

# Ice Bowl Closes in on 25 Years and Is Bigger than Ever

The first Ice Bowl was held January 18, 1987, when 34 intrepid disc golfers trundled through five inches of snow at Albert-Oakland Park in Columbia, Missouri. Two months later, in the inaugural issue of *Disc Golf World News*, we ran a brief story about the Ice Bowl, promising to promote a national “Ice Bowl Sunday” on the Sunday before the Super Bowl as a day of “disc golf solidarity” and “a remembrance that the disc golf season will return.” We suggested that it shouldn’t cost too much and that “you might want to make a pot of chili or build a fire.”

In the ensuing 24 years, Ice Bowl has not merely thrived, it has become synonymous with charity, fun, and community within the disc golf world. Like most visions, it has evolved. The idea of getting everyone to play on the same day was quickly abandoned, first to an Ice Bowl Weekend and finally to the Ice Bowl Corridor, which now is any weekend in January and February. At the first Ice Bowl, we prohibited wimps and it was a few years later that “whiners” were added to the no-fly list, thus completing the “No Wimps, No Whiners” tagline that is still with us.

Merchandising began in the early 90s. Thanks to the Indianapolis Disc Golf Club, which first made its Ice Bowl a fundraiser for its local food bank, raising money for a charity became an important component of Ice Bowl. In 1996, we began to insist that Ice Bowls raise money for charity. Since then, we’ve tracked almost 2,200 Ice Bowl events that have drawn more than 216,000 participants, who have raised more than \$1.6 million and nearly 415,000 pounds of food.

We are very pleased to announce that Ice Bowl 2010 added 222 events, more than 11,000 participants, \$259,768 to charity, and nearly 34 tons of food to the historical totals. Even with 29 events that we’re trying to chase down numbers from, Ice Bowl 2010 had more events, more players, and most importantly, the most money raised than any other year.

As the founder of Ice Bowl, I call myself the Instigator, because I’m the one who gets things going each year, emphasizing that the events should be about fun and charity and getting good local publicity. Of course, it’s the work of the hundreds of dedicated tournament

by Rick Rothstein, Ice Bowl Instigator directors and their crews who do the heavy lifting that make the Ice Bowl one of the most positive promotional grassroots programs in disc golf. Last year, I trademarked Ice Bowl to help ensure that events using the Ice Bowl name raise money for charity, with an emphasis on fighting hunger.

This year’s record numbers are even more impressive because the weather during the winter of 2010, while possibly not the worst ever, was definitely wacky. With unusually cold weather in the South in January and snowfalls of historical proportions in the East in February, many players really gutted it out this year. Nearly half a dozen Ice Bowls were canceled because the authorities closed the parks as a safety precaution.

In Moundsville, West Virginia, 10 inches of fresh snow made getting to the park difficult and getting around the course challenging; snow drifts were chest-high. In Pierre, South Dakota, and Jefferson, North Carolina, the drifts were merely waist high. In Brandon, South Dakota, 30 inches of snow made a single round take longer than four hours. TDs from Huntsville,

Alabama, and Shreveport, Louisiana, both commented that Southerners are not fond of cold weather after enduring sub-freezing events. Despite the chaos that bad weather causes, it also brings beauty. At the Ashtabula, Ohio, Ice Bowl, golfers were afforded great views of a frozen Lake Erie, while in Pierre, South Dakota, players witnessed little icebergs floating down the Missouri River.

It was during February that the weather bureau reported that every state in the United States had snow on the ground but one, which makes it very ironic that the Shave Ice Bowl in Hawaii, the only state with no snow on the ground, was canceled—because of a tsunami warning brought on by the earthquake in Chile. Fortunately, no tsunami materialized, but 60 families decamped on the back nine, which had been designated an evacuation zone. This presented the opportunity for the golfers who had camped overnight to introduce the sport to some new people. Although not a disc was thrown, the Shave Ice Bowl still raised \$920, as all the preregistrants but one told the Food Bank to



## Ice Bowl 2010— The Cold Numbers

Events: 222

Participants: 11,736

Total Cash Donations: \$259,768

Total pounds of food: 67,451

Average Temperature: 35.3°F

Average Snow on the Ground: 5.1 inches



keep their entries when a refund was offered.

Enjoying communal meals continues to be a popular part at many Ice Bowls, where chili is easily the ubiquitous entree. In fact, there are some towns where the chili contest competition is more heated than anything that occurs on the course. Not every one eats chili. In fact, the TD from Atlanta reported that his event had the "best lunch of any Ice Bowl." A bold statement perhaps, but it is really hard to argue with a menu of antipasto, salad, flatbread with steak and jumbo shrimp, and truffles for dessert, prepared by a professional chef. In Shreveport, it was beef and vegetable stew. In addition to chili in Jefferson City, Missouri, there was shepherd's stew, soup, and pulled pork. There was BBQ with four cases of Flying Dog beer in Walkersville, Maryland.

We thank all the Ice Bowl organizers and the thousands of dedicated disc golfers who supported Ice Bowl 2010 by at-

tending official Ice Bowl or affiliated events. We've listed the top-25 fundraising towns in one of the charts. These events accounted for nearly 45 percent of all money raised. A special shout-out goes to John Bird of the Mile High Disc Golf Club who raised more than \$15,000, making this club the top Ice Bowl fundraiser for the second year in a row.

For the full results from Ice Bowl 2010, please visit [icebowlhq.com](http://icebowlhq.com). You can also go there in late September or early October for registration information about Ice Bowl 2011.

If there have been no Ice Bowls in your town, it's time to begin the tradition. For information about how to get started, contact the Ice Bowl Instigator Rick Rothstein at [rick@discgolfworld.com](mailto:rick@discgolfworld.com) or 888.237.6884, but only if you're not a wimp or a whiner.

### Ice Bowl 2010—Top 10 Food Donations

1	Newtown, PA	Mercer Street Friends & Aiding Our Neighbors Food Banks	9,713
2	Rocklin, CA	Placer FB	6,876
3	Tallahassee, FL	America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend	4,291
4	Fort Madison, IA	Fort Madison Food Pantry	2,990
5	Des Moines, IA	Food Bank of Iowa	2,932
6	Troy, MI	Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen	2,325
7	Palisade, CO	Western Slope Food Bank of the Rockies	1,478
8	Durham Bridge NB	Stanley Food Bank	1,441
9	Moundsville, WV	American Red Cross-River Valley Chapter	1,300
10	Aurora, IL	Hesed House	1,071

### Ice Bowl 2010

Most Participants*		Most Snow in Inches		Coldest - °F	
1	Kansas City, KS 403	1	Brandon, SD 30	1	Helsinki, Finland -6
2	St Paul, MN 270	1	Sanborn, IA 30	2	Whitmore Lake, MI 0
3	Arvada, CO 243	3	East Pennsboro, PA 29	3	Waterbury Center, VT 2
4	Tulsa, OK 169	4	Edmonton, AB 28	4	Hastings, NE 4
5	Charlton, MA 159	4	Aberdeen, SD 28	5	Rapid City, SD 5
6	Rocklin, CA 152	6	Helsinki, Finland 25	5	Vaasa, Finland 5
7	Austin, TX 135	7	Kingsley, MI 24	7	Burnsville, MN 9
8	Kinston, NC 132	7	Pierre, SD 24	8	Edmonton, Alberta 10
9	Tallahassee, FL 126	7	Omaha, NE 24	8	Lafayette, IN 10
10	Buffalo, NY 125	10	Lewisberry, PA 24	10	Fayetteville, AR 12
11	Houston TX 122	10	Moundsville, WV 24	10	West Milford, NJ 12
12	Columbus, OH 120	10	Northwood, IA 24	10	Fort Madison, IA 12
13	Des Moines, IA 110	10	Anchorage, AK 24	10	Ashland, KY 12
14	San Antonio, TX 105	*Includes players, helpers, non-playing supporters.		10	Saskatoon, SK 12
15	Bethlehem, PA 100				

### Ice Bowl 2010—Top 25 Fundraising Towns

1	Arvada, CO	Arvada Community FB, Food Bank of the Rockies	\$15,078
2	Tallahassee, FL	America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend	\$8,440
3	Huntington, WV	Huntington Area Food Bank	\$8,386
4	St. Cloud, MN	Cantus Food Shelf, Salvation Army, St. Joseph Foodshelf, Central Minn Comm Foundation	\$8,210
5	Buffalo, NY	Hunters Hope	\$5,704
6	Tulsa, OK	Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma	\$5,570
7	Kansas City, KS	Bishop Sullivan Center	\$5,335
8	Charlton, MA	Coastal Haiti Mission-Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund	\$5,216
9	Charlotte, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of MetroIrina	\$5,193
10	Palisade, CO	Western Slope Food Bank of the Rockies	\$4,690
11	Durham Bridge NB, CAN	Heart & Stroke Foundation of NB/Stanley Food Bank	\$4,550
12	Waterbury Center, VT	Waterbury Area Food Shelf, Chittenden Food Shelf	\$3,665
13	San Antonio, TX	San Antonio Food Bank, Operation Homefront Village	\$3,631
14	Channahon, IL	Morning Star Mission	\$3,559
15	Saint Paul, MN	Second Harvest Heartland	\$3,325
16	Jefferson City, MO	Samaritan Center of Jefferson City	\$3,211
17	Los Angeles, CA	Burbank Temporary Aid Center, Oxfam, D.I.S.C	\$2,704
18	Indianapolis, IN	Gleaners Food Bank	\$2,532
19	Hazelwood, MO	St. Louis Area Food Bank	\$2,525
20	Jefferson, NC	Ashe/Alleghany Special Olympics	\$2,517
21	Ottawa, ON	Ottawa Food Bank	\$2,410
22	Aurora, IL	Hesed House	\$2,388
23	Troy, MI	Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen	\$2,325
24	Peoria, IL	Peoria Area Food Bank	\$2,285
25	Houston, TX	The Houston Food Bank	\$2,200

Bainbridge, OH



Hastings, MN



Wichita, KS



Sparta, WI

