

## 28. TEAMS CROSSING LANES/COMPANION TEAMS

Teams wishing to cross lanes (bowl together) must request to do so by registering online and selecting a cross team, or by registering together using the registration form. Entry forms sent in separately will be randomly scheduled.

## 29. OTHER RULES

- Teams and/or individuals arriving late shall begin play and the scores shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Entrant will receive a zero for all frames missed.
- In the event a team is unopposed on a pair of lanes, each frame shall be completed on one lane before the next frame is started on the adjoining lane.
- All USBC-certified tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.
- 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 Women's 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 Women's 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, 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 therefrom, 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. The entrants whose names appear on this application, and/or their authorized replacements, hereby agree that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the USBC Women's Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**www.BOWL.com/WomensChamp**  
**USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**621 Six Flags Drive**  
**Arlington, TX 76011**  
**800-514-BOWL**



# RULES & INFORMATION

**April 23 – July 9, 2017**  
USBC-CERTIFIED

**Raising Cane's River Center**  
275 River Rd. South • Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION • PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

**The USBC Women's Championships is USBC-certified.**  
**The game of American Tenpins will be played.**

**ENTRY CLOSE DATE**  
APRIL 22, 2017



## 1. AVERAGE-REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### Please read carefully!

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

- Highest average from either the 2015-2016 or 2014-2015 USBC winter or summer season, based on 21 or more games in a USBC-certified league OR the highest composite average of 21 games or more during the same period of time.
- Bowlers who do not have any of the averages listed above must enter with the higher of their current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games OR current composite average of 21 or more games in all current USBC leagues.
- Bowlers who do not meet any of the above requirements will be entered with a 220 average.
- When a bowler's highest current average of 21 or more games as of March 1, 2017 is 10 or more pins higher than any entering average, the March 1 average must be used.

**NOTE: For bowlers with a Sport average, to determine which average to use in items 1a, 1b or 1d:**

- Bowlers who have both a USBC SPORT LEAGUE average and a STANDARD average from the same season shall use the higher of their Sport average (unadjusted) and standard league average.
- Any bowler who has only a USBC SPORT average must use the adjusted Sport average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale.

## USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS PINK SHEET

Each entrant must report the following information on the USBC Women's Championships Pink Sheet, available on BOWL.com, under Women's Championships – Information:

- 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.
- 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:
  - 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.
  - The amount of the prize.
  - The actual score bowled to qualify for the prize.
  - The prize position
- 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 Diamond Division pending verification of average, which must be submitted by the bowler within 10 days of the end of the event.

## 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 bowling. Applications for relief of average (Rule 4e) must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters. Please see USBC Playing Rules for information regarding Rule 4e.

## 3. AVERAGES – ADJUSTMENTS

The average of a bowler may be adjusted upward before participation in any event. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded (USBC Rule 319c).

## 4. CLOSE OF ENTRIES/CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Entries into USBC Women's 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 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.
- 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 suitable attire. Use good judgment when selecting the appropriate attire. Examples of prohibited attire include but are not limited to:

- Hats (medical reasons only)
- Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, etc
- Workout attire, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls, jeans that are not neat, clean or in good condition (no torn jeans).

Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by

tournament management. Tournament management’s decision will be final.

For questions on appropriate attire, contact the USBC Women’s Championships tournament office – on-site or at USBC.

## PRIDE AWARD:

In order to reward teams dressed in a team uniform, USBC has created the Pride Award. To qualify for the award, all four members of a team must wear matching attire of the same color (no jeans of any color) when they bowl their team event.

## 6. DIVISION STRUCTURE

TEAM	AVERAGE
Diamond.....	725 and above
Ruby.....	650 thru 724
Emerald .....	575 thru 649
Sapphire.....	574 and below

DOUBLES	AVERAGE
Diamond .....	380 and above
Ruby .....	350 thru 379
Emerald .....	320 thru 349
Sapphire .....	290 thru 319
Amethyst .....	260 thru 289
Topaz .....	259 and below

SINGLES & ALL-EVENTS	AVERAGE
Diamond .....	190 and above
Ruby .....	175 thru 189
Emerald .....	160 thru 174
Sapphire .....	145 thru 159
Amethyst .....	130 thru 144
Topaz .....	129 and below

## 7. ELIGIBILITY / AGE

- Open to all female USBC members 16 years of age or older at time of participation (see Tournament Rule 20 – Parental Consent).
- All participants must be women and have a current USBC adult membership card.
- Captains must show a current USBC membership card for each bowler on the roster when registering for team event.
- If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site.

## 8. FOOD, DRINK & SMOKING

Tobacco products are NOT permitted while participating in the USBC Women’s Championships. Outside food will NOT be permitted in the Baton Rouge River Center. Hard candy, mints and gum are allowed. This includes from the start of practice to the last ball thrown for score in each event. This also applies between Doubles and Singles events.

- Bowlers with a medical condition who must eat more than what is mentioned above during competition should notify the tournament office prior to bowling.
- Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

## 9. RESERVATION CLOSING DATES

April 22, 2017

## 10. EQUIPMENT

The Manager on Duty will handle any questionable circumstances.

### USBC Women’s Championships: Bowling Balls

Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for her exclusive use. Each entrant will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) bowling balls. Bowling balls drilled to allow the bowler to grip the ball in different orientations will be

counted as multiple balls, one ball for each orientation (i.e. “Triangle” grip counts as 6 balls, “Wi-Fit grip counts as two balls, and two finger holes only counts as two 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 may be checked for compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications.

### 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. You are permitted to sand the surface of your bowling balls prior to certified competition; however, the use of abrasives is strictly 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 modifications can be made to affect the balance of the bowling ball once competition has begun (i.e. additional weight holes, modification of existing weight holes, etc.).

### 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

Also, no foreign substances 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.

## 11. ETIQUETTE

The use of an artificial device to listen to music or a broadcast is prohibited during competition. 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 or verbal abuse toward other persons.

## 12. FEES

- Entry fee is \$44 per event per bowler. All-events fee (optional) is \$8 per bowler. Total cost for team, doubles, singles and all-events per bowler is \$140.
- Entries for all-events will be accepted anytime prior to the start of practice before the bowler’s first event.
- Breakdown for team, doubles and singles: Prize fee: \$21, Expense fee \$23.
- Breakdown for all-events: Prize fee: \$6, Team USA contribution \$1, Expense fee \$1

## 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. FORMAT

- The tournament shall consist of a four-woman team event in four divisions and doubles, singles and all-events in six divisions.
- Three games will be bowled in each event. Team event will be bowled on the first day and Doubles/Singles will be bowled the next day.
- During the Doubles/Singles events, Doubles will be bowled first, then Singles,

in that order, without exception.

- Entrants may participate one time in the team, doubles and singles events. Entrants bowling Doubles automatically are entered in Singles, and entry fees for both must be paid.

## 15. FRIENDSHIP SQUAD– April 24, 2017

- The Friendship Squad is scheduled for April 24-25, 2017. Team event will be on 4/24/2017 at 4 p.m. Doubles/Singles will be on 4/25/2017 at noon. Bowlers who do not have a team, but wish to bowl team, doubles and singles in the USBC Women’s Championships, are invited to bowl this squad. Only entries of two bowlers will be accepted.
- Friendship Squad entry forms are available at BOWL.com/WomensChamp or call 800-514-2695.
- Friendship Squad entry deadline is Jan. 15, 2017. No more entries will be accepted after this date.

## 16. GAMBLING

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

## 17. LANE COURTESY

In an effort to keep squads on time, one-lane courtesy will be observed.

## 18. 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).

## 19. PACERS

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

## 20. PARENTAL CONSENT

Unmarried grade school and high school students (ages 16 and 17) 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 her parent or guardian, the consent form must be submitted prior to her participation. Failure to file the form will cause the player to be ineligible and subject games bowled to forfeiture or disqualification. The form is available on BOWL.com.

## 21. PRIZE CHECKS AND AWARDS

- 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 (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number (ITIN for non-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30 percent tax reduction of the prize check.
- Prize checks will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (USBC Rule 309) unless permission is granted to extend by USBC tournament certification. In the event a substitute will be used, a prize check will be issued in the name of the substitute.
- In the event of a tie in any event, prize money will be equally divided. In the event of a tie for first place, co-champions will be declared.
- All winners’ averages are subject to further verification by USBC tournament management.
- The optional all-events champion in each division will be determined by the highest nine-game total bowled in team (first appearance), doubles and singles, regardless of whether she paid the all-events fee. If the champion did not pay the all-events fee, she only will be entitled to the award - the

prize money will be awarded to the bowler who paid the all-events fee and bowled the highest all-events score in that division.

- Champions shall be declared by the highest total pins bowled in each division.
- All champions will receive an award.
- Prize check replacements issued within 90 days of tournament end date will require a \$25 handling fee. Prize check replacements after 90 days from the tournament end date will be assessed a \$50 handling fee.
- All previous-year prize checks must be cashed by July 31, 2018, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

## 22. PRIZE RATIOS

All prize money will be returned 100%.

Prize ratio will be at least:

TEAM: 1:5 Doubles/Singles: 1:5 All-Events: 1:10

## 23. PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS AND PAST CHAMPIONS

For the purpose of participation in the Women’s Championships, PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS are defined as:

- Any member having applied for 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. All professional bowlers and past champions of national PBA/PWBA events will be eligible to compete in the Women’s Championships, but only in the DIAMOND DIVISION, and they must follow these guidelines:
- Not more than ONE bowler per team or doubles team, under the age of 60, who has won a PBA or PWBA national event (regardless of professional status at the time of the event); or won the USBC Queens or U.S. Women’s Open from 2003-2014. OR
- Not more than ONE bowlers identified as professionals (see description of professional above) per team. AND
- Not more than ONE bowler identified as a professional (see description of professional above) per doubles team.
- Each such player shall be eligible to enter SINGLES and ALL-EVENTS (only in the Diamond Division)
- Professionals and past champions are eligible for daily and yearlong brackets products. They also are eligible for any age-based products for which they qualify.

## 24. SLOW BOWLING

USBC has allotted two-and-a-half hours for team event and three-and-a-half hours for doubles and singles. Teams are expected to complete their competition within these time frames. If not, teams may be scheduled on later squads in future USBC Women’s Championships.

## 25. SPECIAL NEEDS BOWLERS

Bowlers requiring aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc, or who are blind, must report this in writing when form is filed so special 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. Any bowler requesting a dress code exception must do so in writing and have a written doctor’s excuse.

## 26. SQUAD

- Team event: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Doubles & Singles: 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
- Note: Squad times listed are “BOWLING FOR SCORE” times.

## 27. SUBSTITUTES

- No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered or such replacements authorized by the team captain or his appointee.
- Any bowler replaced once competition has begun must use the higher of the two averages.