

## **USBC YOUTH AGE CHANGE – NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- USBC and its partners at IBC Youth and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America are making an independent decision to make a clear delineation between adult and youth competition by moving the youth age to 18 and under for its national tournaments.
  - Maximum age of USBC Youth membership is 18 starting with the 2020-2021 season.
- The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) below explain changes for our tournaments.

### **Junior Gold**

- Structural changes of the U20 division, with competitors moving to adult membership, will be announced by May 1, 2020, the start of the Junior Gold qualifying season for the 2021 Junior Gold Championships.
- Some preliminary information is outlined below in the FAQ.

### **Pepsi Youth Championships, Youth Open Championships and Survivor**

- Maximum age division of Pepsi Youth and Bowling.com Youth Open will be a U18 division.  
The Survivor tournament will remain unchanged, with the exception of the tournament schedule.

### **Junior Gold location changes**

- The decision to have the 2020 Junior Gold Championships in Las Vegas is because of a center closing in Indianapolis. There is now a letter-of-intent agreement in place to hold the 2021 event in Indianapolis, which is now possible with the format change.
- It is not the first time host cities have changed years, as Indianapolis swapped years with Cleveland, taking the 2016 event and moving Cleveland a year back to 2017.

### **PWBA televised finals**

- The Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour event that will take place during the 2020 Junior Gold Opening Ceremony had no impact on the decision to change host cities. The PWBA Tour planned to have a live-televised finals in conjunction with the 2020 Junior Gold Championships.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. **Are changes to the Junior Gold Championships and other national tournaments being made because of the mandated guidelines from the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the United States Olympic Committee?**

No, the tournaments are being modified to be consistent with the changes made to USBC Youth membership. There is no mandate within the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

2. **How will the tournament format change for Junior Gold in 2021?**

The proposed divisions will be U12, U15, U18 and U20. The U20 will have a separate time frame for competition.

The U20 division will move up on the schedule, competing the week leading up to the Junior Gold Trade Show and Opening Ceremony weekend, similar to the change made with the USA Bowling National Championships in 2019.

More information will be released by May 1, 2020, when the 2021 Junior Gold league and tournament season kicks off.

3. **How will the U20 division be constructed?**

All age-eligible athletes will be required to have a USBC adult membership and a Junior Gold U20 membership to participate in the division.

The individual athletes will choose if they want to be awarded in scholarship or prize money.

Individuals no longer will be able to move up to U20, as the division now will be for adult members.

4. **Will professionals be allowed to compete in the Junior Gold U20 division?**

Yes, as long as they meet the age requirements and purchase the applicable membership products and have qualified for the event.

5. **How will this impact Junior Team USA selections?**

Details related to the team selections will be made available on May 1, 2020, for the 2021 Junior Gold Championships.

The intent is to put in place a model where U18 qualifiers will be expanded and then combined with the U20 qualifiers that are already in place to create one Junior Team USA, from which competition selections will be made after camp, as they are now.

6. **How will this impact the 2020 USBC Team Trials?**

No changes to the current format are planned. However, USBC will look to add a SafeSport training requirement, for those 18 and older as of the date of the 2020 competition, as SafeSport training is a requirement of Team USA members.

7. **How will this impact other youth national tournaments?**

The Pepsi Youth Championships and Bowling.com Youth Open Championships no longer will have a U20 division. For the Pepsi, the U17 division will shift to a U18 division and the Youth Open will add a U18 division.

The total \$150,000 of Pepsi sponsorship still will be fully allocated into the state Pepsi tournaments. The approximate \$20,000 previously allocated to U20 will be spread across the remaining divisions.

The Survivor tournament will remain unchanged, but the U20 division will be moved on the schedule to compete after the U20 Junior Gold Championship qualifying

8. **How will this impact Junior Gold membership processing?**

The U20 Junior Gold upgrade now will be purchased along with the USBC adult membership and processed through WinLABS.

9. **Why did the 2020 Junior Gold event move from Indianapolis to Las Vegas?**

As we do every bid cycle, we request bids three to five years in advance. We are in the process of receiving bids for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 events and beyond. Additionally, our staff was looking at format changes to satisfy future growth of the event.

When an Indianapolis center closed, it was clear the current tournament format could not be supported without additional centers in Indianapolis being added. Format changes would allow us to host the event in Indianapolis in 2021

With discussions started during the RFP process, we identified Las Vegas as available and interested in hosting the event for 2020. The Las Vegas contracts were finalized, at which time we informed Indianapolis of our intent to return in 2021 with the new format that could support the current number of lane beds available in Indianapolis.

As we already have a letter of agreement in place, we intend to go to Indianapolis in 2021.

10. **How much impact did the PWBA at the opening ceremony have on the decision to move to Las Vegas?**

None, as we were looking to host this event at the 2020 Junior Gold Championships regardless of location.

If you have additional questions related to the age change effect on the Junior Gold Championships and other tournaments, please email [tournaments@ibcyouth.com](mailto:tournaments@ibcyouth.com)