



## Frequently Asked Questions 8/23



### 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 US and several countries participate.

### What is the MISSION STATEMENT of the GYBT?

Opportunity for young bowlers to compete on "sport condition" oil patterns against the best bowlers in Georgia and surrounding areas.

Provide all information to parents to assist them in navigating all Junior Gold protocols so they are all prepared when they make that commitment.

Improve their competitive skills and confidence such that they would be prepared to compete on collegiate teams.

To award scholarship funds to youth bowlers that is available to be used in post-secondary education.

Provide a venue to become eligible to compete in the annual Junior Gold National Youth Tournament held in July in various cities around the country. Thousands of dollars in scholarship funds are awarded at this weeklong event.

Provide an opportunity to those youth bowlers outside of Georgia who may not have those same opportunities where they reside. We have had entries from North and South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Alabama and even Alaska and Costa Rica

### 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 will also be competing for berths to the annual Junior Gold national championships. Lastly, they are 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 (+/- \$20,000 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.





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

YES, by use of [bowlmetrix.com](http://bowlmetrix.com). However, the end of season Tournament of Champions (TOC) REQUIRES pre-registration. See the TOC rules for details (separate document). WALK-INS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

### **Do I need to bowl in all 9 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 Compliant oil patterns (aka. "Sport shots"). This is different than the standard or "house patterns" you will 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. The patterns selected will be those used at the Junior Gold championships over the most recent 3 championships.

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

The Junior Gold tournament does not announce the oil patterns and consequently we do not either. We will announce the pattern ( on our Facebook Page-Georgia YBT) at the end of competition, so keep your notebooks handy so you can learn from your experience. Again, we are using our tournaments as a crucible in which you can develop your skills as a bowler to be successful at the national level.

### **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 clarification on-site or on-line.

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

The U12 divisions are \$45.00 per bowler. The U15/U18 divisions are \$66.00 per bowler.

### **Why so much?**

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





these fees, lineage expense and scholarship awards.





### **Does the GVBT 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. Other options may occur that will be announced.

### **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 on-line at [www.bowl.com/juniorgold](http://www.bowl.com/juniorgold).

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

Yes. This must be obtained on line as GYBT will not process them for you.

### **How does the GVBT 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 Compliant 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 all 6 age/gender divisions, Advancers are determined on a 4:1 ratio. The Tournament Director reserves the right to combine divisions in the same age groupings as needed to attain a ratio of 4:1. This means that sometimes Boys and Girls will be combined within an age group if either Boys or Girls have insufficient participants.





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

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

## 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. There are other organizations in the South that run Junior Gold qualifiers.

