

# Motown Invitational Classic - 2026 Tournament Rules

## I. Sanctioning

1. The Motown Invitational Classic (MIC) 2026 Tournament is not sanctioned by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). However, the tournament will adhere to USBC rules and guidelines where applicable, with the following exception: MIC does not recognize or enforce any USBC policies that exclude transgender women from competition. All bowlers are welcome to participate in accordance with their affirmed gender identity.
2. Tournament management reserves the right to interpret and apply rules in a manner that promotes fairness, inclusivity, and respect for all participants.
3. The MIC 2026 Tournament is a mixed handicap competition open to persons 18 years and older, by invitation only.
4. If the participant is not a member of IGBO, in any of its membership classes, he or she must become an IGBO Associate Member and pay the appropriate Associate Membership fee. The participant shall be directed to the IGBO website ([www.igbo.org](http://www.igbo.org)) to register and pay for their Associate Membership prior to event participation.
5. The tournament events shall be handicap events as follows: Singles, Doubles and Team. Optional Scratch, Handicap by Division, Senior's handicap (+55), and Scratch Masters Events will be offered.
6. Each participant shall bowl three (3) games per event and must enter and bowl all three events. No substitutes permitted for a specific event without approval of a Tournament Director. Teams will consist of four (4) members. All persons will compete on an equal basis. Doubles partners must come from the same team.
7. Each participant may bowl only once in each event.
8. A professional bowler who is a current IGBO league member or current organizational member, with a minimum of 21 game average or tournament average may bowl in the MIC Tournament; however, only one (1) professional bowler per team will be allowed.  
  
A professional bowler is defined as any person who has been a "card-carrying" member of a professional bowling organization within the past twelve months preceding the MIC 2026 Tournament.

## II. Optional Scratch & Handicap Events

1. The MIC Tournament will offer several optional events including:
  - a. Optional Scratch by division
  - b. Optional Handicap by division
  - c. Senior's Handicap (+55)
  - d. Scratch Masters Event by division.
2. All division-based events will use the five (5) divisions as determined by entering average (see Section IV).

3. The Average Divisions for Optional Scratch and Optional Handicap will be as follows:
  - a. Division A – 210 and above
  - b. Division B – 190 to 209
  - c. Division C - 170 to 189
  - d. Division D - 150 to 169
  - e. Division E – 0 to 149
4. The Optional Scratch event shall use the scratch scores (without handicap) from the Regular Events (Singles, Doubles, and Team) to determine winners in each Division. Entry into the Optional Scratch event must be submitted before the start of the first event. Prizes will be awarded in:
  - a. High Scratch Game (any event)
  - b. High Scratch Series (any event)
  - c. High Scratch All Events (9 game total)
5. The Optional Handicap event shall use the handicap scores from the Regular Events (Singles, Doubles, and Team) to determine winners in each Division. Prizes will be awarded in:
  - a. High Handicap Game (any event)
  - b. High Handicap Series (any event)
  - c. High Handicap All Events (9 game total)
6. The Optional Seniors event shall use the handicap scores from the Regular Events (Singles, Doubles, and Team) to determine winners. Entrants must be at least 55 years of age to enter. Entry into the Optional Senior event must be submitted before the start of the first event. Prizes will be awarded in:
  - a. High Handicap Game (any event)
  - b. High Handicap Series (any event)
  - c. High Handicap All Events (9 game total)
7. The Scratch Masters event shall use the scratch scores from the first six games of regular tournament play to determine qualifiers. Detailed Scratch Masters event rules are provided in the Scratch Masters section of these rules.

### III. Awards and Prizes

1. All cash awards shall be based on the total pins PLUS assigned handicap for each event (except for the Optional Scratch and Scratch Masters Divisions).
2. Awards will be given in the Handicap Division for the best Singles, Doubles, Team, Individual All Events, and Team All Events.
  - a. Individual All Events is defined as the nine (9) game total including handicap of an individual bowler.
  - b. Team All Events is defined as the nine-game total plus handicap for the four (4) members of the same team who bowled the team event. If any member of the team does not bowl the nine games, that team will be ineligible for the Team All Events recognition.

3. The award ratio for the Handicap Division shall be at a minimum of 1:10. Individual All Events and Team All Events shall be at a minimum of 1:20. 100% of the prize monies collected for Singles, Doubles, Team, and Individual All Events shall be returned to the bowlers as stated by the previous ratios. A trophy shall only be awarded to the Team All Events winner.
4. The award ratio for the Optional Scratch Divisions shall be at a minimum of 1:20 per division.
5. Monetary prizes will be distributed via check payable in U.S. currency within thirty (30) days of the completion of the tournament, barring any protests. A tie in any position will result in the sum of the prizes being aggregated for the tied positions and divided equally by the number of ties for that placing. Prize funds will be based on 100% participation.
6. The re-issue of any payment due to the bowler's failure to provide accurate mailing information will result in the deduction of any fees incurred by the tournament to reissue the payment, from prize winnings. If the amount won is insufficient to cover the fees incurred, a re-issue will not be granted.
7. 100% of the entry fee from each division in the Optional Events shall be returned to that division and 100% of the entry fee less any lineage shall be returned for Scratch Masters.

#### IV. Entering Averages

1. Any bowler entering the MIC 2026 Tournament must establish a (10) ten-pin or string pin average acceptable to USBC. (Per USBC Rule 319)
2. Bowlers must use the highest qualifying average regardless of which hand the average was earned determined in the following order of priority:
  - a. Current Tournament Average from the IGBO Tournament Average Database (TAD) (minimum 21 games) as of 30 days prior to the start of the MIC Tournament. (See (c) for exception to this rule.)
  - b. If (a) is not available, use the 2025 – 2026 book average (minimum 21 games). If bowler competed in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE average of all leagues bowled with at least 21 games.
  - c. If 2025 – 2026 book average is 10 pins or more over the current TAD average, the 2025 – 2026 book average will be used.
  - d. If (a) or (b) is not available, use the 2026 final summer league average (minimum 21 games). If bowler competed in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE average of all leagues bowled with at least 21 games.
  - e. If (d) is not available, use the 2024- 2025 book average (minimum 21 games). If bowler competed in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE average of all leagues bowled with at least 21 games.
  - f. If (e) is not available, use the 2025 final summer league average (minimum 21 games). If bowler competed in more than one league, the bowler MUST submit the COMPOSITE average of all leagues bowled with at least 21 games.
  - g. If none of the above is available, a current season league average (minimum 21 games) as of the entry deadline will be accepted. Bowler will provide the highest league average recap sheet. Failure to provide the sheet results in Section IV(2)(g) being in applied.
  - h. Bowlers who cannot meet any of the above criteria, shall use a minimum of 130 and must submit all league averages and tournament scores (for the 12-months immediately preceding the entry cut-off date) for possible average adjustment.

- i. If none of the scenarios above apply, the entering average shall be 230. USBC Rule 319a (2) does not apply.
- j. The above averages MUST be verified by one of the following methods:
  - i) League standing sheet, signed, and dated by League Officer, or
  - ii) Letter from League President or Secretary, or
  - iii) Verification through the IGBO database (TAD) or USBC database (Bowl.com), or
  - iv) Photocopy of book average (with year noted), signed and dated by League Officer.
- i. Averages from "Sports Condition" leagues are not acceptable at any time.
- 3. The per-game handicap for the tournament shall be based at 90% of the difference between the bowler's entering average (see Rule 16) and a scratch score of 230. Negative handicap will NOT apply.
- 4. USBC rules regarding the BOWLER's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his/her entering average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain, or any other individual, applies to all bowlers. Failure to use proper average shall disqualify scores if the submitted average is lower than the actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification for more handicap. Event placement and/or prize winnings shall be based on the higher average should the submitted average prove to be higher than the bowler's actual average. (USBC Rule Book, Rule 319)

## V. Average Adjustment

- 1. The Tournament Directors have the authority to adjust the entering average of any bowler. Average adjustments will be applied as set forth under USBC rules. All average adjustments will be completed prior to the start of each event. A bowler unwilling to accept an average adjustment is entitled to a refund for that event.
- 2. As of the beginning date of the MIC 2026 Tournament, any bowler who has qualified for a cash prize of three hundred dollars (\$300 US) or more in any single event MUST report all positions, all amounts won, and all scores for the previous 12-month period to the Tournament Directors no later than at the time of registration for possible re-rating. Such re-rating must be done before the entrant bowls (in compliance with IGBO AND USBC rules). Failure to report this information shall result in AUTOMATIC disqualification and the loss of all winnings. No refunds will be issued for disqualified bowlers.
- 3. All average challenges must be made to the Tournament Director and/or Statistician prior to the start of the first event.

## VI. Attendance and Substitutes

- 1. It is solely and entirely the bowler's responsibility to be present at the assigned lanes at the time of bowling. Each bowler shall have the total responsibility to arrive in time to bowl. Mechanical failures, transportation irregularities, improper directions and related reasons DO NOT alter the application of these rules (USBC rules will apply).
- 2. Incidents involving tournament-offered transportation and/or catastrophic events will be subject to Tournament Management discretion.

3. Complete doubles and team entrants must be present for bowling each event. If a team member is not present, the team may use an authorized substitute. If no substitute is available, a zero score will be used for the missing bowler or bowlers.
4. Late bowlers will begin bowling in the frame in which they are ready, with prior frames receiving a score of zero. Practice balls will not be allowed for late bowlers.
5. Substitutes may bowl at the discretion of the Tournament Directors. Their entering averages must comply with the rules previously stated. Substitutes must complete an entry form. It is not the responsibility of tournament management to replace absent bowlers.
6. Bowlers will receive ten (10) minutes of practice before the start of singles, doubles, and team events.

## VII. Entry Requirements

1. MIC 2026 registration will be available online with payment completed online. All entries must be submitted and paid for through the tournament website and must be electronically timestamped no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time on September 14, 2026.
2. Entry fee will be \$130.00 per person and must be paid by 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time on September 14, 2026.
 

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Lineage                 | 39.00           |
| Prize Fund              | 30.00           |
| Trophies                | 17.00           |
| Banquet /Hosp           | 42.00           |
| <u>IGBO</u>             | <u>2.00</u>     |
| <u>Total Entry Fee:</u> | <u>\$130.00</u> |
3. Entries shall be limited to a maximum of 224. Once this maximum has been reached, no more entries can be accepted. An Entrant's acceptance will be based on the order in which it is received. Once an entry has been accepted, refunds will only be issued at the discretion of Tournament Management.
4. Partial team entries will be accepted, and the Tournament Directors will make every effort to fill vacancies.

## VIII. Scoring Errors and Protests

1. After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed unless an obvious error in scoring or calculation has occurred. Obvious errors must be corrected by a tournament official immediately upon discovery. Questionable errors must be reported to a tournament official within one (1) hour of the error and will be decided by Tournament Management.
2. Protests and appeals must be in writing, stating the grounds for the protest and/or appeal. All protests or appeals must be received within 7 days of scores being posted.
  - a. A protest involving eligibility or playing rules must be filed with the tournament management before tournament prizes are paid.
  - b. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Directors. The Tournament Directors will review all protests and render a decision.
  - c. The decision of the Tournament Directors shall be final and binding. No further appeals will be considered.

## IX. Miscellaneous

1. All other USBC rules will apply. MIC does not recognize or enforce any USBC policies that exclude transgender women or other marginalized groups from participation. All bowlers are welcome to compete in accordance with their affirmed gender identity.
2. All bowlers must present a valid government-issued photo ID at registration. This ID requirement is solely to confirm the identity of the participant and ensure that the individual matches the registered name. It is not used to determine or validate gender.
3. Any person attending requiring special needs MUST notify the Tournament Directors in writing when the application is submitted.
4. The team captain MUST sign the entry form acknowledging he/she has read and understands the rules. In the case of online registration, the timestamp will be considered the team captain's acknowledgement.
5. Bowlers will only be permitted to complete check-in, enter optional jackpots, or brackets including mega brackets individually. No bowler will be permitted to complete these actions for another bowler. All bowlers will also be required to collect their own winnings. This policy ensures transparency, prevents any unauthorized registrations, and maintains the integrity of our tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from the respective jackpot event.
6. Management reserves the right to deny entry, disqualify, or remove from competition any bowler who is found to be in violation of any tournament rules. Excessive intoxication, disruptive, harassing, intimidating, or threatening behavior will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification without a refund.

## X. Scratch Masters Rules

1. Scratch Masters is a competition separate from and an optional event to the MIC 2026 Tournament.
2. The Scratch Masters, in conjunction with the MIC 2026 Tournament, is a competition open to all persons who paid the Scratch Masters entry fee and qualified to compete based on these rules.
3. The first six (6) game scratch totals from the handicap tournament are used to determine the six (6) qualifiers and the one (1) alternate per division for competition. Scores do not carry over into Scratch Masters. In case of a tie for the last qualifying spot a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled. If a tie remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will determine top eight.
4. Payout will be 100% after lineage has been paid from prize fund.
5. Entry Fee will be \$35.00 across all divisions.
6. A lane schedule will be given to each division prior to the start of the competition. No exceptions. The bowlers are responsible for checking if they have qualified.
7. Lists of the bowlers, who have qualified, as well as alternates, will be posted on the Tournament Website and social media (Facebook) Page as soon as available on Saturday, October 3, 2026.
8. The Scratch Masters competition will begin at 1:00 PM on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at Super Bowl Lanes, for all Divisions.

9. Bowlers must check in thirty (30) minutes before the start time. A bowler who does not check in for roll call prior to the start of the event will be disqualified and the next available alternate will replace them.
10. A bowler who is not available to bowl at the scheduled time will be disqualified.
11. The Committee member in charge of Scratch Masters will hold a briefing meeting for all qualifiers to distribute lane assignments and discuss the rules. Additionally, one lane/score monitor for each Division will also be in the briefing.
12. Each bowler will be allowed two (2) practice balls per lane before each game.
13. In case of a tie for any position a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will be bowled. If a tie remains, sudden death, one ball/high count will break the tie.
14. A warm-up lane will be provided for the players waiting to bowl.
15. Any claims of error must be submitted to the Scratch Master's Committee prior to the start of the next match. In the case of an error in the final match, claims must be made within one (1) hour of the end of the final match.
16. All rounds of Scratch Masters for each division will be in step ladder format. Each bowler will be seeded based on their qualifying total with the lowest qualifier being six (6) and the highest qualifier being first (1).
17. At the beginning of the preliminary round, the bowlers will choose the order in which they bowl. The higher seeded bowler determines who bowls first. This process will be repeated through each round of bowling. It is the bowler's responsibility to maintain proper bowling order.
18. Each game of the preliminary round will be held on lanes previously unused by the bowlers in their respective division. The winner of each single game will move on to bowl the next higher seed.
19. Seed 6 bowls seed 5. The winner of the single game advances to bowl seed 4, etc.
20. The single bowler who remains at the end of all rounds is the winner of Scratch Masters for their division.
21. Ties will be resolved as described previously.
22. The bowler who chooses to finish last will bowl one frame on the left lane and then the second bowler will bowl two frames starting on the right lane. Bowlers will alternate shooting two frames on alternate lanes until the end of the game.