

for doubles/singles to be checked for compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications, even if the equipment was checked before the team event. The scale room will open 90 minutes prior to doubles and singles squads.

See Also – EQUIPMENT.

28. SETTEE

Only Open Championships tournament competitors and staff assigned to the squad in progress will be permitted in the bowlers' settee area after the start of competition unless specifically approved by tournament management.

29. SLOW BOWLING

Teams/bowlers with a history of not completing their competition on time will be assigned to the final squad of the day in future Open Championships.

Squad durations include practice and should be completed in: Team Event - 3 hours and 20 minutes

Doubles & Singles – 3 hours and 40 minutes

30. SMOKING

Smoking or the use of tobacco products of any kind is not permitted during competition including the use of "smokeless" cigarettes, hookahs, shisha or any products intended to simulate the tobacco/smoking experience.

31. SPECIAL NEEDS BOWLERS

Bowlers requiring aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., or who are blind or have other special needs, must report this in writing when the team is registered, so that scheduling consideration can be arranged. Similar advance notice must be given if such a bowler with special needs is to be used as a substitute.

32. SQUAD TIMES/ASSIGNMENTS

Team event: 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Doubles and Singles: 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Times listed are march-out times. Doubles and singles times are scheduled in real time when payment is made for doubles and singles. Times are not guaranteed from year to year.

Tournament management has the right to reschedule lane assignments and times up to the time of bowling for score. Reasons for rescheduling of lanes may include, but are not limited to, mechanical breakdowns, bowling unopposed and technical problems.

33. SUBSTITUTES

A. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered or such replacements authorized by the team captain or his appointee.

B. Any bowler replaced once competition has begun must use the higher of the two averages.

34. VIDEO POLICY

All participants agree to abide by USBC Open Championship's 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.

35. OTHER RULES

A. Teams and/or individuals arriving late shall begin play, and the scores shall count beginning with the frame being bowled. Entrant will receive a zero for all frames missed or not completed.

B. In the event a team or 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.

C. All USBC-certified tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.

D. 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 2017 USBC Open 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 USBC Open 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.



UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

2017 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES, POLICIES AND PLAYING INFORMATION

February 18, 2017 – July 16, 2017

Entries close date

March 31, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.BOWL.com/OpenChamp

USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Arlington, TX 76011

800-514-BOWL

Fax: 817-704-3294

BOWL.COM

THE USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS IS USBC-CERTIFIED. THE GAME OF AMERICAN TENPINS WILL BE PLAYED.

1. AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. The average to be used for participation in the 2017 Open Championships will be the highest of the following:

- 1) Highest USBC-certified league average (winter, summer or composite*), based on 21 or more games from:
 - 1) 2015/2016 season or
 - 2) 2014/2015 season or
 - 3) 2013/2014 season

All averages established on a Sport or Challenge condition must be adjusted utilizing the USBC Sport Average Adjustment Scale found on BOWL.com. The adjusted average must be used if it is the highest average.

2) Open Championships tournament average, based on most recent 27 games bowled at the tournament since 2008, adjusted utilizing the USBC Sport Average Adjustment Scale found on BOWL.com.

B. Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements stated in Item A, will enter with the highest of the following:

- 1) Current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games
- 2) Current composite* average of 21 or more games in all current USBC leagues League standings sheets or a letter of verification from association secretary must be presented upon check-in.

C. Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements stated in Item a or b will be entered with a 220 average.

D. If a bowler's highest average of 21 or more games as of February 1, 2017 is 10 or more pins higher than their entering average, the February 1, 2017 average must be used.

**A bowler who bowls in two or more USBC leagues in a season establishes a composite average. A composite average is determined by adding the total pins for all of the leagues (including those leagues with less than 21 games) and dividing the result by the total number of games bowled in those leagues.*

USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS GREEN SHEET

Each entrant in the Standard or Classified Divisions must report the following information on the USBC Open Championships Green Sheet, available on BOWL.com, under Open Championships – Information:

A. Previous Average Adjustments (Re-rates)

Any re-rate or adjustments to averages, and the average adjusted to, from any tournament or event regardless if the adjustment was accepted or not.

B. Prior Prize Winnings (USBC Rule 319d)

Cash and/or merchandise prize of \$600 or more earned or qualified for in any event in a tournament within the last 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling in the tournament. The following information must be reported prior to participation for possible average adjustment:

- 1) The name of each tournament in which they have been paid such a prize, or if not yet paid, in which they have qualified for the prize.
- 2) The amount of the prize.
- 3) The actual score bowled to qualify for the prize.
- 4) The prize position

C. Tournament Average Adjustment (USBC Rule 319e)

If, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling, the bowler's accumulated average for all, but not less than 21 tournament games, exceeds the average to be used for entry by 15 or more pins, the accumulated average must be reported and used for classification purposes.

FAILURE TO REPORT REQUIRED INFORMATION

Bowlers must attest to the accuracy of the information provided, and an understanding of the consequences of their failure to provide the proper facts. Failure to report all re-rates and report prize winnings shall be cause for disqualification. Bowler will be disqualified for failing to submit adjusted average under Rule 319e.

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 or more 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 Regular Division pending verification of average, which must be submitted by the bowler within 10 days of the end of the event.

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, USBC 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 30 days prior to date of 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 rule.

4. CLOSE OF ENTRIES/CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Entries into USBC Championships will be accepted until the official entries closing date. Entries received after this date will be returned. All entries are subject to the Tournament Cancellation/Refund Policy.

Note: The addition of doubles, singles, and/or all-events to an existing team entry does not constitute a new entry.

Refunds will be issued to any captain who pays at least the team entry fee and requests cancellation in writing by the official close of entries date.

Refunds are subject to a \$50 service charge.

Cancellations received after the official close of entries date may be considered for the following if requested in writing prior to the team's date of competition:

A. A team captain may transfer their entry to a substitute team at no cost. The substitute team will be required to pay in full prior to substitution. The original team captain will not receive any refund until the substitute team is paid in full.

B. A team captain may request a Tournament Credit which is a transfer of the expense portion of the captain's entry to the following year's tournament.

Note: Tournament Credit is available only for the following year. Tournament Management will consider the above requests on a case-by-case basis.

5. DRESS CODE

Entrants are expected to wear attire suitable and representative of participation in a national championship event.

Participants are requested to wear a shirt with a butterfly-type collar and casual slacks, trousers or jeans that are neat and in good condition.

Mock-collared shirts and collarless bowling jerseys will be permitted, but they may not be worn with jeans.

Women may wear Capri pants, provided the length is below the knees. Female participants also can wear culottes, skorts or skirts, provided the length is beyond the fingertips when their arms extended down their sides.

Neither ordinary cotton T-shirts, nor shorts, will be permitted. Other examples of prohibited attire include, but are not limited to, hats, tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti-strap tops and sweat pants.

The alteration of any non-compliant clothing by means of embroidery, logos, stick-on patches or other means does not alter the definition of said items to make them acceptable.

Participants who are deemed to not meet the standards of the Open Championships dress code will be afforded the opportunity to secure acceptable attire, utilize USBC loaner clothing or bowl at an alternate time with compliant dress. The dress code will be interpreted by designated tournament staff members. They will make judgment calls relative to dress code questions or concerns, while any questionable items, special circumstances or medical exemptions will be addressed by the Manager on Duty.

The decision of tournament management is final.

Any bowler requesting a dress code exception for medical or other reason must do so in writing to the tournament manager.

PRIDE AWARD

In order to reward teams dressed in a “team uniform,” USBC has created the Pride Award.

To qualify for the award, all five members of a team must wear matching shirts and pants of the same color when they bowl their team event. Jeans are not permitted to be eligible for the Pride Award.

6. DIVISION STRUCTURE

Divisions for team and doubles events will be based on a composite of the competitors’ averages, except as noted below.

TEAM

Regular – 1,046 and above

Standard – 901-1,045

Classified – 900 and below

DOUBLES

Regular – 419 and above

Standard – 361-418

Classified – 360 and below

SINGLES/ALL-EVENTS

Regular – 210 and above

Standard – 181-209

Classified – 180 and below

The restrictions for divisional placement are as follows:

A. Regular Division bowlers (entering averages of 210 and above) may not compete in Classified Team or Classified Doubles, regardless of composite average.

B. Teams in the Standard Division may have no more than one bowler with an average of 210 or higher.

C. Teams in the Classified Division may have no more than one bowler with an average between 181 -209.

Unless a change in division is authorized by tournament management, all bowlers will be placed in the Regular Division for any event where rosters are not complete at least 14 days in advance of participation in the tournament.

7. ELIGIBILITY

MEMBERSHIP

A current USBC membership card must be presented at check-in prior to each bowler participating in any event. Captains must show a current USBC membership card for each bowler on the roster when checking in for team event. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC Associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site.

AGE

The tournament is open to all USBC members 16 years of age or older at time of participation (See Tournament Rule 18).

EMPLOYEE POLICY

USBC National Headquarters employees and tournament employees at the USBC Open Championships, their teams and/or doubles partners are not permitted to participate in the prize funds, brackets or awards programs at the Open Championships. Employees are eligible to bowl for purpose of participation records and pinfall.

8. EQUIPMENT

The Manager on Duty will handle any questionable circumstances.

BOWLING BALLS – Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for his/

her exclusive use. Each entrant will be allowed a maximum of eight bowling balls. Only USBC-approved bowling balls will be allowed and MUST have the manufacturer’s name, product name and serial number clearly visible at all times for identification purposes. Balls and drilling must meet all USBC specifications. All bowling balls will be checked for compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications.

Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand. Any thumb hole that is not used for gripping purposes during the delivery would be classified as a balance hole. **GRIPPING ORIENTATION** – A “Wi-Fit” or “Duo” grip bowling ball with finger grips cannot be used in USBC competition because the hole not used would be deemed as a weight hole and according to USBC specifications, no interchangeable device may be used in a weight hole.

Bowling balls drilled to allow the bowler to grip the ball in different orientations will count as a ball for each gripping orientation used to deliver the ball in that competition, with the exception of:

- A bowling ball with a “Triangle” grip will count as six balls.
- The “Wi-Fit” or “Duo” grip, will count as two balls.

Individuals who violate the gripping orientation rule are subject to disqualification from the tournament.

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; however, the use of abrasives strictly is prohibited once the 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.

No alterations to static weight of bowling balls may be made after they have been checked through the scale room for that day’s competition. Any equipment deemed to have entered the field of competition which has not passed through the scale room and been approved prior to that event will be impounded and the bowler will be subject to disqualification for that event.

Ball correction service is available before all team and doubles/singles squads to correct any equipment not in compliance with USBC rules and specifications.

NOTE:

USBC Rule 18/3 – Since the tournament is conducting doubles and singles concurrently, bowlers cannot alter the surface of the bowling ball (including sanding) between events. Competition is defined as any time teams or individuals are bowling for score.

- Penalty for the first offense: Individual is warned and the ball is removed for the remainder of the series, match or block (Doubles and singles is considered a block).
- Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

FOREIGN SUBSTANCE

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.

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

9. ETIQUETTE

A. The use of an artificial device to listen to music or a 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 and verbal abuse toward other persons.

C. Slow Bowling – Please make every effort to complete your bowling in the allotted time (see Tournament Rule 29 – Slow Bowling).

10. FEES

Entry fee is \$55 per event/per bowler (breakdown per event is \$29 for prizes and \$26 for expenses); optional All-Events is \$15 (\$13 for prizes, \$1 for expenses and \$1 to Team USA). Total is \$180 PER BOWLER for team, doubles, singles and all-events. A \$25 processing fee per team applies to all registrations.

A \$75 premium fee applies to all registrations that select a premium squad. The premium fee is non-refundable.

11. FORMAT

Three (3) games will be bowled in each event. Three (3) games in the team event and (6) games in doubles and singles. Team event must consist of five (5) USBC members and a doubles pair must consist of two (2) USBC members. Only actual scores are used. This is a scratch tournament.

12. GAMBLING

All forms of gambling are prohibited while bowling. This includes, but is not limited to, card playing, pushing coins, etc.

13. LANE CONDITIONING

Lanes will be conditioned before all squads.

The USBC will not disclose any 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.

14. LANE COURTESY

To maintain a consistent pace of bowling, it is proper etiquette to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the tournament management.

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 (including all-events entry, if applicable).

16. MEMBERSHIP

See Eligibility – Age

17. PACERS

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

18. PARENTAL CONSENT

Bowlers under the age of 18 must have written consent of a parent or guardian before participation. The USBC Parental Consent Form must be on file with tournament management at least one week before participation when the youth is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. If the youth is accompanied by his/her parent or guardian, the consent form must be submitted prior to his/her participation. Failure to file the consent form will cause the player to be ineligible and subject games bowled to forfeiture or disqualification (form is available on BOWL.com).

19. PARTICIPATION

An entrant may only enter once in each event. A bowler entering doubles must also enter/ purchase singles and vice versa.

20. PARTICIPATION RECORDS

Every entrant who supplies proper information will have a participation record established. All bowlers must compete in the USBC Open Championships to receive participation and average recognition.

To receive credit for a year’s participation, a bowler must extend a reasonable effort, as determined by management, to complete at least one event.

21. PRIDE AWARD

See Dress Code

22. PRIZE CHECKS

A. The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 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 percent tax reduction of the prize check.

C. Prize checks will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (Rule 309) unless permission is granted to extend by USBC tournament certification.

D. Any prize check requiring replacement within 90 days of tournament ending will require a \$25 replacement fee and \$50 thereafter.

E. Prize checks, or replacement checks, must be cashed by July 31, 2018, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

23. PRIZE RATIOS

All prize money will be returned 100%. Prize ratio will be at least 1:5 for all divisions, events.

24. PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS AND PAST CHAMPIONS

A. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS are defined as:

- Any bowler under the age of 60 who has won any of the following:
 - A PBA or PWBA national title regardless of professional status at the time of the win
 - A USBC Masters title
 - A USBC Queens or U.S. Women’s Open title from 2003 to 2014
- Any bowler having applied for membership or held membership in ANY professional bowling organization during the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2016) preceding the event, and up through their dates of their competition in 2017.

B. Professional bowlers will be eligible to compete only in the REGULAR DIVISION subject to the following guidelines:

- TEAM EVENT
 - A team may only have one professional bowler if the player meets the criteria defined in item A. 1) above. A team may have a second professional who meets the criteria in item A. 2) provided the player is not a member of any professional bowling organization as of August 1, 2016 through their dates of competition.
 - If a team has no national event winner as defined in item A. 1) above, the team may have no more the TWO players who meet the criteria defined in item A. 2) above.
- Not more than ONE bowler identified as a professional in paragraph A. above per doubles team.
- Each such player shall be eligible to enter SINGLES and ALL-EVENTS only in the Regular Division.
- Professionals and past champions (as defined in paragraph A above) are eligible for daily and yearlong brackets products in the Regular Division only, regardless of whether they fit the average criteria for another division. They also are eligible for any age-based products for which they qualify.

*Clarification – A Doubles pairing with a bowler under the age of 60, who has won a PBA or PWBA national event, regardless of professional status at the time of the win may NOT have any additional bowlers identified as professionals (see description of professional above, except as permitted in paragraph B. 1) a). Teams may have ONE past national-event champion OR up to two bowlers identified as professionals, but not one past national event champion and one professional organization member. Doubles pairings may have one national event champion or one professional organization member, but not both.

25. PROTESTS

A. Any protest or appeal concerning scoring must be made in writing stating briefly 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. Any other protest must be filed in accordance with USBC Rule 329.

C. All foul protests must be filed before the squad is finished.

26. RE-RACKS

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

27. SCALE ROOM

All bowling balls used in Open Championships competition will be checked for compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications before EACH scheduled squad. This includes both team and doubles/singles events. Official measurements will be taken on USBC scales.

Team event – The scale room will open two hours prior to the scheduled bowling time for each competitor to check all bowling balls they anticipate using in team competition.

Doubles & Singles – Every bowler must bring the equipment they intend to use