

# **Elite Division**



## **Introduction**

The **9-TAP TOUR INC** is a unique, fun, and professionally run tournament. Members enjoy our standard “Beat the Board” format, with multiple squads to choose from. The big payouts, special pots & the 9-Tap version of bowling itself, brings a new excitement to tournaments. The ‘Elite Division’ is designed for the higher average bowlers with 200 league averages and above.

Approximately ONE bowler in every FIVE entries will cash. Other optional ways to earn cash are: the 9-Tap Jackpot, Progressive Pot, high game pots, brackets, scratch game & series pot. Several times per year, the **9-TAP TOUR** also offers **Special Two-Day Tournaments** with ‘Added money’ and Bracket Finals. Periodically, we also offer other alternate formats such as, Doubles events and “Best 3 of 4’ formats.

Tournament Prize Money is paid-out on site, at the conclusion of each tournament, or can be mailed if bowler isn’t present. The Tournament results are available by phone, email and on our web site, soon after each event. Past results are also available on our Tour web site. Prize Money is based on the number of entries and will vary from one Tournament to the next. A minimum **\$1,000.00** is paid for 1<sup>st</sup> Place at all Tournaments with 80 ‘Elite Division’ Entries. National tournaments are planned for the very near future.

Our rules are designed to protect our Members and ensure fair play. We’re proud to be **USBC Certified**. Our goal is to provide an enjoyable experience for all of our Members, with a fair opportunity for all of our Members.

**9-TAP TOUR INC** appreciates your participation. We hope you will enjoy our tournaments, if you do, we hope you’ll refer us to other bowlers.

**Rob Victor, CEO**

**9-Tap Tour Inc**  
PO Box 931  
Sumner, WA 98390  
253-987- 7975

<http://www.9taptour.com>

**David Kim, Director**  
**Rob Victor, Director**

**Puget Sound Region**  
PO Box 931  
Sumner, WA 98390  
253-987- 7975

<http://www.9taptour.com>

**Dave Hanson, Manager**

**‘Elite Division’**  
**Puget Sound Region**  
PO Box 931  
Sumner, WA 98390  
253-473-8929

<http://www.9taptour.com>

# 9-TAP TOUR

## OFFICIAL RULES

- 1. MEMBERSHIP** applications are available online or can be filled out at the Tournament site. Annual Membership dues are \$25, except for 'Life Members' (see #2). You must be a current paid Member to compete in any Tour event. Apps must be completely filled out, accurate, and legible. Incorrect or inaccurate information could result in the forfeiture of prize money. (Bowlers must also be current USBC members)
- 2. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP:** Once a 'Life Member' you no longer owe any Membership dues. You may become a Lifetime member by referring five "New Members" to the Tour. (To count as a "New Member", that person must participate in at least 3 tournaments.)
- 3. 6-MONTHS OF NON-PARTICIPATION:** If a Member has not participated in any **9-TAP TOUR** tournament for six months or more, that Members' average must be reviewed prior to re-joining the Tour.
- 4. REJOINING MEMBERS:** Bowlers rejoining after allowing their membership to expire can become eligible by paying their membership for the current year and meeting all new Members standards.
- 5. ENTRY FEES:** The standard tournament entry fees may vary from region to region. Entry Fees can be paid by Cash or Check at all locations. Credit or Debit cards are not accepted in some Regions (please check first). Entry Fees are collected at check-in at the tournament site. A \$25 service charge will be levied on each check returned. Collection proceedings and a letter to USBC will result from NSF checks not paid promptly.
- 6. SQUAD RULES:** Our regular format calls for four games, changing lanes one time, after the second game. All bowlers on a pair will move together, a Floor Director will advise where to move. There will be no more than eight bowlers allowed to bowl on a pair of lanes. A Director may need to move a bowler to a different lane than was assigned at check-in, prior to the beginning of a squad.
- 7. NORMAL SQUAD TIMES:** Squad times may vary from one tournament to the next. Generally, there will be two or three squads available to choose from in our One-Day Tournaments. Squad times may vary depending on the tournament Region, or host Bowling Center's activities. Please see your schedule or our website for exact squad times.
- 8. RE-ENTRIES/CASHING:** Participants may bowl in as many squads as they like during a tournament, but they may cash only once in a singles tournament. Doubles tournaments offer unlimited cashes, but only with different partners.  
**Rule A.** If you re-enter in consecutive squads, you may not start on the same pair you finished on, or bowl on the same two pair, as were bowled on in the previous squad.  
**Rule B.** Bowlers re-entering, please **fill-out your recap** before checking in. Save the Bowlers copy of your original re-cap to copy information and for verification.
- 9. PRIZE/AWARD & EXPENSE FEES:** Breakdowns of the entry fee depends on the tournament, lineage costs, and the amount charged. All **9-TAP TOUR** tournaments return 100% of the prize fund at each tournament. A minimum of \$47 per entry will be added to the 'Elite Division' prize fund. Approx. 1 in every 5 participants will share in the prize fund. The balance of the entry fee is for expenses such as lineage, championship shirt, special prizes, operational costs, rent, office supplies, taxes, literature, advertising, etc. In the case of special tournaments with different entry fees, the prize fund portion and breakdown of entry fees will be announced in advance.
- 10. HANDICAP:** Handicaps are 80% of the difference between your 9-Tap Tour average and 245. All 9-Tap averages above 245 will receive a negative handicap of 80% of that difference. The maximum 'Elite Division' handicap will be 30 pins.

**Rule 10a** – Sandbagging will not be tolerated. Any game 40 pins below a Members’ 9-Tap average must be brought to the attention of a Floor Director, BEFORE the start of a new game. If not checked by a director, or if a lack of a “Best Effort” is suspected, that game may be dropped for average purposes. ALL Members are expected to make their “Best Effort” at ALL times. Any action reflecting a ‘lack of effort’ will result in that game being dropped for average purposes.

**11. ENTERING AVERAGES (New Members):** A new Member’s 9-Tap Tour average will be determined by taking the high book average of the prior two years or prior year and current year (min.15 games), plus 15 pins. The 15 pins represent an approximation of the difference between league bowling and 9-Pin bowling. Your Tour average will adjust after every Tournament. After each of the first 4 entries, incremental adjustments will be made to averages. After 16 games (4 regular tournaments) we will use your actual 9-Tap Tour average. If you have no USBC sanctioned league average (“Book Average”) of 21 games or more during the past 3 years, you will start with a scratch average.

**Rule A** - Averages reported on your application **must reveal any sport or challenging lane conditions** that may have impacted that average. Failure to do so is considered false information and may result in a possible disqualification. “Challenging Lane Conditions’ are any Oil Patterns that are more difficult than a Standard House shot, including ‘Rotating’ oil patterns.

**Rule B** – Bowlers are responsible for accurately disclosing their current league average, regardless of how many games bowled. If a submitted average is lower than actual average, resulting in more handicap, the bowler may be disqualified with no refunds, and all prize winnings are forfeited. If the submitted average is higher than actual average there is no penalty.

**Rule C** - Any average in the last five years that is 15 pins or more above any current book average must be reported. Failure to report these averages may result in the forfeiting of prize winnings, and the bowler is subject to suspension of membership.

**Rule D** – Hand Switches – Temporary or Short Term, left or right handed switches will not be allowed on the Tour. Long-Term disabilities requiring a permanent hand switch will be accepted, with prior ‘skill level’ being taken into consideration, for New Hand average.

**12. BONUS PINS:** One Bonus Pin will be added to a Members’ handicap for every 3 regular tournaments that the Member does not cash. A maximum of 5 bonus pins will be added to any Member. In turn, Bonus Pins will be deducted when a Member cashes. One Bonus Pin is deducted when cashing in 11th place or more, 2 pins when cashing 6th to 10th, 3 pins when cashing 2nd to 5th, all Bonus Pins are removed after a win.

**13. AVERAGE ADJUSTMENTS:** Although the directors would like to avoid any “Adjustments” of any Member’s average, there may be the rare situation, that to be fair to the rest of the Tour Members, a correction becomes necessary. The directors therefore retain that right. Any Member, whose average has been adjusted, may elect not to bowl and is entitled to a full refund, if an entry fee has already been paid.

**14. SCORES/RECAP SHEETS: Scores must be written on your recap after each game bowled.** A Floor Director must then confirm and initial scores in red ink, before the next game is started. Please sign your recap immediately after your fourth game and hand to a director/staff. You are responsible to make sure your recap is given to a staff Member. Final totals will be added by director/staff.

**15. STANDARD RULES:** Any dispute regarding the rules or the sanctions resulting from the enforcement of those rules, may be brought before the “Liaison Committee”. That committee will have an equal representation of both Tour Administrators and Tour Members.

**Rule 15a** - No persons, Members, or fans, may disturb or disrupt bowlers. **Banging, yelling or screaming, whistling or loud clapping, intentional or unintentional,** will result in warnings, fines and/or Membership suspension for a repeat violator. Flash cameras will not be allowed. If children are disturbing or disrupting Members bowling, the parent/guardian will be asked to remedy the situation.

**Rule 15b** - Only Members bowling in the squad are allowed in the bowler’s settee or in the bowler’s area.

**Rule 15c** - If a Member has the need, or wish to debate a ruling, and it cannot wait until after the squad, please inform a Director or Staff member, that you have a *problem*. Discussions will be handled quietly away from the bowling area, so as not to disturb other Members.

**Rule 15d** - No profanity or obscene gestures will be tolerated. If words are profane, and can be heard by others, this is considered disruptive and you will be warned, fined, or suspended.

**Rule 15e** - Any substance or equipment that may result in interference with other bowlers shall be removed from bowling settee area. Food, slip-n-slide, alcohol, beverages, etc. should be put outside of the immediate bowling area. Warning: Baby powder is illegal.

**Rule 15f** - Do not move yourself or your equipment to your next pair of lanes until all bowlers on that pair have finished their games. Please move your bowling balls to the concourse area while waiting.

**Rule 15g** - Being Ready to Bowl: If you have to leave your bowling area, please inform the floor director, or other Members on your pair as to your whereabouts. If it is your turn and we do not know where you are, you may receive a zero score for that frame and every frame until you return. When you are on the approach, please do not exceed a reasonable amount of time to deliver your ball.

16. **FINES:** All fines must be paid before bowling in your next tournament. Fines will NOT be retained by the tour, they will be included in Tour incentives, such as a Saturday Top Qualifier Bonus for 2-Day Tournaments. Fines, although rare, will be given for the following reasons, but not limited to:

- Misconduct: A \$10 fine, or suspension will result, depending on the seriousness of the offense.
- Shirts: A new Member is allowed up to five tournaments to have a regulation **9-TAP TOUR** bowling shirt. On the sixth tournament, if you do not have one, a \$5.00 fine will be levied.
- Kicking or Slamming ball returns, tables or chairs, throwing bowling supplies, etc. will result in a warning. Further violations will result in a \$10 fine or a suspension for extreme cases.
- Profanity and obscene gestures will not be tolerated! Fines begin, after one warning at \$10. If the violation is serious enough it may result in an immediate suspension for that tournament with a forfeit of any prize money, and no refunds. Further violations, will result in a longer suspension.

17. **COMPLETION OF SQUAD:** Bowlers are expected to complete all games in their squad. Medical issues or emergencies are obvious exceptions. Anyone leaving during a squad without authorization from a Director, will result in a suspension for the following tournament. A repeat of this violation will result in a longer suspension or a repeal of Membership.

18. **LANE COURTESY** will be a one-lane courtesy on each side of the bowler. Please let the bowler next to you, throw his/her ball **before** stepping onto the approach or getting a ball off ball returns.

19. **DRESS CODE:** All Members should take pride in the image the Tour presents. All Members must look presentable when bowling. Hemmed mid-thigh shorts are acceptable. Cut-offs or jeans with holes or sweat pants are NOT allowed. All shirts must have collars or mock collars. No headwear is allowed. The only exception regarding dress code would be for medical or religious reasons. Advertising (other than Tour Sponsors) on clothing is not allowed. Small logos such as USBC, or small shirt makers logo are acceptable. First and last names must be on the back of your **9-TAP TOUR** shirt with letters minimum 1-1/2 inches tall and they must be readable. Our logo must be embroidered, or permanently affixed to your shirt on the sleeve or pocket height on chest. If your apparel is not acceptable, you will be asked to either change or not bowl. No shirts from other clubs allowed.

20. **BOWLING BALLS:** All balls must meet USBC specifications. All balls are subject to spot inspection. An official scale may be used to determine that bowling balls meet all USBC specifications. Any balls not meeting USBC standards will be removed from play. Use of an illegal ball, may result in the forfeiture of winnings, with no refunds due the Member. It is the bowler's responsibility to use legal equipment. If you have any bowling balls in your possession that you are not sure of, please leave them in your car. (Note: Because our tournaments are sanctioned, we do not allow any illegal equipment in the possession of a Member who is bowling.) Any Member may be asked by a Director, to have ALL your bowling balls inspected before you leave the tournament site. Random checking of equipment after squads is also standard procedure.

**Rule A.** You cannot sand, polish, or alter your bowling balls surface during competition. Chemicals and liquid cleaners are prohibited during competition. Wiping the oil or dirt off your ball with a towel is acceptable.

**21. CASHING AND/OR WINNING:** The tournament winner will be the highest total pins (pin fall + handicap). Regular Tournaments are a "Beat-the-Board" format. Checks not picked up at the conclusion of the Tournament, are mailed no later than two days after the Tournament. You may request to apply your check toward the next Tournament.

**TIES** - In the event of a tie for 1st place, the Members involved have the option (if all parties are present) for either a one game roll-off or pooling all places involved and splitting the pool. For a roll-off, all parties must agree, otherwise the winnings will be divided. Special **9-TAP TOUR** Tournaments may have different formats and may have different rules. Ties in **head-to-head** matches will result in a "9th-10th Roll-Off", with 20% of base handicaps added to both scores. Handicap fractions will be rounded to the nearest whole number. Ties for the **last qualifying spot in the finals** will be settled with a one game roll-off.

**22. TOURNAMENT WINNERS:** All tournament winners will earn a championship shirt. For the First win, a Blue champion shirt, second is Red, third is White, fourth is Gold and the fifth earns a Special shirt with Gold lettering and stars representing each Tour Title and each subsequent Title. Winners will be asked to fill out a Bio and have pictures taken. Pictures are taken of top finishers, when available, at the conclusion of the tournament and become the property of the **9-Tap Tour Inc.** After the first Champion shirt, the Member may have the option to choose of a trophy instead of additional shirts.

**23. PROTEST OR APPEALS** must be done in writing. They must be given to an Owner/Director prior to paying tournament prizes, for that tournament. Any Member protesting or appealing a tournament ruling or decision, must provide a current phone number and address and be available for discussion before the next **9-TAP TOUR** tournament.

**Rule A.** If a Member intends on protesting or appealing a tournament decision to USBC, they have 15 days to do so. However, they must verbally inform **9-Tap Tour** of their intent to **appeal or protest** before winning checks are issued. When 9-Tap Tour is advised verbally (or in writing) of **intent to appeal**, we may hold checks until advised by the USBC.

**24. SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS:** Periodically, we will have "Special" 2-Day Tournaments. These Tournaments may have many different additional features such as: Sponsors "Added-Money" to beef-up the Prize Fund, may pay a higher payout ratio (1 in 4), may have a higher entry fee, may have Eligibility requirements. Each feature will be announced well in advance of that event.

Sunday Finals will be run using a Single Elimination Bracket. Brackets will be "Seeded" based on qualifying scores. The Bracket size and the number of "Byes" (if any), will be determined based on the total number of Finalists. If there are 26 or more Finalists, two preliminary rounds of "Monster Finals" will be used to reduce the field to 16 before Brackets begin. All Finalists (except Byes) bowl one game, with the Top "X" scores moving on to the next round. A Monster Final chart will be displayed prior to the finals, showing the number of Byes and the number of Finalists moving on in each round.

All Saturday qualifiers will be determined at the conclusion of the last Saturday squad. Saturday's Qualifiers spots in the Finals are guaranteed, and not affected by Sunday's "Last Chance" qualifiers. Sunday qualifiers are ADDED to the Saturday Qualifiers. "Seeding" will be based on combined qualifying scores from both days.

**25. 9-TAP JACKPOT:** An optional \$4 entry (\$1 per game – singles). An entrant starting any game with SEVEN consecutive 9-Tap Strikes (9-counts), wins 80% of the Jackpot. A "Consolation Bonus" is paid each Tournament when there is no Jackpot winner. The entrant with the largest number of 9-Tap Strikes for the Tournament wins the Consolation. The Pot total and Consolation Bonus payouts, are always posted on the Check-In table during the Tournament. Bonus payouts increase when the Pot gets larger than \$4,000.00. All Ties are split unless otherwise announced.

**26. PROGRESSIVE POT:** Each Tournament offering the Progressive Pot, will pay out to the TOP THREE Finishers. Each entrant has the option of putting \$20 or \$10 or \$0 into the Pot. The TOP THREE can win the following percentages from the pot total: **1st place** \$20=50%, \$10=25%, **2nd place** \$20=20%, \$10=10%, **3rd place** \$20=10%, \$10=5%. All money not won from the Pot will carry over to the next tournament. Progressive Pot totals and payouts will always be posted in writing on the Check-In table. New members (1<sup>st</sup> Tournament) and Members who haven't participated for 6 months or more, may only put a maximum of \$10 in the Pot.

27. **SCRATCH SERIES POT, BRACKETS, HIGH GAME POTS, ETC:** Elite Division Tournaments will have a Scratch 'Series' Pot available for an optional \$10 entry fee. The Pot will pay the high Tournament Series 100% of fees collected. If Pot exceeds \$200 it will pay 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, over \$400 will pay 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brackets and High Game Pots will be available at all Tournaments (when table operator is available).

28. **MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS:** Mechanical breakdowns do happen on occasion. In case of lane or equipment failure, Members resume from point of interruption on newly issued lanes. If the breakdown impedes bowling to the extent that it may delay the next squad or a house league, the bowlers may be moved or it may require continuing after the delay. Since the possibilities are numerous, a Director will be responsible for making a decision based on the circumstances that exist. No refunds due to mechanical failure. This is a USBC rule. Only if moved during a game in progress, will bowlers be allowed one practice ball on each lane. Only if there is a significant time delay, may a Director elect to issue practice time.

29. **OUT-OF-TURN BOWLING:** If someone bowls out of turn, their score will not count and they will re-bowl the frame on the correct lane. Their score counts only if the entire side bowls out of sequence, at which time the game will continue in that sequence.

30. **REFUNDS:** Once a bowler checks in at tournament site, there are no refunds. If a tournament is cancelled, refunds will be issued or you may use them the following week. A tournament would only be cancelled due to extreme circumstances. However, it would be a Board of Directors' decision. Refunds, minus the cost of lineage for those who already bowled, will be issued if a tournament in progress is cancelled.

31. **MEDIA CONSENT:** All Members upon signing their **9-TAP TOUR** Membership Application grant exclusive rights to **9-TAP TOUR INC** to use their name, photographs or other information in any ethical way desired or warranted for any promotional purposes.

32. **MUST BE 18** years of age to join, or conform to USBC Rules on, "Parental Consent". Your last year's average is acceptable for eligibility purposes if you bowled at least 21 games in one league.

33. **OFFICIAL RULES** are available online or at the Tournament site. It is the bowler's responsibility to understand the rules before bowling. Bowlers may preview **9-TAP TOUR** rules without obligation to join. Revised rules book are available at the tournament site or online at [www.9taptour.com](http://www.9taptour.com).

34. **RULE CHANGES:** Amendments or New Rules will be posted at the Tournament site in plain view, available for Members to review. In addition, the Tour web site will all post changes.

35. **RIGHT TO REFUSE / REVOKE MEMBERSHIP:** **9-TAP TOUR** has the right to refuse and revoke any membership. The **9-TAP TOUR** may revoke membership from a Member, if a Director feels it is in the best interest of the Tour. **9-TAP TOUR** will give written notification to any Member whose membership is revoked. There are **no membership refunds** once an application has been processed.