



2015-16 ELITE Pro Shop Challenge League

This League is For...

Anyone interested in building their skill level by bowling on more demanding lane patterns than a standard "house shot". This league is filled with people who want to challenge themselves to get better to improve their skill set, read lane patterns more easily, understand their equipment better or get real-time instruction with some of the best coaches in the area who will bowl along side of you.

Because this description covers many current skills levels, there is a handicapping system in place to level the playing field so we all can compete based on improving performance, not strictly scratch score.

The Format...

The format will continue in our successfully tested "flex" program to allow it to match up to your busy personal schedule.

Instead of having to commit to a full season, we will be bowling in segments that are 4-weeks long each (March is a five week month). Players are welcome to bowl in any or all of the sessions. But in case you're like most people you need flexibility for both known and unexpected things that come up that are at times out of your control.

This format also allows you to "sample" the league without getting totally committed to it until you know its right for you. By having starting and ending dates in shorter "segments" it allows everyone, regardless of their situation to manage their time in this league.

How Does the League "Flow" Every Week?

Check in with the league coordinator by 5:30p, pay your league fees in the envelope and draw for a score sheet position. You will bowl everyone in the league match-play style, every night, in just the four games!! I realize it sounds confusing, but it is truly remarkable how easy it is to run.

You will accumulate points nightly throughout the month and earn prizes based on the total money divided by total points for the segment.

What Happens at the End of the Month?

We pay out the league prize fund on points for that month period. At the start of the next calendar month all points reset to zero (0) and we start once again.

In addition, we will have an end-of-segment tournament on the same pattern where we will give away additional prize money based on finishing position points from that evening. Bowlers will compete just as in all other weeks of the segment bowling 4 games that night and earning points.

The tournament will take those points earned through league that night and apply a "multiplier" to it based on the number of weeks bowled in the segment. That will establish the total number of points won on the tournament night and your prize payout.

Example: someone bowls 3 weeks and earns 40 points on tournament night. The 40 points will be applied both to the month long total for payout and 40 points x 3 weeks bowled = 120 points earned on tournament night payout.

Please note any youth that bowl DO NOT get direct prize money; that is paid out in the form of scholarships that will be submitted to SMART. In compliance with Rule 400, all youth must have a signed copy of their waiver form on file with the league coordinator to be eligible to bowl.

What Kind of League Benefits are There For Me?

- **Free Bowling Night** – Wednesday, September 2nd at 6pm. Bowl on multiple patterns that we'll start the beginning of the year with – learn to attack different lengths of patterns.
- **Recruiter Bonus** – Recruit a new bowler into the league, in any segment, and earn \$10 in ELITE Bowling Reward bucks after they complete their 2nd week. Earn an additional \$2 for every week they compete in following that; and there are no limits to how much you can earn. The longer they bowl, the more you earn on your account in the pro shop. For example; recruit 3 bowlers one who bowls 16 weeks, one bowls 8 and the other bowls 2 you would receive \$38, \$22 and \$10 respectively for a total of \$70 for FREE, and just for asking a couple of friends to try it out. *(A new bowler is defined as someone who did not bowl in this league the last 2 seasons. Must register new bowlers with Steve to get credit)*
- **Free Video Lesson** – Bowl the September session and complete all games and earn a free Video Bowling Lesson with Steve Richter (\$79.95 value) to be redeemed by December 1, 2015.
- **Monthly Prize Fund** – Instead of waiting until the end of the year to get paid out, we pay you out monthly. Some people even earn enough to pay for their entire weeks' league fee when they receive it.
- **Included End of Month Tournament** – \$2 from every weekly fee is allocated towards a separate prize fund for our segment ending tournament. For notes on format, see above description.
- **End of Season Tournament** – Anyone who completes just 28 games is eligible for the season ending tournament. \$1 from weekly fees will fund this tournament and on average there is \$1,000 to be won. See page 5 for tournament details
- **Deep Pro Shop Discounts** – Anyone who completes all games in any month of our season will get the "**Employee Pricing**" benefit on new bowling balls, bags, shoes and accessories for the following month. (Example: complete October and get Employee Pricing in the pro shop for all of November).
- **Stay and Play Practice Time** – Unless there are conflicting lane reservations, stay after league and play a little more with your game, equipment, ELITE Pro Shop MatchMaker balls and hone your game.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Who:** Any male, female, adult bowler, or youth bowler willing to improve their skill level
- Where:** Odyssey Fun Center, Sheboygan Falls
- When:** Wednesday nights – Check in at 5:30p, practice at 5:45p, Big Strike Jackpot and Bowling by 6:00p
- Why:** Getting "just a little better" could mean 11 to 33 pins on your average and more \$\$\$ in your pocket whether you are a serious tournament bowler or not.
- Cost:** Only \$15 per week.
- How do I sign up:** Contact Steve Richter at eliteproshop@gmail.com or cell # 920/550-1255

What Patterns Are We Bowling On?

Thanks to many, many new patterns available in the multiple pattern databases, we will be bowling on brand new patterns this league has never used in our league's history.

As with past years, this season we are bowling on a single pattern for the entire month. This way you can experiment with surface textures, different bowling balls, angles of attack, work with coaches, etc. and REALLY learn about your game, the oil pattern and how to attack them. It also give you time to see what others are doing successfully to conquer the challenges the lanes present to us.

To read a little more about each pattern, here are my impressions of them as well as links to where you can find the specific pattern.

September – Kegel Tower of Pisa (41')

New this year are a set of patterns from Kegel geared towards their Flex lane machine. While we don't have a Flex machine, we have done enough testing on the patterns to get them adjusted to be as close as we can to how the pattern is supposed to play

The Tower of Pisa pattern measures at 41' but doesn't feel like it plays that long, likely due to the pattern being a drop-brush pattern. My testing showed that there are multiple options for angles to use on the lane from straight to curving it. It also suggests you can choose a variety of ball strengths and drillings to hit the pocket – it's just choosing the right one to let you strike

Here is Kegel's pattern info - <http://www.kegel.net/V3/PatternLibraryPattern.aspx?ID=841>

October – Status of Liberty (47')

Another brand new Flex pattern from Kegel, the Statue of Liberty pattern will be the longest pattern we've ever attempted at 47'.

We've always been leery of using the super long patterns for this league because of the potential to have zero backend for an entire month. This is a drop-brush style pattern that has more hook available at the start that will allow all styles to create some shape to their bowling ball.

What is encouraging is we expect when the pattern is played correctly, the old school "fall back" ball motion should develop. This can actually be a quite high scoring situation when it develops!!

The thing to note with this pattern is the volume of oil is relatively medium meaning while you could use more texture on your ball like 500 or 1000 grit, you don't have to use it to be successful. I was able to use HP4 balls all the way down to HP-2 balls showing this pattern's versatility in options.

Here is Kegel's pattern info - <http://www.kegel.net/V3/PatternLibraryPattern.aspx?ID=843>

November – PBA Cheetah (35')

In years past we've wanted a risk-reward pattern in play so those getting close to the edge might score the best on the shortest pattern. Lately, the WTBA patterns on our lane surface create "hang" on the gutter – meaning if you get it too close, many times it went in!!

With the emergence of the PBA patterns being released in the Sport Bowling program, we've added for this year the "no hang" version of Cheetah from a decade ago.

In our testing if you have the correct ball in your hand and your feet in the correct spot at the foul line you have your choice if you want to go up-and-at-them with something smooth or go around the lane with something strong – and every angle in between.

December – USBC Mixed Championship (41')

This is the 2015 version of the Mixed Championship tournament used in Reno, NV. While not quite a Sport pattern, it's slightly more difficult than a Challenge pattern.

I did not get to test this pattern personally, but based on the results posted by those who bowled the tournament, I know that bad shots will be not strike, but good shots are highly rewarded. The winning scores in this tournament were actually quite high. At 41' and a Drop Brush pattern, expect it to play around 2nd arrow or just outside that mark at the breakpoint.

Here is the pattern details -

<http://www.kegel.net/userfiles/file/patterns/FLEX%20Patterns/2015%20USBC%20Mixed%20Nationals.pdf>

January – Taj Mahal (38')

Another brand new Flex pattern from Kegel, the Taj Mahal pattern is will be one of the shorter playing patterns we will see this year. While listed at 38', this pattern will play with the feel more like an oilier version of PBA Cheetah or WTBA Beijing that we've bowled on in the past.

In my testing weaker balls can play straighter from the far outside however, stronger balls and more drilling options will be available if you wish to curve the ball. With the longer pattern length, expect the gutter to "hang" if your angle gets too steep.

Here is the pattern info - <http://www.kegel.net/V3/PatternLibraryPattern.aspx?ID=842>

February – PWBA Sacramento Open (44')

With the reemergence of the women's Professional Bowling Tour come an entirely new set of patterns available to us to use. The PWBA Sacramento Open will be our lone pattern used from that group this year.

At 44' it's easy to sense that you will have to play in the middle part of the lane to score. However, with the correct strength ball and going straight enough, you can play a little further outside than the pattern rule of 31 would suggest. For those that want to have a little more angle through the front of the lane having your feet in the right spot is crucial. Be careful not to get your angles wrong or you could miss the pocket entirely.

Here is the pattern info - http://scores.bowl.com/2015_PWBA/Sacramento/LanePattern.pdf

March – USBC Open Championship Team Event (TBD)

As with years past, March is reserved to be the USBC Open Championship Team Event for the 2016 Reno event.

The pattern length and details are released just before the start of the event which is usually at the start of March. However, the past few years they have varied the distances from 38' to 43' with varying levels of difficulty.

April – USBC Open Championship Singles / Doubles Event (TBD)

Like March, April is reserved to be the USBC Open Championship Singles / Doubles Events for the 2016 Reno event.

The pattern length and details are released just before the start of the event which is usually at the start of March. However, the past few years they have varied the distances from 38' to 41' with varying levels of difficulty.



Year-End Grand Championships

How You Advance to the Grand Championships

- Bowl a minimum of 28 games in the ELITE Challenge league and become eligible to participate

How the Grand Championships Work

- Players will draw for lane position and will remain on that pair for the entire qualifying round.
- Points will be earned based on score + handicapping pins each game ranked top to bottom.
- Payouts will be made based on total points earned throughout qualifying—every player is guaranteed to make money. **More points = more \$**
- Following qualifying, the top 3 players from each game will move to a step-ladder bracket finals where additional prize money can be earned
 - Lanes 9-10 = Game 1
 - Lanes 11-12 = Game 2
 - Lanes 13-14 = Game 3
 - Lanes 15-16 = Game 4
- Bracket Finals format will be:
 - From each qualifying game, the 2nd and 3rd highest scores will bowl one game with handicapping pins to determine a winner
 - Winner of that match bowls against the 1st highest score for the championship.
 - *Players may qualify for multiple finals.* If you are in multiple finals and are scheduled to bowl in the same round, you will bowl on different pairs at the same time
 - Payout for 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions.

When is the Grand Championships

- Wednesday, April 27th @ 6:00pm

Grand Championships Lane Pattern

- Whatever pattern has the highest aggregate average throughout the season.

Cost / Benefits

- \$10.00 - added to prize fund + \$1 from weekly fees per bowler

Payout

- 70% of the prize fund is allocated to point payouts after qualifying
- 30% of the prize fund is allocated to the playoff finals (4 finals x 7.5% per pair = 30%)
- Example: Based on last year's \$1,000 fund, point payouts would be \$700, Playoff would be \$300
 - Payouts in each bracket would be \$75 and split \$37.50 for 1st, \$22.50 for 2nd, \$15.00 for 3rd

All other league rules carry over to this Grand Championship Tournament