

# CHIC 2026 Tournament Rules

1. The Chi-Town Classic Bowling Tournament (“CHIC” or “Tournament”) is a mixed handicap competition open to all. The Tournament is USBC sanctioned and certified by the International Gay Bowling Association (IGBO). It is required that all entrants hold current season **USBC Membership cards**. Non-IGBO members may qualify for entry by purchasing an associate membership for \$25. For the purpose of the Tournament, all bowlers will compete on an equal basis in each event. The team event will consist of four bowlers. All doubles partnerships must come from the same team. Unless stated otherwise, USBC tournament rules will be enforced.

2. Use the first applicable rule below to determine the bowler’s entering average:

- A. Bowlers with both a USBC sanctioned 2025-26 Standard Composite book average (minimum 21 games) AND a current one year rolling IGBO Tournament Database (TAD) average (minimum 9 games) will enter with a composite of these two averages. As an example: If the bowler’s USBC Standard Composite Average is 185 with 99 games and their TAD average is 180 with 36 games, then the composite average is calculated as follows:  $[(185 \times 99) + (180 \times 36)] / (99 + 36) = 183$ . The resulting average is truncated.
- B. All other bowlers should submit the following averages if available. The highest of these will be used:
  - i. IGBO TAD average (minimum 9 games for current one year rolling period, end date of August 15, 2026).
  - ii. USBC sanctioned 2025-26 Standard Composite book average (min. 21 games).
  - iii. USBC sanctioned 2024-25 Standard Composite book average (min. 21 games).
  - iv. If none of these averages is available, a USBC sanctioned summer 2026 league average will be considered (number of games must be submitted).
  - v. Bowlers with an average from a non-sanctioned league must submit a complete average list from all leagues bowled, including number of games, and a secretary signed letter or league sheet from the league with the bowler’s highest average. In addition, all tournament scores (IGBO and non-IGBO) may be requested for bowlers using the above 2B rules.
- C. If none of the above is available, then the entering average shall be 230.
- D. Averages will be verified via the [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com) database. The correct USBC number must be provided on the entry form. Any averages that are unavailable or inaccurate on this site must be noted in the comments section of the entry form, with separate verification provided by the league secretary (letter or standing sheet). Any bowlers with multiple USBC numbers in the past five years or who have averages with both right and left hands must make this clear in the comments section of the online entry form or send an email to the tournament director. It is the entrant’s responsibility to review [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com) for accuracy and notify tournament officials of any inaccurate information. If an entrant fails to do so, all prize monies and side pot monies won will be forfeited.
- E. Bowlers who have qualified for cash and/or merchandise prize(s) of \$1,000 or more in the position standings prize list in any event in any bowling tournament during the past 12-month period must report the following:
  - i. Name(s) of tournament(s) and date(s) when prize(s) was/were won.
  - ii. Actual scores bowled – all games including optional events.
  - iii. Amount or value of prize(s).
  - iv. Note: Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of entry fee and prize winnings.
- F. USBC permits the tournament manager to assign an average higher than the minimum average prior to participation (USBC Rule 319b). A bowler’s average may be adjusted upward before the entrant bowls. If the bowler, upon registering, does not accept the assigned average, they are entitled to a refund of the entry fee.
- G. Duckpin, candlepin, rubber band, five-pin, and tabletop averages may not be used.

3. It shall be each bowler’s responsibility to verify the accuracy of their average, whether originally submitted by the bowler, the team captain, or others. Averages presented from league sheets must show the league secretary’s signature (or be emailed directly from the league secretary to the Tournament Committee) and their phone number. If the submitted average is lower than the bowler’s actual average and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler’s scores will be disqualified with no refund of fees. If the submitted average is **higher** than the bowler’s actual average, the prize winnings will be based on the submitted average (USBC Rule 319a).

4. A bowler who has participated in 21 or more tournament games (other than no-tap tournaments) within the previous 12-month period must submit the scores from all tournament games bowled in this period for possible re-rating (USBC Rule 319e). Verification of all the bowler’s tournament averages must accompany the entry form. **We will re-rate any bowler whose tournament average is 10 pins or higher than the composite average. The re-rating will be completed before the entrant bowls.**

5. The CHIC Tournament’s Executive Committee (“Committee”), upon the recommendation of the local bowling association, may adjust the average of any bowler in question, or when information indicates the individual may be a better bowler. Any adjustments will be completed before the entrant bowls.

6. Handicap will be 90% of 230. There will be no negative handicaps.

7. Entries must be completed online. All entry forms (local and out-of-town) must be completed online and paid in full no later than July 1, 2026. The submission date of completed, paid entries will determine the priority order of the Tournament entry if the number of entries exceeds Tournament capacity. Entries submitted after this date will be placed on a waiting list and accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

8. The CHIC Tournament is limited to the first 152 entrants whose entries are **received and accepted** by the Tournament Committee. Partial team entries will be accepted and the Committee will make every effort to fill the vacancies. There will be no refunds after acceptance by the Committee.

9. Bowlers are permitted to bowl one time in each event, with each event consisting of 3 games, for a total of 9 games. All Events scores for each bowler will be computed using the total of their handicap score for each game from each of the 3 events (Singles, Doubles, and Team).

10. Singles, doubles, team events will have its own prize list, with a payout ratio of no less than **1:8**. All Events will have a payout ratio of no less than **1:16**.

11. All bowlers are requested to check-in at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each event. Late bowlers will start in the frame in which they are prepared to bowl with prior frames scored as 0.

12. Substitutes will be allowed to bowl at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

13. Bowlers will not be permitted to practice on their assigned lanes on their scheduled days of bowling, but will be allowed 10 minutes of practice before tournament play.

14. All claims of error must be made in writing to the Tournament Director within one (1) hour after the bowler has completed the event in question. In the event of a dispute, the decision of the Tournament Committee is final unless a protest is filed with USBC in accordance with Rule 329.

15. Any and all **PBA** or **PWBA** members are **NOT** permitted to enter this Tournament.

16. Refer to separate document for rules of side pots and additional events.



Visit us on the web at [www.chitownclassic.org](http://www.chitownclassic.org)