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2019-2020 Big Sky Tour Format & Rules

President – Josie Klapan, Butte

Sgt-at-Arms – Karissa Ottenbacher, Billings

Vice-President – Justin Cavazos, Helena

Junior Rep – Michael Hawk, Missoula

Secretary/Treasurer – Kayden Dziak, Butte

- League Format** – This league is a USBC certified, open, scratch, singles, youth travel league and will consist of 8 stops between September and March. The stops will vary by location and differ each year. The first seven stops (league stops) will consist of three sets of two game scratch match-play, for a total of six games, followed by one of the following finals formats: the top eight bowlers in each division advancing to a single game bracket elimination final, top 5 low-man-out, or top 5 stepladder. The eighth stop (tournament stop) will consist of four sets of two game scratch match-play for a total of eight games, followed by a finals format that will be voted on by the league at the February stop. **In order to bowl the 8th stop, a bowler must have 4 of the first 7 league stops.** All games are on a scratch basis, handicap will not apply.
- Divisions** – There are two age divisions, U15 Junior Division and U20 Major Division. If a bowler was born on 8/1/04 or later, that bowler will be placed in the U15 Junior Division. If a bowler was born between 8/1/99 and 7/31/04, that bowler will be placed in the U20 Major Division.
- Match-Play** – At their first stop, bowlers will be matched based on their previous season's Big Sky Tour average. Bowlers without a previous established Big Sky Tour average will use their highest previous season's average with minimum of 21 games. Bowlers with no average will be given a 225 average to start. The first match at each successive stop will be based on the current Big Sky Tour average. The remaining matches will be paired based on a total pinfall plus bonus pins.
- Bonus Pins** – The winner of each game in the match play will add 30 bonus pins to their total pinfall. In the event of a tie, each bowler will add 15 bonus pins to their total pinfall.
- Ties** – During match play, ties of consequence will be decided with the bowler with the higher entering average for that stop receiving the higher placing. In the event there is a tie with total pinfall at the conclusion of match-play, a 9th/10th frame roll-off will be conducted. The higher seed will have first choice on ties between finishing first/last. Left lane starts first.
- Bracket Elimination Finals Format** – The top eight bowlers will compete in a single elimination bracket. In Round 1, match #1 will be the 1st place qualifier versus the 8th place qualifier, match #2 will be 4th versus 5th, match #3 will be 3rd versus 6th, and match #4 will be 2nd versus 7th. Winners will advance to the 2nd round with the winner of match #1 versus the winner of match #2 and the winner of match #3 versus the winner of match #4. The round 2 winners will advance to the Championship match. Two balls on each lane of practice will be allowed in each round. All ties will be decided by a 9th/10th frame roll off.
- Low Man Out Finals Format** – The top five bowlers at the conclusion of match-play will compete in 4 rounds where in each round the bowler with the lowest score is eliminated from competition and the remaining bowlers advance until a winner is determined.
- Top 5 Stepladder** – The top five bowlers will compete in a traditional TV style stepladder where in the first round the #5 and #4 seeds compete head to head and the winner advances to compete against the #3 seed and so on until a winner is determined.
- Scholarships** – All bowlers are eligible to win scholarship at the first seven stops, there is a \$50 scholarship for 1st place and \$25 for 2nd place in both the U20 and U15 divisions. Scholarships will be awarded to all of the bowlers who advance to the finals at the final stop and will be based on funds from entries and 50/50 sales and added money from sponsors.
- Cost** – The first seven stops will be \$30. The final stop will be \$40. Lineage is \$3.25 per game with all remaining entry money being put towards scholarships and awards at the final stop.



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12. **Time** – All bowlers must be checked in by 8:45am. Practice will start at 8:45am and competition play at 9am. Bowlers who have not checked in or have not called to announce their tardiness will not be allowed to bowl. If a bowler calls to announce their tardiness, they will receive scores of 0 in each frame until arrival. Weather will be taken into consideration if a majority of bowlers are late in arriving due to weather.
13. **Ball Limit in Pit** – Bowlers will only be allowed to have 2 balls on the rack and an additional ball in the settee area. If a ball is retrieved from outside the settee area, then one of the balls in the settee area must be removed.
14. **Dress Code** – Goal of this dress code is to prepare bowlers for tournament competition in which a professional athletic dress is standard. Appropriate bowling competition attire must be worn (knee length cargo or walking shorts are allowed but no basketball shorts or yoga pants and skirts must be longer than fingertip length), no hats. Youth participants shall not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance or inappropriate language/gestures during competition. All final decisions regarding attire will be at the discretion of the league officers and the adult league advisor. Any violation will follow penalty protocol.
15. **Language, Behavior, & Attitude** – Travel league is a competition where bowlers from across the state of Montana come to compete, meet other bowlers, improve their game, and have fun. Any misconduct (i.e. inappropriate language, gestures, abuse to any equipment, etc.) will not be tolerated. Any violation will follow penalty protocol.
16. **Penalty:** First offense will result in a verbal warning from the Sgt-at-Arms. Second Offense will result in a second warning by the president or league advisor. A third offense will cause the bowler's scores to be disqualified and the bowler to be removed from the competition for the remainder of the competition.
17. **Junior Gold Qualifier** – The 8th and final stop will more than likely be a Junior Gold Qualifier Tournament and scores will not count toward their Big Sky Tour average. All Junior Gold Qualifier competitors will dress according the Junior Gold dress code. The highest placing girl and boy in both divisions who attempting to qualify for Junior Gold will qualify for Junior Gold. Additional qualifiers will earn a berth to Junior Gold if funds are available to buy additional qualifying spots.
18. **League Meetings and Elections** – Two league meetings per year, a fall meeting and a spring meeting. Fall meeting will be conducted at the first stop. Spring meeting and election of officers will be conducted at the Tournament Stop.
19. **Big Sky Tour Board** – Consist of five positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Junior Rep. In order to be elected, athlete must be a Big Sky Tour League member in good standing and in the U20 Division, except for the Junior Rep who must be a member of the U15 Division.
20. **18-Year-Old Athletes** – For the 2019-2020 Big Sky Tour Season, athletes who are 18 years or older must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training within 45 days of initial membership. Athletes who will turn 18 during the season must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training within 45 Days of turning 18. 18-Year-Old member who fail to complete SafeSport within allotted time will not be allowed to bowl until he/she has completed the training.
21. **18-Year-Old Board Members** – For the 2019-2020 Big Sky Tour Season, board members who are 18 years or older must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training and the Registered Volunteer Program. Board Members who will turn 18 during the season must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training and Registered Volunteer Program within 45 Days of turning 18.
22. **Rule 400 In Effect** – There will be no monetary rewards or promise of monetary awards during competition play from anyone. Rule #400 will apply. Bowlers caught are subject to suspension from competition play and will be reported to USBC headquarters.
23. **Electronic Devices** – During completion play, no electronic devices are to be used by bowlers.
24. **Parents are not allowed in the settee area during competition play.**
25. **ALL USBC RULES ARE IN EFFECT!!!**