**GAY GAMES 9 BOWLING TOURNAMENT RULES:**

**SKILL LEVEL:**

The League Division is open to bowlers with a **verified average**, which is a score established by play in regular league or tournament.

“**League**” competitors are defined as those players who have a recorded average and handicap from league and/or competition play. Such leagues or tournaments shall not necessarily be sanctioned but shall have kept verifiable records of all bowlers who participate, including their scores and number of games played.

Players without an average and handicap do not qualify for the League Division.

These players participate in the Social Division.

**TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION:**

* Team events consist of four-person teams, and Doubles events consist of two-person teams.
* For the Singles, Doubles and Team events, there are three rounds of competition. Preliminary rounds of competition for the Singles, Doubles and Team events have three games per round.
* The Top 12 scores in each of the Divisions in the Singles, Doubles and Team events will advance to the Semi-Final rounds. The Semi-Final rounds of competition for the Singles, Doubles and Team events have three games per round.
* The Top 6 scores in each of the Divisions in the Singles, Doubles and Team events will advance to the Final Medal rounds. The Final Medal rounds of competition for the Singles, Doubles and Team events have three games per round.
* Participants registered for the Social Division may not enter the League Division in any Bowling event and vice versa.
* Bowling events are a standard ten-pin format only.
* Each player in the top three teams in each of the Divisions in the Singles, Doubles and Team events will receive a medal.

**TOURNAMENT RULES:**

* The Bowling tournament shall be governed and conducted under the rules of the sanctioning body, United States Bowling Congress ([USBC](http://www.bowl.com/)). Changes in any rules will be posted to this website within one (1) month before the scheduled competition.
* The bowling tournament must be sanctioned by the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ) or by one of its affiliated, national, full-member bodies, such as the World Ten-Pin Bowling Association (WTBA), Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) or United States Bowling Congress (USBC).
* The Gay Games 9 bowling tournament management has 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 will be disqualified from the tournament.
* 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 other, 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 or more handicap.

**TOURNAMENT ENTERING AVERAGES:**

Any bowler entering the Gay Games 9 Bowling Tournament must establish a ten-pin average acceptable to The Federation of Gay Games and the Gay Games 9 Bowling Committee.

The following rules shall be used to determine the entering average for the "League" Division:
a) The bowler is required to submit the **highest** average of:

1. A current *League* average which is sanctioned by the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ) or by one of its affiliated, national, full-member bodies, such as the World Ten-Pin Bowling Association (WTBA), Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) or United States Bowling Congress (USBC).
Based on a minimum of 21 games over one full year as of:
- May 1, 2014 close of year (for bowlers in North and Central America where a League bowls over a 'split' full year)
- December 1, 2013 close of year (for bowlers outside of North and Central America where a League bowls over a 'calendar' full year)
or:
2. A current *Tournament* average based on a minimum of 18 games as of May 1, 2014 where a league bowler has competed in organized external tournaments (such as an IGBO tournament, a State or National sponsored tournament or bowling centre-organized sanctioned tournament):or
3. A *Composite* average of all leagues, including leagues with less than 21 games bowled: or
4. If none available, a league average (minimum 21 games) as of May 1, 2013 will be accepted.

b) When the previous season’s average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 1 pin or more higher than the prior season’s average, the current average must be used.

c) If none of the above is available, then the bowler must enter the "Social Division".

d) The above averages MUST be verified by the use of:

1. League standing sheet detailing the individual's name and average, signed and dated by League Officer, or
2. Letter from League President or Secretary, or
3. Photocopy of book average (with year noted), signed and dated by League Officer.
4. Verification of 2013-2014 book averages from USBC – [bowl.com](http://bowl.com)

e) Averages from “Sports Condition” leagues are not acceptable at any time."

**AVERAGE ADJUSTMENT:**

* If a bowler has a minimum 18tournament game average that is one or more pins higher than their entering average for this tournament, they must use the higher tournament average.
* The Gay Games 9 Bowling Committee reserves the right to verify Tournament averages through such tools as the IGBO TAD (Tournament Average Database), [BOWL.COM](http://BOWL.COM) or other similar Tournament average facilities.

**HANDICAPS:**

The handicap for the Gay Games 9 bowling tournament shall be based at 90% of the difference between the bowler’s entering average (as determined above) and a scratch score of 225.

Negative handicaps shall not apply.