



2021 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championships Tournament Rules

This tournament is being conducted in accordance with USBC Best Practices related to COVID-19, and all athletes, spectators, staff and others associated with the tournament are subject to these Best Practices at all times. Failure to follow these protocols and procedures or staff instruction may result in removal from the facility and/or disqualification.

All rules for the 2021 USBC Team USA Trials/US Amateur Championship are subject to change based on local, state, or federal guidelines, regulations or environment. This includes but is not limited to tournament location, format(s), operations, and athlete services.

The 2021 USBC Team USA Trials/US Amateur Championship is a USBC-certified event.

ELIGIBILITY

- All participants must be USBC members in good standing.
- Participants must be US citizens and eligible to compete on Team USA in accordance with Olympic Charter - Rule 41: Nationality of Competitors.
- All participants give USBC their unqualified permission to use their photograph for publicity purposes, to arrange for the telecasts or broadcasts of the tournament without cost to the participant and without sharing revenue derived therefrom with them.
- Current and former PBA and/or PWBA members must be in good standing with the PBA and/or PWBA.
- To qualify for Junior Team USA 2021 athletes must be 20 or younger as of January 1, 2021.
- To qualify for Team USA 2021 athletes must be 18 years of age or older as of January 7, 2021.
- All athletes 18 years of age or older as of January 7, 2021 are required to be current with SafeSport training.

USBC TEAM USA QUALIFYING

- 2021 Team USA will consist of all 2020 Team USA members (13 men and 15 women), and up to seven (7) additional men and seven (7) additional women from the 2021 Team USA Trials/US Amateur Championship.

- The top four age eligible men and top four age eligible women finishers in the 2021 USBC Team USA Trials, based on ranking points, will earn automatic spots on 2021 Team USA, while two additional men and two additional women may be selected from the pool of players that compete at the 2021 Team USA Trials by the National Selection Committee. The US Amateur Champions will also earn a spot on 2021 Team USA. If the champions have already earned a spot it will be awarded to the next highest qualifier based on ranking points.
- The National Selection Committee (NSC) has the authority to add members to the team at their discretion.

USBC JUNIOR TEAM USA QUALIFYING

- 2021 Junior Team USA will consist of all 2020 Junior Team USA members (14 boys and 13 girls), and up to six (6) additional boys and six (6) additional girls from the 2021 Team USA Trials/US Amateur Championship.
- The top four boys and top four girls in the 2021 Team USA Trials, based on ranking points, will earn automatic spots on 2021 Junior Team USA, while two additional boys and two additional girls may be selected by the National Selection Committee from the 2021 Team USA Trials/US Amateur Championship.
- The NSC has the authority to add members to the team at their discretion.

TOURNAMENT ENTRIES

- Entries will be limited to the first paid 200 males and 200 females. Those 18 years of age or older as of January 7, 2021 will be required to be current with SafeSport training before their registration will be accepted.
- Entry fee is \$350 per athlete.
- \$25 processing fee for all entries not done online.
- Members of 2020 Men's and Women's Team USA qualify for a complimentary tournament entry into the 2021 USBC Team USA Trials/US Amateur Championship.
- All athlete services shall be conducted electronically whenever possible. Participants will be required to submit a waiver/release prior to competition.
- Health precautions such as a temperature check may be done prior to entry into the bowling center. Should a competitor exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, a temperature above 100.4°, the proper local health authorities will be notified for potential follow-up and contact tracing.
- Anyone who has been tested for COVID-19 within 14 days of January 2, 2021 must inform tournament management. If the participant is unaware of the test results, they may not compete until a negative result has been received.

FORMAT

- There are separate divisions for men and women. All bowling is on a scratch basis.

- Competition will consist of five blocks of qualifying with six games in each block. Each block will be contested on a different lane condition.
- Bowlers will compete with the same pairing each day.
- Bowlers will have a dead pair on either side of them at all times and are required to maintain social distance and follow all Best Practices at all times.
- Pairs will move lanes together once the last pair has completed their game.
- Participants will receive ranking points based on finish position for each block. (Example: bowler finished 2nd in first block, 2 points earned) Total ranking points will be determined after completion of all five blocks. The lowest number of points will determine first position overall, the next lowest is second, etc.
- The field will be cut to the top 100 bowlers for the fifth and final day of competition. Bowlers will be placed in pairings based on position (1-5, 6-10, etc.)

US AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP STEPLADDER FINALS

- The top three amateur bowlers after qualifying, (as determined by ranking points) will participate in the stepladder format. A professional is defined as anyone who currently holds a professional card (PBA/PWBA), has held one in the preceding calendar year or who has ever won a professional title as a member (National, Regional or Senior).
- Stepladders will take place on two pairs of lanes for the women and two pairs of lanes for the men. The pairs of lanes will be chosen by the Tournament Committee.
- The top seeds (male & female) from qualifying will each choose a lane oiling pattern from the five previous qualifying patterns and it will be applied to a pair of lanes. The second seeds (male & female), from qualifying will also choose a lane oiling pattern from the five previous qualifying patterns and it will be applied to a pair of lanes.
- All stepladder final matches will have both players bowl one game on the pair of lanes.
- The first stepladder matches will be the third qualifying seed vs. the second qualifying seed on the lane pattern choice of the second qualifier. The final stepladder matches will be the winner of the first stepladder match vs. the top qualifier on the lane pattern choice of the top qualifier.
- Player winning the stepladder finals will be declared the 2021 USBC United States Amateur Champion.

BOWLING EQUIPMENT

Bowling Balls

- All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications. It is the player's responsibility to ensure all equipment is eligible for competition.
- Plugged bowling balls are allowed.
- Random bowling ball checking may be done as deemed necessary by tournament management.
- Any bowler may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.
- All bowling balls must be on the USBC approved ball list posted on BOWL.com prior to being introduced into play.
- If a competitor uses a bowling ball not on the USBC approved list or one which does not meet USBC specification, the bowler will be disqualified from the tournament.

Powder

- No substance, including, but not limited to, talcum powder and EZ Slide, can be applied to the bottom of a player's shoes.

Surface Adjustments

- Bowling ball surface adjustments by hand are acceptable between games provided they are done by the athlete only, in the designated area and that the adjustment procedure does not delay the bowler's next turn. Altering the surface of the bowling ball during a game is not allowed. If the surface is adjusted during a game the penalty is zero pin fall in that game.
- The use of isopropyl alcohol for bowlers to clean their equipment during competition is permitted. Bowlers must provide their own alcohol and towel. This equipment may not be shared.

NOTE: The tournament director may allow a player to remove foreign substances from the bowling ball surface with authorized cleaners on a case-by-case basis.

DRESS CODE

Requirements

- **The dress code is in effect at all times while a competitor is in the venue.**
- All bowlers must wear suitable attire. Name shirts are not required but are suggested for our National Selection Committee. Each athlete must wear a collared shirt during competition. Mock neck shirts will be permitted along with athletic style shirts. Sleeves must be worn.
- Men must wear dress slacks.
- Women may wear dress slacks, shorts, skirts or skorts. Length of skirt, skorts or shorts must be below the bowler's fingertips when she is standing and her arms are hanging down at her side. No exceptions.
- Examples of prohibited attire include, but are not limited to:
 - Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, hats. Hats are permitted for documented medical conditions only.
 - Workout attire, including leggings, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls, T-shirts.
 - Cords, jeans, or any kind of denim.
 - **NOTE:** Women will be allowed to wear leggings in combination with skirts, skorts or dress shorts while in the venue but only when not competing.

Practice Session

- The dress code for the official practice session will be the same as the tournament dress code.

Penalty

- Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management.
- Tournament management's decision regarding appropriate dress will be final.

EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING

- Entrants are NOT permitted to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages while competing in this event. This includes from the start of an individual's warm-up session to the last ball thrown for score in qualifying and stepladder finals.
- Bowlers are permitted to eat a small snack (ex: Power Bars, candy bars, fruit) and drink non-alcoholic beverages during competition. All food or drink must be kept behind the settee during competition.
- In those instances where it is established that an athlete is in breach of this rule, he/she may be suspended from the tournament by the Tournament Director for that block of games and/or the remainder of the event.

DEAD-BALL SITUATIONS

- The tournament director must be called and will make all decisions regarding dead ball situations.

Bowling on the Wrong Lane

- Bowling on the wrong lane constitutes a potential dead ball situation, provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again.
- If a competitor rolls a strike on the wrong lane, he or she must bowl again on the correct lane.
- If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand, and he or she must shoot the spare on the same lane.

Bowling Out of Turn

- Bowling out of turn constitutes a dead-ball situation – USBC Rule 8d..

Dead Wood

- If a pin is in the channel, a competitor must consult the competitors on his or her pair to determine if it is in play. If any other competitor feels the pin is in play, it must be removed before a shot is thrown.
- If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play, and the ball contacts the dead wood before leaving the lane surface, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.
- If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play, and any pin after coming in contact with the dead wood knocks down one or more pins, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.

Missing Pins

- A competitor must re-bowl the frame if it is determined that any pins were missing from the rack at which he or she shot.

DELAYS AND MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS

- If a delay or mechanical breakdown of 10 minutes or longer occurs during competition, tournament management, at its discretion, may authorize warm-up ball(s) prior to the re-starting of competition. Timing will begin the moment the tournament director is notified of the breakdown.
- An alternate pair shall be used whenever possible when awarding warm-up in the event of a breakdown.
- If an alternate pair is not available, two (2) shots will be awarded on the lane opposite of where the competitor will throw his or her next shot for score.
- If a breakdown requires competitors to move to an alternate pair not previously used in the tournament, each competitor required to move will receive two (2) warm-up shots on each lane. Subsequent incoming bowlers will receive no warm-up shots.
- If pair is repaired, it will remain out of play for all squads unless a re-oil occurs. Pair may be brought back in to play if needed due to additional breakdowns.
- Bowlers are responsible to pace themselves accordingly with the pairs in front of them. No warm-up shots will be awarded for slow bowling.

LANE ASSIGNMENTS

- Lane assignments will be posted on bowl.com and in the venue.

LANE OIL PATTERN

- Patterns will be posted at the tournament venue, no later than the start of each official practice session.
- Will be Sport-compliant.

LANE COURTESY

- Bowlers will be separated by a dead pair of lanes at all times during competition. Therefore, lane courtesy has been established with the adjacent pairs. Bowlers must keep up the pace of play.

LOCKER ROOM

- Locker rooms are not available for the 2021 Team USA Trials. **All equipment must be removed from the venue each day following an athlete's squad.**

MOBILE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- The use of all mobile/electronic devices during competition will be prohibited. This includes cell phone, tablet, laptop, iPod and any electronic device of any kind. Penalties are per tournament.
 - o First offense - Device confiscated until end of round.
 - o Second offense - Device confiscated until end of round.
 - o Third offense - Player is removed from competition.

PERSONNEL IN THE BOWLERS' AREA

- The tournament director will define the bowlers' area prior to the start of competition.

Authorized Personnel

- Only tournament competitors, USBC staff and tournament volunteers are permitted in the bowlers' area during competition. Media personnel covering the event may be permitted into the bowlers' area on a case-by-case basis.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

- Official practice will consist of two, 90-minute sessions for each gender.
- Bowlers will be assigned practice session groups and pairings. Bowlers must practice with their assigned group and pairings.
- Each pairing of 5 bowlers will be assigned a pair of lanes on one of the five patterns. The pairing will be permitted 15 minutes of practice on the pattern. The pairing will then move to their next assigned pair of lanes and pattern. Bowlers will have 4 minutes to change pairs.
- All bowlers will change lanes together when the final pairing is ready to move.
- Each day bowlers will receive 7 minutes of warm-up on their second pair of lanes prior to the beginning of each qualifying round. They will then move to their starting pair of lanes, where they will receive 7 minutes of warm-up prior to beginning to bowl for score.
- US Amateur stepladder finalists will receive five minutes of warm-up on the stepladder lanes before each match and a warm-up pair of lanes will be provided for the top qualifiers during the first stepladder matches.

AWARDS, PRIZE MONEY AND SCHOLARSHIP

- The USBC Team USA Trials first place finisher for both Women and Men, based on ranking points after qualifying is complete, will have earned the right to represent the USA for the 2021 Qubica/AMF World Cup.
- Daily prize money or applicable scholarship will be awarded to the top 4 males and top 4 females based on total pins per each separate round. All scholarship money will be distributed to the athlete's SMART account per USBC rules. If the Athlete declines the money earned, the next person based on score for that round will earn for the daily prize money.
 - o 1st place- \$500

- 2nd place- \$350
- 3rd place- \$200
- 4th place- \$100
- Participants that have elected to receive an automatic deposit for any earnings and completed the EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) form will have their money deposited within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament according to the information provided on the completed EFT form.
- Those not electing to receive prize money via EFT will have their Prize checks mailed to them within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament to the address supplied at registration.
- If for any reason a bowler wishes to waive the prize money, it is the participant's responsibility to notify tournament staff in writing, at time of registration regarding their refusal of the prize money. If the prize money is waived, the amount will be returned to the prize fund for distribution.
- The only sums to which a participant will be entitled for bowling in this tournament are those prizes or awards which may be won by the participant in this tournament.
- The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 or more annually in any USBC event in which they participate. Therefore, Social Security numbers are required by IRS regulations.
- Failure to furnish a Social Security number to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
- If a bowler has a USBC youth membership they can still maintain their youth eligibility to participate in youth certified competition by signing a USBC prize waiver (available on-site). Tournament winnings will be deposited in the SMART scholarship program unless the player waives claim to his/her winnings. Collegiate bowlers should verify prize acceptance policies with their compliance offices prior to participating in the competition.

PROTESTS

- Protests concerning scoring accuracy must be filed with tournament management immediately.
- Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to the attention of the tournament director. An inspection will be made and then, if needed, corrections will be made. If complaint is determined to be unwarranted, the contestant must proceed to bowl or the games will be declared forfeited.

APPEALS

- Appeals of penalties or fines must be filed with the USBC Rules Department immediately upon receipt of notice.
- Decision of USBC Rules Department is final.
- If the appeal is denied, the competitor must pay all fines and/or serve the full term of the penalty prior to competing in any future event.

- A competitor who files an appeal may compete in other tournaments pending the outcome provided the appeal is in writing and includes all defenses or mitigating circumstances claimed

REFUND POLICY

- A refund will be given, less \$50 cancellation fee, if written notice is received by 45 days prior to the first day of qualifying.
- A refund will be given, less a \$100 cancellation fee, if written notice is received by four days prior to the first day of qualifying.
- No refund will be given if written notice is received after four days prior to the start of qualifying.
- No refund will be given to individuals who have been awarded spots as 2020 Team USA Members.

RE-RACKS

- Each bowler is allowed to take two re-racks per game during qualifying and match play.
- Additional re-racks may be granted with tournament management's permission.

SCORESHEET

- Verifying and signing the scoresheet (qualifying). Competitors are responsible for verifying and signing both their own score sheets as well as that of their competitor. Verification of information includes game scores, total pins, plus/minus totals and bowling balls used in competition. Penalty: \$25
- Documenting equipment on the scoresheet. Competitors must document each bowling ball used during the round on their scoresheet by the end of the first game the ball is put into play. Documentation of each bowling ball should include last four digits of the serial number.
- Damage to scoresheets. Competitors may not intentionally damage their scoresheets.
- Official scores. Once a competitor signs his or her scoresheet, he or she agrees that barring any necessary mathematical corrections, the score becomes official. USBC shall have one hour to make any mathematical corrections, but any other disputes that would result in the improvement of a competitor's score shall not be allowed.

SLOW PLAY

- Players shall be ready to bowl when it is their turn and shall not delay the start of their approach or delivery if the pair of lane immediately adjacent to them on both the right and left is clear. If a player does not observe the procedure outlined above, it may be construed as slow bowling. A player failing to observe these procedures shall be warned by an authorized tournament official as follows:
 - White card for the first offense (no penalty).
 - Blue card for the second offense (no penalty).

- Red card for the third and each succeeding offense in any block of games, the game is forfeited.
- To enforce this rule, the Tournament Director will monitor the participants to ensure that no pair(s) of lanes gets too far behind the group. Whenever there is any question concerning the enforcement of this rule, or lack thereof, the final decision shall be made by the Tournament Management Committee.

SPECTATORS/COACHES/MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVES

- Persons other than athletes are permitted in the building only as allowed by the Team Trials Best Practices.
- No coaching is allowed at any time during the competition.

START OF COMPETITION

- The definition of the “start of competition” is when any participant’s first ball is thrown for score during qualifying, match play and the stepladder finals.
- A bowler arriving late will begin play and his/her score will be counted only from the frame then being bowled. A player not present and ready to bowl when it is his/her turn will not be credited for any pins for the frames missed.

SQUAD REQUESTS

- Squad requests are not permitted.

SUBSTITUTES

- No substitutes will be permitted; however, pacers may be scheduled at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

TIEBREAKERS

Qualifying

- All ties will be broken by total pin fall. If bowlers are still tied and it is critical to break the tie, a one ball roll off will break the tie. The time and place of the roll off will be determined by the Tournament Committee.

Stepladder Finals

- If there is a tie among stepladder finalists that affects stepladder placement, all tied competitors will compete in a one-game roll-off. The competitor with the highest scratch total pins has choice of starting lane for the roll-off. If a tie exists for scratch total pins, a coin toss will be used to determine the starting lane.
- If the tie does not affect stepladder placement, but does affect which competitor chooses the starting lane for the match, then a one ball, sudden death roll-off will be used to break the tie. The competitor with the highest scratch total pins has choice of

starting lane for the roll-off. If a tie exists for scratch total pins, a coin toss will be used to determine the starting lane.

- If a match ends in a tie, competitors will compete in a one (1) ball sudden-death roll-off. The highest-seeded competitor shall determine the starting lane and position for the roll-off. The competitors shall bowl on the same lane, and then alternate lanes in the same bowling order, until the tie is broken.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

- Tournament management has the final authority to make interpretations of any tournament rules and make decisions regarding anything not covered in the rules.

TOURNAMENT ROSTER

- All efforts will be made to post the tournament roster on BOWL.com four weeks in advance of the tournament, with updates occurring on a weekly basis.

WEBPAGE

- All tournament information can be found at bowl.com.
- It is each bowler's responsibility to check the tournament webpage periodically for updated information.

WITHDRAWING AFTER THE TOURNAMENT HAS STARTED

- In order to withdraw before the start of the tournament, the competitor must notify the tournament director.
- Any competitor who wishes to withdraw while the tournament is in progress must notify the bowlers on his or her pair and then receive permission from the tournament director. Failure to comply will result in a Conduct Violation.

TERMINATION /RELEASE CLAUSE

To the Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress: I hereby make application to participate in this USBC championship event listed and tender the entry fees required therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC member. I agree to abide by all tournament playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. I specifically agree for myself and any replacement chosen by me or for me that if I am not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the event, then my prize, bowling, and expense fees shall be forfeited and all sums tendered by me as prize, bowling and expense fee may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrant whose name appears hereon or my authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when that entrant 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 resulting therefrom, fires, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. I further agree that USBC may use my name and likenesses

(including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to me and with no fees being paid to me. The entrant whose name appears on this application and/or authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the event, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.

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