



Georgia Youth Bowlers Tour  
**Information Packet**



USBC Certified # 4107 SMART Acct. 10962

Welcome to the Georgia Youth Bowlers Tour!

**This information packet includes the following helpful documents:**

- GYBT Tournament Rules
- GYBT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- GYBT Tournament Schedule

**COVID-19 Notice:** Follow-us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgiaYBT](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgiaYBT) for the most up to date announcements regarding rule changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These are changing and confusing times and we're here to help. If you have any questions, please contact us through Facebook or email us directly at [gybtdirector@outlook.com](mailto:gybtdirector@outlook.com)



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## Tournament Rules



### Format

Bowlers will bowl five games for total pin-fall (scratch; no handicap). Each game is bowled on a pair of lanes, moving one pair of lanes to the right after each game. All regular season ties at the end of 5 games for winner or Junior Gold spots are broken by a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll off. If a roll-off is not possible, the tie will be settled with a coin flip.

**COVID-19 Impact:** The following adjustments have been made during the pandemic and will constantly be reviewed and updated during the season:

- 3 games will decide the competition
- Athletes will not change pairs
- Jr. Gold advancement ratio will be 1:4 for all divisions
- Advance registration required. Register online at [www.BowlMetrix.com/gybt](http://www.BowlMetrix.com/gybt)

### Eligibility

Bowler must be a USBC Certified Youth bowler. All **U20 bowlers MUST have the USBC Adult Membership**. Each event is a Junior Gold qualifying event and if the bowler wants to concurrently compete for a Junior Gold spot (optional), they must have a current Junior Gold membership prior to the start of the competition (can be secured day-of during registration; see "Junior Gold" below).

### Age Divisions

Bowlers compete across 8 divisions, by age and gender:

2019-2020 Season divisions are as follows:

**Division**

U12 Boys/Girls: birthdays 8/1/08 or later

U15 Boys/Girls: birthdays 8/1/2005 – 7/31/2008

U18 Boys/Girls: birthdays 8/1/2002 – 7/31/2005

U20 Boys/Girls: birthdays 8/1/2000 – 7/31/2002

### Playing Up in Age Division

Athletes have the option of competing in an age division older than what their birthdate provides. This has important implications that need to be considered:

Junior Gold qualification spots are earned in the division in which the athlete competes and are not transferable to another division.

- Bowler of the Year points count toward the division in which the athlete competed.
- Athletes are not allowed to be lane assigned with an older age group if they are not competing in that age group.



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## 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 each tournament)
- USBC Certification Card
- Junior Gold Membership Card
- Bowler/Parent Sportsmanship Pledges (must be filled out once each season)
- Travel Authorization form (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 is checked-in, 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. At the conclusion of their shift bowlers will have **10 minutes** to turn their scores into the tournament office, or they may be disqualified.

## 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. Females may wear a sleeveless shirt with a butterfly collar only if the sleeves are finished. It is recommended that participants have their names on their shirts, but it is not required. If the participant chooses to have a name on the back it is recommended that the participants wear their last names (first and last name is recommended) in lettering a minimum of one-inch high and a maximum of three inches high, on the back of shirts during all tournament play. Hand-printed lettering is not permitted. Lettering must be in contrasting color to backing (light on dark, or dark on light material) so it can be easily read from a distance.

## 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 one-half the distance from the inseam to the top of the knee in length and/or 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 beginning or during the 5-game competition. All bowlers will be given 10 minutes of warm up on their starting pair of lanes prior to the start of the 5-game competition.



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## 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 GYBT will not disclose any of the oil pattern information until after the event has concluded. It is prohibited to discuss lane maintenance procedures with lane maintenance personnel at any time prior to or during a GYBT event. Any issues regarding this policy must be made to the GYBT Board.

## Bowler and Parent Sportsmanship Pledges

The GYBT 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 off on at the first event you enter.

## 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.

## Lofting

It is important for GYBT to maintain the integrity of their tournaments and to be attractive guests to the bowling center operators on whom GYBT depends. Consequently, lofting is not allowed beyond the arrows (~15'). The athlete's ball must contact the lane before the arrows. First violation will result in a warning and loss of frame. Second violation will result in disqualification. GYBT also wants to remind athletes they are personally responsible for any damage caused by their behavior.

## Junior Gold

Each event will be a Junior Gold qualifying event. The bowler(s) with the highest five game total in each age group will qualify for the annual Junior Gold National Championships (see [www.bowl.com/juniorgold](http://www.bowl.com/juniorgold) for details). We will qualify 1 in every 4 girl bowlers and 1 in every 5 boy bowlers. The Tournament Directors reserve the right combine a division that does not have enough participation to earn a qualifying spot, with another division.

To be eligible for the Junior Gold qualifying portions of this event the bowler **MUST** be a USBC certified youth bowler and a Junior Gold member in good standing. Junior Gold membership cards must be presented at the time of check-in. If the bowler is not a Junior Gold member, they **MUST** fill out the Junior Gold membership form and pay all applicable dues prior to the check-in deadline. U20 bowlers **MUST** have the USBC Adult Membership

## Tournament of Champions (TOC)

The Tournament of Champions is the season ending tournament. To be eligible to bowl in the annual TOC a bowler must have participated in 3 GYBT events from the current season. Exceptions are made for full time college students and they are eligible after participating in 2 GYBT events. See separate document covering the TOC rules.

## Bowler of the Year

We will recognize a "Bowler of the Year" in each of the 8 divisions. Bowlers will receive points for each event in which they participate. Ties within an event will receive equal points. At the end of the season the bowlers with the most total points in each division win the title "Bowler of the Year" and a SMART scholarship of \$250. In the unlikely event of a tie in the year-end results, the tie will be broken with a one full game tiebreaker. If a tie-breaker



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game is not possible, the tie will be broken in the following order: head to head record, high season average, high game, coin flip.

Points are awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> = 9pts., 2<sup>nd</sup> = 8pts., 3<sup>rd</sup> = 7pts., 4<sup>th</sup> = 6pts., 5<sup>th</sup> = 5pts., 6<sup>th</sup> = 4pts., 7<sup>th</sup> = 3pts., 8<sup>th</sup> = 2pts., 9<sup>th</sup> and lower = 1pt.

## 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 stepladder competition, or cancel a tournament without prior notice, or delay the start of an event up to ten minutes.



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## Frequently Asked Questions



### What is the Georgia Youth Bowlers Tour (GYBT)?

The GYBT exists to provide Youth Bowlers the opportunity to qualify for the annual Junior Gold national youth tournament in which about 4000 youth from across the country participate.

### As a bowler, what am I competing for at a GYBT tournament?

Each monthly tournament has 3 things happening all at once. First, bowlers are competing within their divisions to decide who will be the winner of the day. They'll also be competing for berths to the annual Junior Gold national championships. Lastly, they're earning points that contribute to their Bowler of the Year standings within GYBT (SMART Scholarship). The 5 games they bowl that day will decide all three.

Also, once a youth bowler has competed in 3 events (2 events for collegiate bowlers; see details in the GYBT rules), they are eligible to compete in the annual season-ending Tournament of Champions (TOC). The TOC awards the bulk of scholarship monies from the Tour (~\$15,000 total).

### What is the USBC membership requirement to participate with GYBT?

A bowler must have the Basic Youth Membership. This is usually purchased through the league in which you bowl (e.g. Saturday morning league). We are aware that there is a slightly different membership obtained by those bowling at the collegiate level. U20 bowlers must have the USBC Adult Membership.

### Do I need to pre-register for an event?

NO and Yes. Just show up for the monthly tournaments. However, the end of season Tournament of Champions (TOC) REQUIRES pre-registration. See the TOC rules for details (separate document).

### Do I need to bowl in all 11 events?

No. That said, every event bowled contributes to a bowler's Bowler of the Year standing. See more information below.

### What lane conditions are used?

We use sport oil patterns (a.k.a. "sport shots"). This is different than the standard or "house patterns" you'll normally encounter at your bowling center when bowling recreationally or during most Saturday morning youth leagues. The sport patterns do provide a significantly greater challenge to the bowler. One way of describing it is a house pattern is designed to make striking easier for the bowler, whereas sport patterns are designed to make it harder.

### Do you announce the oil pattern before competition?

The Junior Gold tournament does not announce the oil patterns and consequently we don't either. We will announce the pattern at the end of competition, so keep your notebooks handy so you can learn from your experience. Again, we're using our tournaments as a crucible in which you can develop your skills as a bowler to be successful at the national level.



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## My Saturday league lets us wear hats and shorts. Is this permitted?

Absolutely not. A key mission of GYBT is to prepare our athletes for the Junior Gold tournament; therefore, we govern ourselves with their rules on dress code. Please see the GYBT Rules document for details on dress code. If you have any questions our tournament staff is available to provide clarifications onsite or online.

## How much does it cost to bowl a GYBT event?

The U12 divisions are \$40.00 per bowler. The U15/U17/U20 divisions are \$60.00 per bowler.

## Why so much?

Each Junior Gold spot awarded costs: U12 = \$100, U15 = \$150, U18=\$200, U20 = \$200 and the entry fees go to cover these fees and scholarship awards.

## Does the GYBT award SMART scholarships?

Yes! There are 2 ways to earn scholarship awards: Bowler of the Year and the Tournament of Champions. See below for details on each.

## What are the Bowler/Parent Sportsmanship pledges and why are they important?

As the level of sophistication and competitiveness of youth sports increases, we at times, have seen the boundaries of good sportsmanship challenged. The pledges are a way to define the standards of sportsmanship expected on the GYBT and reinforce that all bowlers perform their best and are successful when they compete with good sportsmanship.

## Junior Gold

### What is Junior Gold?

The Junior Gold Championship is a national level championship tournament held annually for youth bowlers. The location varies from year to year, moving from city to city around the USA. More information can be found online at [www.bowl.com/juniorgold](http://www.bowl.com/juniorgold).

### Must I have a Junior Gold Membership to bowl a GYBT event?

Yes.

### How does the GYBT help prepare youth to prepare for the Junior Gold event?

Each of our events attempts to mimic the atmosphere that youth encounter at the event: Sport bowling shots (oil patterns), dress code, bowling on 5 different pairs of lanes, score verification with an opponent, bowling with other youth you may/may not know.

### How many Junior Gold spots are awarded at each GYBT tournament?

This varies based on the turn out for a given tournament and is based on the advancement ratios defined by the Junior Gold guidelines. In the U12Boys/U12Girls divisions, for each 4 bowlers one (1) spot is awarded (4:1 ratio). In the U15Girls/U18 Girls/U20 Girls divisions also use a ratio of 4:1. The U15 Boys/U18 Boys/U20 Boys divisions use a 5:1 ratio.

### How many youth bowlers typically qualify for the Junior Gold Tournament annually through GYBT?

Typically, over the course of our eleven events, between 150-175 youth will qualify.



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## Do I have to win an event to qualify to Junior Gold?

No. Firstly, multiple berths can be awarded based tournament attendance and the ratios above. Secondly, if the top bowlers in a division have already qualified, the berths slide down the results until they find a competitor that had not yet qualified.

## Is the GYBT the only way to qualify for Junior Gold?

No. Events like the annual Georgia USBC Youth Pepsi Championship also awards berths to Junior Gold. However, the GYBT provides the most opportunities both through the frequency of its tournaments and quantity of berths.

## Bowler of the Year

### What is the Bowler of the Year award?

Each age group awards a Bowler of the Year SMART scholarship in the amount of \$250 based on the Bowler of the Year point standings accumulated over the course of the season.

### How do bowlers earn Bowler of the Year points?

Bowlers will receive points for each event in which they participate and their finishing position. Example of points: 1st place=8 point, 2nd place=7 points, 6th place=5 points, etc. Every bowler is awarded at least one (1) point. The more events a bowler participates in, the more opportunities they have to earn points.

## Tournament of Champions (TOC)

### What is the TOC?

The TOC is GYBT's season ending championship event, held here in Georgia.

### When is the TOC?

Generally, it's a multi-day tournament spread over a Saturday and Sunday in early summer. Please check the GYBT schedule for specific dates (separate document).

### What is the TOC format?

Bowlers bowl numerous games for total pin fall. After the qualifying games are completed each division cuts their field for a stepladder final. Please see the TOC rules for details (separate document).

### What scholarships are awarded at the TOC?

Scholarships are won based on finishing position and some other categories (e.g. high game). The total purse for the TOC is based on entry fees over the course of the season and generally is around \$15,000.







# Georgia Youth Bowlers Tour 2020 -2021 Schedule



2020-21 Schedule USBC Certified 04107  
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- USBC Certified Events
- Open to all USBC Certified Youth Bowlers with Junior Gold membership (U20 bowlers must have USBC Adult membership)
- Sport Shot Conditions
- Junior Gold spots awarded at each event (JG membership can be purchased w/credit card or check at registration)
- Most tournaments are on 1st Sunday of each month and accept walk-ins (TOC must be pre-registered)

8 Divisions	Birthdays between	Cost*
U12 Boys/Girls	08/01/2008 or later	\$40
U15 Boys/Girls	08/01/05 - 07/31/08	\$60
U18 Boys/Girls	08/01/02 - 07/31/05	\$60
U20 Boys/Girls	08/01/00 - 07/31/02	\$60

\* Prices subject to change.

## Schedule

Date	Registration	Start	Location
Sept 6 2020	9:00-9:45 AM 12:00-12:45 PM	10:00 AM Squad A 1:00PM: Squad B	AMF Woodstock; Woodstock, GA
Oct 4, 2020	9:00-9:45 AM 12:00-12:45 PM	10:00 AM Squad A 1:00PM: Squad B	Bowlero Marietta; Marietta, GA
Nov 1, 2020	9:00-9:45 AM 12:00-12:45 PM	10:00 AM Squad A 1:00PM: Squad B	Bowlero Roswell; Roswell, GA
Dec 6, 2020	9:00-9:45 AM	10:00 AM	AMF American Lanes; Conyers, GA
Jan 3, 2021	9:00-9:45 AM	10:00-AM	Bowlero Norcross; Norcross, GA
Feb 7, 2021	9:00-9:45 AM	10:00-AM	Bowlero Lilburn; Lawrenceville, GA
March 7, 2021	9:00-9:45 AM	10:00-AM	Bowlmor Atlanta; Atlanta, GA
Apr 4, 2021	9:00-9:45 AM	10:00-AM	Bowlero Lilburn; Lawrenceville, GA
May 2, 2021	9:00-9:45 AM	10:00=AM	Bowlero Augusta; Augusta GA
Jun 5-6 , 2021	9:00 - 9:45AM	10:00 AM	Tournament of Champions Bowlero Austell; Marietta, GA
July 8-17, 2021	Junior Gold		Indianapolis, IN

[www.georgiayouthbowlerstour.com](http://www.georgiayouthbowlerstour.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgiaYBT](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgiaYBT) - Most current information

[www.BowlMetrix.com](http://www.BowlMetrix.com) - past results and bowler history

[gybtdirector@outlook.com](mailto:gybtdirector@outlook.com)

Tour Directors: Mike Bonzek 678-427-9280, Ted Fossum 678-428-9746



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