

## Rocket City Invitational Tournament

### **2026 Rules**

#### **1. Eligibility**

The 2026 Rocket City Invitational Tournament (RCIT) is an IGBO handicap tournament to be held July 31<sup>st</sup>- August 2nd, 2026 open by invitation only. All bowlers must be at least 21 years of age at the time of registration.

RCIT is USBC Certified tournament Certificate# 04087, and all USBC rules and guidelines will be adhered to, to ensure a fair and transparent tournament. All rules apply except as noted below:

- a. A maximum of 128 bowlers will be accommodated.
- b. All participants must be members of IGBO and provide proof of membership in both the tournament application and at registration. To participate, non-members of IGBO, must pay a Participation or Affiliate Membership fee of \$25.00.
- c. Any person whose IGBO membership has been denied for the current season will not be allowed to participate.
- d. All team members must be a participant in an IGBO member league or be an IGBO lifetime member, or an Associate Member. A participant is defined as either a regular roster member or substitute bowler with at least a 12-game average as of May 1, 2025.
- e. PBA and PWBA members will be limited to one bowler per registered team.

#### **2. Tournament Entries, Refunds**

- a. Singles, Doubles, and Team entry applications will be accepted. Every effort will be made to complete partial team entries.

b. Team and Doubles partnerships may consist of any combination of bowlers. Teams will consist of four bowlers. Each member of a Doubles pair will bowl on the same team.

c. All bowling will be done during:

**Saturday 08/01/2026 9:00AM to 3:00PM (T1/D1)**- (We will not treat the lanes between sessions, and we will not change lanes between team events and doubles events).

**Sunday 08/02/2026, 9:00AM to 12:00PM (S1)**

d. Priority will be given to applications (teams and individuals) that are both registered AND paid. Please refer to Rule 10 for more information on complete applications.

e. Final entry decisions are made at the discretion of the tournament Co-Directors.

f. No refunds will be given once paid. Any refund request will be given at Tournament Co-Directors' discretion only, unless otherwise specified in the rules.

### **3. Tournament Events**

a. Rocket City will conduct three handicapped events: Teams, Double and Singles. Each event will consist of three games. Each participant shall bowl three games per event and must enter all three events. Bowlers are permitted to bowl only once in each event.

b. Optional events include Optional Individual Scratch, Dark Horse Doubles, Seniors Optional (+50), Women's Optional, and Best 3 of 9 (scratch) by division and Mystery Score.

c. Bowlers must enter any optional event prior to the start of the bowler's first scheduled event.

#### **4. Averages and Handicap**

a. Handicap will be calculated as 90% of the difference between 240 and the bowler's entering average. If a bowler with greater than a 240 average enters the tournament, Rocket City reserves the right to increase the "240" handicap ceiling in increments of 5 pins.

b. For the purposes of establishing an average for the Rocket City Invitational Tournament, the following rules apply to ten-pin averages established in a USBC, CTF, or FIQ sanctioned league, and IGBO leagues not sanctioned by the above organizations. (Acceptable averages are those established by bowlers acting as current team members or as team/league substitutes – with a minimum of 21 games).

c. The average used to establish a handicap in Rocket City will be, in descending order:

i. The highest (not composite) 2025-2026 USBC book average (minimum 21 games). If one does not exist, then...

ii. IGBO member tournament average (TAD), with a minimum of 18 games. If one does not exist, then...

iii. Highest current summer league average 2026 (minimum 21 games).

iv. The highest 2024-2025 USBC book average (minimum 21 games).  
If one does not exist, then...

v. The bowler will enter with the highest Rocket City Invitational Tournament 2026 entering average.

d. If a bowler's IGBO tournament average for the 12 months immediately preceding June 30th, 2026, is at least one (1) pin higher than any of the averages established in rule 4c, and the number of games represented by that average is at least 18, the IGBO tournament average will be used. (USBC Rule 319e).

a. The above averages will be verified using the USBC website [www.bowl.com](http://www.bowl.com), league secretary [www.leaguesecretary.com](http://www.leaguesecretary.com), and IGBO TAD (tournament average database) at [www.tad.igbo.org](http://www.tad.igbo.org).

b. If using a league average that has not yet been reported to USBC, then a copy of the league standing sheet showing at least a 21- game average, should be sent to the tournament secretary/statistician prior to start of tournament.

e. If a bowler is in a USBC designated "Sport" or "Challenge" league, the average reported and used to determine the entering average must be adjusted by the appropriate amount as specified on the USBC Average Conversion Charts on the USBC site. Sport shot averages will be reviewed by Co-Directors.

([https://bowl.com/Sport\\_Bowling/Sport\\_Bowling\\_Home/Information,\\_contact/](https://bowl.com/Sport_Bowling/Sport_Bowling_Home/Information,_contact/))

f. Each bowler must submit with the application verification of the highest (or composite) average established under Tournament Rule 4c. If average verification cannot be completed prior to the start of the tournament, that bowler shall be disqualified, and no refund will be given.

g. Failure to use the proper average will disqualify the scores if the submitted average is lower than the actual average.

h. Bowlers must report results from all tournament play (USBC Rule 319e).

- i. Bowlers are also required to report scores and winnings for any single tournament (not including side pots) in which the bowler qualified for a monetary award of \$300.00 (U.S.) in one event, \$500.00 total combined in one event or combined \$1000 or more during the 12-month period preceding the start of Rocket City. (USBC Rule 319d). Failure to do so will result in the immediate disqualification of the bowler with scores of 0 entered and with no refund given.
- j. Bowlers are required to verify all average information during registration.

## **5. Average Adjustments**

The Co-Directors may adjust the entering average of any bowler before tournament bowling begins. If the assigned average is not acceptable to the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

## **6. Check-in and Substitutes**

- a. Registration must be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of a bowler's first event.
- b. It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present on their assigned lanes at the time of bowling. Late bowlers may begin bowling in the frame in which they are ready provided that the third frame has not been completed. All frames not bowled will be scored as zero.
- c. All bowlers must check in at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled shift. All team members must be present for team check-in.
- d. No substitutes will be permitted except unless a bowler is unable to bowl. The

team may replace that bowler for the entire tournament at any time prior to thirty (30) minutes before the start of the first event in which the bowler to be replaced is scheduled to bowl.

e. In case of injury, USBC Rule 108b will apply except that the Co- Directors approve a substitute bowler.

f. Bowlers will be allowed 10 minutes of practice at the beginning of each event. Pinsetters will be programmed to only allow for one ball before resetting (practice only). Bowlers will be allowed only 1 ball on the main return, 1 ball on the rack below the return. All other bowling balls will have to be placed on a ball holder, not to impede the approach. Late bowlers will not be allowed to practice.

## **7. Errors and Disputes of Scored Games**

All claims of errors/disputes of games scored and recorded on recap sheets must be submitted in writing to the tournament Co-Directors or Shift Captains within one hour of the error/dispute occurrence.

## **8. Payouts**

a. Each event (Singles, Doubles, Team, and All Individual Events) has its own prize list.

b. 100% of the prize fees (see Entry Fee Breakdown) will be returned.

c. Payout ratio will not be less than 1:10. Individual all-events winner will pay one place (subject to change).

d. Pending audit, prizes will be paid within 30 days after the completion of the tournament.

e. Rocket City Invitational Tournament will use electronic fund transfers (Venmo,

PayPal, CashApp or Zelle) as their primary means to pay out bowlers who are entitled to any monies, the only requirement is a good working cellphone number and a checking/saving account. Those bowlers wishing not to participate in an electronic form of payment will receive a check. Re-issuing any payout check will incur a stopped check fee and reduce the payout to be received by the recipient. Should the payout after the fee be less than \$0, no payout will be re-issued. \*\*at the error of the bowler\*\*

## **9. Optional Events**

a. Optional Scratch (additional \$20 fee) Scratch scores (without handicap) from the handicap portion of the tournament shall be used to determine winners.

The optional scratch shall be divided into three separate categories within each division: Highest single scratch game

(from any of the events); highest scratch three game series (from any of the events); and highest scratch all events (from the nine-game total from all three events).

There are five Scratch Divisions:

i. Division A: 210 and up

ii. Division B: 190-209

iii. Division C: 170-189

iv. Division D: 150-169

v. Division E: 0-149

c. Women's Optional Handicap Events (Optional Event - to be based off a percentage of women bowlers participating) (Additional \$20 fee;

women bowlers only) Equalized divisions will be based on number of participants and averages of bowlers. The divisions will be presented at registration Prizes for individual all-events, high series, and high games for handicap scores will be awarded based on Singles, Doubles, and Team event scores.

c. Seniors Optional Handicap Events (Additional \$20 fee; bowlers aged 50+ only), Prizes for individual all-events, high series, and high games for handicap scores will be awarded based on Singles, Doubles, and Team event scores using the Optional Scratch divisions in section 9.a:

d. All optional events to include Dark Horse Doubles and 8-Pin no tap results will be paid out after completion of the audit.

## **10. Applications**

a. Only applications with complete information will be accepted. Entries must include:

i. Complete application (individual, doubles pair, and team entries will be accepted).

ii. Average verification for entering average with league average sheet, league secretary contact information, and USBC sanction number.

b. All entries will be submitted online no later than midnight, July 1st, 2026.

c. Online payments must be submitted by midnight, July 1, 2026.

d. Any entry submitted after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, will be accepted at the discretion of the tournament Co-Directors.

e. Entry Fee Breakdown \$125.00-

Lineage \$42.00

Banquet \$25.00

Prize Fund \$40.00

Trophies/Awards \$12.00

Administration \$3.00

Online Registration Fee \$3.00

f. Optional events (can be purchased at registration online or in house).

<b>Optional Events/Fees</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Entry Fee	\$125.00
Women's Optional (HDCP)  Scratch	\$20.00
Best 3 of 9	\$10.00
Raffle Tickets (25 pack)	\$15.00
Raffle Tickets (50 pack)	\$25.00
Raffle Tickets (100 pack)	\$40.00
8-Pin No Tap (2 games)	\$20.00
IGBO Associate Membership	\$25.00
Banquet Guest	\$35.00 (includes \$15.00 on 8/1/2026)