

WELCOME TO PINBURGH

2020 v1.3

everything you need to know about the largest pinball tournament in history

PINBURGH



Pinburgh is the largest pinball tournament in history, growing from 173 competitors in 2011 to 1,000 competitors in 2020. Players in the field compete against one another over the course of three days, with the first two days being used to qualify individual competitors for the five divisional final rounds that occur on the last day. The entire tournament takes place in a dedicated tournament location inside of the Replay FX gaming convention.

FAST FACTS:

- Pinburgh uses more than 400 pinball machines ranging from machines built in the 1960's all the way to modern games that are currently in production.
- Competitors have traveled to Pinburgh from more than a dozen countries.
- All 1,000 openings in the 2019 Pinburgh tournament sold out in less than 60 seconds.
- Pinburgh requires a staff of 10 tournament directors and 20 technicians who make rulings and fix issues with the machines. Technicians and tournament directors successfully handled more than 850 issues during Pinburgh 2019 over the course of the three day tournament.
- Keith Elwin of Chicago, IL is the reigning back-to-back Pinburgh Champion and has won five of the nine total Pinburgh tournaments, helping earn him a reputation as the greatest competitive pinball player of all time.



Keith Elwin of Chicago, IL
Pinburgh 2018 Champion



Keith Elwin of Chicago, IL
Pinburgh 2019 Champion

SCHEDULE & DETAILS

THURSDAY, JULY 9:

8am-9am: Machine Testing
9:30am: Announcements
9:50am: Group Photograph
10am: Round 1 of Pinburgh
12:15pm: Round 2 of Pinburgh
2:30pm: Round 3 of Pinburgh
6:15pm: Round 4 of Pinburgh
8:30pm: Round 5 of Pinburgh

FRIDAY, JULY 10:

10am: Round 6 of Pinburgh
12:15pm: Round 7 of Pinburgh
2:30pm: Round 8 of Pinburgh
6:15pm: Round 9 of Pinburgh
8:30pm: Round 10 of Pinburgh

SATURDAY, JULY 11:

9am-9:25am: Check-in for Pinburgh Finals
9:30am: Pinburgh Final Rounds Begin
5pm: Pinburgh Div. A-Semifinal & Final Rounds

REGISTRATION OPENS: February 22, 2020, 12PM EST

TOURNAMENT BEGINS: July 9, 2020, 10AM EDT

LOCATION: David L. Lawrence
Convention Center
1000 Ft. Duquesne Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

INFORMATION: ReplayFX.org/Pinburgh

LIVE RESULTS: Pinburgh.com

FIELD: 1,000 Competitors
12+ Countries

PRIZES: \$120,000

CODE OF CONDUCT:

All players are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner and to contribute to a safe and welcoming play environment. This also applies to behaviors that are not related to gameplay. The following behaviors are unacceptable tournament conduct. A wide variety of players and observers will be present, including media, and these behaviors do nothing to grow the pinball community or promote pinball as a sport.

- Rudeness toward any Scorekeeper or Tournament Official
- Outbursts, especially those including indecent language
- Displays of physical aggression
- Offensive comments, including but not limited to those relating to gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, or religion
- Verbal, physical, or sexual harassment

Penalties for unacceptable behavior will include warnings, disqualifications, or ejection from the tournament facility at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Any player who argues a ruling once it has been made will receive a warning. Any player who continues arguing once receiving a warning will receive a score of zero for the game in question, a voided ticket, ejection from the tournament, or ejection from the building, as determined at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director involved.

Any type of assault, be it physical, sexual, verbal or otherwise, is grounds for immediate ejection from the tournament and facility, and authorities will be contacted. Any express or implied threats or actions of violence are grounds for immediate ejection from the facility, and authorities will be contacted. Other possible grounds for ejection include but are not limited to fraud, theft, illegal activity, public drunkenness, stalking, etc.. Any person ejected from the facility is banned and may not return to the property. Banned persons will be prosecuted for trespass if necessary.

Tournament Directors reserve the right to ban players indefinitely in cases of egregious player conduct, such as harassment or assault. In making those determinations, Tournament Directors are expected to prioritize a safe and welcoming play environment over the ability of ejected players to return to future events.

PINBURGH 2019 FINAL FOUR



4TH PLACE
Cryss Stephens
Pittsburgh, PA

3RD PLACE
Andrew Rosa II
Flint, MI

2ND PLACE
Daniele Acciari
Rocca di Papa, Italy

1ST PLACE
Keith Elwin
Chicago, IL

DIVISION B

PLACE	NAME	HOMETOWN
1ST PLACE	Tom Graf	Appleton, WI
2ND PLACE	Jesse Baker	Cincinnati, OH
3RD PLACE	Ben Clement	Marana, AZ
4TH PLACE	Sanjay Shah	Pompton Lakes, NJ

DIVISION D

PLACE	NAME	HOMETOWN
1ST PLACE	Scott Woods	Jonesboro, AZ
2ND PLACE	Gilles Melanson	Sterling, VA
3RD PLACE	Michael Rausch	Seattle, WA
4TH PLACE	Sheldon Fuchs	Calgary, AB

DIVISION C

PLACE	NAME	HOMETOWN
1ST PLACE	Spencer DesRoches	Gaithersburg, MD
2ND PLACE	Dana Valatka	Portland, OR
3RD PLACE	Phil Cridlebaugh	Kansas City, KS
4TH PLACE	Dale Geiger	King George, VA

DIVISION E

PLACE	NAME	HOMETOWN
1ST PLACE	Bob S Johnson	Fairfax Station, VA
2ND PLACE	Christian Line	Anncville, PA
3RD PLACE	Megan Sprague	Ottawa, ON
4TH PLACE	Zen Zochniak	Brooklyn, NY

WELCOME TO PINBURGH!



STATISTICS & HISTORY

MOST TOP-10 LEAGUE PERFORMANCES

NAME	TOTAL
CPL - Chicago Pinball League	6
BCPC - Bat City Pinball Club	4
SPL - Seattle Pinball League	4
STPB - Stockholm Pinball	4
DF - Dead Flip	3
IEPA - Inland Empire Pinball Association	3
JPA - Jersey Pinball Association	3
KCPL - Kidforce Collectibles Pinball League	3
MHPL - Mile High Pinball League	3
ToPL - Toronto Pinball League	3

ALL-TIME PERFECT ROUNDS

NAME	HOMETOWN	TOTAL
Trent Augenstein	Delaware, OH	6
Jim Belsito	Murrieta, CA	6
Andy Rosa	Flushing, MI	5
Phil Grimaldi	Houston, TX	5
Robert Gagno	Burnaby, BC	4
Cryss Stephens	Pittsburgh, PA	4
Jerry Bernard	Patterson, NY	4
Eric Russell	Syracuse, NY	4
19 Players Tied		3

BEST SINGLE-YEAR LEAGUE PERFORMANCE

NAME	RECORD	WIN %	YEAR
IEPA - Inland Empire Pinball Association	389 - 211	0.648	2017
CPL - Chicago Pinball League	876 - 624	0.584	2019
JPA - Jersey Pinball Association	347 - 253	0.578	2018
BCPC - Bat City Pinball Club	484 - 356	0.576	2017
BCPC - Bat City Pinball Club	952 - 728	0.567	2016
CPL - Chicago Pinball League	679 - 521	0.566	2018
IEPA - Inland Empire Pinball Association	950 - 730	0.565	2015
STPB - Stockholm Pinball	1354 - 1046	0.564	2015
ASYL - The Pinball Asylum	334 - 266	0.557	2019
SDPC - San Diego Pinball Club	466 - 374	0.555	2019

2019 LEAGUE PERFORMANCES

	NAME	WINS	WIN %	TOP PLAYER
1	CPL - Chicago Pinball League	876	0.584	Keith Elwin
2	ASYL - The Pinball Asylum	334	0.557	Eric Stone
3	SDPC - San Diego Pinball Club	466	0.555	Derek Price
4	LOPL - London Ontario Pinball League	397	0.551	Jens Flügge
5	NB - Never Beef	325	0.542	Sean Grant
6	ABPP - Abari Pinball Players	778	0.54	Drew Cedolia
7	GRPL - Grand Rapids Pinball League	389	0.54	Chris Tabaka
8	LSA - League Super Awesome	581	0.538	Trent Augenstein
9	MARC - MARCISISISISIS	774	0.537	Ben Granger
10	MPP - Michigan Pinball Players	321	0.535	Jared August
11	SPC - Seattle Pinball Community	1017	0.53	Raymond Davidson
12	KCTH - Kansas City Try Hards	887	0.528	Steve Hill
13	CLPL - Cleveland Pinball League	443	0.527	John Delzoppo
14	JPA - Jersey Pinball Association	568	0.526	Jason Zahler
15	PDX - Portland Pinball (OR)	630	0.525	Daniel Rone
16	OTPL - Ottawa Pinball League	378	0.525	Phil Birnbaum
17	UNY - Upstate NY Pinball	866	0.523	Ron Hallett Jr
18	ToPL - Toronto Pinball League	439	0.523	Steven Machado
19	SJPL - South Jersey Pinball League	558	0.522	Louis Nemphos
20	MHPL - Mile High Pinball League	1438	0.521	Adam Lefkoff
21	PPA - PinCrossing Players Association	374	0.52	Bob Choate
22	OCPC - Orange County Pinball Club	312	0.52	Jerry Bernard
23	IFPA - International Flipper Pinball Association	371	0.515	Daniele Celestino Acciari
24	DF - Dead Flip	308	0.513	Brad Stark
25	VRPA - Vancouver Regional Pinball Association	301	0.512	Robert Gagno

58 LEAGUES REPRESENTED IN 2019

HOW IT WORKS

1: GROUP ASSIGNMENTS & ROUNDS

Pinburgh is a three-day tournament consisting of two full days of qualifying rounds plus a third day for competitors who qualify for a final round bracket.

During each qualifying round, competitors are placed in groups of four players and compete against one another on four different pinball machines. The tournament is scored in terms of wins and losses versus the other competitors, so the best possible score any competitor can receive in a round is 12 wins and 0 losses.

If a competitor were to win every game of every qualifying round, he or she would have a final score of 120 wins and 0 losses. The highest qualifying score in Pinburgh history is Keith Elwin's 2016 performance of 95 wins and 25 losses.

2: THE TOURNAMENT ADVANCES...

Competitors are assigned a different group of three opponents AND a different set of four pinball machines to play during each successive round. In later rounds, each competitor's win-loss record is taken into account when assigning opponents. Distributing the "strength of schedule" in this fashion helps make the tournament as fair as possible.

Similarly, the sets of four games that are assigned during each round are drawn from different eras of pinball, forcing competitors to play on pinball machines ranging in age by more than 60 years.

Competitors do not know which set of four machines they will be playing, or which three opponents they will be competing against until moments before each round begins.

10
QUALIFYING
ROUNDS

EACH ROUND
4 COMPETITORS



PLAY FOUR
4-PLAYER GAMES

ORDER OF FINISH
ON EACH GAME
DETERMINES
WIN-LOSS
RECORD

PERFECT ROUND = 12 WINS

3: QUALIFYING FOR FINAL ROUNDS

At the conclusion of the first five qualifying rounds, competitors are assigned to one of five skill divisions: A / B / C / D / E.

Competitors with the most wins after five rounds are assigned to Division "A", while competitors who have fewer wins are assigned appropriately down the ladder to Divisions B / C / D and E. On the second day of Pinburgh, during Rounds 6-10, competitors only compete against opponents within their own skill division.

At the conclusion of Round 10, the top 40 competitors in each division will advance to a separate final round bracket that takes place on the third day of the tournament.

The Division "A" final round bracket determines the overall Pinburgh champion, while each lower divisional final round receives its own set of awards. Running multiple final rounds separated by skill level allows Pinburgh to offer an entertaining yet challenging (and social!) experience for everyone.

4: DECLARING A CHAMPION

The final round bracket functions the same way as each previous round. Finalists are seeded into 4-player groups based on their individual qualifying win-loss records that were accrued over the first two days of the tournament.

These 4-player groups then compete against one another on four different pinball machines, and the top two players out of each group advance into the next round of the bracket until a champion is crowned.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR PINBURGH

OPTION #1:

BUY YOUR TICKET

[showclix.com/event/Replay-FX-2020](https://www.showclix.com/event/Replay-FX-2020)
February 22, 2020 @ Noon EST

- 1 To officially reserve one of the 1,000 available openings in the Pinburgh pinball tournament, every competitor must purchase a ticket through the Replay FX ticketing website located at:

<https://www.showclix.com/event/Replay-FX-2020>

Tickets become available for purchase at exactly Noon EST on February 22, 2020. It is highly recommended any competitor who wishes to participate in Pinburgh 2020 attempt to purchase their Pinburgh ticket at exactly Noon EST on February 22 due to the tournament's long history of fast sellouts.

- 2 At exactly Noon EST, all Replay FX ticketing options will become available. If you already have the website fully loaded on your screen and the ticketing options do not appear, please remember to refresh your browser.

For convenience, the **Pinburgh Tournament Reservation** ticket option will be the first available option for purchase. Once this ticket option is selected and added to your shopping cart, you will have exactly 15 minutes to complete the transaction. Please note that once the 15 minute timer is active and counting down, there is little reason to rush. On average, the checkout process takes just over 2 minutes, so please be certain all of the information you are entering at that time is correct.

- 3 Information that you will need during checkout include:

- Billing Name, Address, Credit Card
- Legal Name of the person registering for Pinburgh
- IFPA ID (not required, but helpful if available)

Each person is permitted to purchase up to five Pinburgh entries at the same time. We permit this type of bulk purchase to help ease the burden on families and groups who are attempting to participate together. Please note that tickets are non-transferrable, so all names must be entered for each ticket at the time of purchase.

- 4 If you are successful at purchasing a Pinburgh ticket, your name will appear on the list of Pinburgh players located at the following website address:

<https://ReplayFX.org/Pinburgh>

OPTION #2:

JOIN THE WAITLIST

ReplayFX.org/Pinburgh
February 22, 2020 @ 1PM EST

- 1 If the tournament sells out before you are able to purchase your Pinburgh ticket, then the most effective way to enter the tournament is via the Pinburgh waitlist, which is located at the following website:

<https://ReplayFX.org/Pinburgh>

The waitlist is used to fill openings in the tournament that are created by players who purchase a ticket but are unable to attend for any reason. Our system progresses through the list of names on the waitlist in the order they signed up, so the sooner you put your name on the waitlist, the more likely it is your name will be called.

- 2 If your turn on the waitlist arrives, you will receive an automated e-mail from Showclix offering a link to purchase a single ticket. Each of these e-mails expires 48 hours from the time it is sent, so please make sure that e-mails from Showclix and Replay FX do not get caught in your spam filter.

If you would like to locate your name on the waitlist and monitor progress, you can do so at the website link listed above.

OPTION #3: WIN & YOU'RE IN!

Pinburgh staff reserves several entries each year for use as prizes at other satellite pinball tournaments. When available, details are located at the following website:

<https://ReplayFX.org/Pinburgh>

OPTION #4: THURSDAY MORNING

Any competitor who has not picked up his or her ticket at the early check-in on Wednesday or at the Replay FX ticketing desk before 9AM on Thursday morning will be removed from the tournament and replaced.

All available openings in Pinburgh that are caused by "no-shows" in this manner will be filled by competitors who have told staff at the official Pinburgh desk inside Replay FX that they are available to participate if needed. Names will be chosen to fill these "no-show" openings with priority given to the order of the existing waitlist.

COMMON RULINGS & HOW TO CALL FOR ONE

Tournament directors make hundreds of rulings during each Pinburgh. The official rule book is available online for anyone who wants to take a deeper dive and learn how things work in greater detail, but for the most part, the vast majority of rulings made during Pinburgh are the same from year to year. In order to help reduce these common mistakes made by competitors, we have listed the most common errors and their associated rulings below.

TOP 5 MOST COMMON ISSUES

RESULTING RULING

1 A competitor doesn't arrive on time.



The first thing to do in this situation is alert a tournament director immediately. Any player absent 10 minutes after the start of a round will be disqualified from that round and receive a score of 0 wins and 12 losses. The remaining players will receive a new scoresheet removing the absent player from the group. Players cannot accrue wins in Pinburgh by "defeating" other absentee players.

2 A competitor plays out of turn on a machine.



Competitor receives a score of zero for that game.

3 A competitor shakes or nudges a machine so hard it tilts through both his or her ball and another competitor's ball.



Competitor receives a score of zero for that game.

4 A ball becomes stuck on a playfield feature.



The rules covering how to handle pinballs that are stuck somewhere on the playfield are extensive and depend on the situation, but the normal procedure is for a tournament official or technician to remove the glass, retrieve the pinball, and place it on a flipper.

5 A major pinball machine playfield feature, such as a flipper or important scoring mechanism, is not working properly.



Because the tournament needs to move quickly from round to round, it is not possible to make significant repairs during a match. A new machine will be assigned to the group for immediate play, and the game in progress will be declared void.

HOW TO CALL FOR A TECHNICIAN OR RULING

1 Locate the "Tech Light" at the end of each row of tournament machines and turn it on.

2 Wait for a technician or tournament director to arrive, then explain your issue.

3 Celebrate your resulting ruling with gusto and verve!



THE TEAM

HEAD TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Douglas Polka

Vandergrift, PA

ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

NAME	HOMETOWN	SERVICE
Bowen Kerins	Salem, MA	9 Years
Aiton Goldman	Pittsburgh, PA	5 Years
Pete Hendricks	Washington, PA	4 Years
Brett Berkman	Pittsburgh, PA	4 Years
Ed Williams Jr	Morgantown, WV	2 Years
Lewis Bevans	Pittsburgh, PA	2 Years
Tracy Lindbergh	Chandler, AZ	2 Years
Brian Dye	Morgantown, WV	2 Years
Tia Roberts	Pittsburgh, PA	1 Year
Erin Kelly	Pittsburgh, PA	1 Year

TECHNICIANS

NAME	HOMETOWN	SERVICE
Steve Eckert	Pittsburgh, PA	9 Years
Nick Jaquay	Pittsburgh, PA	6 Years
Dan Hall	Winsford, CHES, UK	5 Years
Lee Klevens	Pittsburgh, PA	4 Years
Brian Stahl	Pittsburgh, PA	4 Years
Chris Eddy	Pittsburgh PA	4 Years
Jim Swain	Orange, CT	2 Years
Gavin Miller	Schaumburg, IL	2 Years
Jody Stuart	Oil City, PA	2 Years
Doug Artimez	Moundsville, WV	2 Years
Jukka Akkanen	Perryopolis, PA	2 Years
Donnie Halinka	Belle Vernon, PA	2 Years



MEDIA CONTACTS & QUOTES

Kevin Martin

Columbia, SC
Replay Foundation President

"Pinburgh embodies everything I love about tournament pinball, the camaraderie of a huge group of people enjoying pinball against one another. That it has become so large and successful is something that makes me proud."

Douglas Polka

Vandergrift, PA
Head Tournament Director

"There is no other event like it anywhere. Pinburgh has grown from a match-play tournament that die hard pinball competitors cared about into a Pinball Cultural touchstone that everyone needs to experience at least once in their lifetime. I couldn't be more proud of the group of people we have put together that make this the greatest pinball experience in the world."

Aiton Goldman

Pittsburgh, PA
Tournament Director

"I feel incredibly lucky that I get to help run the world's largest pinball tournament. It's an amazing way to give back to the pinball community, and it's the highlight of my year!"

Bowen Kerins

Salem, MA
Tournament Director

"Every year, hundreds of players trust us to deliver a competition of the highest quality. It is an honor to be part of the team that has built this reputation within the pinball community."

ABOUT US



The Replay Foundation

Founded in 2012, The Replay Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation that promotes the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of pinball technology, with an emphasis on the player experience. Under the brand name PAPA (Professional & Amateur Pinball Association), the Replay Foundation operates and supports pinball competitions worldwide, including Pinburgh.

The Replay Foundation owns and manages both the PAPA and Replay FX brands and associated events.

PAPA or The Professional & Amateur Pinball Association

The Professional & Amateur Pinball Association is a pinball-related brand owned by the Replay Foundation. PAPA has an extensive history dating back to New York City in the early 1980's and has been actively used to promote pinball competitions and player growth worldwide through a variety of projects for decades.

The Replay Foundation chooses to continue using the PAPA brand due to its familiarity among the pinball community and storied history, but aside from the name, there is little practical difference between "PAPA" and "The Replay Foundation" for casual observers. All staff and technicians who manage PAPA tournaments, and Pinburgh specifically, are working on behalf of The Replay Foundation. Having said that, the PAPA brand existed prior to the Replay Foundation, and our proud stewardship of the brand is meant to pay respect to the history of pinball and PAPA's enduring legacy.



Replay FX

Replay FX, or the Replay Foundation Expo, is a living history of the arcade and surrounding video game culture, featuring more than 1,000 full-sized arcade and pinball machines with some dating back nearly 80 years. Replay FX is an all-encompassing gaming festival dedicated to both competitions like Pinburgh and an extensive, casual free-play gaming atmosphere for non-competitive attendees.

We believe the best way to preserve something is to keep it alive, functioning, and happening! Rather than put our machines in a museum, we fix them up and put them on the arcade floor for attendees to enjoy just like old times. Replay FX is the Replay Foundation's premier gaming event and also the location where Pinburgh occurs alongside a variety of other esports and gaming competitions.

PREVIOUS PINBURGH CHAMPIONS

Pinburgh 2011: Keith Elwin	Carlsbad, CA, USA
Pinburgh 2012: Adam Becker	Keswick, ON, CAN
Pinburgh 2013: Keith Elwin	Carlsbad, CA, USA
Pinburgh 2014: Jim Belsito	Temecula, CA, USA
Pinburgh 2015: Zach Sharpe	Chicago, IL, USA
Pinburgh 2016: Keith Elwin	Carlsbad, CA, USA
Pinburgh 2017: Colin MacAlpine	Austin, TX, USA
Pinburgh 2018: Keith Elwin	Chicago, IL, USA
Pinburgh 2019: Keith Elwin	Chicago, IL, USA

GROWTH OF COMPETITIVE PINBALL

- 1 According to the International Flipper Pinball Association, the number of competitive pinball tournaments worldwide has grown from 619 in 2010 to 5,776 in 2018.
- 2 The total number of ranked competitive pinball players worldwide has grown from 16,625 in 2010 to 133,767 in 2018.
- 3 The league software offered at <http://league.PAPA.org> is developed and maintained by Joe Schober of the Free State Pinball Association. Joe's pinball league software is currently used by 157 different leagues worldwide and has tracked nearly 900,000 games of competitive pinball.