



**79TH BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
OFFICIAL RULES, POLICIES AND PLAYING INFORMATION**

MARCH 13 to JULY 18

National Bowling Stadium, 300 University Way, Reno, NV 89501

1. AVERAGES - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2026 BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The average to be used will be determined in the following order:

- A.** Open Championships tournament average, based on most recent 27 games bowled at the tournament since 2017 (Championships Average).
- B.** League Average - Bowlers without a qualifying Championships Average will enter with the highest average from either the 2024/2025, 2023/2024 or 2022/2023 USBC winter or summer season, based on 21 or more games in a USBC-certified league OR the highest composite average of 21 games or more during the same period. This average will then be converted to Sport using the Average Conversion Chart found on BOWL.com (<https://bowl.com/sportbowling/averageconversion-chart>).
- C.** Current Average - Bowlers who do not have an average from A or B must enter with whichever is higher - their current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games OR current composite average of 21 or more games in all current USBC leagues. League standings sheets or a letter of verification from the association manager must be presented upon check-in. This average will then be converted to Sport using the Average Conversion Chart found on BOWL.com (<https://bowl.com/sport-bowling/average-conversion-chart>).
- D.** No Average - Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements of A, B or C will be entered with a 220 Sport average.
- E.** Green Sheet - Prior to competition, each entrant in any handicap even must complete and sign the Bowlers Journal Green Sheet and waiver available on BOWL.com, under Open Championships - Side Events.

Note: ALL Averages NOT established on a Sport condition will be converted downward using the appropriate Sport or Challenge conversion chart.

FAILURE TO REPORT REQUIRED INFORMATION

Failure to answer any applicable question or provide accurate and complete information on the Green Sheet shall be cause for disqualification.

Bowlers must attest to the accuracy of the information provided and understand the consequences of their failure to provide the proper facts.

AVERAGE INTEGRITY

Any bowler found using an average below the player's ability will be disqualified from the competition and subject to suspension charges initiated under USBC Rule 17a, Grounds for Disciplinary Action – Unfair Tactics.

2. AVERAGE VERIFICATION – CORRECTION

Bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their averages, whether originally submitted by the bowler, team captain or others. If submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.

Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series.

If an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the bowler will be placed in the Open Division, pending verification of average, which must be submitted by the bowler within 10 days of the end of their competition.

3. AVERAGES – ADJUSTMENTS

Tournament management has the authority to adjust a bowler's average upward before participation in any event. For purposes of average adjustment, tournament management will use guidelines including, but not limited to, Open Championships performance, previous tournament winnings and any records of bowler performance from leagues and/or tournaments. A bowler has the right to appeal adjustments to the USBC Rules department within 15 days of notification. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

AVERAGE RELIEF

Bowlers wanting to apply for relief of average due to injury or disability under provisions of USBC Rule 4e should apply a minimum of 7 days prior to bowling.

Applications for relief of average (USBC Rule 4e) must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters, Attn: Rules. Please see USBC Playing Rules for information regarding the rule. Championship Tournaments staff does not have the authority to grant average relief.

4. RESTRICTION

Participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships in 2026 requires participation in at least one event in the 2026 USBC Open Championships. Bowlers may meet this requirement at any point during the tournament's start and finish date. If a bowler competes in the Bowlers Journal Championships with the intention of competing in the Open Championships later, but fails to do so, it will result in a disqualification.

5. DRESS CODE

All clothing must be neat, clean and in good condition. Tournament staff will make judgment calls relative to any unacceptable dress code concerns.

6. DIVISION STRUCTURE AND ROSTER PROVISIONS

Divisions are open to any USBC member who meets the criteria for the division and the requirements specified in Eligibility – Rule 8.

OPEN SINGLES – Open to any USBC member. This is a scratch event. Actual score will be used.

SENIOR SINGLES – Open to any USBC member who will be 50 years of age or older as of the date of participation. This is a scratch event. Actual score will be used.

SUPER SENIOR SINGLES – Open to any USBC member who will be 60 years of age or older as of date of participation. This is a scratch event. Actual score will be used.

OPEN DOUBLES* - Open to all USBC members. This is a scratch event. Actual scores will be used. No more than **ONE** bowler identified as a professional, titlist or member of a national team will be allowed per doubles team (Rule 21).

SENIOR DOUBLES* - Open to USBC members who are both 50 years or older as of the date of participation. This is a scratch event. Actual scores will be used. No more than ONE bowler identified as a professional, titlist or member of a national team will be allowed per doubles team (Rule 21).

HANDICAP SINGLES – Open only to bowlers with a Sport average (or average converted to Sport) of 181 and below.

Handicap to be based on 90% of the difference between the bowler's average and 181 per game.

Bowlers identified as a professional, titlist, collegiate bowler or member of a national team will not be allowed in Handicap Singles (Rule 21).

HANDICAP DOUBLES* - Teams can consist of any two USBC members, where the sum of the two Sport averages totals 362 and below. Handicap to be based on 90% of the difference between the sum of the bowlers' averages and 362 per game. Bowlers identified as a professional, titlist, collegiate bowler or member of a national team will not be allowed in Handicap Doubles (Rule 21).

***Multiple Doubles – (see Rule 24).**

7. AVERAGE VERIFICATION

All bowlers competing in a Handicap event must complete the average verification (Green) sheet.

8. ELIGIBILITY

All participants must have current USBC Adult membership and be 18 years of age or older at time of competition. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC Associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site.

- USBC national headquarters employees and tournament employees at the USBC Open Championships, Women's Championships, Bowlers Journal Championships and The Forty Frame Game and/or doubles partners are not permitted to participate in the prize funds or awards programs at the Bowlers Journal Championships.

9. EQUIPMENT

The manager on duty will handle any questionable circumstances.

BOWLING BALLS

Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for their exclusive use.

All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications and be included on the list of USBC-approved balls posted on BOWL.com. However, certain bowling balls are ineligible for competition, even if they appear on the approved list. This includes all slow oil-absorbing high-performance bowling ball (Urethane) models listed in the section below, as well as any slow oil-absorbing high-performance balls produced prior to Aug. 1, 2022.

In addition, some of the balls listed below are ineligible for other reasons as determined by USBC. The following balls are considered ineligible under current USBC rules:

900 Global Altered Reality
900 Global Badger Infused 70/30
900 Global Boo-Yah!

900 Global HB (Honey Badger) Burgundy Urethane
900 Global HB (Honey Badger) Purple Urethane
900 Global HB (Honey Badger) Urethane
900 Global Honey Badger II Urethane
900 Global Shadow Ops
900 Global Wolverine
ABS Accu-Line Premium LTD
ABS Nanodesu Accu-Line Tour Premium U
ABS Nanodesu Accu-Line Tour Premium U Pearl
ABS Pure Line II
ABS Pure Line III
ABS Pure Line Nanodesu
ABS Pure Rise 74D Nanodesu ∞ Eight
ABS Pure Rise Nanodesu
ABS Pure Roll Nanodesu
ABS Pure Swing 2 Nanodesu
ABS Pure Swing Nanodesu
AMF Hype Urethane
Bowlero Bowlero Black/Silver Pearl (Reactive)
Bowlero Bowlero Navy Blue Sparkle Pearl (Reactive)
Bowlero Bowlero Red/Black Pearl (Reactive)
Brunswick Attitude Control
Brunswick Attitude Control Black
Brunswick Avalanche Urethane
Brunswick Karma Urethane Solid
Brunswick Quantum Bias Urethane
Brunswick True Motion
Brunswick Urethane Zone
Columbia 300 Rock-On Purple Pearl Urethane
Columbia 300 The Beast Urethane
Denver Bowling Devil
Denver Bowling Glacier
DV8 Tactic Control
Ebonite Crush Navy Urethane
Ebonite Crush Red Urethane
Ebonite Crush Black
Ebonite Crush Urethane
Ebonite Nitro U
Ebonite The One Black Urethane
Ebonite The One Urethane
Ebonite Turbo II Urethane
Ebonite Turbo II Urethane Purple
Ebonite Turbo Urethane
Elite Alien Impact Black/Silver
Elite Alien Impact Blue/Sapphire
Elite EZ Black-Silver Pearl
Elite EZ Teal-Blue Pearl
Genesis Bowling The Judge
Genesis Bowling The Judge Black (Yellow Pin)
Hammer Black Solid Urethane Hammer
Hammer Black Urethane

Hammer Black Urethane Solid
Hammer Black Widow Urethane
Hammer Black Widow Urethane BGD
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Black
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Black Pearl
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Blue
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Blue (2024)
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Grey Solid
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Mint Solid
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Orange Solid
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Pearl
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Purple
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Purple Pearl
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Purple Solid
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Red Pearl
Hammer Black Widow Urethane Red Solid
Hammer Blue Solid Urethane Hammer
Hammer Magenta Solid Urethane Hammer
Hammer Magenta Urethane
Hammer Magenta Urethane Pearl
Hammer Purple Urethane Pearl
Hammer Purple Urethane Pearl (All Pins)
Hammer Red Pearl Urethane Hammer
High Sports Up Beat Blue/Black/Silver
Legends Jade Diamond
Linds Easy Blue/Smoke
Linds Easy Red/Teal/Gold
Lord Field Burning Up
Lord Field Old School
Lord Field Zaru Blue Pearl
Motiv (Covert) Tank
Motiv (Rebel) Tank Pearl
Motiv Tank Burgundy (Rampage)
PBS (Professional Bowling System) Sniper M40A1
Phiten Phiten Urethane
Pro Bowl Stallion
Pyramid Bowling Enchanted Path
Pyramid Bowling Guardian Pink-Black-White
Pyramid Bowling Path Rising Black Solid
Pyramid Bowling Path Rising Purple Solid
Pyramid Bowling Pathogen Plague
Pyramid Bowling Pathogen Plague Pearl
Pyramid Bowling Pink Moon
Radical Double Cross
Roto Grip Fame U
Roto Grip Grenade
Roto Grip Hot Cell
Roto Grip Hustler Black
Roto Grip Hustler Deep Purple
Roto Grip Hustler Navy
Roto Grip Hustler Red

Roto Grip UFO Alert
Roto Grip Wild Streak Tour/U
Round1 Gear Drive Black/Silver/White
Seismic Desperado
Seismic Desperado Limited Edition
Storm !Q Tour Red
Storm !Q Tour U
Storm Electrify Solid
Storm Fast Pitch
Storm Fever Pitch
Storm Natural
Storm Natural Pearl
Storm Phaze 4
Storm Pitch Black
Storm Pitch Black (Blue Pin)
Storm Pitch Blue
Storm Pitch Out
Storm Pitch Red
Storm Pitch Sky
Storm Super Natural
Storm Sword Perfect
Storm Sword U
Storm Trend 2
Superbowl Redline
Swag Big Bro Burn-Up
Track Shark Urethane
Track Theorem Black Pearl Urethane
Track Theorem Black Urethane
Visionary The Crow
X-ATK Demon No. 1
X-ATK UX Urethane
Last updated Jan. 13, 2026

Bowlers may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.

Any bowler found to be using any bowling ball that does not meet USBC specifications will be subject to disqualification.

PLUGS, INSERTS AND SLUGS

Removable devices must be approved and on the Approved Removable Bowling Ball Devices list. A ball plug or slugs may be used for the purpose of redrilling a ball. When a slug is used, there must be a hole drilled completely through the slug leaving no void at the base.

Plugs, inserts, tape and slugs may not extend beyond the surface of the ball.

EQUIPMENT ALTERATIONS

Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer

surface of the bowling ball. Bowlers are permitted to sand the surface of their bowling balls prior to certified competition. The use of abrasives strictly is prohibited once the bowler's first ball is thrown in competition. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition.

Note: Competition is defined as any time teams or individuals are bowling for score.

- First offense: Individual is warned, and the ball is removed for the remainder of the series.
- Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

FOREIGN SUBSTANCES

No foreign substance can be applied to bowling shoes or approaches. This includes, but is not limited to, rosin, powder, Easy-Slide, dry bags, slide stone, soap stone, polish, wax, alcohol and like products.

- First offense: Individual is warned.
- Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

10. ETIQUETTE

A. Devices (headphones) – The use of an artificial device to listen to music or broadcast is prohibited during competition.

B. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated on the lanes or inside the tournament venue. Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical or verbal abuse toward other persons or staff members.

C. Food and Drink – Outside food and beverage is not permitted. Please keep all food and beverage items in the far back area of the settee.

Violation of the rules of etiquette may subject the competitor to removal from the remainder of competition.

11. FEES

SINGLES EVENTS – Entry fee for Open Singles, Senior Singles, Super Senior Singles and Handicap Singles is \$80 per event/per bowler. Breakdown per event: \$43 for prizes, \$16 for annual Bowlers Journal subscription and \$21 for lineage and expenses. Reentry fee is at the discounted rate of \$70 per event/per bowler (\$43 for prizes and \$27 for lineage and expenses – no additional subscription)

DOUBLES EVENTS – Entry fee for Open Doubles, Senior Doubles and Handicap Doubles is \$80 per team (\$40 per bowler/per event). Breakdown per entry: \$43 for prizes and \$37 for lineage and expenses). There is no discount for reentry. Multiple Doubles – A bowler is allowed to bowl doubles with up to four (4) partners at the same time by paying the appropriate fees.

DUAL ENTRY OPTION – Pay a singles entry fee and a doubles entry fee, and your three-game total will count for both events. The bowlers who do will be eligible for the Dual Entry prize fund.

BJ JACKPOT TRIO – A special side event that includes: Clean Frame Jackpot, High Game Jackpot and Strike-It-Rich Jackpot. Entry fee is \$20 (\$17 for prizes and \$3 for expenses).

All Jackpot Trio events will feature a prize-fund style payout with multiple cashing places based on entries.

12. FORMAT

Three (3) games will be bowled in each event.

Maximum of six bowlers per pair.

Bowlers will **NOT** be moving pairs between games.

The Bowlers Journal Championships may be subject to additional restrictions as prescribed by the venue operator.

13. NO PRESENT RULE.

14. LANE CONDITIONING

Lanes will be conditioned before all squads.

The USBC will not disclose any oil pattern information until after the entire event has concluded. It is prohibited to discuss lane maintenance procedures or pattern information with tournament personnel during the tournament. Violators may be subject to disqualification. Questions or comments regarding lane maintenance must be directed to the tournament director.

15. LOST SCORES

In the event a game (or portion of a game) is irretrievably lost in the scoring process, the game (or portion thereof) shall be re-bowled at a time and date determined by tournament management. Should the time and date of re-bowling be refused by the participant, USBC is liable only for the return of the entry fee paid for the event in which the loss occurred.

16. NO PRESENT RULE.

17. PACERS

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

18. PARTICIPATION

An entrant may only enter each event in which they qualify eight (8) times. Bowlers may cash only once in each division they are eligible, and only once with the same partner in any doubles event.

19. PRIZE CHECKS

- A.** The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$2,000 or more annually in any USBC events in which they participate (including brackets).
- B.** Failure to furnish a Social Security number (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number (ITIN) (non-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
- C.** Prize checks will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (USBC Rule 309) unless permission is granted to extend by USBC tournament certification.
- D.** In the event a substitute will be used, a prize check will be issued in the name of the substitute.
- E.** Any prize check requiring replacement within 90 days of tournament ending will require a \$25 replacement fee and \$50 thereafter.
- F.** Prize checks, or replacement checks, must be cashed by July 31, 2027, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

20. PRIZE RATIOS

All prize portions of the entry money will be returned 100% in cash prizes and merchandise. The prize fund will feature a 1:6 payout ratio in every division. Bowlers may cash only once in each division they are eligible and only once with the same partner in any doubles event. Dual Entry and Jackpot Trio prize funds are optional side events. Payout ratio TBD, based on entries.

21. PBA PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS, PBA NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST, PWBA TOUR I & II, COLLEGIATE BOWLERS AND MEMBERS OF AN ADULT NATIONAL TEAM

- A.** For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, **PBA PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS [21-A]** are defined as: Any bowler, under the age of 60, having applied for membership or held membership in the Professional Bowlers Association during the following time frames:
 - 1) Calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025) preceding the event; and or
 - 2) Up through their first day of competition at the Bowlers Journal Championships in 2026.
- B.** For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, **PBA NATIONAL TOUR TITLISTS [21-B]** are defined as: Any bowler, under the age of 60, who has won any of the following:
 - 1) A PBA national tour title regardless of professional status at the time of the win.
 - 2) A USBC Masters or U.S. Open title.
- C.** For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, **PWBA TOUR I [21-C]** are defined as: Any bowler, under the age of 60, who meets any of the following criteria:

- 1) Has won a PWBA national title regardless of professional status at the time of winning, within the past 10 years (2016-2026); and or up through their first day of competition at the Bowlers Journal Championships in 2026; or
- 2) Has won a PWBA major title regardless of professional status at the time of winning, within the past 20 years (2006-2026); or
- 3) Has finished in the Top 30 on the PWBA National Tour points list at the conclusion of the 2025 season.

D. For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, **PWBA TOUR II [21-D]** are defined as: Any bowler, under the age of 60, who has finished 31st – 50th on the PWBA National Tour points list at the conclusion of the 2025 season.

E. For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, **COLLEGIATE BOWLERS [21-E]** are defined as: Any bowler currently holding a collegiate bowling membership or student-athlete affiliated with any college bowling program (NCAA, NJCAA, NAIA, Club, etc.) during the following time frames:

- 1) The 2025-2026 collegiate bowling season; and or
- 2) Calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025) preceding the event; and or
- 3) Up through their first day of competition at the Bowlers Journal Championships in 2026.

F. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, members of an **ADULT NATIONAL TEAM [21-F]** are defined as: Any current or past member of Team USA, or any other International Federation's **ADULT NATIONAL TEAM**, under the age of 60, who was on the team within the past 10 years (2016 – 2026).

The following designations do NOT fall under this rule:

- 1) Para Team USA; and
- 2) Members of Junior Team USA; and or
- 3) Any age-restricted classifications commonly known as "Juniors," "Masters," "Seniors," "Veterans" or other similarly designated age restricted competitions.

22. PROTESTS

- A. Any protest or appeal concerning scoring must be made in writing briefly stating the grounds of the protest or appeal and submitted to the USBC tournament office no later than 24 hours after the game has been played.
- B. All foul protests must be filed before the squad is finished.
- C. Any other protest must be filed in accordance with USBC Rule 329.

23. RE-RACKS

Each bowler is allowed one re-rack per game. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

24. MULTIPLE DOUBLES

A bowler is allowed to bowl doubles with up to four (4) partners at the same time by paying the appropriate fees. Each partner counts toward the maximum of eight (8) allowed in each division in which they qualify.

25. NO PRESENT RULE

26. SMOKING

The use of tobacco products or any product intended to simulate the tobacco/smoking experience (e-cigarettes, hookahs, shisha, vape etc.) is prohibited during competition.

First offense: Warning

Second offense: Disqualification

27. SPECIAL REQUESTS

Bowlers requiring aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., or who are blind or have other special needs, must report this if special scheduling consideration needs to be arranged.

28. SQUAD TIMES

Times listed are "bowling for score" times.

8 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Reservations made online take priority over walk-up entries. Walk-up entries will close 30 minutes prior to the start of every squad.

Bowlers must check in 30 minutes prior to scheduled squad time or reservation may be forfeited and transferred to someone on the wait list.

Hours are subject to change.

29. NO PRESENT RULE

30. VIDEO POLICY

All participants agree to abide by the Open Championships' Video Policy, which can be found on BOWL.com. Any participant appearing in, recording, publishing or

sharing video clips deemed by USBC to affect the integrity of the tournament may be subject to disqualification and suspension.

31. OTHER RULES

- A.** Prior to participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships all bowlers must read and sign the Acknowledgment of Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability document.
- B.** Bowlers agree to follow all directives issued by federal, state and local authorities designed to ensure public safety regarding gatherings/events.
- C.** In the event a doubles pair is bowling alone on a pair of lanes, each frame shall be completed on one lane before the next frame is started on the adjoining lane.
- D.** All USBC tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.
- E.** Tournament management has the authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered by these rules.

TERMINATION/RELEASE CLAUSE

To the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Bowling Congress: We, by our captain and agent, hereby make application to participate in the 79TH Bowlers Journal Championships events listed and tender the entry fees required, therefore. We warrant that we are USBC members. We agree to abide by all tournament and playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. We specifically agree for ourselves, and any replacements chosen by or for us, if we are not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the 79TH Bowlers Journal Championships, then our prize, bowling and expense fees shall be forfeited, and all sums tendered by us as prize, bowling and expense fees may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrants whose names appear hereon, or their authorized replacements, hereby agree that the USBC, or its officers and agents, shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when these entrants shall be prevented from bowling any event in the tournament through premature termination of the tournament, which may be brought about by war, national emergency or emergencies or causes relating thereto or resulting there from fires, strikes, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. We further agree that USBC may use our names and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to us and with no fees being paid by us.

The entrants whose names appear on this application, and/ or their authorized replacements, hereby agree that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the 79TH Bowlers Journal Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.

Updated: January 12, 2026