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SFT AHT Rule Book

Strike Force Tour Arizona Handicap Tour (SFTAHT) is a USBC sanctioned event that will follow all USBC tournament rules and guidelines. SFTAHT's highest priority is providing a fair and fun handicap tournament environment for amateur bowlers. The rules that SFTAHT practices are to maintain the integrity of the SFTAHT tournaments and the sport of bowling.

Chapter 1 - Tournament Participants

1. **Membership** – SFTAHT will be a membership based bowling tournament club for amateur bowlers. Membership has dues and benefits. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Eligibility** – All bowlers are eligible to be a member unless otherwise stipulated below.
        i. **New Bowler** – All bowlers planning on bowling a SFTAHT event for the first time, must be a USBC member in good standing. If you are not sanctioned with the USBC, sanction cards will be available on site at each event. (Return To The Top)
        ii. **Youth Eligibility**– If all other eligibility rules are met, all youth bowlers are eligible. SFT AHT will abide by rule 400 in the USBC playing rules. The youth bowler will only be eligible for scholarship winnings that will be deposited into his or her smart account. (Return To The Top)
        iii. **Amateur Eligibility** – Any bowler who has an active PBA or PWBA card is ineligible.
        iv. **Accomplishment Restrictions** – Any bowler that has had 3 or more ACBA (Arizona Classic Bowling Association) titles in any division in the last 2 years or 3 or more cashes in PBA regionals in the last 2 years are eligible, **but will have an entering average that results in no handicap and are not susceptible to average fluctuation (they will never receive handicap).** If a player has 1 or more regional titles in the last 2 years or 1 or more PBA national titles in the last 10 years, or made Team USA in the last 5 years, or made Junior Team USA in the last 3 years, or won $10,000.00 or more twice in the last calendar year in a scratch tournament is not eligible for any SFT AHT event. (Return To The Top)
        v. **Tournament Director Discretion** –A bowler may be deemed ineligible by the tournament director in order to protect the integrity of the SFTAHT and its members. (Return To The Top)
    b. **Membership Types** – There will be multiple types of membership. (Return To The Top)
        i. **One Year Standard Bowling Membership** – This membership will start on the day that the participant pays their membership dues and will expire on the 365th day after dues were paid. This membership grants entry into an SFTAHT event. (Return To The Top)
        ii. **Lifetime Bowling Membership** – This membership will be free of charge, will never expire, and features the same benefits as the one year membership. The lifetime bowling membership will only be given out during the end-of-the-year banquet if there are any members that receive it. (Return To The Top)
    c. **Membership Dues** – Dues for memberships will always be posted at every tournament site and online at aht.strikeforcetour.com/membership.
        i. **"Keep your cash till you cash" program** – When a non-member enrolls in this program they will not have to pay membership dues until they cash in the quarter finals. Bowlers enrolled are still considered non-members. However, once that non-member cashes in the quarter finals, their membership dues are immediately deducted from their winnings and they will receive all membership benefits from that point on. This allows bowlers to "keep their cash until they cash". (Return To The Top)
    d. **Bowling Membership Benefits** - Being a member of the SFTAHT will come with benefits upon enrollment. A full list of those benefits is always growing and can be found at aht.strikeforcetour.com/membership.

e. **Member Meetings** – Meetings may be held to get feedback from members on potential changes for the tournament club. The meeting will be conducted by the board of directors.
f. **Membership Termination** – A member can have their bowling or online membership terminated if they have reached a class 3 conduct level (See Chapter 1 Rule 2.c "Misconduct Level 3").

2. **Member Conduct** – It is the highest priority of the SFTAHT and its board of directors to preserve the integrity of the sport and the SFTAHT brand. Any online member or bowling member engaging in any activity deemed as prohibited misconduct will run the risk of the appropriate consequence. (Return To The Top)
   a. **Level 1 Misconduct** – Level 1 misconduct may result in verbal warnings on the first offense. Any offense thereafter is subject to be deemed as a higher level misconduct.
      i. *Poor Sportsmanship*(Return To The Top)
      ii. *Mistreatment of center equipment*
      iii. *Inappropriate actions during a tournament and/or in an online environment.*
      iv. *Slow bowling, stalling or balking. (Tournament director's discretion)*
      v. *Any action taken that is prohibited in the USBC general playing rules.* (Return To The Top)
   b. **Level 2 Misconduct** – Level 2 misconduct may result in immediate disqualification, membership suspension, and/or fines. This judgment would be made by the board of directors.
      i. *Physical altercation with tournament participants, center staff, and/or tournament staff.*
      ii. *Major damage to center equipment requiring replacement. (Bowlers will be held financially responsible for any equipment repairs or replacements.)*
      iii. *Defaming of the SFTAHT and/or the sport of bowling.* (Return To The Top)
      iv. *Any repeat offense of level 1 misconduct after verbal warning.*
      v. *Any misconduct that the board deems as being extreme enough to be considered level 2 misconduct.*
   c. **Level 3 Misconduct** – Level 3 misconduct will result in permanent termination of membership. Such judgment would be made by the board of directors.
      i. *Intentionally breaking any rule to gain an advantage in tournament play.*
      ii. *Any repeat offense of level 2 misconduct after returning from disqualification or temporary termination.*
      iii. *Any misconduct that the board deems as being extreme enough to be considered level 3 misconduct.* (Return To The Top)
   d. **E-Cigarettes** – There will be no E-Cigarettes allowed in the bowler's area at any time. If the hosting bowling center has more stringent rules on e-cigarettes then those will be followed instead.
   e. **Tournament Director Discretion** – Tournament director has the authority to deem any action as a certain level of misconduct and take appropriate action. (Return To The Top)
   f. **Dress Code** – The dress code for events will be casual. The dress code required by the bowling center will be the only dress code rules enforced. If an event has a special dress code, it will be indicated on the event flyer and on site at each event. (Return To The Top)
   g. **Bowling Ball Surface Changes –** A player may not alter the surface of any of their bowling balls with abrasives after frame 1 has begun. The use of any USBC approved cleaners is permissible. Also any polishes and rubbing alcohols are permissible.

3. **Tournament Entry Fees** – Tournament entry fees must be collected prior to each squad. Side event fees may be paid after the completion of practice but must be paid before a participant's first frame.
   a. **Acceptable forms of payment** – These are the only acceptable forms of payment for all fees. (Return To The Top)
      i. *Cash*
      ii. *Check (including cashier's check & money orders)*
      iii. *Credit Card's (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express)* (Return To The Top)

iv. *Coupons and/or Punch Card*

1. *No coupons or punch cards can be used in conjunction with other coupons or punch cards.*

b. Cash/Check Discount – All of the prices that are advertised on site at each event and on each flyer are the discounted prices if paid with cash or check. The full price is 2% higher and will be charged if not paying with cash or check.

c. **Bounced Checks** – Any participant who bounces a check will be charged a one-time fee of $30.00 plus whatever the check was written for. If a participant has a second occurrence of a bounced check, they will be charged the same fee and will not be allowed to pay with check for any future events. (Return To The Top)

d. **Withdrawing** – If any participant withdraws after the first frame is bowled they will not receive any reimbursement. A bowler has up until the end of practice to withdraw to receive a full refund.

4. **Appeals** – Any rule that a player feels is unfair or is being applied unfairly may file an appeal. The appeal form is available on site at each event and online at aht.strikeforcetour.com/appeal-form. The appeal will be heard by the board of directors and a judgment will be given within 30 days. (Return To The Top)
5. **Advisory Board**– Board members will consist of SFTAHT members and the tournament director.
    a. **SFTAHT Center Director** – Center directors organize membership and market the SFTAHT brand in a bowling center. A center director may be the director of more than one center. Center director positions are selected by the tournament director through an application process. To access the application go to aht.strikeforcetour.com/center-director-application.
        i. **Center Director Benefits** – Center directors will receive a variety of privileges and opportunities for compensation. A list of those benefits can be found at http://aht.strikeforcetour.com/sites/default/files/file/Center%20Director%20Expectations.pdf (Return To The Top)
    b. **Tournament Director** – This director is an overseer of all center directors and operations of each tournament. All rules and decisions are at the discretion of a tournament director. For a complete list of all directors go to http://aht.strikeforcetour.com/center-directors.
6. **General Playing Rules** – SFTAHT will abide by all rules in Chapter 2 General Playing Rules of the current USBC rule book. (Return To The Top)

Chapter 2 – Tournaments

1. **Event Types** – SFTAHT tournaments will utilize a variety of different event types to determine each tournament's winner. Each tournament's format will be indicated on each tournament's flyer and on site at each tournament location. (Return To The Top)
    a. Standard Format – The standard format for all SFTAHT tournaments will consist of 1 day of squads with a cut ratio determining prize winners & quarter finalists. (See Chapter 2 Rule 4 Cut/Cash Ratio for more info.)
    b. Majors – Any standard format event that has an advertised increased prize fund from the standard formats by at least 25% will be considered majors and will use 3 days of squads.
    ~~c. **"Fun Force Formats" –** These formats will vary from event to event. These formats will always be one day events and will never have a quarter finals. (Return To The Top)~~
    d. **Miscellaneous Formats** – Other formats may be used for special events.
2. **Squad(s)** – A squad consists of a set of games bowled during a tournament format. Participants will choose which prizes they will compete for in a squad. The squad lengths, and start times will always be advertised online, on the event flyer and on site at each event. (Return To The Top)

a. **Qualifying Entries** – If a participant is bowling a qualifying entry, their total pin fall for that squad will be combined with other qualifying entries in their division (See Chapter 4 Rule 8 "Qualifying Divisions" for more info). These scores will be used to determine the finalists for that tournament based on a cut ratio (See Chapter 2 Rule 4 "Cut/Cash Ratio" for more info.)
b. **Economy Parlays**– An economy parlay enters a player to win a full qualifying entry which includes the progressive pot entry. (See Chapter 3 Rule 5 "Progressive Pot" for more info).
    i. **Availability** – The availability of economy parlays may differ from tournament to tournament. It will be indicated on site at each event and on each event flyer if economy parlays are available for that tournament. (Return To The Top)
c. **Side Events** – (See Chapter 3 Rule 3 for a complete breakdown of available side events) Bowlers can choose to bowl side events in conjunction with a other entries during a squad. Bowlers that have already made the quarter finals can also bowl side events exclusively as long as a lineage fee is paid. (See Chapter 3 rule 3.e "Lineage Fee" for more info)
d. **Squad length** – The squad length will always be 30 minutes per game bowled. If it is a 2 game qualifying squad, it will end 1 hour after it begins. The next qualifying squad will not begin until the squad prior to it has completed. (Return To The Top)
e. **Squad start times** – The squad start times will always be advertised on aht.strikeforcetour.com, the tournament's flyer and on site at each event. These start times are very strict and will only be delayed in the event of unforeseen circumstances. (Return To The Top)
f. **Late entries** - If a bowler enters a squad late, they have up to the 3rd frame of the 1st game to still enter the squad. After all bowlers have completed their 3rd frame in tournament play, all entries are closed for that squad.
g. **Weekend Qualifying** – Most standard format tournaments will use weekend qualifying to determine its finalists. The amount of squads available for weekend qualifying will depend on lane availability.
h. **Mid-Week Qualifying** – For some standard format tournaments there will be mid-week qualifying available in addition to the weekend qualifying. (Return To The Top)

3. **Quarter Finals Formats** – Quarter finals will be used in all events except for events using "Fun Force Formats". The finals round will eliminate quarter finalists in each division round by round until there is a tournament champion .The rate at which finalists are eliminated will be based on the finals format. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Average Divisions** - All finalists will be put into three divisions based on average. The divisions will be reestablished in the finals to ensure that participants have equal paths through the finals. The three divisions will consist of the top, middle and bottom 33% of the averages called the "A" division, "B" division and the bottom 33% of averages called the "C" division. (Return To The Top)
        i. **Odd number of finalists** - If there is an odd number of finalists then the odd bowler out will go into the division that their average is closest to. If there is a tie between the differences the odd bowler will randomly draw for what division they bowl in.
        ii. **Finalists With The Same Average** –In the event that the middle two averages are the same, bowlers will draw to determine which division they bowl in for the finals. (Return To The Top)
    b. **Standard Finals Format** –
        i. **Quarter Finals** – Quarter finalists will bowl 3 games and will cut to the top 1 in 3 players in each division. (See Chapter 2 Rule 5 "Rounding" for more info)
            1. **Incentive For Leading Quarter Finals –** The player that leads the quarter finals round in each division will receive the benefit of choosing which pair their division bowls the first round of the semifinals. The division leaders will choose in order based on their quarter finals pin fall.

ii. **Semi - Finals** – The semifinals format will be depend on how many bowlers make the 1 in 3 quarter finals cut. Use the chart below to determine the format used based on number of semi-finalists. If the number of finalists is not indicated on this chart, the format used will be announced during the tournament finals. (Return To The Top)

Format	Per Pair	Heads Up	Both
# of semi-finalists	3	2	5
	6	4	10
	7	8	11
	9	16	12

iii. **Seeding For Match Play** – Seeding will be based off of the total pin fall accumulated during the quarter finals. If there is a tie, the tie will be broken by total pin fall accumulated during each players qualifying squad. Tournament director will decide on which seeds bowl which seed.
   1. **Highest Seed Chooses Pair** –During all semi-final rounds the highest seed in each match will choose the pair that the match is bowled on. The tournament director decides on which pairs are available to choose from.

iv. **Per Pair** – This format will put semi-finalists on one pair of lanes. They will bowl 1 game to determine which players advance. If there are 3 players on a pair then 1 will advance. If there are 4 or 5 players on a pair then 2 will advance. There will not be more then 5 on a pair or less than 3 on a pair for this format. (Return To The Top)

v. **Heads Up** – This format will have 2 bowlers bowl against each other in a 1 game match with the winner advancing. (Return To The Top)

vi. **Both** – In the event that the number of semi-finalists isn't an increment where one format will work. Both formats will be used until divisional champions are determined. (Ex. 5 semi-finalists would bowl the first round of semi-finals using the Per Pair format with 2 advancing off of that pair. Then the two players would bowl in the "heads up" format to determine the division champion.) (Return To The Top)

vii. **Formats For Majors –** The following majors will use alternate formats for the final match only.
   1. **Labor Day –** Stepladder final match with seeding being based on quarter finals total pin fall including handicap.
   2. **Memorial Day –** Eliminator final match with the 3 division champions bowling 1 game and the low player eliminated. The final match will be between the remaining 2 players.

4. **Cut/Cash Ratio** – There will be a cut/cash ratio used to determine the finalists and cashers of any side events. Which cut/cash ratio is used is based on the round, tournament format and/or side event. However, all cut/cash ratios will always be advertised on site at each event, on every event flyer, and online at aht.strikeforcetour.com under the events flyer. (Return To The Top)
   a. **Divisional Insurance** – Players may purchase insurance when they check in for each squad. Insurance allows the highest finisher in each division that didn't make the cut, but purchased insurance, to still make the finals. (Return To The Top)
5. **Rounding** – In the event that the amount of entries and/or quarter finalists doesn't equal a number that is evenly divisible by the cut/cash ratio, the amount of participants advancing and/or cashing will be rounded down unless the amount is 1 away from being divisible by the cut/cash ratio (ex. 1 in 5 ratio = 39 entries would take 8 finalists but 38,37,36 and/or 35 entries would only take 7 finalists).
   a. **One Away Rule** – This rule will only be used for the qualifying rounds. The cut ratios in the quarter and semifinal rounds will be hard cuts.
6. **Lane Conditions** – The lane conditions used will always be at the discretion of the tournament director and/or bowling center and will always be advertised if it's a specialty pattern. (Return To The Top)

7. **Lane Movement** – During any tournament format, participants will move from pair to pair after each game. The amount of lanes that the participants move will be based on the following formula: # of pairs in use, divided by the amount of games bowled for that round, with the solution being rounded down. (ex. 10 pairs in use divided by a 3 game format would equal a lane movement of bowling on the 3rd pair to your right after each game.
8. **Lane Assignments** – Lane assignments are given to bowlers to determine which lanes they will start on. Lane assignment will always consist of a lane number and a letter. (ex. 21A) How lane assignments are given depends on whether it is squads or finals. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Squads**– Bowlers may request to bowl with certain bowlers during qualifying if there is lane availability. However a bowler CANNOT request a certain lane to start on. Lane assignments during qualifying will be chosen by the tournament sign in staff, and will always be in a set order.
    b. **Quarter Finals** – The lane assignments during the finals will be random draw. Each participant will draw for their lane assignment. (Return To The Top)
    c. **Maximum Number of Bowlers Per Pair** - The maximum amount of participants per a pair of lanes will be 6. If all pairs have 6 on a pair and there is no more lane availability, then no more entries will be accepted. (Return To The Top)
9. **Tournament Entry Priority** – Lane assignments for each squad will be given out on a first come first serve basis, unless there is a waiting list from the prior squad as described in rule (9.a.) below. In that case, the waiting list will be cleared first and then entries are taken on a first come first serve basis.
    a. **Waiting List** – In the event that a qualifying squad fills up, any bowlers present and desiring to bowl but shut out from that squad will immediately be eligible to be put on a waiting list.
10. **Score Keeping** – Score keeping is done by the bowlers. All participants bowling the tournament are expected to know all of the score keeping protocol. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Score keeping responsibility** - It is each individual's responsibility to write down their own score and insure its authenticity. If any bowler does not write down their score and their score is not retrievable by the bowling center, then every bowler on that pair of lanes has to be in agreement on the exact value of the missing score. If the pair is not sure what the bowler scored, the score will result in a 0.
        i. **Accessible & Visible Scores** – Every participant's recap must be accessible and visible by all players on that pair and SFTAHT staff at any time. Recaps must be put in the settee area at all times. This means keeping your recap in things like a bowling bag, pocket, purse, accessory bag or any item that conceals your recap is prohibited. (Return To The Top)
    b. **Verifying scores** – Players must verify each other's scores after each game. They can not sign for their own scores. Players cannot move on to the next pair until their scores have been verified by the lane monitor. (Return To The Top)
    c. **Score Contests –** If a score was put in incorrectly when doing averages and is discovered by a bowler, the contest must be filed within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament with the incorrect score. After that, no changes can be made.
11. **Tied scores** –(Return To The Top)
    a. **Qualifying & Economy Parlays** – If any participants tie and that score is the last score that is awarded a prize, then all players with that score will be awarded the prize.
        i. **Divisional Insurance Clarification** – If two bowlers tie for the divisional insurance, then both bowlers will advance. If two bowlers tie for the last spot for the 1 in 5 cut and both are in the divisional insurance, the 2nd player will advance as the divisional insurance. (Return To The Top)
    b. **Quarters, Semis and Finals** – When any players tie during any of these rounds. A 9th & 10th frame sudden death roll off will be held to determine which person advances. If the finalists tie again during the roll off, additional 9th & 10th frame roll offs will be used until the tie is broken. Handicap for the two frames

will be determined based on the participant's current handicap per game divided by 5. Any decimal from the division is still counted when determining scores.

c. **Side Events** – (See Chapter 3 Rule 3 for more info on "side events"). How ties work in side events depends on which side event is being participated in. (Return To The Top)

i. **Brackets** – If any two players tie in a bracket both players will advance in the bracket, and the next bracket round will be determined between three players. The highest score between those three players will move on to the next round of the bracket. If a tie advances two players into the final round of the bracket, the highest score between the two tied players will go against the player coming from the other bracket to determine cashers. (Return To The Top)

ii. **Sweepers, High Game Pots & Momma's Mystery Score** – If there is a tie for a cashing score in any of these events, the players involved in the tie will split equally the sum of winnings for all cashing positions occupied by the tied score. (Return To The Top)

12. **Personal Assistance** – Certain problems can occur that will need certified tournament or center staff to correct the problem. Doing anything outside of the following protocol is prohibited and will be deemed level 1 misconduct at the minimum. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Score correction** – If all bowlers on the pair are aware of the scoring malfunction and they are all in agreement of the necessary correction needed then any participant who is able to make the score correction may do so. If not, please notify either center or tournament staff to make the correction.
    b. **Dead wood or Objects** – Participants are strictly prohibited from retrieving dead wood or any other objects past the foul line. These items must be retrieved by tournament or center staff.
    c. **Bowling on the wrong lane or out of turn** – If a participant bowls on the wrong lane or bowls out of turn, tournament staff must be notified immediately. The tournament staff will then handle the situation according to USBC rules. If the player bowled 1 frame out of order, the frame will be erased and rebowled. If there are numerous frames that have been bowled out of order and the pair cannot come to an agreement on each person's proper score, all frames will be erased and rebowled. (Return To The Top)
    d. **Center equipment malfunctions** – If any equipment belonging to the bowling center malfunctions, notify tournament or center staff immediately. (Return To The Top)
    e. **Misc. Assistance** – Any other assistance that may be needed that is not listed here must first be brought to the attention of tournament staff before further action is taken.
13. **Honor scores** – SFTAHT is a USBC sanctioned tournament. This means all USBC award's rules apply, and all USBC awards can be earned during tournament play. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Track Bowling Ball Clause –** Any bowler bowling an honor score (300,800) exclusively with a Track bowling ball will receive a complimentary Track bowling ball of their choice. However, Track has the right to advertise the story and honor score on their website at www.trackbowling.com.

Chapter 3 – Prize Funds & Entry Fees

1. **Qualifying Entry** – On site at every event and online there will always be a breakdown of how each entry fee is divided up. The entry fee will be broken into the following categories: (Return To The Top)
    a. **Lineage** – This dollar amount will be used to pay for all games bowled. This dollar amount also includes the games that are bowled in the finals. (Return To The Top)
    b. **Expenses** – This dollar amount will be used to pay for all of the tournament expenses. Expenses include advertisement, supplies, web site hosting & maintenance, and SFTAHT employees. (Return To The Top)
    c. **Prize fund** – This dollar amount will be the amount going towards the prize fund.
2. **Economy Parlays** – On site at each event there will be a breakdown of how money is distributed for each economy parlay. (Return To The Top)

a. **Lineage** – This dollar amount will be used to pay for the games bowled.
b. **Qualifying Entry** – This is the dollar amount going towards the qualifying entry that will be awarded to the winner. (Return To The Top)
c. **Expenses** - This dollar amount will be used to pay for all of the tournament expenses. Expenses include advertisement, supplies, web site hosting & maintenance, and SFTAHT employees. (Return To The Top)

3. **Side Events** – Side events consist of optional events that players can choose from. The following is an explanation of each side event and how all funds collected for that side event are distributed. Keep in mind, there is no expense for lineage in side events because lineage will be covered in the qualifying entry fee, the economy parlay or the lineage fee (See Chapter 3 Rule 3.e - Lineage Fee for more info).
   a. **Brackets** – A bracket consists of 8 players and three rounds. In the first round 8 players will face off in bracketed heads up match play with an individual game score determining which player advances to the next round. In the second round the remaining four players will face off in bracketed heads up match play with an individual game score determining which player advances to the next round. In the final round the remaining two players will have either an individual game score (3 game formats) or their total squad pin fall (2 game formats) determine the winner of the bracket. Both players in the final round will cash. (Return To The Top)
      i. **Funds distribution** - The expense money taken out will always be the cost of each bracket. (ex. If the brackets are $5.00 each then the SFTAHT will take out $5.00 from each bracket for expenses.) In the case that there are byes in the bracket, the same expense money will be taken out from each bracket. The winnings will be posted on each bracket. (Return To The Top)
   b. **Sweepers** – Sweepers are a side event based on your total pin fall for the squad. Sweepers will pay 1 in 5. Players can cash multiple times if multiple squads are available. It will be indicated on site at each event if the sweeper will be divisional or not. (Return To The Top)
      i. **Expenses** – This dollar amount will be used to pay for all of the sweeper expenses. Sweeper expenses include supplies, web site hosting & maintenance, and SFTAHT employees.
      ii. **Prize fund** – This dollar amount will be the amount going towards the prize fund
   c. **Divisional Insurance** – A minimum of two bowlers in each average division per day that don't make the cut in their average division or as a senior or women and paid for divisional insurance will still advance. For every 30 qualifying entries in a division, two spots will be added with divisional insurance. (Return To The Top)
      i. **Funds Distribution** - Money used to pay for divisional insurance will go to pay for the additional spot in the finals created by the divisional insurance. (Return To The Top)
   d. **Seniors & Women's Insurance** – Entry fee allows 1 in 25 seniors and/or women per day who don't make the cut in their average division to still advance. Seniors must be 50 years old or older. This insurance is spot is determined after the divisional insurance. (Return To The Top)
      i. **Funds Distribution** - All money collected for the seniors and women's insurance will be used to pay for the additional spots in the quarter finals that are created by this division. (Return To The Top)
   e. **Momma's Mystery Score –** Players that enter will keep track of what their scratch score is for game #2. After the squad is completed a score will be drawn randomly that will be between 130 and 300. If a player bowled the drawn score during game 2, and was entered into Momma's Mystery Score, they will win 50% of the pot.
      i. **Funds Distribution –** All money that is collected for Momma's Mystery Score will be paid back out when players win. The pot will always accumulate and anytime a winner is drawn they can only win up to 50% of the overall pot.
   f. **Lineage fee (Pacing)** – If a player has already qualified for the finals they can choose to only bowl side events. Players doing this will have to pay a lineage fee since none of the fees for side events include a

lineage fee. In the event that a squad is reaching maximum capacity, players paying for qualifying entries will take priority over players only bowling for side events. The lineage fee will be posted at each event.

4. **Prize Funds** – The prize fund of each event will be the sum of a designated amount of money for that event. Information will be available at the tournament sign in desk indicating how much of each entry is designated towards the prize fund. (Return To The Top)
    a. **USBC Rules** – All prize funds will follow all USBC rules regarding tournament prize funds.
    b. **Youth Prizes** – Any youth bowler who complies with all USBC rules will receive their winnings in scholarship. The scholarship winnings will be put into their smart account. (Return To The Top)
        i. **For more info on youth rules visit:** http://www.bowl.com/Rules/Tournaments/Youth_/_Rule_400/
        ii. **Parental Consent Form (For Youth That Are Under The Age of 18):** Click Here
        iii. **Waiver Form (All Youth Must Fill Out):** Click Here
    c. **Prize fund break downs** – Any SFTAHT member at any point and time can see the complete breakdown of any prize fund on line at http://aht.strikeforcetour.com/season-results.
5. **Progressive Pot** – Progressive pot is an optional side pot that is based on a separate prize fund. The only time a player can win from the progressive pot is by cashing in the quarter finals. Each player must pay for the progressive pot when the qualifying entry fees are paid. Also, a player must have paid for the progressive pot for the squad in which they advanced to the quarter finals. The total progressive pot prize fund will be distributed incrementally based on finishing positions until all money collected in the progressive pot is paid out 100%. The fee for the progressive pot will be posted on each event flyer and on site at each event location. (Return To The Top)
6. **Timely Payouts** – SFTAHT will strive to have the fastest pay outs and will always try to distribute prizes as quickly as possible. However, the only rule that SFTAHT will abide by is the USBC rule that states that a USBC sanctioned tournament has 30 days upon the completion of the event to pay all of the prize winners. (Return To The Top)

Chapter 4 – Averages & Divisions

1. **Averages** – Averages will be used to determine each participant's handicap and which division they bowl in. There are different factors that determine a bowler's average. A new member will use an entering average until he/she has a SFTAHT tournament average. (Return To The Top)
2. **Entering average** – A bowlers entering average will always be a composite of all of their USBC certified averages of 33 games or more that were established in their last three bowling seasons. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Entering average formula** – A player's composite entering average is the sum of all of their eligible averages (33 games or more) divided by the total number of eligible averages minus twenty pins. Any sport average will be adjusted according to UBCS's sport average conversion chart before being calculated into the formula. All averages will be rounded to the nearest whole number. (Return To The Top)
    b. **No USBC average** – If a member has no USBC averages, then the member will use an entering average resulting in no handicap for the first 9 games bowled. (Return To The Top)
3. **SFTAHT Tournament Average** – This will be the average that is used during all SFTAHT events. Our goal is to be fair as possible when it comes to participants competing with an average that truly reflects their ability. We will do our absolute best to deter any "sand bagging" while also never trying to inflate a player's average in an unfair manner. (Return To The Top)
    a. **First Event**- Players bowling their first event will have their tournament average based on their entering average for the first tournament. (See Chapter 4 Rule 2.a "Entering Average Formula" for more info).
        i. **30 Game Rule** – New players will have their entering average multiplied by 30 games to establish pin fall. This is done to try and prevent "sand bagging" by eliminating drastic increases or decreases in average. (Return To The Top)

b. **Established Tournament Average** – Once a player has bowled a tournament and has an average based on Rule 3.a & 3.a.i in Chapter 4, they will be considered to have an established tournament average.
c. **Average Fluctuation** – Average fluctuation is the ability for each player's average to change after an event has completed. Average fluctuation is never used while a tournament is in progress. The player's average may go up or down after each event based on average fluctuation. (This is the same process that is used for USBC leagues.) (Return To The Top)
    i. **Formula For Average Fluctuation** – Average Fluctuation = total pins divided by the amount of games bowled. (Return To The Top)
    ii. **Pacing Rule –** If a player is ever pacing (See Chapter 3 Rule 3.e Linage Fee (Pacing)), their scores will not count toward their average fluctuation.
    iii. **House Shot Exemption –** If a house shot is either intentionally or accidentally put down for an event, those scores won't count towards average fluctuation.
d. **Accomplishment Rerates –** There may be re-rates to each bowlers average based on certain accomplishments as follows:
    i. **Standard & Minor Tournament Victory –** This rerate may be an addition of 2-3 pins to the player's average. (See Chapter 2 Rule 1.a For Event Types)
    ii. **Standard & Major Tournament Finalist** – This rerate may be an addition of 1-2 pins to the player's tournament average.
    iii. **Major Tournament Victory –** This rerate may be an addition of 3-5 pins to the player's average.
    iv. **Making Consecutive Semi Finals –** This rerate may be an addition of 1-2 pins to the player's average.
e. **90 Day Rule** – Any player who currently has a SFTAHT tournament average but hasn't bowled an event in 90 days may have an average review done and be re-rated before bowling in that event.
f. **Season Average Reset** – When the SFTAHT season starts over in January every player's previous season average will carry over to the new season. (Return To The Top)
    i. **Quarterly Average Reset –** When a quarter starts every player's previous average will carry over to the new quarter. However, the player's amount of games bowled will be reset to 30 and the player's pin fall will be reset to their previous quarter's final average multiplied 30 games. Each quarter will be the same time frame as the seasonal circuits. (See Chapter 5 Rule 1.a "Seasonal Circuits)
        1. **Frequent Bowler Contingency –** If a bowler has over 50 games in a quarter, then their average will be reset to be based off of 42 games instead of 21.

4. **Handicap** – Each player's handicap will be added to their single game score. (Return To The Top)
    a. **Handicap formula** – Handicap will be based on 80% of 210. This means that once your average is decided, subtract your average from 210 and multiply the solution by .8 or (80%) = Handicap per game (ex. Average 190. 210 minus 190 = 20. Multiply 20 x .8 = 16 pins of handicap).
    b. **Maximum handicap** – The maximum amount of handicap per game will be 64 pins. (Return To The Top)
    c. **Rounding** – In the case that a player's handicap doesn't equate to a whole number, the decimal will drop off. (ex. 190 average = 31.5 handicap/rounds to 31 handicap)
5. **Tournament Director Rerates** – The tournament director has the right to rerate or disqualify a bowler to protect the integrity of the tournament. (Return To The Top)
6. **Bowler Growth Rule** – If a player has been bowling in a SFTAHT season for at least 21 games (does not include games from "21 Game Rule") and has a SFTAHT average that is greater than 225 after a tournament has concluded, he/she will be moved to an average with no handicap and will no longer be eligible for average fluctuation (will never receive handicap). (Return To The Top)

a. **4 Tournament Win Maximum –** If any player wins 4 tournaments (Minor, Standard, Major) in a single season, and all 4 tournament wins were with no handicap, the player will be suspended for the rest of the season.

7. **Qualifying divisions** – All players bowling in any qualifying squad will be divided into three divisions based on average. The three divisions will be the following: (Return To The Top)
    a. **A division** – This division will consist of members averaging 185 and above.
    b. **B division** – This division will consist of members averaging between 171 and 184.
    c. **C division** – This division will consist of members averaging 170 and below.
8. **Season Rules** – The rules that are used for each event during the current season will always be available online at aht.strikeforcetour.com/rules.
    a. **Rule Changes** – Rule changes may be made after the conclusion of each season. However, once a new season starts, all rules are final and will stay unchanged for the remainder of that season. Any rule changes that may occur must be decided and agreed upon by the board of directors. Additionally, every season there will be a page available online at aht.strikeforcetour.com to explain the rule changes and additions that were made prior to the start of the season. (Return To The Top)
    b. **2016 Additions –** All of the rules that have been added to the rule book for the 2015 season will be open for review at the mid-season meeting in 2016. Due to the impact of some of the rules voted in, the membership has decided that it would be in the best interest of the club to revisit the additions in 6 months instead of waiting a full year.
    c. **Minimum # of Members –** There must be a minimum of 20 people at any meeting for any rule to be voted in and added to the rules immediately. If there are less than 20 people at the meeting then all rules voted in will be reviewed and approved or disapproved by the Board of Directors before being officially added to the rules.
    d. **Minimum # Of Events To Vote –** Players must have bowled 1/3 of non-fun events that season to vote on any of the rules at any meeting. They can attend the meeting and express concerns etc. Other members can motion and vote to address their concerns, but they cannot unless they have the minimum number of events bowled.

Chapter 5 – SFTAHT Seasons & Point System

1. **Season** – The tournaments will be broken up into separate seasons. Each season will begin on the first day of the year and end on the last day of the year.
    a. **Seasonal Circuits** – These circuits will consist of the stated months; Winter Circuit(January, February, March), Spring Circuit (April, May, June), Summer Circuit (July, August, October), and Fall Circuit (September, November, and December).
2. **SFTAHT Season Point System** – There will be a point system used to determine a variety of prizes for multiple events throughout the entire season. Points will be tallied during each circuit and for the entire season.
3. **Accumulating Season Points** – Below are all of the ways that you can accumulate season points.
    a. **Participation** – Players can receive 20 points for participating in any non-fun SFT AHT event. (Return To The Top)
        i. **True Amateur Tournament (TAT)** – Members will receive 50 points for bowling the TAT.
    b. **Tournament Finish** – You will receive 1 point for every dollar you win in the tournament prize fund only (side events don't count). This does not include progressive pot winnings. Players who decide to not get in the progressive pot will not be at a disadvantage. (Return To The Top)
4. **Season Awards –** The full season and each circuit will feature awards that bowlers will win at the end of each time interval. The awards for each are listed below.

a. **Player of the Year** – The player that is leading in points at the end of season will receive this award. (Return To The Top)
   i. *Prize – The player will be awarded 20 event exemptions (See Chapter 5 Rule 11 "Event Exemptions" for more info).*
   ii. Prize – Exclusive player of the year shirt, one year free membership and a trophy.

a. **2nd Place Finisher** – The player with the 2nd most points by the end of the season will receive this award. (Return To The Top)
   iii. *Prize – The player will be awarded exemptions from 6 events they choose to bowl in and will be seeded directly into the first round of the quarter finals. (See Chapter 5 Rule 11 "Event Exemptions" for more info).*
   iv. Prize – One year free membership and a trophy.

b. **3rd Place Finisher** – The player with the 3rd most points by the end of the season will receive this award. (Return To The Top)
   v. Prize – The player will be awarded exemption from 4 events of the year they choose to bowl in and will be seeded directly into the first round of the quarter finals (See Chapter 5 Rule 11 "Event Exemptions" for more info).
   vi. Prize –One year free membership and a trophy.

c. **SFTAHT Senior of the Year** – This prize will be awarded to the senior (age 50 or older) with the most points by the end of the season that didn't win any other higher prize. (Return To The Top)
   vii. Prize - $100 SFT Credit, exclusive senior of the year shirt, one year free membership & a plaque.

d. **SFTAHT Woman of the Year** – This prize will be awarded to the woman with the most points by the end of the season that didn't win any other higher prize. (Return To The Top)
   viii. Prize - $100 SFT Credit, exclusive woman of the year shirt, one year free membership & a plaque.

e. **SFTAHT Rookie of the year** – This prize will be awarded to the rookie with the most points by the end of the season that didn't win any other higher prize. (Return To The Top)
   ix. **Eligibility** – If a player has bowled in less than 20% of the previous seasons events, they are considered a rookie.
   x. Prize - $100 SFT Credit, exclusive rookie of the year shirt, one year free membership & a plaque.

e. **Year End Invitational** – There will be a yearend invitational where any bowlers not winning exemptions will be invited to compete for additional prizes. The amount of bowlers invited and prizes being bowled for will be announced at some point during each season.

9. **Circuit Awards –** Each circuit will feature awards that bowlers will win at the end of each circuit. The awards for each are listed below.
   a. **All 4 Circuits Will Pay Out The Following:**
      i. 1st Place – 3 Qualifying Entries, 2 Economy Parlays, Special Circuit Winner Polo, 20 additional raffle tickets and a Track high performance bowling ball of your choice.
      ii. 2nd Place – 2 Qualifying Entries, 1 Economy Parlay, 10 raffle tickets and a Track polyester ball with an option to upgrade to any ball for $75.
      iii. 3rd Place – 1 Qualifying Entry, 1 Economy Parlay, 10 additional raffle tickets, free one year membership.
      iv. 4th Place - 1 Qualifying Entry, 1 Economy Parlay
   b. **Back To Back Winning** – No player can win back to back circuits. If a player finishes in 1st after winning the previous circuit, they will be pushed to 2nd and the 2nd place finisher will be deemed the circuit winner.
10. **Event Exemption** – This allows a bowler to be seeded directly in the first round of the quarter finals. If there are no finals in the tournament, then the exemption cannot be used for that tournament. They do not have to pay any fee. However, to be eligible for the progressive pot, an entry fee for the progressive pot must still be paid.

a. **Exemption Expiration** – All event exemptions expire 365 days from being awarded. A player may redeem the exemptions prior to expiration for $50 per exemption (last place check w/o progressive).
b. **Earning Points If Exempt** - If a player is exempt for a tournament, that player is ineligible for any points for that event. (Return To The Top)
c. **Earning Points If Not Exempt –** If a player isn't exempt for an event, they may earn points for that event based on the rules of earning season points stated in Chapter 5 section 3.
d. **Using Exemptions –** Players that have a certain number of exemptions and can choose to use their exemptions whenever they would like. However, no exemptions can be used during Major Events. (See Chapter 2 Rule 1.b "Major Events").