowl additional 1 game to determine other two competitors who will advance to the step-ladder. Placement for positions 4 and 5 are based on cumulative score of all 6 games.
9. **Jr Gold Qualifying:** We require a minimum of 7 participants, and we will advance at a 7:1 ratio with the major fraction thereof rule in place. Boys' and girls' divisions will be available in U18, U15, and U12 divisions. Dependent on participation, divisions may be merged to meet a minimum of 7 bowlers, based on, age, then sex priorities. The participants' standings will be posted separately from the SSJBA tournament standings, since the scholarship competition does not utilize the same division practices as Jr Gold. Jr Gold competition concludes after the 5 games of qualifying. Jr Gold ties will be settled with a 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll-off with high scratch game warranting decision to go first or second. Subsequent ties will alternate starting position.