



RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Team Requirements

Submitting the entry forms and accepting the berths to the USA Bowling National Championships means that all coaches and athletes agree to abide by all event and competition rules and policies. Each athlete and coach must sign and submit to the event manager a Rules Declaration Form. Any event and/or competition violation could result in disqualification.

Team Uniforms and Use of Advertisement and/or Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel

The official uniform must be loose-fitting and not made of denim, fleece, nylon or spandex-like material. No jeans, warm-up suits or hats of any kind are permitted. All athletes require a neat appearance in clothing. Team uniforms and use of advertising/logos on equipment, uniforms and apparel for the USA Bowling National Championships must adhere to the following:

1. Team Shirts – IBC Youth will provide athlete and coach jerseys that must be worn during tournament competition. This uniform must remain unaltered, including patches, for the duration of the event.
2. Logos – No additional logos may be worn on the participant uniform. The uniform must remain unaltered, including patches, for the duration of the event.
3. Women's Apparel – Female athletes are required to wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts must be no shorter than one-half the distance from the inseam to the top of the knee in length and/or no shorter than the fingertips when arms are at their sides while standing. Each athlete must wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts similar in color and the same in print or design. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles). Mixing of team apparel (skorts and skirts) is not permitted.
4. Men's Apparel – Male athletes are required to wear slacks. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles). Each athlete must wear slacks similar in color and the same in print or design.
5. Television – Any team making the television finals will be required to wear the uniform provided by IBC Youth. This uniform must remain unaltered, including patches, for the duration of the television taping.

Athletes must comply with these rules at all practice sessions and competitions. The tournament director will enforce these guidelines and questionable apparel must be referred to the tournament director for approval before it is worn. Bring alternative team uniforms that follow the dress code in case approval is denied.

Penalty – Failure to comply with any dress code will result in a verbal warning and apparel change (if applicable). Second offense will result in a verbal warning, apparel change (if applicable), and/or possible disqualification for that block and following blocks until rectified.

Coaches' Attire and Use of Advertisement and/or Logos on Apparel

Coaches' attire and use of advertising/logos on apparel for the USA Bowling National Championships must adhere to the following:

1. Coaches must wear appropriate attire during all practice sessions and competitions. Apparel must fall under the following guidelines. The tournament director will enforce these guidelines. Penalty – Failure to comply with this rule will result in a verbal warning and apparel change (if applicable). Second offense will result in a verbal warning, apparel change (if applicable), and/or possible ejection from coaching that block and following blocks until rectified.
2. Coaches' apparel must be loose-fitting and not made of denim, fleece, spandex-like material. Sweatshirts are not permitted. No jeans, cargo pants or slacks with drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles) are allowed. No T-shirts or hats of any kind are permitted. Women choosing to wear skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts must make sure they are no shorter than one-half the distance from the inseam to the top of the knee in length and/or no shorter than the fingertips when arms are at their sides while standing. A neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming is required by all coaches.
3. Advertising and Logos – No additional logos may be worn on the coaches uniform. The uniform must remain unaltered, including patches, for the duration of the event.

Practice

There will be a 10-minute practice session prior to all blocks of competition. Bowlers not present forfeit their time. Substitutes will receive no additional practice balls before entering competition. Tournament participants are not permitted to practice at the bowling center hosting the USA Bowling National Championships on days scheduled for competition, except during designated practice sessions. Violators will be disqualified from tournament play.

Re-Racks

Each team is allowed a total of one re-rack per Baker game. Violations will result in a forfeit of all pinfall for that frame. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

Team Score and Record Verification

Coaches or team representatives are responsible for verification of their team's score and record. Any corrections must be made prior to signing the recap.

Awards

USA Bowling National Championship awards will be issued for the first, second and third place in each division. There will be a third-place award presented to the bracket runners-up in each division.

Coach Designation

Each team will be allowed to designate two coaches per team. The coach listed on the official entry form will be the official representative of the team for all matters and will receive all applicable event amenities. The assistant coach's name must be provided to the tournament officials during team registration. During competition, only the two designated coaches and the designated athletes will be allowed in the settee area. The two designated coaches for each team must be in compliance with the United States Bowling Congress Athlete Safety Program and Registered Volunteer Program.

Equipment Alterations

Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners, or polish is prohibited during competition, including the warm-up session. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. The outer surface of the ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition. Competition is defined as any time teams are bowling for score. No modifications can be made to affect the balance of the bowling ball.

Penalty for first offense: Individual and team are warned, and the ball is removed from that competition (qualifying block or match).

Penalty for second offense: Forfeiture of game in which the violation occurred.

Lane Courtesy

To maintain a consistent pace of bowling, it is proper etiquette to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the tournament manager. Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition on time. Official team warnings will be issued by tournament management directly to the designated coach.

First offense: Team receives a warning.

Second offense: Team will receive a score of zero for all remaining frames in the game.

Third offense: Team is removed from the event.

Tournament Format

Each division will begin competition bowling 15 Baker-format matches. The match-play record after 15 games will determine the 1–16 rankings going into the double-elimination competition. The number of matches may be reduced if the total number of teams in a division is less than 16.

All 16 teams in each division will participate in the true double-elimination competition within the assigned 8-team bracket, consisting of a best two-out-of-three baker system match. Bracket assignments will be determined by qualifying scores. #1 will bowl #16, #2 will bowl #15, #3 will bowl #14, #4 will bowl #13, #5 will bowl #12, #6 will bowl #11, #7 will bowl #10 and #8 will bowl #9 in the opening round of match play. From the second round on, the winning teams of each match will remain in the winner bracket and the losing teams will move into the non-winner bracket. In order for a team in the non-winner bracket to advance in the tournament, they must keep winning. Once a team in the non-winner bracket incurs a second loss, that team is eliminated from the tournament.

The USA Bowling National Championship televised finals format will be a single-elimination best three-out-of-five Baker match between the two bracket champions in each division. Teams that are participating in the finals will be allowed unlimited practice on a designated pair of lanes prior to the match. After the TV introductions of the teams, the starting four athletes will receive one practice shot on their starting lane.

Entry Forms

The USA Bowling National Championship entry form accepting the team's berth must be signed and returned to IBC Youth by May 1. There are no entry fees to the USA Bowling National Championships.

Team Lineup

Teams must submit a team lineup and playing order prior to each Baker match-play game. The lower-seeded team will submit the team lineup and playing order on the scoresheet first. If a lineup is not recorded prior to the start of the game, the four athletes rolling the first four frames will constitute the lineup for that game. Any team making an illegal lineup change or bowling out of turn during a Baker game will forfeit all pin count for the frames in which the violation occurred. A lineup change made between Baker games does not prohibit the team from using the extra player during the following game as a substitute.

Match Play Lane Selection

The top-seeded team will select the starting lane for each match and/or roll-off. The teams will switch lanes for each game in the match.

Ties

Seeding: In the event there is a tie for any position at the completion of qualifying, the team with the highest pin total for all 15 Baker games will be assigned the higher seed. If the 15-game total is a tie, the highest Baker game for all 15 games will be used. If the high game is a tie, each subsequent high game will be used until the tie is broken.

Match play: If a tie exists at the end of any three-game match, there will be a seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th frame roll-off to break the tie. The players who roll the seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th frames may be selected from the entire team. If a tie still exists, the same players will continue rolling seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th frames alternating lanes until the tie is resolved.

Use of an Ineligible Athlete

The use of an ineligible player at USA Bowling National Championships will result in the team being disqualified from the event.

Bowling Equipment Regulations

1. The USA Bowling National Championships will not conduct an equipment weigh-in. An athlete will be required to register all bowling balls (up to a maximum of five bowling balls) with the event. Only balls listed on the Equipment Registration Card may be used in competition. Each bowling ball can only be registered once with the event and only used by the athlete who registered it. All balls must be registered prior to beginning the official practice session. The event management team will handle emergency situations on a case-by-case basis.
2. Athletes are limited to use of a maximum of five (5) bowling balls in the tournament, including practice and competition. No additional balls may be added once the ball card is submitted to the tournament manager. Each bowling ball registered must contain official manufacturer identifying mark, logo, and trademark or product name imprinted over the heaviest portion of the ball prior to being drilled. If your equipment does not have any of these identifying markings, you must have the bowling ball's official paperwork. The paperwork must say the manufacturer, name of bowling ball, verification that it meets USBC specifications and signed by the manufacturer with their title and telephone number. If you are unable to acquire the official paperwork, you will not be able to use that bowling ball in the tournament. An athlete or team cannot register undrilled equipment.
3. Changes to equipment may be made between blocks, provided the bowling ball meets USBC specifications. All alterations must be done by a USBC approved pro shop or in the paddock area of the host bowling center.
4. Tournament staff may conduct spot checks in order to verify the bowling balls being used in competition are listed on the Equipment Registration Card. In the event a bowling ball is found not to meet USBC specifications after competition has begun, the ball will not be permitted in competition until it has been modified and meets the specifications.
5. Any athlete or team not following these rules may be disqualified from the event at the event management's discretion. Event management shall determine all matters not covered.

Event Termination/Release Clause

To the Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress: We hereby make application to participate in the USA Bowling National Championships. We warrant that we are USBC Youth members. We agree to abide by all tournament and playing rules and regulations prescribed by IBC Youth, including all provisions set forth on this form. IBC Youth may cancel the USA Bowling National Championships in the event of acts of God, war, government regulations, disaster, fire, strikes, civil disorders, weather catastrophes, labor disputes and strike, threats of terrorism or terrorism, and travel advisories. In the event of cancellation, IBC Youth will not be responsible for participant expenses. 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 authorized replacements hereby agree that IBC Youth, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the USA Bowling National Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of IBC Youth.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Philosophy

IBC Youth Bowling, Inc., provides bowling opportunities to enhance athletic and personal development. Given this perspective, IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. accepts responsibility to provide a competitive environment that stands for the highest ideals in competition, character, ethics and sportsmanship.

Participation in a certified bowling program is considered a privilege. Athletes and coaches are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity and respect for others as well as abide by all applicable rules, policies, regulations and laws. These include federal and state regulations and laws, city ordinances, USBC rules and policies, and the athlete's team rules and policies. Athletes and coaches, as representatives of the bowling community, are among the most visible players in the industry. Because of America's fascination with sports and those who play, a unique platform exists to be a role model, mentor or spokesperson. IBC Youth Bowling, Inc., the bowling industry and your community benefit from this exposure. However, this platform brings with it a set of privileges and responsibilities both on and off the lanes.

To this end, IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. has adopted a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations for all tournament coaches and bowlers in accordance with basic policies set by USBC. The code does not constitute an exhaustive list of punishable misconduct but rather prescribes standards to guide individual choices. Athletes and coaches who violate these standards will be subject to disciplinary action by IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. in order to promote their own personal development and to protect and maintain order and stability.

The following policies are in effect during activities associated with any USA Bowling event:

Alcohol Policy

Athletes and coaches are expected to abstain from the possession, use or distribution of alcoholic beverages. Athletes and coaches participating in any event conducted by IBC Youth are prohibited from consuming and/or possessing alcohol at the host bowling center.

Illegal Drug Policy

The possession, use or distribution of illegal and/or performance enhancing drugs is strictly prohibited at all times. IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. firmly believes the possession, use or distribution of illegal and/or performance enhancing drugs can be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of athletes, teammates, and coaches. The use of drugs can seriously interfere with the performance of individuals as athletes and can be extremely dangerous to the athlete, coach, and teammates.

Tobacco Policy

IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. does not condone the use of tobacco, including the use of smokeless tobacco. IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. firmly believes the use of tobacco products can be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of athletes and coaches. The negative effects of tobacco abuse are well documented. IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. strongly encourages all athletes and coaches to completely abstain from the use of tobacco products. Coaches and athletes are prohibited from using tobacco products during all practice, competition and related events, whether they are competing, and/or while in team uniform at any time.

Sportsmanship Policy

One of the primary objectives of competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, coaches, game officials and spectators. Participants and coaches should recognize their responsibility for proper conduct at all USA Bowling events. Coaches and/or athletes should recognize and assume responsibility for the actions of themselves and their team members.

Coaches and athletes are ambassadors of bowling and enjoy certain privileges of such status. They also bear the responsibility of behaving with dignity and sportsmanship. Coaches and athletes shall conduct themselves at all times reflecting the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive sports. Coaches and athletes shall conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on the reputation of themselves, their communities, the USA Bowling National Championships and IBC Youth Bowling, Inc.

Officials, coaches, participants and spectators shall act in the highest ideals of sportsmanship at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes actions which are unbecoming to an ethical, fair and honorable individual. It consists of, but is not limited to, acts of deceit, disrespect, vulgarity, verbal or physical abuse and taunting or unseemly celebrations. Officials, coaches, participants, parents and spectators should keep in mind that actions which are done in a manner to disconcert or be derogatory toward the opposing team(s) or a specific opponent or individual is considered inappropriate. While intense and emotional game action and conduct are certainly a responsible part of sports contests, cheering and other support should always be positive in nature.

Violations of Code of Conduct

It is the personal responsibility of all athletes and coaches to adhere to all applicable rules, policies, regulations and laws concerning the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and sportsmanship at all events conducted by IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse. Athletes are expected to know the rules to protect their eligibility, the eligibility of their teammates and that of the community they represent. Athletes and/or teams who are found responsible for behavior that violates any of these policies may be subject to disciplinary action by IBC Youth Bowling, Inc.

Violations of the Code of Conduct by an athlete, team, and/or coach may result in immediate disqualification of the individual and/or team from the event in which the violation occurred. Any disqualification from an IBC Youth recognized event will be reviewed by USBC.

All persons involved in IBC Youth events must continue their efforts to facilitate its growth in a positive way, which includes the development of young athletes, better coaching and officiating with a continuing emphasis on good sportsmanship by athletes, coaches and spectators. IBC Youth Bowling, Inc. will continue its responsibility to provide a competitive environment that stands for the highest ideals in competition, character, ethics and sportsmanship. We will do this by continuous review, development and enforcement of conduct standards, rules and policies in the best interest of the overall sport, each program and competition.