

## WHAT IS THE MINI-ELIMINATOR?

The Mini-Eliminator is a “mega-buck” tournament that runs twice a year at The South Point Bowling Center in Las Vegas. The Mini has been running for over 15 years and has paid out \$20 million in prize money. The Minis usually run around The Super Bowl & July 4<sup>th</sup> week.

The Mini-Eliminators allow amateur bowlers (senior professionals with no titles are allowed) from around the world to compete against each other for prizes larger than they normally bowl for at home. Over the past 15 years top prizes have ranged from a low of \$10,000 to as high as \$55,000. Some payouts for tournament week have exceeded over \$1 million.

The Mini-Eliminator attracts bowlers of all types. If you average at least 160 in a league you should be competitive especially since there is a handicap division exclusively for bowlers with an average of 210 or less. There are also separate scratch divisions for bowlers under the age of 50 and over the age of 50. Sometimes ages of divisions change slightly to keep the number of bowlers fairly close between the groups.

Entry fees for the Mini-Eliminators vary each tournament. Most first entry fees are around \$280 with all re-entries discounted to as low as \$99. Bowlers looking to package multiple entries can save money by purchasing a Marathon Entry. Entry fees can be paid by mail or on the internet prior to the event or can be purchased on-site during the tournament. Walk-ins are welcomed prior to any squad. Qualifying squads rarely shut out bowlers.

Bowlers can bowl for FREE in any Mini-Eliminator if they recruit bowlers. If you recruit two bowlers that haven't bowled the previous two Minis your first entry is free. If you recruit 4 new bowlers you receive a Free Marathon Entry. Bowlers that recruit also receive free Early Bird entries.

The Minis usually run approximately 4 to 6 days with qualifying squads offered each day. At the end of each tournament there is a finals with bowlers represented from each division and from every squad. Bowlers earn spots in the finals by bowling in any of the qualifying squads. Each squad is a totally separate and each division advances bowlers based on a predetermined ratio (1 in 10).

A qualifying squad consists of 3 games. One in every 10 bowlers per squad per division will advance to the finals and receive 1 bye which guarantees them a minimum of \$500. One in every 5 bowlers per division per squad is also guaranteed to cash for a minimum of \$100.

If a bowler does not make the finals on their first try they can re-enter another squad and bowl again. The re-entry fee is discounted, usually by at least 30%, with some special squads offering more than a 70% discount. You can enter as many squads as you like until you make the finals. You can also cash in every squad.

Beginning in July, 2010 The Mini-Eliminator will be offering "Finals Insurance" to anyone that purchases a Marathon Entry and fails to make the finals. The Marathon bowlers that don't make the finals may purchase a spot in Round 1 for \$200. This first round will consist only of Marathon bowlers purchasing a finals spot. All will bowl 1 game with the top half advancing per division and earning a minimum of \$500. The bowlers eliminated will earn \$250.

When all of the qualifying squads are completed the finals will begin after the lanes are stripped and re-oiled. Kegel, the leading manufacturer of lane machines and oils, provides a person on-site to dress the lanes throughout the tournament. Lanes are usually oiled once a day before the first qualifying squad and the finals.

The finals use an elimination format. This means everyone bowls 1 game and the top half in each division advances to the next round. Those eliminated receive a cash prize. The finals continue until 1 bowler is left in each division. The three remaining bowlers bowl a one game scratch shootout to determine the top 3 places. The entire prize fund is guaranteed regardless of entries.