

CLOSER LOOK

## COMBINE FOR SUCCESS

Program brings together college coaches, youth bowlers

**WHEN THE TEAM** USA staff put together the first Bowling Combine™ for College Prospects in 2011, the 72 available spots filled quickly. Young bowlers from 20 states had the chance to be part of a unique evaluation process at the International Training and Research Center and also had the opportunity to talk to college coaches about what it takes to compete at the collegiate level.

The positive response resulted in 225 student-athletes submitting applications for the 2012 Bowling Combine. The 96 bowlers selected to attend each had strong academic credentials in addition to solid on-lane accomplishments. The bowling/grade-point averages were 210/3.26 for the boys' field and 191/3.71 for the girls.

The third edition of the Bowling Combine will take place Aug. 6-10 in Arlington, Texas, and is expected to draw another strong field.

"Three weeks after we announced the 2013 dates, we had almost 100 applications," Team USA head coach Rod Ross said. "College coaches are hard-pressed to find an event where they not only can watch and talk to talented young bowlers, but also get an objective breakdown of each bowler."

The boys' evaluations will take place Aug. 6-8, and the girls will run from Aug. 8-10. There is no charge for coaches to attend, but they must



Players are tested on more than just bowling skills at the Bowling Combine™.

register for the event at [BOWL.com/Combine](http://BOWL.com/Combine).

The youth bowlers who attend the Bowling Combine want to compete at the collegiate level, and early results show attendees are reaching that goal. From the 2011 Bowling Combine class, 56% of the graduated field has made a college roster and that number should grow. Because the Bowling Combine includes high school juniors, several participants are now just completing high school.

For those not familiar with the program, the Bowling Combine was developed to

give coaches and players an objective look at a player's true skill level. Individual league averages can be skewed because of so many variables, but the Bowling Combine uses the state-of-the-art tools at the ITRC to evaluate an individual's skills. Players also are tested on their overall athleticism, and the IT Factor helps evaluate bowling IQ, personality and problem-solving skills.

The evaluation produces a Performance Evaluation Test (P.E.T.) score for each participant.

"Because it is an objective analysis, we have the ability to compare all participants who have been through the evaluation process," Ross said. "Players can be compared to past Bowling Combine participants and even current and former Team USA members."

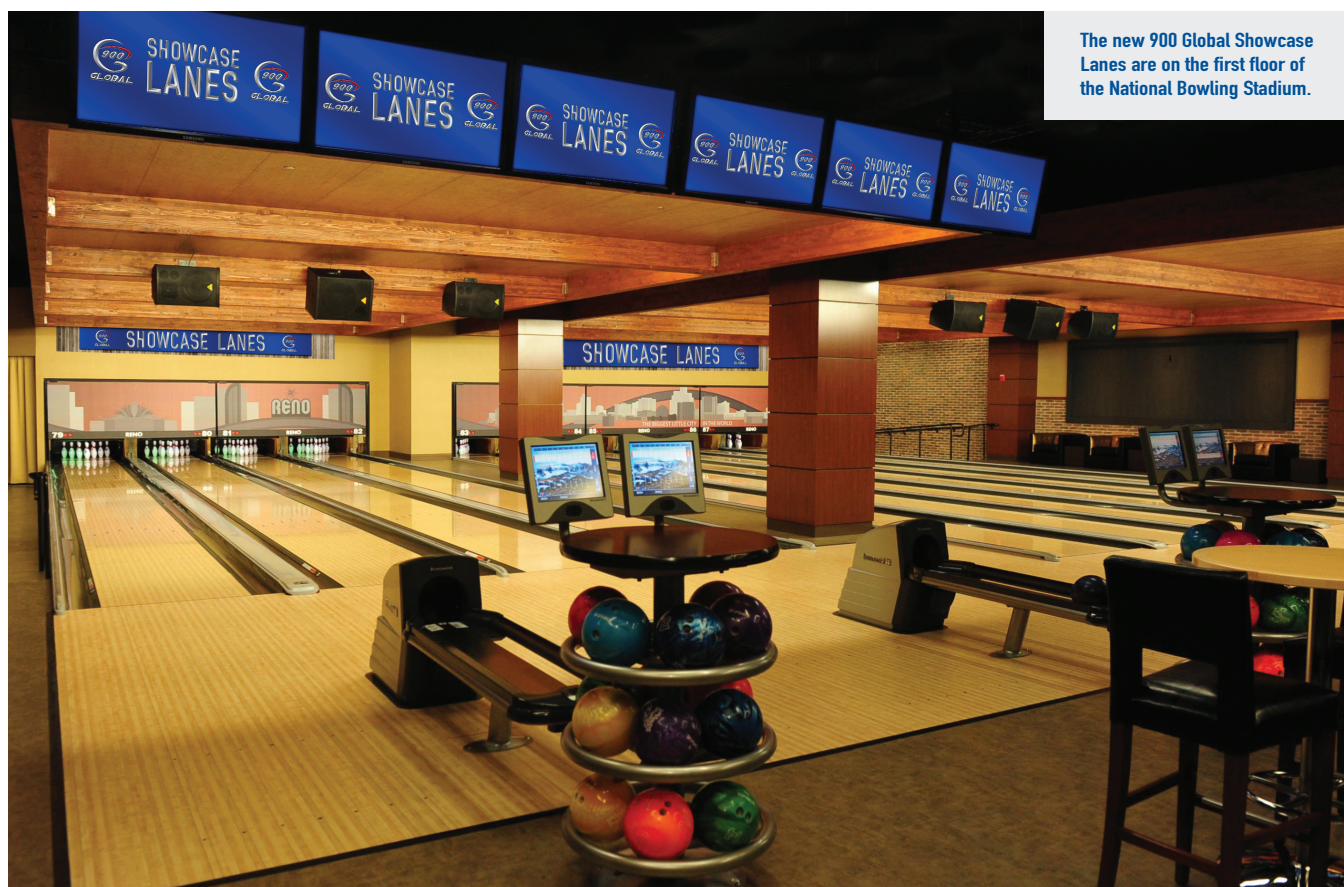
Go to [BOWL.com/Combine](http://BOWL.com/Combine) for more details, including registration for coaches. Players have until May 12 to submit an application.

### 2013 BOWLING COMBINE™

**August 6-10**  
**International Training & Research Center**  
**Arlington, Texas**

Coaches: Free to attend but must register  
Players: Must submit application by May 12  
Go to **[BOWL.com/Combine](http://BOWL.com/Combine)** for more information





The new 900 Global Showcase Lanes are on the first floor of the National Bowling Stadium.

## USBC CHAMPIONSHIPS

# CENTER OF ATTENTION

**WHILE IT MIGHT** not be a *This Old House* makeover, when bowlers walk into the National Bowling Stadium and see the new 900 Global Showcase Lanes, there definitely is a “wow” factor.

USBC started the Showcase Lanes concept at the 2012 Open Championships in Baton Rouge, La., to give bowlers the chance to prepare for competition by offering coaching and practice sessions. The lanes proved to be popular and this

year in Reno, Nev., they are bigger and better.

As part of the first phase of a \$15 million renovation and upgrade to the NBS, 10 lanes were built on the first floor. Bowlers competing at the 2013 Open Championships during the first few months have had the chance to break in the new 900 Global Showcase Lanes.

“I come from a small town, and it gives you that small-town bowling atmosphere,” said

David Engelhardt of Ringling, Okla. “I like it. It gives you an extra spot to come to and practice, and it looks good.”

Open and Women’s Championships bowlers not only can book practice time on the Showcase Lanes, but they can schedule a coaching session or try their hand at the two new side events taking place on the lanes.

USBC Silver coach Matt McNiell, a three-time Open

Championships titlist, is manning the lanes, providing his insight to help interested bowlers gain an edge. The Showcase Lanes feature the oil pattern being used for the team competition at the Open Championships.

“The Showcase Lanes are the closest you can get to the real thing as far as the team pattern is considered,” said McNiell, who has averaged more than 250 over his last



three Open Championships appearances. "The lane play is extremely close to what people can expect to see upstairs and provides a very realistic feel for bowlers and teams that use the facility."

A coaching session with McNeil is \$200, while an hour practice session with up to 10 bowlers on the Showcase Lanes will run a group \$100. Bowlers also can purchase a VIP package that includes a one-hour coaching session with McNeil plus many other great benefits. [BOWL.com/VIP](http://BOWL.com/VIP) has details on the VIP package.

Chris Freeman and his teammates from Duluth, Minn., worked with McNeil prior to their team competition. The team liked having all of the amenities offered from the Showcase Lanes under the same roof at the NBS.

"If we work as a team, like Matt reiterated over and over, it will help us greatly," Freeman said. "Our favorite feature of the Showcase Lanes is that we don't have to leave the National Bowling Stadium. I think most bowlers would agree that having everything in the same building makes it much easier."

Engelhardt and Steve Willard of Oklahoma City hit the Showcase Lanes for a practice session to get a glimpse of what they would be facing upstairs on the Open Championships lanes.

"It benefits me because I get to go out and throw the ball and get loose," Willard said. "It gave us a chance to read the lanes and have an idea of how the ball is reacting before we actually go out there."

Bowlers can go to [BOWL.com>ShowcaseLanes](http://BOWL.com>ShowcaseLanes) to learn more about booking practice times, a coaching session, details of the side events and the VIP package.



USBC Silver coach Matt McNeil is available for lessons on the Showcase Lanes.

## Side events on the 900 Global Showcase Lanes

Along with coaching and practice sessions, the 900 Global Showcase Lanes is holding two side events – the 900 Global Two-Game Challenge and the Who's Got The Look Baker Bonanza presented by 900 Global:

### 900 Global Two-Game Challenge

- Three divisions based on entering average with daily payouts and yearlong prizes
- \$40 entry fee. Bowlers can receive a free entry by booking three or more room nights in Reno through [MyBowlingVacation.com](http://MyBowlingVacation.com) (Feb. 22-July 7)

### 900 Global Who's Got The Look Baker Bonanza

- Three-member teams bowl five Baker games, and the yearlong event includes a special prize fund for teams comprised of three women
- \$60 entry fee per team with three divisions based on entering average

# USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

## Collegiate championships on CBS Sports Network

The xbowling Intercollegiate Singles Championships and the xbowling Intercollegiate Team Championships recently took place at Sun Valley Lanes, in Lincoln, Neb., and CBS Sports Network was there to capture all the action.

Starting May 3, CBS Sports Network will begin a four-week series of the championships. The schedule (all shows will air at 10 p.m. Eastern):

- May 3: Women's Singles
- May 10: Men's Singles
- May 17: Women's Team
- May 24: Men's Team

Go to [CBSsportsnetwork.com](http://CBSsportsnetwork.com) for channel information.



## USBC, BPAA unify youth committees

USBC and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) Boards of Directors have approved the creation of unified International Bowling Campus (IBC) Youth Committee. The new IBC Youth Committee will merge the USBC and BPAA Youth Committees.

The new IBC Youth Committee will have 15 members comprised of six representatives appointed by the USBC Board, six by the BPAA Board, and three athlete representatives.

The initial IBC Youth Committee will be formed Aug. 1, 2013 with representatives from the current USBC and BPAA committees.

## Summer trials to be held for Team USA

In order to give players an additional way to earn spots on Team USA in 2014, USBC will conduct the inaugural Summer Team USA Trials from July 5-7 at the International Training and Research Center, which is the home of Team USA.

The field will be limited to 40 men and 40 women, and will award two men's and two women's spots on Team USA in 2014.

## Incentives announced for 2014 Championships

For the 2014 USBC Open and Women's Championships, teams will be eligible for some great rewards for registering and submitting full payment early.

Each member of a team paid in full by July 1, 2013, will receive \$20 in Championships Cash, which can be used for USBC-side events and more. Also, Open Championships bowlers who meet the July 1 deadline and register for a 10:30 p.m. doubles/singles squad will earn a \$55 rebate as part of their prize checks, essentially bowling singles for free.

Open Championships coordinators with eight teams and Women's Championships

coordinators with six teams will receive a free VIP package.

## Buffalo to host major youth events in 2014

The Buffalo, N.Y., area will play host to the 2014 North Pointe Junior Gold Championships and the 2014 USBC Youth Open Championships. The North Pointe Junior Gold Championships, which are presented by Track, Columbia 300, Ebonite and Hammer, was last held in Buffalo in 2007.

The Junior Gold Championships, which will be conducted July 12-18, 2014, will utilize six bowling centers in the Buffalo area. The USBC Youth Open Championships will be contested July 10-27.

## Women's Championships underway

The 2013 USBC Women's Championships kicked off April 12 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno, Nev. This is the third time USBC has built a convention-center venue for the event.

The tournament once again will have three average-based divisions and an all-handicap format. [BOWL.com/WomensChamp](http://BOWL.com/WomensChamp) will have the latest news and information from the tournament.



## CALENDAR

**Now-July 7**

**USBC Open Championships**  
National Bowling Stadium  
Reno, Nev.

**Now-July 1**

**USBC Women's Championships**  
Reno-Sparks Convention Center  
Reno, Nev.

**June 9-14**

**USBC Senior Masters**  
South Point Bowling Center  
Las Vegas

**June 22-23**

**USBC Youth Open West Region**  
Texas Star Lanes  
Las Vegas

**July 1-3**

**USBC Senior Championships**  
National Bowling Stadium  
Reno, Nev.

**July 5-7**

**Summer Team USA Trials**  
International Training and Research Center  
Arlington, Texas

**July 11-28**

**USBC Youth Open Championships**  
Sterling Heights, Mich.

**July 13-19**

**North Pointe Junior Gold Championships**  
Detroit

Complete information on [BOWL.com/Tournaments](http://BOWL.com/Tournaments)