



**YOUTH BOWLING**

## ROAD TO JUNIOR GOLD

**"IS THAT** a train?"

Last July, as Solomon Salama started his quest for a second Junior Gold Championships title, he probably never expected to be standing on the approach, working on a 300 game in the title match, and have that question pop into his head.



**Solomon Salama**

But it did. Solomon brushed aside the thought, and though he fell a pin short of the perfect game, he did become the first male bowler to win back-to-back Junior Gold titles.



when the Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International takes place in Dallas this July, he seeks to become the event's first three-time winner since Stefanie Johnson (Nation) accomplished the feat in 2003-2005.

Solomon's road to the Junior Gold Championships started when he bowled at a friend's birthday party when he was 5. He threw the ball with two hands – he couldn't lift it with one hand – and found it not

only was an easier way to bowl, but that he could make the ball hook. And the idea of hooking the ball was quite interesting.

"All I wanted to do was watch that ball hook and see what I could do with a bowling ball," Solomon said. "When I was 7, I started wanting to improve my scores. When I was 8 or 9, I started learning about lane play and the basics of the sport.

I started watching bowling videos online."

He received his first coaching from Fred Pettie, his league coach starting at age 8. Solomon said Pettie helped



him with the basics and how to make certain tough spares, "like the 5-10. You leave that spare often when you're throwing a 9-pound ball."

Solomon, who lives in Beverly Hills, California, started in competitive leagues when he was 10. It was in his first

competitive USBC league that he found bowling was more than just competition.

"It showed me what a wonderful social experience bowling can be," Solomon said. "I'm still friends with many of the people from that league."

He soon started bowling in competitive tournaments, too, where he learned the importance of the mental game and the need to experience a variety of tournament conditions and environments. When he was 12, his mom set up a bowling lesson with Mark Baker, and the Team USA assistant coach said he and Solomon hit it off immediately.

"He was 100 percent all in Lesson 1," Baker said. "Solomon is an excellent student of the game and his game. During our lessons, he has very specific questions, which make

### YOUTH BOWLING TV SCHEDULE

The title matches of the Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brands of Ebonite International and USA Bowling National Championships presented by Sixlets will be televised on CBS Sports Network. The television schedule (all times Eastern):  
 July 24 – Junior Gold (U12), ITRC, Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.

**July 31** – Junior Gold (U15), ITRC, Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.

**Aug. 7** – Junior Gold (U20), ITRC, Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.

**Aug. 14** – USA Bowling (U12), ITRC, Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.

**Aug. 21** – USA Bowling (U15), ITRC, Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.

our lessons very productive. He's a pleasure to work with."

Solomon cites Baker as one of his biggest influences in terms of coaching. Baker has worked with him on timing, posture and footwork, and Solomon adds that Baker "always gives me nuggets of his wisdom and shares his experiences."

Solomon learned about equipment, lane play and tournament preparation from Juan Fonseca, who is his equipment advisor and ball driller. After finishing 37th in his first Junior Gold in 2015, Solomon turned to Fonseca to learn how to manage the surface of his equipment and choose the right ball for the lane conditions.

Everything would click at the 2016 Junior Gold Championships, Solomon's first year in the 15-and-under division. He averaged 204.16 to qualify third for match play, lost to and then beat Anthony Neuer in the semifinals of the double-elimination bracket, and then took the title with a 417-409 victory over Nick Archacki.

In 2017, Solomon would qualify eighth and win his opening match by a single pin. He then won his next three two-game total-pins matches by margins of 35, 46 and 84 pins, respectively, to set up the



## FILLING THE TROPHY CASE

Solomon Salama became the first male to win multiple Junior Gold Championships titles when he defended his U15 title in 2017. Players with multiple Junior Gold titles:

Bowler	Titles
Shannon Pluhowsky	1999-2001
Stefanie Johnson	2003-2005
Breanna Clemmer	2012 (U15), 2014 (U20)
Wesley Low Jr.	2013 (U20), 2017 (U20)
Solomon Salama	2016 (U15), 2017 (U15)



**Stefanie Johnson**

title match against Neuer, who also sought to become the first male bowler to win two Junior Gold titles.

Solomon would roll eight strikes in the opening game of the two-game final, taking a 68-pin lead with a 254-186 victory in Game 1. He then struck on his first 11 shots in Game 2, despite a distraction in the seventh frame.

"A lot goes through your mind bowling on TV," Solomon said. "You can almost hear what the announcers are

saying, but not quite, and you really want to know what they are saying about you. You hear the crowd murmuring and, especially for lefties, you see out of the corner of your eye all



the heads turning as you travel down the approach. "So, you don't really hear it on the video, but during my approach in the seventh frame, a train went by the bowling center, whistling loudly. As I was delivering the ball, my eyes drifted off my target as I thought, 'Is that a train?'"

Solomon also was battling through an injured finger, icing it between shots.

"I think my swollen finger was really the key to that match," Solomon said. "The pattern demanded that I roll up the back of the ball and get my ring finger out quickly. If I tried to get my normal rotation on the ball, my finger would hurt, so to avoid the pain I rolled up the back. So, it was a stroke of luck that I got that particular injury."

A stubborn 7 pin on his last shot kept him from the perfect game. He said the accomplishment didn't need any time to sink in because he was aware of the situation as it unfolded.

"Once it happened, it was over, and I looked forward," Solomon said. "But, I hope that people who were not focused on junior bowling before seeing that match would be more excited about youth bowling now."

He will enter the 2018 Junior Gold Championships seeking a third consecutive title in the U15 Division. Competition starts July 16 with qualifying rounds taking place in eight centers throughout the Dallas area.

"My goal is the same it has been for every Junior Gold I have bowled in: To have fun, make friends, support junior bowling, learn and bowl my best," Solomon said. "There is nothing else you can do. A lot of it is out of your control."

Visit [BOWL.com/JuniorGold](http://BOWL.com/JuniorGold) for more information and complete coverage of the Junior Gold Championships.

COACHING

# WEEKEND PLANS

**THOUSANDS OF** youth league coordinators, parents and bowlers have learned the fundamentals of coaching the sport by attending a USA Bowling clinic. Many others have gone online for the Level I class on BOWL.com's USBC Coaching Resource Center page to take their first step into coaching.

Once on the coaching path, there always is a desire to learn more. For those who have earned Level I certification and want to take the next step, the USBC Coaching Certification and Development team will hold 14 USBC Bronze certification classes across the country in August.

The National Bronze Coaching Certification Weekend will take place Aug. 11-12. The two-day training conferences are required for anyone seeking Bronze certification.

"We hold Bronze certification courses throughout the year, but we understand the cost and time it takes to travel to attend a conference," USBC Director of Coaching Development Stephen Padilla said. "To make the Bronze conferences

more accessible, we scheduled them for the weekend and in locations that hopefully are convenient. We simply want to provide Level I coaches across

the country the opportunity to continue their coaching education."

USBC Bronze certification covers topics such as fine-tuning the physical game, lane conditions

and adjustments, dynamics of ball motion, giving lessons and much more. Coaches

conferences is July 30 and the cost is \$295. Each conference is limited to 25 participants, so early registration is strongly encouraged.

For anyone interested in becoming a bowling coach, it starts with USBC Coaching's Level I certification. Designed to provide a solid foundation by teaching the fundamentals, the Level I program explains the responsibilities of being a coach, and discusses physical game development, strikes and spares, and mental game basics.

The great part about the Level I program is that the materials are online, and available at no cost, so anyone can learn what it takes to coach bowling. Once they learn the material, they can choose to register and take the test to become a USBC certified coach or simply leave with more knowledge about the game.

USBC is the only coaching program for bowling recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). The USBC Coaching Certification team's focus is to provide coaches of all levels with the materials necessary to give them the best opportunities for coaching.



must have Level I certification, and if 18 or older must have gone through the Registered Volunteer Program background check before they can take the Bronze certification test.

The deadline to register for one of the National Bronze Coaching Certification Weekend

## COACH 'EM UP

During the National Bronze Coaching Certification Weekend on Aug. 11-12, USBC Coaching will hold 14 Bronze coaching clinics in 13 states. Visit BOWL.com/Coaching for more information and to register online:

**California (2)** – Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley; Fresno State University, Fresno

**Florida** – Kegel Training Center, Lake Wales

**Kansas** – Northrock Lanes, Wichita

**Montana** – Westside Lanes & Fun Center, Missoula

**New Jersey** – Holiday Bowl, Oakland

**New Mexico** – Silva Lanes, Albuquerque

**South Carolina** – Strikers Family Sports Center, Rock Hill

**South Dakota** – Sport Bowl, Sioux Falls

**Tennessee** – Lanes, Trains and Automobiles, Murfreesboro

**Texas** – University Bowl, San Antonio

**Utah** – All Star Lanes, West Jordan

**Washington** – Daffodil Bowl, Puyallup

**Wisconsin** – Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley, Green Bay

Visit **BOWL.com/Coaching** to learn more about USBC Coaching and its programs.



# USBC QUICK STRIKES

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

## Kielich elected USBC president, Jost selected as vice president

The USBC Board of Directors elected Karl Kielich of El Paso, Texas, to serve as USBC president and Karen Jost of Tumwater, Washington, as vice president when the 2018-2019 season starts Aug. 1.



**Karl Kielich** **Karen Jost**

Kielich takes over for Frank Wilkinson, while Jost assumes the role held by Cathy DeSocio. Both Wilkinson and DeSocio are completing their final terms as president and vice president, respectively, having reached term limits.

Kielich was elected to a third term by delegates at the 2017 USBC Annual Meeting while Jost will start her third term with the 2018-2019 season after delegates re-elected her in April.

## PWBA Tour announces schedule for 2019 season

The Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) will kick off its 2019 tour schedule with four stops in the Midwest that will include the season's first major.

Once again, the stepladder finals of all four PWBA Tour majors plus three elite-field events will be televised from the host centers on CBS Sports Network in 2019.

The PWBA will provide live coverage of all preliminary rounds and the stepladder finals of six standard events via livestream.

The 2019 season will start April 25 when the PWBA Tour makes its first trip to Cleveland for the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open at Yorktown Lanes. The USBC Queens, set for May 15-21 at Northrock Lanes in Wichita, Kansas, will be the first major of the 2019 PWBA Tour season.

Visit [PWBA.com](http://PWBA.com) for complete information about the PWBA Tour including the

schedule, player biographies and more.

## Las Vegas to host 2019 USBC Masters

The Gold Coast Bowling Center in Las Vegas will be the site of the 2019 USBC, a major event on the Go Bowling Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour and a World Bowling event.

The 2019 USBC Masters will start March 26, and the event's stepladder finals will be shown in primetime by FOX Sports, the PBA's television partner starting in 2019. FS1 will televise the finals live on Monday, April 1, at 9 p.m. Eastern.

The Gold Coast Bowling Center, a 70-lane facility, served as host of the 2018 USBC Senior Queens in March. Visit [BOWL.com/Masters](http://BOWL.com/Masters) for more information on the tournament.

## SMART Corporation distributes \$1.75 million

The Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) recently made an income earning

distribution of \$1.75 million to providers' funds. The distribution is from investment earnings in 2017.

Combined with the distribution of \$2.4 million from expired accounts in early January, the SMART Board has infused provider accounts with

more than \$4 million in 2018. Last May, the

SMART Board made an income earnings distribution of \$1 million to providers' funds for 2016 earnings.

During the last year, nearly 6,000 recipients successfully used funds from SMART accounts. SMART has 3,500 providers, and nearly 200,000 scholarship recipients have their scholarships in the SMART program. Visit [BOWL.com/SMART](http://BOWL.com/SMART) to learn more about the SMART program.

## USBC Convention in Vegas in 2019, 2020

The USBC Convention and Annual Meeting will have a two-year run in Las Vegas, as both the 2019 and 2020 events will be held at The Orleans.

In its commitment to hold the annual convention in the same host city as

a USBC Championships event, the 2019 Convention will take place April 29 through May 2 and coincides with the USBC Open Championships at the South Point Bowling Plaza.

In 2020, the USBC Convention will run from April 27-30, with the USBC Women's Championships taking place in the South Point Bowling Plaza.

Visit [BOWL.com/Convention](http://BOWL.com/Convention) for more information about the USBC Convention.

## CALENDAR

**July 12-13, 20-22, 28-29, 2018**  
**Bowling.com Youth Open Championships**

Cityview Lanes  
Fort Worth, Texas

**July 14-21, 2018**  
**Junior Gold Championships presented by the Brand of Ebonite International**

AMF Garland, Cityview Lanes, Forum Bowling Lanes, USA Bowl, AMF DeSoto, AMF Richardson, AMF Sparetime, Brunswick Westcreek  
Dallas

**July 17-21, 2018**  
**USA Bowling National Championships**

AMF Garland, USA Bowl  
Dallas

**July 24-Aug. 3, 2018**  
**World Bowling Youth Championships**

Thunderbowl Lanes  
Allen Park, Mich.

**July 26-29, 2018**  
**PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles**

Copperfield Bowl  
Houston

**July 31-Aug. 3, 2018**  
**USBC Senior Championships**

National Bowling Stadium  
Reno, Nev.

**Aug. 2-4, 2018**  
**Pepsi PWBA St. Petersburg-Clearwater Open**

Seminole Lanes  
Seminole, Fla.

**Aug. 9-11, 2018**  
**BowlerX.com PWBA Twin Cities Open**

Cedarvale Lanes  
Eagan, Minn.

**Aug. 16-18, 2018**  
**Nationwide PWBA Columbus Open**

Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl  
Columbus, Ohio

**Aug. 22-25, 2018**  
**QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship**

Plano Super Bowl  
Plano, Texas

**Sept. 16-19, 2018**  
**PWBA Tour Championship**

Richmond Raceway Complex  
Richmond, Va.

**Oct. 24-31, 2018**  
**U.S. Open**

Northrock Lanes  
Wichita, Kan.

Go to [BOWL.com/Tournaments](http://BOWL.com/Tournaments) for complete information