



2016 U.S. Open Rules

The 2016 U.S. Open is USBC certified. The game of American Ten Pins will be played. This is a singles, scratch tournament with qualifying rounds and round robin match play.

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.
- Any ball on the USBC approved list (posted on BOWL.com) may be used.

Powder

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

Rosin

- Once competition begins, the outer surface of the ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel.

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.

Use of Abrasives on Ball Surface or Other Modification

- Once warm-up begins prior to your competition, no abrasives, cleaners or polishes may be used on your equipment. They may, however, be used between sessions. In addition all sanding products must be removed from the players area (i.e. Abralon, sand paper, etc.).
- Once your first warm-up session begins, no alterations affecting the weight or balance of your ball may be made.
 - Penalty: \$250 plus the following: If the ball is not thrown it will be removed from competition. If the ball is thrown the player will be disqualified (including the warm-up session)

Bowling Ball Registration for balls used in competition:

Bowlers will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) bowling balls on the Bowler's Equipment Registration Form. Only these eight balls are permitted in the center or in the locker room during competition. **No changes to the form are permitted once roll call begins. Adjustments to the form are only permitted as described below.**

- All ball cards for all tournament entrants are due to tournament staff by A Squad roll call on Friday morning, no exceptions.
- After the cut to Match Play you may adjust your Equipment Registration Form while maintaining an eight (8) ball maximum.

- After the cut to the TV stepladder finals you may adjust your Equipment Registration Form while maintaining an eight (8) ball maximum.
 - Penalties:
 - If not turned in prior to roll call; \$250 fine.
 - If not turned in prior to warm-up session prior to your starting squad; Disqualification

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:

1. A bowling ball with a “Triangle” grip will count as six balls.
2. 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

Damaged Equipment

- In the event a player’s bowling ball is damaged during tournament play in such a fashion that it will not meet USBC specifications, the player must notify the Tournament Director and the ball must be taken out of play immediately. Tournament staff will determine if the participant can replace the ball on the ball card or if it can be repaired.

COMPETITOR GUESTS

- Each competitor is allowed their spouse, school age children under 18, parents and one additional guest during the practice session, pro-am and all qualifying rounds. In match play each competitor is allowed the aforementioned and one additional guest. Guests for competitors for any televised portion of the event will be handled by the tournament director.

CONDUCT

- All tournament bowlers shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times while in the host center or on the property of the host center and on social media before during and after the event. Any criticism by a tournament bowler who discusses the sponsor, host center or personnel, lane conditions or pins, USBC or its staff, or their fellow competitors in an unfavorable manner, or who otherwise engages in actions unbecoming a USBC bowler in the opinion of the Tournament Director shall be in violation of the Code of Conduct.
- Electronic Media. The USBC regards electronic media such as message boards, conversation pages and other forms of social networking (such as Facebook and Twitter) as important tools of communication and fan interaction. Tournament participants may not use these platforms to defame or otherwise attack the integrity of the USBC, its members, staff, sponsors, host center or host center employees.

- Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical and verbal abuse toward another person.
- Anyone found to be in violation of the Code of Conduct will be fined and may be refused entry to the event or disqualified from the competition in which the violation occurred and/or declared ineligible for future competitions.
- First offense: \$250; Second offense: \$500; Third offense; \$1,000

DRESS CODE

Requirements

- A collared shirt with the participant's name on the back must be worn during every round of competition. Mock turtlenecks or bowling jerseys without collars are allowed.
- Lettering must be at least two inches in height and contrasting color to your shirt color.
- Names on detachable name plaques are not acceptable.
- 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 they are standing and their arms are hanging down at their side. No exceptions.

Logos

- Small fashion logos are permitted on apparel during USBC competition as long as they do not exceed nine square inches. Logos are defined as any lettering and or any illustration promoting a company, product and service or membership organization. Pro shop logos are permitted as long as they do not exceed nine square inches.

Exception: If there is a televised portion of the event and that portion is produced by PBA then PBA logo rules will apply to the televised portion of the tournament.

Examples of prohibited attire include but are not limited to

- Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, hats (medical reason only), etc.
- Workout attire, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls, t-shirts.
- Cords, jeans, or any kind of denim.

Practice Session & Sweepers

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

Stepladder Finals

- Name on back of participant's shirts must be embroidered or sewn if the event is televised. Detachable name plaques are not acceptable.

Penalty

- Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management.
- Tournament management has the authority to fine a bowler \$50 for each offense.
- Tournament management's decision will be final.

EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING

- Entrants are NOT permitted to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages while participating in this event. This includes from the start of practice to the last ball thrown for score in qualifying, match play and finals.
- Bowlers are permitted to eat a small snack (ex: power bars, candy bars, fruit) during competition.

ELIGIBILITY

- All participants must be current USBC members with a minimum average of 180.
- If current membership cannot be verified, USBC associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site at a cost of \$21.00 USD.

- 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 members must be in good standing with the PBA.
- Participants that have not reached their 18th birthday by the first official day of competition must have a USBC Parental Consent Form (available on BOWL.com) on file with tournament management prior to the first day of competition.
- Participants that have not reached their 16th birthday by the first official day of competition must be a current member of Junior Team USA or you can petition tournament management for acceptance into the tournament. The petition must be submitted in writing to tournament management 30 days prior to the start of the tournament. Bowlers entering under these conditions must alert tournament staff upon submitting their entry.
- Youth Eligibility: 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 her winnings. Collegiate bowlers should verify prize acceptance policies with their Compliance Offices prior to participating in the competition.

ENTRY DEADLINE

- All entries will close 48 hours prior to the first official event of the tournament (official practice, pro-am, etc.) OR when the tournament field is full whichever occurs first.

FEES

- \$25 processing fee for all entries not done online.
- Prize ratio will be at least 1 for every 4 entrants.
- See “refund policy” for additional information.

FORMAT (see “qualifying”, “match play” and “stepladder finals”)

LANE OIL PATTERN

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

LOCKER ROOM

- Access to the Locker Room – Only tournament bowlers, USBC staff members and approved ball company representatives are permitted to enter the locker room and use all equipment. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Ball Limit in Locker Room – Only bowling balls designated on a player’s Equipment Registration Form for the current round of competition will be permitted in the locker room at any time. Ball limit restrictions will be enforced by the Tournament Director.
- Security – The locker room will be locked one (1) hour after the end of competition each day and opened one (1) hour prior to the start of each day's competition.

MATCH PLAY

- Bowlers making the 24-person match play field will bowl 24 one game matches.
- Each bowler will bowl every other bowler in the field once with the final match being a position round (i.e. First place bowls second, third bowls fourth etc...)
- The winner of each match will receive 30 bonus pins in addition to their pin-fall for the game.
- This pin-fall is added to their total from qualifying and a running total shall be kept.

- At the conclusion of Match-Play, the top 5 bowlers according to pin-fall will be seeded into a step-ladder finals.

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.
 - 1st offense - \$250 and device confiscated until end of round.
 - 2nd offense - \$500 and device confiscated until end of round.
 - 3rd offense - \$1,000 and the player is removed from competition.

PERSONNEL IN THE BOWLERS' AREA

- The Tournament Director will define the bowler's area prior to the start of competition. Authorized Personnel.
 - Only tournament competitors, USBC staff and tournament volunteers are permitted in the bowler's area during competition. Media personnel covering the event may be permitted into the bowlers' area on a case-by-case basis.

Ball Manufacturer Representatives (Ball Reps)

- Bowling ball manufacturer representatives (Ball Reps) may remain in the bowler's area during official practice sessions and warm-up sessions only and must leave the bowler's settee area when the warm-up session is complete. Ball Reps must be in business casual attire at all times in the bowler's area.

Incoming Squads.

- Competitors on incoming squads may not enter the bowler's area until both their starting and adjacent pairs are finished. Penalties will be assessed per tournament.
 - PENALTY: 1st Offense – Warning. Subsequent Offenses, Conduct Violation - \$100

PRACTICE SESSIONS

- Official practice sessions will be available to all bowlers. Dates and times of the practice sessions will be posted on the official tournament webpage under “schedule”.
- There are no lane assignments for the practice sessions. Bowlers are free to move around the venue.
- Tournament dress code applies to the practice session.
- A minimum of 10 minutes of practice will also be available to each bowler prior to each qualifying round and match play round.

PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS

- Bowlers who earn prize money in this event will be paid by check.
- 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 (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number-ITIN (Non US citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
- Prize checks are distributed at the tournament. Prize checks that are not distributed will be mailed to participants within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament to the address supplied at registration.

- 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.

PRO-AM

- All players must be available to participate in at least one Pro-Am as needed.
- Failure to participate in an assigned Pro-Am squad may result in a fine or disqualification from tournament.

PROTESTS

- Protests concerning scoring accuracy must be filed with tournament management immediately.
- Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to 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.

QUALIFYING

- Each entrant will bowl three blocks of eight games each. Each bowler's 24-game total will be used to determine qualifiers for the fourth round of qualifying. After eight more games of qualifying, total pin-fall will be used to determine the top 24 bowlers.
- The top 24 bowlers will advance to round robin match play.
- A bowler arriving late will begin play and his/her score will count beginning with the frame then being bowled.

REFUND POLICY

- A refund will be given, less \$50 cancellation fee, to a bowler who withdraws prior to the start of the official practice session.

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 Score Sheet (Qualifying). Competitors are responsible for verifying and signing both their own score sheet as well as that of their competitor. Verification of information includes game scores, total pin, plus / minus totals and bowling balls used in competition. Penalty: \$25
- Verifying and Signing the Score Sheet (Match Play). Verify and initial the opponent's score sheet immediately following each match.
- Documenting Equipment on the Score Sheet. Competitors must document each bowling ball used during the round on their score sheet 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 Score Sheets. Competitors may not intentionally damage their score sheets. Penalty: \$25
- Official Scores. Once a competitor signs his or her score sheet, he or she agrees that, barring any necessary mathematical corrections, the score becomes official. The 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.

SQUADS

- 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. Squad assignments will be posted on the official tournament webpage no later than seven days prior to the first day of qualifying. It is the bowler's responsibility to verify what squad they are on before the start of competition.
- Squad requests will no longer be taken once the squad roster has been posted. If you still wish to change squads you must find someone on the opposite squad willing to change with you. Both parties must then notify the tournament director.
- If a bowler is late for her squad, she will receive zero for each frame that she has missed. Bowlers who are late for an earlier squad will not be moved to a later squad except for special circumstances.
- Tournament management reserves the right to change the number of qualifying squads in the tournament as late as seven days prior to the first day of qualifying, based on entries.

SLOW PLAY

- A competitor shall have twenty-five (25) seconds to start his or her delivery, once the lane courtesy requirement has been satisfied. Slow bowling penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the tournament director. Penalties will be assessed per tournament:
PENALTY: 1st Offense – Warning; Subsequent offenses - \$100
 - Double Jumping: Competitors must observe one pair lane courtesy at all times. Double jumping occurs following a delivery when a competitor on the same pair delivers his or her ball before one competitor from the pair to the right and one competitor from the pair to the left have made a delivery, unless those competitors are not ready to bowl. Competitors may not "Double Jump."

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.

STEPLADDER FINALS

- The stepladder finals will be a single-elimination format.
- Positions are determined by seed according to final pin-fall total including bonus pins after round robin match-play:
- Positions #5 and #4 will bowl a one-game match, that winner will bowl against #3 and so on until all bowlers have bowled.

TIEBREAKERS

Qualifying

- If there is a tie for the final position into a Cut (non-match play) Round or needed to complete the field for match play, one complete game shall be bowled on a neutral pair selected by the tournament director following the final block of qualifying. Bowler with the highest qualifying block chooses the starting lane, and the bowler on the odd lane will start. Bowlers shall have 10 minutes of practice. If a tie still exists at the end of the game a one ball roll-off will be bowled on the same pair of lanes to break the tie, with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.

- In the event of a tie for any other position, the bowler with the high eight-game qualifying block will be placed in the higher position. Should both bowlers have the same score for their high block, the second-highest eight-game qualifying block will be used, and so on. If bowlers should have the same individual block totals, the high single qualifying game will be used, and so on down until the tie is broken.
- Roll-Off Deadline. Any competitor scheduled for a roll-off who is not in the host center within thirty (30) minutes of the announcement of the tie, will be disqualified from the roll-off

Match Play

- If a match ends in a tie, each bowler will be awarded 15 bonus pins.

Stepladder Finals

- If there is a tie among stepladder finalists that affects stepladder placement, all tied competitors will compete in a one (1) 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, a one ball roll-off will be used to break the tie, with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.

TOURNAMENT ROLL CALL

- Roll will be called thirty (30) minutes prior to the first round of competition in all USBC events. Roll will be called thirty (30) minutes prior to the first round of match play competition. Additional roll calls may be scheduled as necessary at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Players are considered tardy if they do not acknowledge their name during roll call. This is mandatory. Penalty is \$25.

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.

WARM-UP SHOTS IN THE EVENT OF A MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN

- The Tournament Director will make all decisions regarding the awarding of warm-up shots in the event of a mechanical breakdown of ten (10) minutes or more. 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.
 - Upon restart, competitors may receive up to two (2) shots on the lane opposite that where he/she will throw their next ball for score at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
 - If an alternate pair is not available, two (2) shots will be awarded on the lane opposite that where the competitor will throw his or her next shot for score.

Use of the Alternate Pair in the Event of Breakdown.

- 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.

- Bowlers are responsible to pace themselves accordingly with the pairs in front of them. No warm-up shots will be awarded for slow bowling.

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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