



Greetings from the Rhode Island Duckpin Proprietors,

As we have closed the books on the 2023-2024 bowling season, we can all breathe a sigh of relief and say we made it through! With the closings of both Mac's Bowl and Town Hall Lanes, the summer of 2023 brought about a lot of change to our local duckpin landscape. It was an unsettling and chaotic time with many bowlers looking to find new leagues to join, proprietors trying to accommodate the relocation of leagues and bowlers to our centers, as well as maintaining our state-wide tournaments. It was a time that required time, patience, and compromise to work the details and fit the pieces together and we did it!

We, the Rhode Island Duckpin Proprietors Association (RIDBPA), have wanted to reach out earlier and maybe you expected to have heard from us before now. It was a busy season, time got away from us and then it seemed the season was almost over. But now IS the perfect time. There is much to share with you and we are more than excited about the way forward, so here we go!!

After the 2023-2024 season began the RIDBPA decided that we needed to take the state-wide tournaments in a different direction and requiring change.

The most visible to you, at this point, is a change in our Tournament Executive position. This position works for and in support of **EACH** of the RIDBPA member centers and provides direct coordination, administration and oversight to our state-wide tournament events. In September 2023, we appointed **Doug Oliver** as our new Tournament Executive. Know he has the full support of all RI proprietors and are confident in Doug's commitment, enthusiasm, and positive attitude in the position. Where you have already noticed an uptick in correspondence from him in the past, you will receive most ALL notifications to include tournament info, tournament advertisement fliers, etc., directly from him. He did a wonderful job this past season transitioning into his new duties and we look forward to have him work with us for years to come.

The next changes you will see will be with our statewide weekend tournament events. Although we wanted to initiate changes last season, the 2023-2024 Fall/Winter Tournament Series schedule had already been publicized and we had to commit to seeing that through, which we did. Throughout this past season, we have given much thought to what we would like to offer you as well as listened to what you, the bowler, would like to see from us. In July, we held a Tournament Focus Group which included bowlers representing each of the three centers to brainstorm and share ideas of what might work and that you might be interested in. It was a great exchange of ideas and dialogue. After taking all of this in and thinking it through, beginning with the 2024-2025 tournament season, the initial changes and offerings follow:

- A. Each 2024-2025 Tournament champion will receive one (1) paid entry to the Season Ending Invitational event, provided they satisfy requirements outlined and identified in the 2024-2025 Tournament Rules and Eligibility Requirements;
- B. We will offer a mix of 3, 4 and 5 game events as well as a variety of different tournament formats, i.e., Singles, Doubles, Alibi, No Tap, A/B, Alternating Box events, etc... This will include both sanctioned and non-sanctioned events;
- C. Drop-in tournaments that offer a block of time for tournament play without scheduled shift times or pre-registration;
- D. Tournament entry fees will change according to the event and/or number of games bowled;
- E. Tournament averages will change after **21 sanctioned games** bowled (excluding no-tap events) and will reflect your true average throughout the season;
- F. Cheating and deliberate/intentional throwing away pins will not be tolerated!!! Disqualification or fines may result;
- G. We will have a pool of Tournament Directors. Those identified will be required to attend a **mandatory** workshop where we will offer training and guidance on directing/managing events, provide operational consistency and flow of data, and will allow TD's to direct events at any of the 3 centers at the proprietor's request. This will also provide opportunity for more people to be actively involved.

Although formats may change, we will continue to host the Norm Fleury Memorial, the RI Classic and the End of Season Invitational, each of which will be on a wheel and rotate amongst the three bowling centers. Again, format changes for these events are possible.

As previously stated, these are the initial changes. Some are subtle, some more profound but all with the intent of keeping our events interesting, fresh, competitive, fun and enjoyable for all bowlers who participate and support the tournaments. We understand that change can be uncomfortable, but it can also be refreshing! We also understand that some changes will work better than others, but lessons learned will prompt adjustments as we move forward. We will continue to take your suggestions and recommendations into consideration as many of you have great ideas. Again, it's exciting!

Our Proprietor group is actively engaged in our events. We should have been all along and do take responsibility for being invisible and asleep at the switch for far too long. The health of our local duckpin community depends of us working together for the betterment of the sport and nourish the game we all love. Again, we are excited about the way forward and hope you will be too.

In closing, let us say that we appreciate you, your continued support of our centers and what you have to offer the game of duckpins. If you have any questions, would like to provide constructive feedback, or discuss anything further, feel free to direct contact Doug or any of the local proprietors or send us an email at Rlduckpinproprietors3@gmail.com.

We thank you and let's enjoy another great duckpin bowling season!

Scott Mansi
Dudek Lanes

John Paterra and Robbie Farrell
Meadowbrook Lanes

Tom and Kathy Lischio
Wickford Lanes