

Recently, an ABT survey was conducted in an effort to increase entries on a weekly basis and resolve any questions and/or comments made. We appreciate any input regarding our tournaments in the Philadelphia/Delaware/South Jersey Branch. The results of this survey indicated that most all of our members, both old and new, enjoy the competition and overall lane conditions.

### **LANE CONDITION**

The centers we go to are asked to put out a sport shot rather than the house shot in order to make the conditions somewhat fair for all bowlers, not just house bowlers. However, in all cases, we do not know exactly what shot is on the lanes until the bowlers start bowling. There have been times when mistakes were made on dressing the lanes, beyond our control.

### **NUMBER OF GAMES**

As for the number of games bowled, we went with three (3) games primarily to keep the prize fund decent due to increased lineage and expenses. We attempted in the summer of 2015 to go back to four (4) games and the result did not change as far as entries go. The same bowlers attended on a regular basis. If we did go back to four games, the entry fee would have to increase in order to keep the same prize fund.

### **ENTRY FEE**

Our regular entry fee of \$60 (\$55 if verbally prepaid in advance) has not changed in over six years. For our regional and special tournaments the average entry fee is \$75-\$100 because the prize fund is more money. We base our entry fee on the the number of entries to cover the prize fund as is always indicated on the application. The entry fee enables us to provide a decent prize fund with 50 entries. Less than 50 entries forces us to prorate the prize fund in order to cover lineage and expenses. Years ago, lineage was only 50 cents to \$1. Now, the lineage is \$3 to \$3.50. Thus, there is no way to guarantee a certain amount of money each week if there are not enough entries to cover it. In any respect, the prize fund allows for the low man on the list to at least get his entry fee back. We cannot guarantee a prize fund if we do not get the entries because obviously, there would be no money to do it with. Above all, the prize fund has always been pretty decent considering. In addition, all Semi-finalists receive a payment and checks are processed immediately following the end of every tournament.

### **AVERAGE AND HANDICAPS**

This is a controversial subject and there is always going to be someone complaining about another person's average and/or handicap. Averages and handicaps are NOT done like leagues. Handicap is 80% of 230 for all bowlers. When you join ABT, your average is determined by your league and USBC averages. After you have bowled 21 games in our tournament (without cashing) you receive an ABT average based on your scores. Your average does not change every time you bowl. It changes when you cash. There are exceptions made based on bowling and cashing ratio. Sometimes if a bowler has not cashed in quite a while, a director's average adjustment is made. Also, if you cash and hit a 50 game block, your average is adjusted based on that block. Otherwise, when you cash your average is adjusted at that point. When a bowler wins the tournament, he/she MUST lose at least three (3) pins off his/her basic average. Bonus pins are also given to bowlers each time they bowl and don't cash after they have 21 games. When they do cash after earning bonus pins, they may lose some at that point and will not start collecting bonus pins again until after they have bowled three tournaments.

All of this is stated in the rule books you received and agreed to by signature when you joined the ABT. It benefits a bowler to bowl more often than not to keep your average pretty consistent. In all fairness, averages are calculated very fairly and there are no special considerations for any individuals as some have implied. The bowler that bowls more often has a lot more figures to work with when determining an average as opposed to an individual who comes out occasionally and cashes. Also, a bowler may have a much higher average in league, but cannot carry that average on the ABT sport shot.

*Please Note:* Bowling in our doubles tournaments, No-Tap tournaments, and Two-Game Beat the Board tournaments does not affect your average.

### **GRAND CHAMPION VERSUS CHAMPION**

In answer to the Grand Champion of both divisions versus Champion of each Division, This has been under consideration for a while. In the past, each division had its' own champion. When there are not enough Master members bowling in an individual tournament, it is in their favor that we combine the two divisions for the top prize. Although some of our Classic members receive a lot of handicap, it is because they really do need it. However, there are times when they bowl better than average which does result in making it difficult for the higher averaged bowler to beat. This is really the chance you take. As most of the better bowlers know, "A good bowler can adjust."

### **CHAMPION SHIRTS**

Championship shirts mean a lot to the bowlers and we totally understand that. They also have gotten very expensive to order and have embroidered. If we run a combined tournament, rewarding the grand champion with a shirt also allows us to maintain a decent prize fund. If we have a separate division tournament, there would be a championship shirt for both as in the past.

### **FINAL FORMAT**

We have a variety of Finalist formats and have been trying them all at different times depending on the tournament and center. Recently, we have run our Regionals where #1 bowls #8, #2 - #7, #3 - #6, #4 - #5. This seems to work well and has gotten good response. In some cases at other tournaments, Top Seed receives two buys and #2 - #5, #3 - #4. In any case, whenever we can, the top five in both Divisions go to the finals.

### **EXTRA EVENTS**

We run a Beat the Board Sweeper and Scratch Sweeper occasionally through out the year to enable bowlers a variety of chances to win money. These events are usually optional events offered during a singles event. We have also run Doubles events whereby you can bowl with multiple partners and cash multiple times. These events are advertized on our website when available. Please take advantage of our website ([eastcoastbowling.net](http://eastcoastbowling.net)) and facebook page (Andy's ABT East Coast) to see when all our events come up. We do try to make it enjoyable for everyone.

### **WOMEN BOWLERS**

We have always taken one out of every six women to the Semis. At times, we take one out of four. Basically, even though we do not have a "Women's Division," our system takes women to the Semis. We would definitely like to see more women participate so that it shows this better. The only exception to this is if we do not get enough overall entries at a particular tournament.