

NORTH FLORIDA SPORT SHOT SERIES 2017-2018 TOURNAMENT RULES

Mission

The mission of the North Florida Sport Shot Series (NFSSS) is to provide all youth bowlers the opportunity to bowl on challenging sport oil pattern conditions in a sanctioned tournament setting, as well as provide an opportunity for bowlers to qualify for the 2018 Junior Gold National Championship and/or a year-end Scholarship Invitational tournament – which awards scholarships through the USBC SMART program (Account #13285). The Tournament Certificate is #04698.

Format

Bowlers will bowl five (5) games for total pin-fall (scratch; no handicap). Each game is bowled on a pair of lanes, moving lanes after each game. At the end of five (5) games, any ties for 1st place in a division or for Junior Gold entries are broken by a single ball roll off. Lane conditions will be certified Sport lane patterns, disclosed within 24 hours of tournament conclusion.

Eligibility

- Bowler must be a USBC Certified Youth bowler to participate in the NFSSS tournament but cannot have a PBA or USBC Adult membership.
- To be eligible for the optional Junior Gold Qualifying Events, the participant must be a USBC certified youth bowler and have a current USBC Junior Gold membership, but cannot have a USBC Collegiate membership. If the bowler is not a USBC Junior Gold member, the bowler must fill out the Junior Gold membership form and pay all applicable dues prior to the start of the qualifying tournament. USBC Junior Gold membership cards (or paid receipts) will need to be presented, or viewable on bowl.com at the time of check-in.
- For the Junior Gold Qualifier events, we will qualify entrants using a 1:5 ratio in each age and gender division used in Junior Gold, if available. The bowler(s) with the highest five (5) game scratch total in each age/gender group (U12 Boys, U12 Girls, U15 Boys, U15 Girls, U20 Boys & U20 Girls) will qualify for the 2018 Junior Gold National Championship. Should there be an insufficient number of entrants in any age/gender division, divisions may be combined by age group (e.g. U12 Boys and U12 Girls combine into the U12 Mixed division). If there are still insufficient entrants in an age group to award a Junior Gold spot, affected entrants may elect to compete in an age group higher of the same gender AND pay the difference in entry fees, or they may withdraw from the Junior Gold Qualifier (and would then be entitled to a refund of the Junior Gold add-on fee prior to competition).

Payment and Registration

Pre-registration is highly encouraged as the total entries are limited. To pre-register, the bowler or a parent can email or text a tournament committee member below with the bowler's name, date of birth, and if they will enter the Junior Gold qualifier. Facebook event RSVP's and messages to the NFSSS Facebook page are accepted if the required information is provided with at least a one-day notice. Contacting the host bowling center is not a form of pre-registration. Skip the lines by pre-registering!
Ryan Waters: 904-444-5446 fcusbcyouth@gmail.com
Michelle Speight: 904-583-8835
Donna Evans: 904-955-7951

Payment is due at check-in, but may be paid in advance to guarantee entry to the tournament. Cash is preferred. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, we will collect all associated bank fees in addition to the tournament entry fee and no future checks will be accepted. The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse participation of any bowler who has outstanding fees due to a returned check. Receipts provided upon request. Walk-ins welcome, subject to availability!

Breakdown of fees:

NFSSS entry fee is \$25 (Lineage/Expenses \$15 + Year-End Scholarship Fund \$10); optional add-on fees are as follows:

- Junior Gold Qualifying Add-On: \$20 for U12; \$30 for U15, \$40 for U20
- Most Spares Scholarship Jackpot Add-On: \$5
- Eliminator Shoot Out Scholarship Jackpot Add-On: \$5

Jackpots awarded at each monthly tournament, 100% of collected funds. Any donated funds or unused expense funds will be dispersed to the participants of the year-end Scholarship Invitational tournament.

Most Spares Scholarship Jackpot Add-On

Tournament entrants have the option to participate in the “Most Spares Scholarship Jackpot” contest for an additional \$5 entry fee. Jackpot participants will be given a designated score sheet to track their scores (including total number of spares), which is to be turned in after every game. The bowler who has the most spares in the five (5) game block, among the Jackpot participants, will win the Most Spares Scholarship Jackpot that day. If there is a tie, the jackpot will be split evenly amongst the winners. Funds will be deposited into the USBC SMART program. Falsifying the number of spares or failure to turn in the score sheet after each game will result in disqualification from the Jackpot contest.

Eliminator Shoot Out Scholarship Jackpot Add-On

Tournament entrants have the option to participate in the “Eliminator Shoot Out” for an additional \$5 entry fee. Following the five (5) game competition, but prior to the Awards Ceremony, the Shoot Out contest will take place. There will be two (2) divisions for this event --- Ladies and Gentlemen. The Shoot Out participants may use only one (1) bowling ball for this contest. Each participant will make one throw on their assigned lane for each round, trying to knock down the required number of pins, or more, for each round (7 pins in the 1st round, 8 pins in the 2nd round, 9 pins in the 3rd round, and 10 pins in all subsequent rounds) to advance. Participants that fail to knock down the required number of pins for each round will be eliminated. Should all remaining participants fail to knock down the required number of pins in a round, the round is replayed. The remaining player in each division is the winner and is awarded their division’s Scholarship Jackpot in SMART scholarship funds.

Scholarship Invitational

To qualify for the Scholarship Invitational event, youth bowlers must participate in at least four (4) of the seven (7) monthly NFSSS tournaments during the season to be eligible to compete in the Scholarship Invitational. Entries will be emailed to eligible bowlers. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to determine how those funds will be dispersed once the number of qualifiers has been determined. Scholarship award recipients may elect to receive SMART scholarships or “Junior Gold Funds” (expense reimbursement). “Junior Gold Funds” may be claimed by a parent/guardian of the recipient by providing original, paid receipts of allowable travel expenses incurred while attending Junior Gold; funds not claimed or distributed by 7/31/2018 will be remitted to the recipient’s SMART account on 7/31/2018.

Accepting/Declining Junior Gold

It is the responsibility of the qualified bowlers to notify the tournament committee as soon as they are aware they will not be able to attend the 2018 Junior Gold National Tournament. Failure to do so could result in the bowler being disqualified from entering future North Florida Sport Shot Series events.

Altering Ball Surface

NO ball surface may be altered after the start of the five (5) qualifying games. Once competition begins, only a dry towel may be used to wipe or contact the ball. Non-abrasive cleaners may be used during practice but not during the competition or in-between games.

Electronics

ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES OR MUSIC DEVICES during the competition. This includes texting, checking messages, or talking on their cell phone. Listening to music while bowling is prohibited. 1st offense is a verbal warning, 2nd offense could lead to disqualification.

Age Divisions

Bowlers compete across six (6) divisions, by age and gender, during the qualifying round:

2017-2018 Season divisions are as follows:

Division	Birthdays between
U12 Boys/ U12 Girls	08/01/05 or later
U15 Boys/ U15 Girls	08/01/02 – 07/31/05
U20 Boys/ U20 Girls	08/01/97 – 07/31/02

Entries

Check-in refers to the published schedule time. Bowling will begin approximately 1 hour after check-in opens. All bowlers MUST have their completed entries turned into the tournament office no later than **15 minutes** prior to the start of competition.

Items required at check-in include:

- Tournament Entry Form (must be filled out completely for each tournament)
- USBC Certification Card
- Junior Gold Card or Junior Gold Membership Application (if competing for a Jr. Gold spot)
- Bowler/Parent Sportsmanship Pledges (must be filled out once each season)

If the bowler does not provide the above items or they are not filled out completely, the bowler will not be allowed to check-in. If the bowler has emailed or posted their RSVP on Facebook, but arrives late to their pair of lanes at the start of competition, they will be allowed to bowl but will receive a **zero** for any frames missed. Bowlers who did not RSVP prior to the tournament will not be allowed to check-in after the tournament has started.

Dress Code

Tournament management will determine if the uniform worn by the participant is acceptable. If the uniform is deemed unacceptable, the participant will be required to change the uniform immediately. If the participant is unable to change into a compliant uniform, they will be removed from the competition for that day.

Shirts

Competitors shall provide their own bowling shirt with a collared, V-neck, rib-lined or banded necklines. Mock collar must be a minimum of three-quarters of one inch. All shirts must have finished sleeves for all competition. It is recommended that participants have their names on their shirts, but it is not required. Hand-printed lettering is not permitted.

Pants

Male participants are required to wear slacks. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms. Slacks must have a zipper and a button to be eligible. Jeans are not permitted. Female participants are required to wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, culottes, skorts, or walking shorts must be no shorter than the fingertips when the arms are at their sides while standing. Jeans and yoga pants are not permitted.

Headgear

No covering or sunglasses can be worn while practicing or competing (hats, caps, or bandannas, etc.). Male participants cannot wear any headgear while practicing or competing, unless a request is made in writing and approved prior to the event.

Practice

No practice will be allowed prior to the start of, or during, the five (5) game competition. All bowlers will be given ten (10) minutes of warm up on their starting pair of lanes prior to the start of competition.

Scoring

All bowlers are responsible for recording their own scores throughout the tournament. At end of each game, bowlers will tally their scores and turn in their score card to the tournament desk prior to moving to the next pair of lanes. Any bowler who does not turn in a score sheet will receive a score of zero for each game they failed to turn in their score card. After all scores are turned in and verified, the tournament results will be announced and displayed.

Lane Maintenance (Patterns)

A fair, equitable, Sport-Compliant lane condition for all event lanes is the primary objective of the Junior Gold lane conditioning program. The NFSSS will not disclose any of the oil pattern information until after the event has concluded. Discussing lane maintenance procedures with any bowling center personnel is prohibited at any time prior to or during a NFSSS event. Bowlers risk disqualification if they, or spectators on their behalf, attempt to obtain pattern information prior to the tournament conclusion.

Bowler and Parent Sportsmanship Pledges

The NFSSS takes seriously their role in helping the development of youth athletes. We have both Bowler and Parent Sportsmanship Pledges that speak to behavior, attitude, etc. These pledges MUST be signed at the first event a participant enters.

Conduct

The use of profanity (verbal or non-verbal), alcohol or tobacco products by any youth bowler will not be permitted from the time they check in to the time they turn in their score sheet. The first violation of this rule will be a warning; the second violation will be disqualification without a refund. Any rules not specifically listed will be governed by the USBC. We also ask that all adults refrain from the use of profanity, alcohol or tobacco products until all youth bowlers have completed their bowling. Any bowlers or spectators not conducting themselves in an appropriate sportsman-like manner will be disqualified, in the case of the bowler, or asked to leave the tournament area, in the case of a spectator.

Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee will handle all disputes and rule violations; the Tournament Committee's decision is final unless an appeal is made in accordance with Rule 329. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change the format etc. – this includes practice prior to a tournament, cancel a tournament without prior notice, or delay the start of an event up to ten minutes. Any and all objections, concerns or disputes must come from the bowlers. Objections from the parents or spectators will not be heard. The Tournament Director has the right to update or change any part of these rules in accordance with USBC's playing rules.

Photography and Video Taping

NFSSS will be capturing pictures and videotaping during some events to post on our website and Social Media pages. Bowlers entering any NFSSS event expressly understand that they may be photographed or videotaped, with their likeness used for promotional activities. All bowlers competing in a NFSSS event are not entitled to any compensation or reimbursement from NFSSS or USBC for pictures or video. NFSSS and USBC are not entitled to sell or charge a fee for reproduction of any pictures or video.

The USBC tournament playing rules will apply to any rules not listed herein.

NFSSS BOWLER'S PLEDGE

Participating in youth bowling leagues and competitions should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship. It also should promote the development of good character and other important life skills. Through bowling, important life lessons can be learned through pursuing victories, small and large, with honor.

For that reason, I will be accountable for my words and actions and promise:

- I will be trustworthy, and ready to bowl when it is my turn
- I will treat all people – coaches, parents, bowling center employees, and tournament officials – with respect, even if I disagree with their words or actions
- I will play and compete with class, be a good sport and will compliment outstanding performances, regardless of who the individual is or how I feel about them personally
- I will engage only in respectful conduct on the lanes. I will avoid using profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, or other actions that put down other individuals or the sport of bowling
- I will exercise self-control and avoid excessive anger or frustrations, even when I am not bowling as well as I think I can
- I will participate in this sport according to the rules
- I will encourage my fellow bowlers to participate and compete to the fullest of their ability, providing positive encouragement when necessary
- I will report unsafe/dangerous behavior to a coach, parent or tournament official as needed.
- I will always try my best to succeed, knowing that success is not determined through victories, but in making efforts to improve my bowling game and in having fun with my teammates.

Bowler's Signature: _____ Date: _____

NFSSS SUPPORTER'S PLEDGE

I promise to be accountable for my words and actions while in attendance or functioning as a leader within the bowling center during youth functions, and shall agree to the following guidelines:

- I will show respect and good sportsmanship for all bowlers, coaches, bowling center employees, volunteers, and Tournament Officials throughout the tournament
- I will praise the efforts of those I came here to see compete because I understand that success is experienced while developing their skills, not necessarily in winning the game or scoring high
- I will talk with the Tournament Directors in an appropriate manner if I have concerns
- I will recognize and show appreciate for outstanding performances, whether the achievement is by someone I support or an opposing bowler
- I will encourage my child/competitor to show appreciation for others' outstanding performances
- I will reinforce all safety rules set forth by the tournament officials and bowling center
- I will be a positive role model through my behavior throughout the entire competition
- I will treat any coach, parent, player, employee, volunteer, or tournament official with respect regardless of nationality, creed, gender, or ability
- I will reinforce all alcohol, tobacco, and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of such substances before and during youth practices and competitions

Supporter's Signature/Date: _____

Supporter's Signature/Date: _____