



USBC Rule 400

USBC Youth membership is available to individuals who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to August 1 of the current bowling season and have maintained compliance with Item a below. Individuals who purchase Youth membership in a summer league and turn 18 prior to August 1 will be allowed to complete the summer league.

- a. Except as provided in Item b, a youth may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
 1. Cash or bonds
 2. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value

- b. Youth may bowl in singles competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
 1. The youth and parent/legal guardian sign the Consent Form (See bowl.com/rules)
 2. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or
 3. The youth waives his/her rights to any prize in violation of this rule

In youth competition, youth members may participate in side-competitions/brackets provided all entries are returned 100% in the form of scholarships only and awards comply with Item a.

Buying or selling of earned prizes is prohibited.

Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action, including the potential loss of youth membership.

NOTE: USBC has no limits on:

1. Scholarship amounts
2. Entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager)
3. Reimbursements of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event (Receipts must be provided upon request)
4. Prizes authorized by a grade/state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete participating in high school sports to know what prizes/awards could violate amateur status rules established by their high school athletic association.



Commonly Asked Questions - Rule 400.

400/1 Can an 18-year-old purchase a USBC Youth Standard membership?

USBC Youth Standard membership is only available to those who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to August 1 of the current season. If the individual turns 18 on or after August 1st, they would be eligible to purchase a Youth Standard membership and compete during that season.

400/2 My 17-year-old daughter is still a USBC Youth member, but wishes to join our Adult/ Youth league with her younger brother. May she join the league as the adult, or would it affect her eligibility as a USBC Youth member?

The league rules and/or board determine if she can join as the adult. Since the league must follow USBC Rule 400, it would have no effect on her USBC Youth membership.

400/3 What awards can now be given in USBC Youth competition?

In addition to scholarships and USBC Awards, bowling equipment, apparel, gift certificates and other merchandise prizes are allowed providing they are not redeemable for cash. The total value of prizes a youth could receive in any one event cannot exceed \$500. Scholarships do not fall under this limitation.

400/4 Can a youth bowl for cash or bonds?

No. Bowling for cash or bonds is a violation of Rule 400.

400/5 Can a youth bowl in an adult doubles or team event where cash or bonds are offered if the Consent Form is signed or the competition agrees to offer scholarships through SMART?

No. Rule 400 only allows youth to participate in adult singles competitions with cash or bond prizes and/or merchandise prizes valued in excess of \$500 provided they submit the Consent Form prior to participating in such a competition.

400/6 Can bowling centers award items such as free soft drinks, food, and free games for bowling accomplishments?

Yes. However, the total value of the awards an individual can earn in any one event, with the exception of scholarships, cannot exceed \$500.

400/7 Can a parent or legal guardian purchase a ring to commemorate a youth's 11 in a row, 300 game or 800 series?

Yes. USBC policy only allows USBC Youth members, their parents, or legal guardians to purchase a commemorative high score ring. Bowling centers, USBC associations or other parties cannot purchase the rings as awards for youth bowlers. This policy is a proactive approach to prevent offering awards that could jeopardize a USBC Youth member's amateur status and eligibility to compete in high school sports.

400/8 What is the maximum amount a youth bowler can earn in scholarships?

There is no limitation on the value of scholarships that can be awarded.

400/9 What is the purpose of the Consent Form?

The Consent Form serves three primary purposes. First, it ensures that the USBC Youth member is aware that the event is offering prizes which may be in violation of Rule 400. Second, it provides the USBC Youth member the opportunity to compete in singles competitions without jeopardizing his/her USBC Youth eligibility. Lastly, it replaces both the Parental Consent Form and the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver Form in adult singles competitions.

400/10 Where can we find a copy of the Consent Form?

The Consent Form can be found on the Rules page of BOWL.com or by contacting the Rules at (800) 514-2695, ext. 8955.

400/11 Can a league or tournament make up its own prize form?

No, only the official Consent Form can be used.

400/12 What competitions can a USBC Youth member compete in by signing the Consent Form?

The Consent Form is acceptable only for use in adult singles competitions which offer cash or bonds and/or any merchandise prizes valued greater than \$500. The Consent Form is NOT ACCEPTABLE for use in teams 2 or more players competition including, for example, Adult/Youth team competitions.

400/13 Must the bowler complete this Consent Form before they start the competition, or can the bowler wait until the prize list is finalized before signing the Consent Form?

Prior to competing, the member must complete and sign the Consent Form designating their intent to receive scholarships or decline any cash prizes they may qualify for.

400/14 When a bowler signs the Consent Form and earns a prize, they have waived claim to, what happens to these prizes?

Any waived prizes shall be returned to the prize fund for redistribution to the other eligible participants.

400/15 Some of the teams in my daughter's league have sponsors who give them bowling shirts and help with other expenses. Is this acceptable?

Yes, however, USBC prefers the entire league be sponsored so each team is treated the same. Sponsors can cover normal expenses, such as providing team shirts, travel expenses to tournaments, etc.

400/16 Can bowlers with intellectual disabilities who are past the age requirement eligible for youth competition?

Yes, competition officials can allow a bowler(s) with intellectual disabilities to compete in youth competitions (unless competition rules state otherwise). The bowler(s) must purchase a USBC Special Olympic membership.