

Greetings Bowlers!

Welcome to the 2024 season of the Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association!

2023 was a successful year. We had seven stops which featured new stars being born, some repeat winners and some veterans who are still racking up the wins.

2024 will feature eight stops: Pinland (March 22-24), Highland Bowl (April 26-28), Southside (May 24-26), Johnson's (June 14-16), Parkville (July 12-14 combined w/ WNDA), Dudek (August 2-4), White Oak (August 30 – September 1 combined w/ WNDA) and Suitland (October 4-6 combined w/ WNDA).

During Memorial Day Weekend, we will be having a Hall of Fame banquet in conjunction with the WNDA during which we will honor seven both current and former DPBA members who through their achievements on the lanes, deserve to be recognized and sit in the Hall alongside the best DPBA bowlers to ever play the game. The banquet will be held at the Hagerstown Elks Lodge #378, 11063 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21742 on Saturday, May 25th from 7:30 PM to 11:00PM. Additional information regarding this event will be forthcoming. Please pay special attention to the invite letter for Hagerstown because the Hall of Fame banquet will affect shift times for this event.

At the close of the 2023 season, the Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association's Governing Body was notified by Tour Director/Office Manager Sue Burucker that she would be retiring. From a personal standpoint, I have been following the tour since about 2000 and during the last 23 seasons of the DPBA, I have never seen anyone else behind that table but Sue. The DPBA can't thank her enough for her contribution to our organization during her tenure as Tour Director and Office Manager. We all wish you the best in your retirement!

At the DPBA Annual Meeting held in January, we had a lengthy discussion on how to fill the Tour Director vacancy after receiving a couple inquiries regarding the position. I would like to announce that longstanding DPBA member, Hall of Fame member and Treasurer David Wander will be the Tour Director for the 2024 season. Congratulations!

Notable Changes for the 2024 Season

Qualifying Format: In an effort to help speed up the pace of play, games 7 and 8 will be bowled on the same pair of lanes.

Double Ladder Sunday Format: At our 8th stop, Suitland Bowl, qualifiers will advance out of the divisions into a “Double Ladder” format instead of the traditional “bracket”. More information regarding this format will be forthcoming and will be announced in detail prior to the event.

Housekeeping

Payments: All payments need to be received by the Wednesday before the tour either via mail or electronically. Anyone who signs up after the payment deadline or who does not submit their payment on time will have to pay via money order on the day of. We will only accept cash on a case-by-case basis. We are trying to limit the amount of cash being handled on the day of the tournament.

Checks/Money Orders can be mailed to:

David Wander
8702 Yvonne Court Way
Baltimore, MD 21234

Venmo: @David-Wander do not mention bowling in comments or else money will be refused and returned. Chris Roth will no longer be collecting entry fees.

Tour High Game/Shift High Games: Payments for Tour High Game/Shift High Game will not be accepted along with payment of your entry fee. Payments for these side pots will only be accepted in cash at check-in. Shift High Game will be paid out on the day of in cash. Tour High Game will be paid out on Sunday in cash. If for some reason a bowler winning a Tour High Game is not going to be present on Sunday, the Tour Director will make payment arrangements with you.

Membership Fees: Will be accepted in combination with your entry fee at the above listed acceptable methods of payment.

Dress Code: regardless of what you choose to wear while you bowl within the guidelines of our dress code, you **WILL** look Professional, Presentable and not like your clothes have been in the trunk of your car since the last tour ended...or last season... Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your Area Representative, Tour Director or myself.

Patches: Patches are available and have been for some time. We had previously given an amnesty period for not having a patch due to not having any to distribute; this is no longer the case. Patches are required and shirts displaying non-DPBA patches will not be considered acceptable. Please contact your Area Representative, Tour Director or myself and we will make arrangements to get patches to you.

Pace of play: Currently, the format for all events, unless otherwise specified is 2-ball courtesy. Your qualifying pairing is not able to decide to bowl a different pace or format just because it works better for them or is what they do at their local tournaments or leagues.

Slow Bowling: If **YOU** bowl **SLOW...YOU** know **YOU** bowl **SLOW** and **WE** know **YOU** bowl **SLOW...EVERYONE** knows **YOU** bowl **SLOW!** There 100% is an understanding that this competition is on the highest level and we aren't suggesting that it does not take a certain level of focus and concentration to be able to compete. So be ready to bowl when it is your turn, find a way to make your "pre-shot routine" more efficient, have your ball prepped prior to your turn and let's all make an attempt to have all shifts run smoothly and on time.

Check-in: Qualifying Check-in is 30 minutes prior to shift start. Anyone not checked in 30 minutes prior to bowling will be subject to fines. Sunday Check-in is 30 minutes prior to bowling, at 9:40 a fine will be assessed, at 9:41 the alternate will bowl. Times will go by the time on the Tour Director's phone. (this is not new)

Professionalism: This starts with all of us. Swearing, hitting/kicking/banging ball returns, excessively lobbing balls and otherwise acting in an unprofessional manner while participating in these events is unacceptable and we **(yes myself included)** all need to do our part to eliminate this behavior. Those microphones on the live streams are sensitive....I promise...

Acknowledgements

There are a lot of important players who make the DPBA a success.

Thank You to our Proprietors! Those we will visit this year, have visited in the past and will re-visit in the future. Thank You to you and your staff for being accommodating and helping these events run smoothly.

Thank You to our Governing Body who does most of the work behind the scenes before, after and during events.

Thank You to our Members, without your continued support and participation there would be no tour.

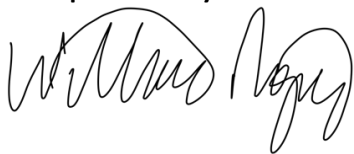
It is the combination of our Proprietors, Governing Body and Members that make the tour a success.

I would also like to thank our Donors:

Paul DeGraff, Cecil Saroopchand, Turner Enterprises and Michael Spiegel

It has been an honor to serve you as President during the 2023 and 2024 season. I look forward to seeing you all and competing alongside you this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Rigney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a distinct "R".

DPBA President, William Rigney