

TATurday Rules

Rules include this page, articles in the brochure, and updates distributed and posted on site, mailed, or e-mailed.

1. **PLAYING RULES** - Rules of TAT Desert Southwest "TATurday" events stated herein will govern all participants. PBA and USBC Rules apply at director's discretion. The tournament director has the right to resolve all questions and disputes arising. All decisions are final and binding.
2. **Eligibility** - The tournament is open to male and female bowlers meeting the below listed qualifications. For bowlers 60 years of age and over, items b, c, f, g, h, j, l, and m do not apply.
 - a. Have not held a paid membership in the PBA, PWBA, or PBA24 for at least one full year prior to tournament.
 - b. Have not appeared on a nationally-televised PBA/PWBA/PBA50 finals in the previous 10 years. Live-streamed-only events do not count.
 - c. Have never had PBA Tour 1 status and have not held Exempt status in the previous 10 years.
 - d. Have not won a PBA national title in the past 20 years, including US Open & USBC Masters and the Senior & Women's versions of each.
 - e. Have not competed as a National Team member in the previous 10 years or Junior National Team in the previous 5 years. Anyone under 215 average may bowl at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
 - f. Have not won \$5,000+ more than once in any scratch event where PBA/PWBA national champions are permitted in the last 5 years.
 - g. Have not won a Regular Division title (eagle) in the USBC Open Championships in the last 5 years in Singles, Doubles, All Events, or Team All Events.
 - h. Have not won a PBA Singles Regional title in the past two years or Non-Champions in the past year.
 - i. To bowl in a handicap division, the bowler must have a USBC composite average of at least 21 games in the past two years, have bowled in at least one TAT DSW handicap division in past year, have another average of at least 21 games that can be reliably verified by the tournament director, or have at least 21 games bowled in TAT Las Vegas events in past two years. Bowlers in the latter category will be rated based on tournament average adjusted via Sport conversion chart.
 - j. Any 215 division bowler who wins a TAT Desert Southwest or TAT national event in the previous year must bowl in the Scratch Division in their next TAT DSW tournament.
 - k. Any 189 division bowler who wins their division in a TAT Desert Southwest or TAT national event must bowl in the 215 & Under, 50+ Senior, or Scratch Division in their next TAT Desert Southwest tournament.
 - l. Scratch Division bowlers are limited to winning no more than two TAT events per 12-month period, including national events, regional events, and TATurdays. Upon winning the second such event in 12 months, the bowler becomes ineligible for TATurdays for the remainder of the 12-month period or 3 months after the last win, whichever is longer.
 - m. 50+ Senior division bowlers with a 216+ average who win a TAT Desert Southwest or TAT national event in the previous year must bowl in the Scratch Division in their next TAT Desert Southwest tournament, and upon winning a second such event in 12 months, must bowl in the Scratch division for the remainder of the 12-month period or 3 months after the last win, whichever is longer.
 - n. Any bowler who has reached the Grand Finals in their two most recent TAT Desert Southwest or national events must play up a division in their next event or sit out the next scheduled TAT Desert Southwest event. Because Scratch bowlers cannot play up a division, they must sit out. Seniors may play "up" in the Scratch division.
 - o. Failure to disclose prior tournament winnings when asked may result in disqualification and forfeiture of winnings and entry fees.
 - p. Employees of the hosting bowling center within one month prior to competition are not eligible.
 - q. Participants must sign an eligibility affidavit. If the bowler is later deemed ineligible, that bowler must forfeit/repay any prize money won and sit out corresponding events.
2. **Decisions of the Tournament Directors are final**, including, but not limited to eligibility of players, equipment, conduct, and any other factors that may lead to a player's disqualification or re-rating. Directors reserve the right to declare anyone ineligible and the right to refuse entry.
3. **Bowling balls** must be within compliance with USBC specifications and have met their worldwide release date. The surface of any ball must not be altered once each squad begins. Surfaces may be modified between squads and between rounds of the Finals.
4. **Attire** - In the Finals only, portions of the dress code are mandatory and portions are optional. Finalists who comply with the entire rule throughout the Finals may be granted additional compensation. **Mandatory:** No hats, no headphones. **Optional:** Collared shirts or jerseys, including those with mock collars. Name shirts encouraged. Slacks for men. Slacks or skirts/skort for women. No jeans, shorts, cutoffs, cargo pants, or t-shirts. The Tournament Directors have the right to disqualify any entrant under this rule at any time during the Finals.
5. **Courtesy** - A one-lane courtesy will be observed by all bowlers.
6. **Persons under 18 years of age** must have a USBC SMART Fund account into which winnings will be paid, and must have a signed parental consent form. Bowler's age for the event will be as of the first day of competition.
7. **Qualifying and Finals rounds** will be by division. Each division qualifies separately by squad(s).
8. **Cut scores** are 1 in 5 for each division of paid entries. With ties for the last qualifying spot, each player will make the finals but will split the \$200 prize. If 3 or more are tied, each bowler will receive \$100. If any division does not have at least three bowlers in a cut (except for the final cut of the tournament), all bowler entries in that division will be carried over to the next cut.
9. **IT IS THE BOWLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY MAKING THE CUT.** Bowlers receive a zero for frames missed and forfeit the match when all bowlers on the pair finish the 3rd frame. Qualifying board is frozen (no changes) at the start time of the Finals unless someone is DQ'd or put in the wrong division.
10. **Ties** to advance in TAT Finals are broken by a 9th & 10th frame roll-off with any applicable handicap applied at 20% of full game handicap, rounded half up. If still tied, bowlers will throw one ball each (without handicap) until the tie is broken. It is the bowler's responsibility to be present. In the main event finals for 2nd through 4th place, ties result in prize money being split evenly.
11. **Tournament average** is initially calculated based on the bowler's highest composite USBC Standard book average over the past two years. As bowlers accumulate history with TAT Desert Southwest and other TAT national or regional organizations, each bowler's tournament average is adjusted accordingly and the use of USBC book averages is phased out. When calculating averages, tournament scores are adjusted to USBC Standard via the USBC average conversion table as appropriate for the conditions. This ensures that all TAT Desert Southwest bowlers compete on a level playing field using a Standard average, and that bowlers with more TAT experience on Sport and Challenge patterns do not gain a handicap advantage over newer bowlers coming in with only a "house-shot" Standard average. Bowlers without a USBC average may be accepted at the tournament director's discretion with sufficient documentation of tournament and/or league averages. The tournament director may make discretionary average adjustments before and during the tournament as deemed necessary as a result of observations and information gathered by event staff. TAT Desert Southwest and TAT Las Vegas are administered independently; thus, bowlers can and will have different average ratings and division assignments in events run by the two entities.
12. **Re-rating** Bowlers may be re-rated to a higher or lower average and/or division based on past scores at both TAT regional & national events.
13. **Event Cancellation** caused by any act of God, war, catastrophe, or legalities, etc. determined by the Tournament Director will result in the return of any unused entry fees.
14. **Neither TAT Desert Southwest, TAT Las Vegas, TAT staff, nor any of the sponsors of this tournament are responsible for errors made in the brochure or at the tournament.**
15. **Payment for Entries** - Anyone who does not pay for their entry upon completion of the tournament may be required to forfeit all winnings.