



PRESENTED BY  **SMART**

2026-2027 Tournament Director Handbook





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Tournament Director Handbook

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The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) welcomes you to the USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART! This premier national tournament, formerly the Pepsi Youth Championships, offers invaluable opportunities for youth bowlers in your state/zone. This document provides essential information and guidelines for State/Zone Tournament Directors.

Key Changes and Updates (Effective 2025-2026 Season):

- **New Name, Same Mission:** A fresh identity for a long-standing grassroots event.
- **Double the Scholarships:** Through the SMART Program, scholarships have increased annual scholarship funding from \$150,000 to \$300,000.
- **Age-Based Divisions Aligned with Junior Gold:** Competition will now be held in U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions.
- **Scratch Format Maintained:** The core competitive format remains unchanged.
- **Optional Handicap Divisions:** Handicap divisions can be offered at the discretion of the tournament organizers.

Tournament Director Responsibilities and Requirements:

- **Electronic Materials:** All materials related to conducting the tournament will be provided electronically and available on BOWL.com. *Thoroughly review all uploaded information even if you have conducted this tournament in the past.*
- **Contact for Support:** For questions, challenges or concerns, contact 817-385-8426 or youthtournaments@bowl.com.
- **BPAA Centers:** Sectional and State/Zone finals need to be held in BPAA (Bowling Proprietors' Association of America) member centers.
- **Scratch Tournament Format:** *All events will be conducted on a SCRATCH basis only.*
- **SMART Program for Scholarships:** To protect bowlers' eligibility for high school and collegiate varsity sports, USBC rules mandate the use of the SMART (Scholarship Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpins) program for all scholarship awards assigned to USBC Youth members. All scholarship prize awards *must* be forwarded to USBC Headquarters for deposit with the SMART program within 30 days after the end of the tournament (USBC Rules 301d and 309). This applies to scholarship dollars awarded at the league, center, sectional and/or state/zone level.
- **Online Tournament Certification:** You *must* certify your event through the Online Tournament Certification portal on BOWL.com. Upon completion, you will receive a unique certification number that *must* be included in your rules.

Key Deadlines:

- **End of August:** Expect to receive the updated center list.
- **September 15:** Deadline for submitting the Tournament Date/Location Form.
- **September 15:** Deadline for submitting the draft of your state rules.
- **Within 30 days of tournament end:** Deadline for forwarding scholarship prize money to USBC Headquarters for SMART deposit.

USBC and the event staff wish you a successful year with the USBC Youth Scratch Championships!



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TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

League-Level Qualifying Information

The USBC Youth Scratch Championships begins with league-level qualifying. All USBC-certified youth leagues are automatic qualifying sites — no additional registration is required at the league level.

Entry Fee

There is no entry fee for league-level qualifying. Participation is included as part of USBC Youth league membership.

Qualifying Period

Oct. 1, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

This window includes October to accommodate youth in high school leagues. If your league needs to begin earlier than your state/zone's specified dates, please contact your state/zone tournament director for guidance and approval.

Age Divisions

Bowlers will compete in divisions based on their **date of birth**:

Division Birthdate Range

U8	Born 8/1/2018 or later
U10	Born 8/1/2016 – 7/31/2018
U12	Born 8/1/2014 – 7/31/2016
U14	Born 8/1/2012 – 7/31/2014
U16	Born 8/1/2010 – 7/31/2012
U18	Born 8/1/2008 – 7/31/2010

Each division includes both **Boys' and Girls'** categories.

Advancement & Scholarships

- **Division winners** will advance to the **state/zone competition**, where they may earn **SMART scholarships**.
- **U12, U14, U16 and U18 Division Champions** at the state/zone level will receive:
 - A **paid entry (berth)** to the **Junior Gold Championships**
 - **Waived entry fees** as follows:
 - U18 & U16: \$250, U14: \$200, U12: \$150
 - A chance to compete for **additional national scholarships**

To participate in the Junior Gold Championships, advancers must be Junior Gold members or must purchase membership prior to the event. If a winner chooses not to join, they retain local awards but cannot advance.

Important Dates Summary

Date	Event
Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	League-level qualifying window
Mar. 1 – Apr. 30	Center/sectional qualifying (if applicable in your area)
Mar. 1 – May 2	State/zone competitions
May 15	Deadline for USBC to receive state/zone advancer information

Overall Goal:

To successfully organize and execute a qualifying tournament for the USBC Youth Scratch Championships, ensuring fair competition, adherence to rules and proper allocation of scholarships.

Key Areas of Responsibility:

- **Committee Formation:** Assemble a team to assist with tournament planning and execution.
- **Qualifying Structure:** Determine the number of qualifying levels (league, center, sectional, state/zone) and the advancement ratios for each age division (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18).
- **Rule Development:** Create specific rules for each level of competition, adhering to USBC guidelines and within the parameters of the USBC Playing Rules book.
- **Venue Selection:** Secure bowling centers for sectional and state/zone levels. Must be a BPAA member.
- **Scholarship Management:** Raise funds for scholarships, administer awards through SMART (Scholarships Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpins) and ensure compliance with USBC Rule 309.
- **Reporting:** Submit required forms and reports to USBC within specified deadlines.
- **Junior Gold Advancement:** Identify and notify qualifiers for the Junior Gold Championships.

Detailed Breakdown of Key Sections:

- **General Information:**
 - Complete and submit via Jotform the "State/Zone Tournament Director and Committee Form."
- **Berths/Qualifying:**
 - Determine the number of qualifying levels (league, center, sectional, state/zone).
 - Select a qualifying option from the provided guidelines that best fits the state/zone's membership and geography.
 - Ensure that all U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions advance to the state/zone level.
 - U8 and U10 divisions must advance beyond the league level, and winners at the final qualifying level must receive scholarships.
- **Rules:**
 - Use the provided rules worksheets to develop specific rules for each level of competition.
 - Adhere to the specified dates for each level.
 - Ensure that all divisions at each level beyond the league level bowl a minimum of three games.
 - Complete center/sectional qualifying by April 30.
 - Complete state/zone finals by May 1.
- **Bowling Centers:**
 - Must be a BPAA member.
 - Submit via Jotform the Tournament Date/Location Form with tournament rules.
- **Scholarships/Financial:**
 - Raise funds to subsidize the Scholarship Funds program.
 - Forward all scholarship awards to SMART within 30 days of the tournament's end.
 - Complete a SMART Recipient Information Form.
 - Submit via Jotform Awards/Financial report through USBC Online Tournament Certification and the "Tournament Financial and Awards Report" to the USBC youth team.
- **Conclusion:**
 - Submit required forms to USBC by September 15.
 - Forward the list of advancers to the Junior Gold Championships within two weeks after the competition or by May 15.

Checklist Summary (Action Items):

1. **Certify Tournament Online:** Use the USBC Online Tournament Certification system.
2. **Complete and Submit Rules:** Submit all level rules to USBC for approval by September 15
3. **Contact USBC for Junior Gold Information:** Get a list of Junior Gold qualifiers and members before the State Finals.
4. **Prepare Junior Gold Materials:** Have Junior Gold Membership Application forms and Advancer Report forms on hand.
5. **Submit Junior Gold Paperwork:** Submit completed paperwork and final results within 15 days of completion through the Junior Gold Portal.
6. **Assign Scholarship Funds:** Assign scholarship funds to bowlers through SMART.
7. **Verify SMART Deposits:** Check the SMART account to ensure funds were deposited.

Key Dates:

- **September 15:** Deadline for submitting required forms to USBC
- **Oct. 1 – Feb. 28:** League-level competition.
- **April 30:** Center/Sectional qualifying levels completed.
- **May 2:** State/Zone finals completed.
- **May 15 (or 2 weeks after competition):** Deadline for submitting Junior Gold advancers.

In essence, the Tournament Director is responsible for planning, organizing and executing a fair and compliant qualifying tournament, ensuring that all rules are followed, scholarships are properly managed and qualifiers are advanced to the next level of competition.

STEPLADDER LEVELS/QUALIFYING OPTIONS

Each state/zone should determine the number of levels that it wishes to conduct for this tournament. At each level beyond center level, you must develop rules (see included suggestions) and determine the entry fees (if any) for each level. The only two **required** levels are League and State/Zone Level.

The diagram below shows a summary of each possible level and the minimum requirements at each level.

League Level

All divisions qualify in league play during the qualifying windows and dates you select from the League-Level qualifying options.

Your Committee determines the advancement ratio to the next level.

Qualifiers from all divisions advance to the next level.

Center Level

This is an optional level

Your Committee determines the advancement ratio to the next level.

U12, U14, U16 and U18 qualifiers must advance to the next level.

If this is the last level for U8 and U10, scholarships must be awarded to the winners.

Sectional Level

This is an optional level

Your Committee determines the advancement ratio to the next level.

U12, U14, U16 and U18 qualifiers must advance to the next level.

If this is the last level for U8 and U10, scholarships must be awarded to the winners.

State Level

Required level of competition for all U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions.

Optional level of competition for U8 and U10 divisions.

All division winners must receive scholarships at this level.

National Events

Junior Gold Championships

Bowling.com Youth Open Championships

LEAGUE-LEVEL QUALIFYING WINDOW OPTIONS

League-level qualifying occurs between Oct. 1 and Feb. 28. The State/Zone Tournament Committee chooses one of the following qualifying window options and decides the actual dates this window(s) will occur.

- A. Two, two-week qualifying windows
- B. Two, one-week qualifying windows
- C. One, two-week qualifying window
- D. One, one-week qualifying window
- E. One-to-one (1:1) ratio from league directly to the next level of competition.

In choosing the window and dates, the committee should keep the following in mind:

- The state/zone tournament committee must select from the above five options.
- A window cannot begin before Oct. 1 and cannot extend past Feb. 28.
- It is the state's/zone's responsibility to publish and promote the selected window(s) and dates to all associations, bowling centers and leagues that process USBC Youth membership through the state/zone.
- The two, two-week option can be four consecutive weeks as long as every two weeks are treated as separate windows. The two weeks also can be two separate two-week periods; however, each two-week window must consist of two consecutive weeks. Thus, there cannot be four or two individual weeks associated with options A and C above.
- **If a bowling center is unable to conduct qualifying during the times the committee sets, the Tournament Director can authorize additional dates for that center.**
- If a bowling center misses the first week of a two-week window or the first window in a state offering two two-week windows, the center can still participate during the remaining weeks.
- If the committee selects the two two-week option, a bowling center can choose only to participate in one of the windows.

Please note that USBC promotes and encourages all states/zones to conduct two two-week qualifying windows (option A) or the one-to-one option (option E). USBC also encourages all bowling centers to participate in every window offered. By decreasing the amount of qualifying time, you are decreasing the opportunity for an athlete to earn scholarship money for the future and the chance to compete in a national tournament. **If a league coordinator is unable/unwilling to run the qualifying for the USBC Youth members, a parent or other responsible party can be designated to conduct the qualifying for that league.**

ALTERNATE FORMATS

The following formats are suggested for U12, U14, U16 and U18; however, they can be used for the U8 and U10 divisions. USBC suggests that U8 and U10 only bowl a three-game series at each level of qualifying. The final decision is determined by the state/zone.

- 7.1 Divisions of U12, U14, U16 and U18 must bowl a minimum of three games. Total pinfall will determine winners in each division. (3 games)
- 7.2 Divisions U12, U14, U16 and U18 will bowl three games, then the top 25% or 50% in each division will bowl another three games. Total pinfall for all six games will determine winners in each division. (3+3=6)
- 7.3 Divisions U12, U14, U16 and U18 will bowl three games. Then, the top 24 in each division will bowl another three games. The top eight in each division will then bowl a position round, one vs. two, three vs. four, etc. Total pinfall will determine the winners in each division. (3+3+1=7)

A tie for 24th place after the qualifying competition, or up to eighth place before the position round, will be broken by a one-game roll-off on a pair of lanes determined by the Tournament Director. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off.

- 7.4 Divisions U12, U14, U16 and U18 will bowl six games. Then, the top 24 in each division will bowl another three games. Pinfall will not be carried over to the stepladder. The top four finalists in each division will then bowl a stepladder roll-off – fourth vs. third-place finalists, winner vs. second-place finalists, and the winner vs. the first-place finalists for the championship in each division. (6+3=9)

A tie for 24th place after the qualifying competition will be broken by a one-game roll-off on a pair of lanes determined by the Tournament Director. Should a tie still exist, a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off shall be used to break the tie. Any ties during the stepladder shall be broken by a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off.

- 7.5 Divisions U12, U14, U16 and U18 will bowl three games. Then, the top 24 in each division (including ties for 24th place) will bowl another three games. Pinfall from the previous games will be dropped. The top six finalists in each division will then bowl a match-game round robin, using the six-team league schedule, followed by a position round. Bonus pins will be awarded for match play and the position round as follows – 10 for a win, five for a tie. Total pinfall in the six games, plus bonus pins, will determine winners in all divisions. Any ties going into or at the end of the position round will be broken by a one-game roll-off with no bonus pins added. (3+3+6=12)

LEAGUE-LEVEL RULES

(ATHLETES MUST SEE THESE RULES AND CHOOSE THEIR OWN DIVISION)

1. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships is certified by the United States Bowling Congress and governed by USBC rules.
2. Competition is open to all 2026-2027 USBC Youth members. To compete, a bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC league and not be under suspension at the time of qualifying. League substitutes are allowed to participate if it is their only USBC Youth league. USBC Collegiate members are eligible if they are 2026-2027 USBC Youth members, bowl in a USBC Youth league and have not violated USBC Rule 400.
3. All USBC Youth members in good standing are eligible for the league-level competition. There is no entry fee at the league level. Bowling centers having 2026-2027 USBC-certified leagues are automatic league-level qualifying sites.
4. **Participants must be aware of each competition level in the state/zone and all associated rules, fees and deadlines. These items are contained in the specific state/zone rules from the State/Zone tournament director. (State director information can be found on BOWL.com.)**
5. Competition will be conducted in divisions based on the participant's date of birth as listed below. Participation in the wrong age division will lead to automatic disqualification. Bowlers must stay in the given division in that particular league throughout the entire window.

Division Birthdate Range

U8	Born 8/1/2018 or later
U10	Born 8/1/2016 – 7/31/2018
U12	Born 8/1/2014 – 7/31/2016
U14	Born 8/1/2012 – 7/31/2014
U16	Born 8/1/2010 – 7/31/2012
U18	Born 8/1/2008 – 7/31/2010

Each division includes both **Boys' and Girls'** categories.

***There is no requirement of Junior Gold membership to enter U12, U14, U16 or U18 Division!**

6. In states offering a side handicap division, the qualifying window average will be the current league average as of the first date of competition (no minimum number of games). Participants must remain in that division for the duration of that window. Bowlers are eligible to compete in a different division in a different league during the league level of competition.
7. League-level qualifying will be conducted in certified leagues during the qualifying window(s) between Oct. 1 and Feb. 28. Each state/zone tournament committee decides the qualifying window dates. Consult

state/zone rules for the specific dates. **If needed, the state/zone tournament director can grant changes in the qualifying dates to individual bowling centers.**

8. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league play. **Pre-bowled or post-bowled scores may not be used as scores for advancement purposes.** Advancement to the next competition level will be from the league level.
9. Participants can attempt to qualify in any state/zone where they hold a 2026-2027 USBC Youth membership card; however, the bowler can only advance once using the following criteria:
 - A. In the event a bowler qualifies in more than one league in the same division, the bowler must advance from the league in which the highest series was bowled. For identical qualifying scores, the member will advance from the league where the first score was bowled.
 - B. If a bowler qualifies in different leagues from multiple divisions, the bowler must select one division they will compete in before subsequent competition.
 - C. If the bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler **must** declare one state/zone to continue competing in before the next competition level.
 - D. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone and/or more than one division will result in automatic disqualification.

Note: Advancers remain in the division they qualified in during the league level in all subsequent competition. If there is a tie for the last-place qualifier in a division, both will advance to the next level of competition.

STATE/ZONE LEVEL

10. The top one (1) bowler in the U12, U14, U16 or U18 divisions for boys and girls at the state/zone competition with the highest scratch score (plus applicable bonus pins) will earn a berth to the Junior Gold Championships. To receive the berth, the bowler must be a USBC Youth Standard member and Junior Gold program member no later than May 15. **If the winner is not eligible for the championships, he/she will still retain all awards from the state/zone, but the next eligible bowler will receive the berth to the Junior Gold Championships.**
11. Advancers to the Junior Gold Championships must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships. Replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state/zone level. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced (declined or previously qualified) and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.
12. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations will lead to disqualification from this event. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships National Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.
13. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships National Tournament Committee will decide all matters not covered by these rules and regulations or USBC rules and regulations. All decisions are final.

ALL BOWLERS MUST SEE AND
UNDERSTAND THESE RULES

RULES AND FORMAT WORKSHEETS

CENTER AND/OR SECTIONAL LEVEL

State/Zone: _____

Rules and Format for (circle one): Center Level / Sectional Level

1. This tournament is certified by each state and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. League-level qualifying dates are _____. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual qualified cannot participate in this competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in previous competition. **Replacement must advance from the same league and window based on order of finish.**
3. Advancement ratio from league competition to (circle one) center/sectional competition is at least (number) _____ for every (number) _____ entries per _____ division, per league, or major fraction thereof, including last-place ties. The base number for each division is (circle one) the number of certified individuals that were present at least one week to participate / the number of league members that would have participated in that division. In all cases at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.
4. **Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of the league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler must declare one state/zone to continue competing in before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification. Bowlers must declare at the time of their first qualifying window within EACH league if they choose to "opt up" to a higher age division. All bowlers that choose to "opt up" MUST COMPLETE an "OPT UP" Form PRIOR to competition.**
5. Competition will take place at (bowling center's name and telephone number): _____

in (city): _____
on (date): _____
at (time(s)): _____
6. Entry closing date is _____. Tournament entry form containing qualifiers' name, address, telephone number, date of birth and social security number must be submitted by this date to the Tournament Director.
7. Divisions are based on the participant's age. **Athletes must choose the division in which they will compete. Athletes must be Junior Gold members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the Junior Gold Championships. Competition shall be conducted in the following divisions:**
Boys' Divisions: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18.
Girls' Divisions: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18.
8. The tournament format shall be: (See "Alternate Formats" in this handbook) _____

9. Entry fee is:	<u>U8 and U10:</u>	<u>U12, U14, U16 and U18:</u>	
Lineage	\$ _____	Lineage	\$ _____
Expenses	\$ _____	Expenses	\$ _____
Awards	\$ _____	Awards	\$ _____
Scholarships	\$ _____	Scholarships	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____	TOTAL	\$ _____

Awards and scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers. **Scholarships will be held in SMART:**

SMART Account Number: _____

(* USBC Rules 301d and 309 state that all scholarships must be deposited in the SMART Program)

10. All bowlers must wear suitable attire. **No hats/caps allowed. No smoking by guests or athletes on the concourse or in the settee area, only in designated areas.**
11. No substitutes will be permitted once athletes have started tournament play; however, replacements may be used for bowlers not present _____ minutes prior to the squad time as stated in Rule 2. **Replacements must be from the same window, same league and same center as the “no-show” bowler. They must follow the order of advancement within that window/league.**
12. Competitors shall be allowed (choose one) _____ practice ball(s) on each of their starting lanes - or - _____ minutes of practice time on their starting pair.
13. If no replacement has been made, bowlers arriving late shall begin play, and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. Frames may not be made up. Bowlers not present to bowl when it's their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.
14. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.
15. Ties will be broken by a one game roll-off. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by an additional ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off. (Refer to Rule 326a).
16. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the Tournament Director no later than the start of the next block or 30 minutes after the completion of competition. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the Tournament Director. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the Tournament Director within 72 hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.

17. Symbolic awards will be given as follows **(type and ratio – minimum 1 in 10)**: _____

18. Scholarships will be awarded as follows **(amount and ratio/places)**: _____

19. Advancement ratio from (circle one) center/sectional level to the next competition level is at least (number) _____ for every (number) _____ entries per _____ division, or major fraction thereof, including last-place ties. In all cases at least one individual per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.

20. The next level of competition will take place at (bowling center's name and telephone number): _____

in (city): _____

on (date): _____

at (time(s)): _____

21. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the State/Zone USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.]

(The following information, if applicable, must be listed on the final set of rules.)

Tournament Director: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State/Zone, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: Day: () _____ Evening: () _____

Fax Number: () _____ Email Address: _____

Website: _____

RULES AND FORMAT WORKSHEETS

STATE/ZONE LEVEL

State/Zone: _____

1. This tournament is certified by each state/zone and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. Dates of league-level qualifying (if this is the next level of advancement) are _____. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual who qualified cannot participate in the state/zone competition, his/her replacement will be eligible based on the order of finish in previous competition.
3. Advancement ratio from (circle one) league / sectional competition to the state/zone competition is at least (number) for every (number) _____ entries per _____ division, or major fraction thereof, including last-place ties. The base number for each division is (circle one) the number of individuals that were present at least one week to participate / the number of league members that would have participated in that division. In all cases, at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.
4. **Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of the league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler must declare one state/zone to continue competing in before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.**
5. Competition will take place at (bowling centers' name and telephone number): _____

in (city): _____
on (date): _____
at (time(s)): _____
6. Entry closing date is _____. Tournament entry form containing qualifier's name, address, telephone number and social security number must be submitted to the Tournament Director by this date.
7. Divisions are based on the participant's age. **Athletes must compete in their proper age division in all levels of competition. Athletes must be Junior Gold Members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the Junior Gold Championships.***** Competition shall be conducted in the following divisions:

8. The tournament format shall be: (See "Alternate Formats" in this handbook) _____

9. Entry fee is:		U8 and U10:		U12, U14, U16 and U18:
Lineage	\$	_____	Lineage	\$ _____
Expenses	\$	_____	Expenses	\$ _____
Awards	\$	_____	Awards	\$ _____
Scholarships	\$	_____	Scholarships	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$	_____	TOTAL	\$ _____

Awards and scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers. **Scholarships will be held in SMART:**

SMART Account Number: _____

(*USBC Rules 301d and 309 state that all scholarships awarded during a USBC certified event must be deposited in the SMART Program.)

10. All bowlers must wear suitable attire. **No hats/caps allowed. No smoking by guests or athletes on the concourse or in the settee area, only in designated areas.** _____

11. No substitutes will be permitted once athletes have started tournament play; however, replacements may be used for bowlers not present _____ minutes prior to the squad time as stated in Rule 2. **Replacements must be based on the order of finish from the prior level of competition. (i.e. the same window, same league and same center as the “no-show” bowler if replacement is from the league level. They must follow the order of advancement within that window/league.)**

12. Competitors shall be allowed (choose one) _____ practice ball(s) on each of their starting lanes - or - _____ minutes of practice time on their starting pair.

13. If no replacement has been made, bowlers arriving late shall begin play, and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. Frames missed may not be made up. A bowler not present to bowl when it's their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.

14. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.

15. Ties will be broken by a one game roll-off. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by an additional ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off. (Refer to Rule 326a).

16. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the Tournament Director no later than the start of the next block or 30 minutes after the completion of competition. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the Tournament Director. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the Tournament Director within 72 hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.

17. Symbolic awards will be given as follows (**type and ratio – minimum 1 in 10**): _____

18. Scholarships will be awarded as follows (**amount and ratio/places**): _____

18. The first-place winners (or highest finishing athlete who has not already advanced) of the U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions for both Girls and Boys will advance to the Junior Gold Championships. They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a Junior Gold membership prior to May 15.

USBC will waive the \$250 (U18/U16), \$200 (U14) and \$150 (U12) entry fee for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the Junior Gold Championships as well as other prizes and awards.

All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2028 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U12, U14, U16 or U18 Division Champion is unwilling to become a Junior Gold member, they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships; however, the athlete will still retain the state/zone scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. (INSERT INFORMATION IF THE STATE/ZONE WILL BE PAYING FOR ANY EXPENSES FOR THE SCRATCH ADVANCERS.)

Eligible advancers must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships, or, failing to do so, agree to waive all rights. Replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state/zone level. Replacements will incur all costs associated with changing the airline ticket, if applicable. If the eligible advancer decides not to attend the Junior Gold Championships, any stipends offered will be forfeited; however, any scholarships earned at the state/zone level will be retained.

All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the State/Zone USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

(The following information, if applicable, must be listed on the final set of rules.)

Tournament Director: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State/Zone, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: Day: () _____ Evening: () _____

Fax Number: () _____ Email Address: _____

Website: _____

CLARIFICATIONS ON RULES

Please read the clarification on each rule before filling out the worksheets so that the information will be specific to your area and will coincide with the rule requirements/purpose/theory. These rules are over-and-above an entry form that must be developed for each athlete advancing to the next level of competition (entry form must include name, address, birthdate, statement and division advancement is from).

1. Self-explanatory. Please publicize the certification number for award applications later in qualifying.
2. League-level qualifying can begin as early as Oct. 1 (this is to accommodate high school leagues that end early in the season). League-level qualifying dates can be changed only upon the Tournament Director's approval. Since all USBC Youth members are eligible to bowl, this tournament should be run in all USBC Youth leagues. **If for some reason the league/center coordinator cannot or will not run qualifying, a responsible bowler, parent or other individual can be appointed to conduct qualifying and fill out all necessary paperwork.** USBC waives the upper-age limit for membership of the mentally challenged. ALL 2026-2027 USBC Youth members are eligible to participate in qualifying for the USBC Youth Scratch Championships. Please verify each entry form returned to you for the specific age, as well as reiterate this in your rules to the league coordinators. **Also, remember High School bowlers must have a current USBC Youth membership to participate.**

Wheelchair and other physically challenged USBC Youth members must be allowed to enter and bowl. Please accommodate these bowlers.

Also, the replacement policy is extremely crucial. The replacement **MUST** be based on the order of finish from the prior level of competition. If league competition is the prior level, the advancer must come from the same division, window and league as the "out-going" bowler. **Once a replacement has been made, the original bowler cannot be placed back into the tournament.**

3. The base figure for the advancement ratio needs to be spelled out in detail. **Different ratios can be used among the different divisions (i.e. U8, U10 and U12 is 1:1; U14, U16 and U18 is 1:5).** It is up to each state/zone to set the requirement for the base figure. The options available are:
 - a) Only individuals present at least one week during the qualifying in each division will be counted. If an individual was absent for the entire qualifying window, this individual would not be counted in the base figure.
 - b) All league members are counted into the base figure. If an individual is absent for the entire qualifying window, the member would be placed in the division in which they chose to participate.
4. Self-explanatory.
5. **Required to use a BPAA member center. (Refer to the Bowling Center section of the Guidelines for State/Zone Tournament Directors.)** If weather conditions become a concern, a squad can be added to a given district/weekend; however, the decision to do this must be announced and posted prior to each and every squad for that level. (USBC Rules 303 and 314; i.e. If a day/time has already been bowled, NO additional squads may be added to that level.) Please make sure all tournament staff and center personnel know of any/all changes so that they can provide accurate information to the athletes and parents.
6. The closing date must be strictly adhered to. Entries postmarked one business day after the closing date must be accepted. **Please consider including the division in which the bowler will advance from in the confirmation letter back to the athlete. This may decrease possible challenges.**
7. Athletes bowling in the U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions are not mandated to be Junior Gold members prior to their league participation. Only the advancers to the Junior Gold Championships must have a current Junior Gold

membership. If an advancer does not have a current Junior Gold membership, this should be collected by the State Director and processed to USBC, or the player must contact USBC no later than **May 15** to purchase this membership. All states and zones must provide the Scratch Division at all levels of competition.

8. Bowling format at this level should include the number of games for each block(s) and the specific schedule. See “Alternate Formats” for suggestions. Please refer to BOWL.com (under Departments – “Specs/Certification”) for the up-to-date acceptable cleaners and approved equipment lists.
9. Entry fee must be broken down to specific areas of allocation. The statement “Awards and scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers” must be printed in this area and be returned 100% to the bowlers. All bowlers must be eligible for all tournament awards – the payment of the entry fee/condition of entry entitles them to all tournament awards. **Scholarship funds location and contact person must be provided in the rules. (Rule 309.) All scholarship funds associated with all levels of the state/zone Youth Scratch Championships must be forwarded to SMART (i.e. not just the Scholarship Funds Program allocation). All scholarship prize awards must be forwarded to USBC Headquarters for deposit with the SMART program (Scholarships Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpins) within 30 days after the end of the tournament (USBC Rules 301d and 309).**

SMART contact information is as follows: Phone – 817-385-8292. Fax is 817-385-8260.

NOTE: Scholarship funds cannot be utilized by the recipient prior to high school graduation. Scholarships administered from previous leagues/tournaments should be forwarded to SMART for final disbursement. Failure to comply with the preceding may result in a forfeiture of the recipient’s high school and/or collegiate eligibility.

10. This section is for the specifics on the dress code. Please see Rule 301b regarding apparel and equipment restrictions. Any information stated in this rule must be enforced consistently on-site. **We are advising all tournaments to be reasonable with any restrictions. Hats/caps/electronic devices should be addressed, and smoking must be prohibited during USBC Youth competition.**
11. Replacements can only be chosen from the same qualifying window/division at the previous level as the individual that has dropped. The order of replacement choice must go in order of finish.
12. Self-explanatory.
13. This rule must be enforced to keep the pace of bowling on track. Information in this rule also will keep bowlers in the near vicinity to be prepared to bowl when it is their turn. **Make-up frames are not allowed in tournament play (USBC Rule 322).**
14. Self-explanatory.
15. All USBC Youth members that have qualified to advance from league-level qualifying to the next level of competition must be allowed to bowl.
16. Rules 327a, 327b, 327c, 328, and 329 can assist you in other challenges that may arise on-site. **Please note: Athletes have 72 hours from the time of the infraction to file a written protest with the Tournament Director. When awards are issued immediately at the end of the tournament, protests up to the 72 hours from the time of the infraction can still be made, reviewed and acted upon.**
- 17 & 18. Indicate how the awards will be presented – ratio basis and/or specified number of places in each division. **Symbolic awards must be distributed with a minimum of a 1 in 10 ratio (Rule 308, Item C). The base number is dependent on the number of paid entries for each specific division. If a set amount of places are awarded, a**

disclaimer statement must be included to state that additional places will be presented awards if entries warrant. Please be aware of rules for High School Athletic Associations and USBC Rule 400.

19. **Center/Sectional Level Rules.** The advancement ratio to all levels, except the national finals, must be based on a ratio or set number. Using the ratio method gives the opportunity for more bowlers to advance to the next level.

State/Zone Level Rules

ONLY THE HIGHEST NON-QUALIFIED BOWLER IN EACH DIVISION WILL ADVANCE TO THE JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** Any ties must be broken for the advancement to the Junior Gold Championships. (Ties for alternate positions should also be broken to alleviate any problems in the future for replacements – Rule 326a). **U12, U14, U16 and U18 division champions MUST already have or BE ELIGIBLE to be USBC Junior Gold members when they bowl the state/zone finals event. If the winners are not a current Junior Gold member, they must purchase Junior Gold membership at that time.**

The scholarship, Junior Gold berth and stipend are three different prizes. If an athlete has already earned a spot into the Junior Gold Championships, he/she would retain the scholarship and the stipend, and the Junior Gold berth would go to the next eligible athlete. If the athlete has previously earned a stipend to the Junior Gold Championships, he/she would retain the higher stipend amount. A player is NOT allowed to earn multiple stipends. If an athlete cannot participate in the Junior Gold Championships, the athlete would retain any earned scholarships, but the berth and any stipends will be granted to the next eligible bowler.

- * Please notify/explain to each league/center coordinator receiving your packet that enough copies must be made of the league and state/zone rules so that each bowler will receive one. All bowlers/parents must understand the rules, requirements, deadlines and conditions of the tournament. This will decrease the challenges that occur because of misinformation or lack of information.

JUST THE FACTS

WATCH THE CALENDAR; MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON TIME

It is extremely important to make sure USBC receives your reports and money in a timely matter. When you are submitting your reports, if you are submitting an awards listing, you do not have to rewrite the information on the awards portion of the form. Simply attach the information that you already produce for coaches/parents with the athletes' names and handwrite the award/amount next to it. You would then only have to fill out the receipts and disbursements manually.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 15 – USBC **MUST** have your State-Level Rules, State/Zone Tournament Director and Committee Form and Tournament Date/Location Form.
- **Within 15 days after your event, please fill out the Jotform Junior Gold Advancer report!!**
- May 15 – All athletes advancing to Junior Gold must have completed the Registration process.
- July – Junior Gold Championships

I JUST MADE A CHANGE... NOW WHAT?

If you have made changes to your rules, centers, etc. after all of your information has gone out, do your best to let the bowlers and parents know ahead of time. Also, make sure that you post a sign during the tournament, and make sure that change is part of your announcements. As long as you have told the bowlers there has been a change and you have informed USBC, if there are any protests, we will all be informed and be able to handle the problem/issue accordingly. If an athlete does not agree with the change, they must be granted a refund and “dropped” from the tournament.

WEATHER CANCELLATION

If you hear in the news that there will be severe weather in your area, you have the right to cancel squads and reschedule those squads before the tournament has started. Please follow these steps:

- Determine if your weather is bad enough to require cancellation.
- Contact all of the necessary directors and/or centers and determine if the centers have additional time available for squads. If this is the case, try to set up an additional squad time.
- If there is an additional squad to schedule for the event, reschedule and make all of the directors, centers and counter staff, etc. aware of this new squad.
- At the first squad of the tournament, post the time and date of the additional squad as well as make an announcement of the new squad time.
- Contact USBC at 817-385-8426 regarding the change in squad times and for which portion of the tournament.

CHECK YOUR ATHLETE’S DATE OF BIRTH

Make sure you have a process in place to check the birth date information of all entrants to ensure they are in the correct divisions. Don’t take the information submitted as completely accurate....always double check division assignments.

SCRATCH COMPETITION

- **Remember, ALL competition is SCRATCH regardless of age division.**

JUNIOR GOLD ADVANCERS

Please share the following information with the advancers to the Junior Gold Championships:

- U12, U14, U16 and U18 Division Champions will bowl at the Junior Gold Championships. Advancers must pay their Junior Gold membership fee (\$25 fee for U12 advancers, \$40 fee for U14 advancers, \$50 fee for U16/U18 advancers) (valid for Aug. 1 to July 31 of the current bowling season). They also will compete for the additional scholarships awarded at the Junior Gold Championships and have the opportunity to be on USBC Junior Team USA 2028! This tournament will require them to remain on site for approximately eight days.
- Please know that the athletes must be chaperoned by a parent or guardian. USBC does not provide chaperones or transportation to/from the hotel/bowling center.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR ATHLETES

Make sure that once your athletes know they are advancing to the Junior Gold Championships, they fulfill the Junior Gold membership requirements and complete any required paperwork or let you know if they are not attending.

TIE BREAKERS

It is very important to understand when ties must be broken and when you are able to advance both bowlers if a tie exists. For example, if you do not have a maximum number of bowlers at the next level, then advancing your tie for last place is acceptable; otherwise, if there is a maximum, then determine what type of tie breaker is required (normally a one-game roll-off). Another example is if you have a tie for second, but the top five advance, a tie breaker is not required since all of the bowlers will go. If your tie is for advancing to the Junior Gold Championships, please make sure a tie-breaker has occurred. If a bowler is unable to advance, we take the next bowler in line. If a tie exists, we do not want them to have a tiebreaker down the road.

APPROVED BOWLING BALLS

Make sure you and your athletes understand where to look to make sure their equipment is acceptable per USBC standards. (See new Rule 301b) Please check on BOWL.com, click on the “Specs/Certification” link under Departments. This is the source USBC provides to make sure bowling balls are legal. Also, please enforce the fact that bowling ball surfaces may only be altered prior to the first person on the squad throwing a ball. This means ALL equipment.

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

We understand that running the USBC Youth Scratch Championships can be stressful, but remember that we are all doing this to help our youth bowlers receive scholarship money to further their education. Try to make your forms/confirmation letters as informative as possible to eliminate numerous questions from parents and coaches.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Under the Scholarship Funds Program, the states/zones will receive additional scholarship funds to award for the state/zone USBC Youth Scratch Championships. These funds are allocated by USBC to each state/zone and will not be applied to a SMART account until after that state/zone has submitted their Tournament Financial and Awards Report to USBC.

The amount that is made available to each state's/zone's USBC Youth Scratch Championships is given to the USBC SMART program and allocated by SMART to each state's/zone's SMART account's unassigned funds. A state/zone is not limited to the additional funds made available from USBC; however, all funds collected from participants, received from donations/sponsorships/fundraising, and provided by USBC for the USBC Youth Scratch Championships must be awarded to the participants of the championship tournament. Please visit BOWL.com for the latest fundraising ideas and companies that USBC can provide for you and your athletes.

Within 30 days (**see USBC Rules 301d and 309**) after the end of the tournament, the state/zone must forward to SMART a completed SMART Recipient Information Form, along with a check or money order in the amount that were collected for scholarships. SMART has made the process of submitting the tournament scholarship recipient's information paperless. This was accomplished by placing the SMART program online in a secured program. Each state/zone's SMART account may be accessed online, and the recipient information can be entered into that account. It is simple and does not require the tournament to complete any additional paperwork. The full instructions can be found on the state/zone's account page in a file titled "User Guide." If you do not have your password or have forgotten it, please contact SMART at – smart@bowl.com or by phone at 817-385-8292.

Do not forget about the state's/zone's available unassigned funds. These are funds that have been accumulated from funds sent to SMART but not allocated to any individuals, expired funds and funds allocated to the account by SMART. You can award these funds by indicating the amount you wish to use on the recipient form or assign the amount when you submit the recipient online. Remember that funds allocated to your state/zone for this year's Championship by USBC are placed in your unassigned funds and you must assign, at a minimum, that amount to the list you are submitting.

All states/zones must complete a "Tournament Financial and Awards Report" form located in this section. Please fill out this form completely. Under the "REVENUE" section, please record the amounts that were collected from each entry for awards and scholarships. The EXPENSES total for each division must meet or exceed the amount listed on the REVENUE side of the division. Please account for all items under expenses (i.e. all monies allocated for scholarships from the athlete entry fees must be distributed out 100% during this year's event).

NOTE: Recipients cannot utilize scholarship funds placed in the SMART program prior to high school graduation. Scholarships retained and administered by the tournament for previous awarded scholarships should be forwarded to SMART to manage. Failure to comply with the preceding may result in a forfeiture of the recipient's high school and/or collegiate eligibility or the possible forfeiture of the scholarship once they enter college.

BOWLING CENTER CONTRACT

_____ (state) USBC Youth Scratch Championships

_____ (center name)

_____ (dates)

This agreement made and entered into this _____ (date), by and between the _____ (state contracting organization) hereinafter called “_____” and _____ (center) hereinafter called “_____ (center).”

Whereas, _____ (state organization) is interested in holding its _____ (year) _____ (state) USBC Youth Scratch Championships at _____ (center), _____ Manager/Owner, and

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, it is hereby agreed by and between the parties as follows:

A. Obligations of _____ (state organization)

1. _____ (state organization) agrees to hold its _____ (year) _____ (state) USBC Youth Scratch Championships at _____ (center, full address, dates).
2. _____ (state organization) shall use lanes _____ (or lanes deemed as necessary) at _____ (center) for actual tournament competition and practice held _____ (dates). These lanes shall be the “designated lanes”.
3. _____ (state organization) shall pay the Owner a gross fee of \$_____ for each competition game bowled (includes practice session prior to the start of each squad.) All prices to include all user fees, sales tax, assessments, and/or costs associated with the price of bowling (includes use of automatic scoring machines). Payment is to be made to the Owner within 30 days after receiving the invoice for payment.

B. Obligations of _____ (center)

Centers used for the regional and state level of the USBC Youth Scratch Championships shall be at all times from the execution of this contract through the dates of the tournament. It is recommended the center be a Bowling Proprietor Association of America (BPAA) member center in good standing.

1. Center shall make lanes and office space available for the agreed upon use for the tournament period.
 - a. Center, at its expense, shall condition lanes and provide inspection of mechanical equipment in the following manner: The lanes must be USBC certified for the current bowling season and proof of certification must be supplied to _____ (state organization). The center must have certified USBC youth programs or the _____ season(s) (list the bowling seasons that are applicable...either just current, or prior year as well).
 - b. Center shall maintain, dress, and strip the lanes in accordance previously agreed upon specifications, in a pattern determined by _____ (state organization) tournament staff members who will be assigned.
2. _____ (center) at its expense shall provide the following equipment:
 - a. Automatic pinsetters in good working condition.
 - b. Provide USBC-approved bowling pins.
3. _____ (center) shall provide at its expense the following personnel:
 - a. One floor manager and two mechanics to be in the center at all times while the _____ (state) USBC Youth Scratch Championships is in operation to assist in maintaining the bowling schedule.
 - b. Attendants to be available to maintain cleanliness of all restrooms at all times while tournament is in progress. Attendants will also be responsible to maintain cleanliness of concourse and remove all spills/clutter immediately.
4. _____ (center) shall perform the following services during the tournament:
 - a. Center shall not allow smoking in the bowling center, except in a designated area(s) agreed upon with the _____ (state organization), during the entire tournament.
 - b. Center shall not allow the sale of alcohol in the bowling center during the entire tournament.
 - c. Center shall keep the snack bar open and fully staffed during all tournament competition. _____ (state organization) shall provide a Schedule of Activities to bowling center indicating all times for the event. The Tournament Manager must approve any premature closing of the snack bar.

Miscellaneous Provisions

1. If _____ (center) is destroyed or substantially damaged by fire, lightning, tornado, hurricane, windstorm, explosion, falling objects or other catastrophes, thereby causing an interruption of the conduction of the tournament, _____ (state organization) may, at its option, cancel the tournament therein without liability to _____ (center).
2. This contract is not transferable, voluntarily or involuntarily, or by operation of law without written consent thereto by _____ (state organization). Any sale or lease of _____ (center) during the term of this agreement shall be subject to the terms of this agreement and shall be binding upon the successor in interest whether as owner or lessee or otherwise of said _____ (center).
3. In the event _____ (center) cannot fulfill the obligations outlined in this contract, _____ (center) will be responsible for expenses incurred by _____ (state organization) in changing the tournament site and materials.
4. This contract may not, without prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, be assigned by either party except that either party may assign this contract to a corporation or entity organized to succeed to the rights, title and interests of the assignor such as though, but not limited to, a consolidation, merger, or other corporate combination.

5. Other: _____

_____ (state organization)

_____ (center)

(contact person)

(contact person)

(title)

(title)

Date Signed: _____

Date Signed: _____



SECTIONAL STATE/ZONE
TOURNAMENT DATE/LOCATION FORM

YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS
TOURNAMENT FINANCIAL AND AWARDS REPORT

YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS - JUNIOR
GOLD ADVANCER FORM





USBC YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS WAIVER FORM

The USBC Youth Scratch Championships allows parents/players to request a WAIVER to allow their player to “play up” into an older group. Requests and any approval granted are for the current season’s tournament only. Requests are by written application only by the parent or legal guardian. While the USBC Youth Scratch Championships does not recommend that players play up, the tournament leadership does recognize that there may be a number of factors, including but not limited to, size, maturity, experience and skill levels that may influence a player’s decision to play up.

PLEASE PRINT

PLAYER LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ USBC ID# _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Current Age Division: (Circle one) U8 U10

Requested Age Division: (Circle one) U10 U12

I, the parent/guardian of the above-minor child, hereby request my child to compete in the division requested above. I understand that this is not the age division he/she was originally assigned by the USBC Youth Scratch Championships tournament rules. I am aware that my child will be competing against older and potentially more physically developed players with potentially higher-level skills, and I, therefore, recognize the added risks to my child’s health and safety, as well as to my child’s emotional well-being. In signing below, I accept these risks and accept all and every liability and responsibility stemming from such risks as my own, and I absolve the USBC Youth Scratch Championships, its affiliated clubs, board members, volunteers, and associated personnel against any claims. I also acknowledge that I am making this decision on my own initiative and have not been requested to do so by any outside influence.

It is the policy of the USBC Youth Scratch Championships that all players compete at a level they are capable of, both physically and developmentally.

This form must be submitted to the USBC Youth Scratch Championships State Coordinator before participation in the local qualifier. No changes to a division may be made once a bowler has started a qualifier.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____