

27. SLOW BOWLING

Teams/bowlers who have a history of not completing their competition on time may 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

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. SQUAD TIMES/ASSIGNMENTS

Team event: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Doubles and Singles: 7 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.

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.

31. SUBSTITUTES

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

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

32. VIDEO POLICY

All participants agree to abide by the USBC Open Championships’ Video Policy, which can be found on BOWL.com. Any participant appearing in, recording, publishing, or sharing video clips deemed by USBC to affect the integrity of the tournament may be subject to disqualification and suspension.

33. OTHER RULES

1) 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.

2) 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.

3) All USBC tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.

4) 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 2019 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

2019 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

OFFICIAL RULES, POLICIES AND PLAYING INFORMATION

March 9, 2019 – July 8, 2019

Entries close date

March 9, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.BOWL.com/OpenChamp

USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

621 Six Flags Drive

Arlington, TX 76011

888-910-2695

Fax: 817-385-8268

BOWL.com

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

1. AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

A. Open Championships tournament average, based on most recent 27 games bowled at the tournament since 2010. (Championships Average).

B. Bowlers without a qualifying Championships Average will enter with the highest average from the following:

1) Highest USBC-certified league average (winter, summer or composite), based on 21 or more games from:

a) 2017/2018 season or

b) 2016/2017 season or

c) 2015/2016 season

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

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

1) Current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games, converted downward using the appropriate Sport or Challenge conversion chart (if not already Sport).

2) Current composite average of 21 or more games in all current USBC leagues, converted downward using the appropriate Sport or Challenge conversion chart (if not already Sport). League standings sheets or a letter of verification from association secretary must be presented upon check-in.

D. If, at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games, converted to Sport, that is 10 or more pins higher than the average determined in item B, the current Sport-converted average must be used, if applicable.

E. If, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling at the 2019 Open Championships, the bowler’s accumulated average for all, but not less than 21 tournament games, exceeds the average determined in items B or C by 15 or more pins, the accumulated average, Sport-converted, must be reported and used for classification purposes.

F. Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements stated in items A, B or C will be entered with a 220 Sport average.

USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS GREEN SHEET

All bowlers must answer questions A, B, C and D on the Open Championships Average/ Participation Requirements form (Green sheet).

Each entrant in the Standard or Classified Divisions must report the following information on the Green Sheet (questions E, F, G, H and I), available on BOWL.com, under Open Championships Information and at the on-site Check-In counter.

A. Professional bowler status: Have you ever been a member of any professional organization, during the calendar year Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018, or up through your date of competition in 2019?

B. Past Champions: Have you won a PBA, PWBA or other national/major title? (regardless of professional status at the time of the win)

C. Collegiate Member: Have you held a collegiate bowling membership during the 2018-2019 bowling season, or were you a member of any college bowling program/team/club during the calendar year (Jan.1 – Dec. 31, 2018)?

D. National Team Member: Are you a past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or any other national team, under the age of 60?

E. At the time of bowling, is your current average for 21 or more games, converted to Sport, 10 or more pins higher than the average determined in item B? (USBC Rule 319a)

F. Do/have you bowled in a league in which the conditions bowled on are considered to be different than what is considered a “Standard” or “House” shot? (USBC Rule 200a)

G. Previous Average Adjustments: Have you ever been re-rated or had your average adjusted by any tournament or event, regardless if the adjustment was accepted or not? (USBC Rule 319c)

H. Prior Prize Winnings: Within the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling the 2019 Open Championships, have you qualified for prize and or merchandise prize in excess of \$300 in a single event, combined prize winnings of \$500 in any one tournament, and/or combined prize winnings in excess of \$1,000 or more in all tournaments competed in within the last 12 months? (USBC Rule 319d)
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

I. Tournament Average Adjustment: During the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling the 2019 Open Championships, do you have an accumulated average of 21 or more tournament games, converted to Sport, that exceeds the entering average listed in item B above by 15 pins or more? (USBC Rule 319e)

FAILURE TO REPORT REQUIRED INFORMATION

Failure to answer any question on the Green sheet shall be cause for disqualification. Bowlers must attest to the accuracy of the information provided, and an understanding of the consequences of their failure to provide the proper facts.

AVERAGE INTEGRITY

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

2. AVERAGE VERIFICATION – CORRECTION

Bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their averages, whether originally submitted by the bowler, team captain or others. If submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification, the bowler’s score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two 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. Or, 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, 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 Open 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. The doubles, singles and/or all-events fee must be paid before the participant bowls any of the events.

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 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 polo, sash or butterfly collar and casual slacks, trousers or jeans that are neat and in good condition. 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 are 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 midriiffs, 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 for a team 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 – 876 and above.....Standard – 776-875.....Classified – 775 and below

DOUBLES

Regular – 351 and above.....Standard – 311-350.....Classified – 310 and below

SINGLES/ALL-EVENTS

Regular – 176 and above.....Standard – 156-175.....Classified – 155 and below
The restrictions for divisional placement are as follows:

TEAM

A. Regular Division bowlers (entering averages of 176 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 two (2) bowlers with an average of 176 or higher

C. Teams in the Classified Division may have no more than two (2) bowlers with an average between 156 and 175

D. A team comprised of any combination of two (2), but no more than two, players who meet the following criteria shall be eligible to enter only in the Regular Division.

1) Any bowler who has applied for membership or held membership in ANY professional bowling organization during the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018) preceding the event, and up through their dates of their competition in 2019.

2) Any past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or any other national bowling team, under the age of 60.

3) Any bowler currently holding a collegiate bowling membership or one who has been a member of any college bowling program/team/club during the calendar year (Jan.1 – Dec. 31, 2018) and up through the date of competition in 2019.

E. A team may not contain any bowler from bullet D and a bowler under the age of 60 who has won any of the following:

- 1) A PBA or PWBA national title regardless of professional status at the time of the win.
- 2) A USBC Masters title.
- 3) A USBC Queens or U.S. Women’s Open title from 2003 to 2014.

DOUBLES

Doubles pairings may have only one bowler who is a past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or other national bowling team, or one bowler designated as a collegiate bowler or one professional organization member.

SINGLES AND ALL-EVENTS

Each such player - past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or any other national bowling team, one designated as a collegiate bowler, one meeting the definition

of a professional organization member or meeting the criteria to be defined a titlist (see Rule 23), shall be eligible to enter singles and all-events only in the Regular Division.

ROSTERS:

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/submitted at least 14 days in advance of participation in the tournament.

7. ELIGIBILITY

MEMBERSHIP

A current USBC adult membership card must be presented at check-in prior to each bowler participating in his/her first event. Captains must show a current USBC adult 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 adult members age 16 or older at time of participation (See USBC Rule 15).

EMPLOYEE POLICY

USBC National Headquarters employees and tournament employees at the USBC Open and Women’s 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 per 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.

EQUIPMENT ALTERATIONS – Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. Bowlers are permitted to sand the surface of their bowling balls prior to certified competition. The use of abrasives strictly is prohibited once the bowler’s first ball is thrown in competition. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition.

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. DEVICES/HEADPHONES - 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. PACE OF PLAY - Please make every effort to complete your bowling in the allotted time (see Tournament Rule 27 – Slow Bowling). 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.

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.

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. 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).

15. MEMBERSHIP

See Eligibility – Age

16. PACERS

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

17. 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).

18. PARTICIPATION

An entrant may enter each event one time. A bowler entering doubles also must enter/ purchase singles, and vice versa.

19. PARTICIPATION RECORDS

Every entrant who supplies proper information will have a participation record established. All bowlers must compete in the 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.

20. PRIDE AWARD

See Dress Code

21. 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, 2020, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

22. PRIZE RATIOS

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

23. PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS, PAST CHAMPIONS, MEMBERS OF A NATIONAL TEAM & COLLEGIATE BOWLERS

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

- 1) Any bowler under the age of 60 who has won any of the following:
 - a. A PBA or PWBA national title regardless of professional status at the time of the win
 - b. A USBC Masters or US Open title
 - c. A USBC Queens or U.S. Women’s Open title from 2003 to 2014
- 2) Any bowler having applied for membership or held membership in ANY professional bowling organization during the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018) preceding the event, and up through their dates of their competition in 2019.

B. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, MEMBERS OF A NATIONAL BOWLING TEAM are defined as: any past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or any other national bowling team, under the age of 60.

C. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, COLLEGIATE BOWLERS are defined as: any bowler currently holding a collegiate bowling membership (from the 2018-2019 bowling season) or one who was a member of any college bowling program/ team/club during the 2018 calendar year (Jan.1 – Dec. 31, 2018).

D. Professional bowlers, members of a national bowling team and collegiate bowlers will be eligible to compete ONLY in the REGULAR DIVISION subject to the following guidelines:

- 1) TEAM EVENT
 - a. A team may only have one bowler who meets the criteria defined in item 23-A-1.
 - b. If a team has a bowler who meets the criteria in 23-A-1, the team may NOT also have a bowler who meets the criteria in 23-A-1, 23-A-2, 23-B and 23-C.
 - c. If a team has no national event winner as defined in item 23-A-1, the team may have no more than TWO players combined who meet the criteria in item 23-A-2, 23-B and 23-C.

- 2) DOUBLES

There may not be more than ONE bowler identified in paragraph 23-A, B and C as a professional, member of a national team, or collegiate bowler per doubles team.

- a. 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, members of a national team, or collegiate bowlers.

- 3) SINGLES and ALL-EVENTS

Each such player identified in paragraph 23-A, B and C as a professional, member of a national team, or collegiate bowler per doubles team. shall be eligible to enter singles and all-events only in the Regular Division.

- 4) BRACKETS

Professionals, past champions, members of a national team, or collegiate bowlers (as defined 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.

24. 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.

25. RE-RACKS

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

26. SCALE ROOM

All bowling balls used in Open Championships competition will be checked for compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications before EACH scheduled team and doubles/singles events. Official measurements will be taken on USBC scales. The scale room will open 90 minutes prior to each squad.