

Arizona

State Pepsi Director	Ralph Mellecker	
E-mail Contact	azusbcyouth@gmail.com	
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State Website	www.azstateusbc.org	
League Level Qualifying	October 1, 2025-February 12, 2026	NA
Sectional Level Qualifying	November 1-2, 2025	Northern Site AMF Union Hills (Phoenix, AZ) Southern Site Cactus Bowl (Tuscon, AZ)
State Finals	March 7, 2026	AMF Union Hills (Phoenix, AZ)
State Finals Certification Number		Cert. #04985
Rules	See Below	



CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-2026

CERTIFICATION # 04985

ARIZONA SECTIONALS

RULES & FORMAT

ENCLOSED: Arizona Sectional and State Rules and Format. Enough copies of these rules **MUST** be made so that each bowler wanting to participate has a copy.

ALL ATHLETES AND PARENTS must understand the rules, fees, requirements, deadlines, and conditions of the tournament.

ALL ATHLETES and PARENTS MUST SEE THESE RULES

LEAGUE LEVEL COMPETITION is not necessary this year as all Youth Bowlers are eligible to go to the Sectional Level Competition if they bowled in an Arizona USBC youth league sometime between Oct. 1, 2025, and Feb. 12, 2026. Enclosed is a Summary Sheet for listing all who want to enter. Copy forms as needed.

Entry Closing Date: October 18, 2025

Tournament Dates: November 1st & 2nd, 2025

TWO SECTIONAL SITES:

Northern Site will be AMF Union Hills, 3424 W. Union Hills Rd., Phoenix, AZ (623) 581-1595

Southern Site will be Cactus Bowl, 3665 S. 16th Ave., Tucson, AZ (520) 327-6561

Check-in time is 8:00 a.m., Bowling starts at 9:00 a.m.

THIS IS THE FINAL LEVEL OF COMPETITION FOR THE U-8 and U-10 DIVISIONS

FEES:

Sectional Fees: U-8 and U-10: \$25.00

U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18: \$30.00

Payment of fees must be made by league check, money order or cashier's check made payable to:

AZ State USBC

No Personal checks or cash will be accepted.

A fee of \$30.00 will be assessed for all returned checks

ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT

Tournament Director: Ralph Mellecker, AZ State USBC

Address: 2310 E. Cristina Avenue

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Phone: (602) 614-8330

Email: azusbcyouth@gmail.com



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ARE YOUR YOUTH BOWLERS & PARENTS AWARE OF THE RULES???

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. The competition is open to all 2025-2026 AZ State USBC Youth members. To compete, a bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC Youth League bowling in an AZ bowling center between Oct 1st, 2025, and Feb 12th, 2026, and not be under suspension at the time of qualifying.
3. League substitutes can participate if it is their only USBC Youth league. USBC Collegiate members are eligible if they are 2025-2026 Youth members, bowling in an AZ USBC Youth league and have not violated USBC Rule 400.
4. Participants must be aware of each competition level in the state/zone and all associated rules, fees, and deadlines. These items are contained in the specific state/zone rules from the State/Zone Youth Scratch Tournament Director (director’s information can be found on bowl.com).
5. The competition will be conducted in 12 divisions based on the participant’s age. Participation in the wrong age division will lead to automatic disqualification. Bowlers must stay in the given division for their particular league throughout the entire window: All Divisions will be Scratch

DIVISIONS:

U8 Boys	Bowlers whose birth date is 8/1/2017 or later	U-8 Girls
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*(Will combine boys and girls if there are 10 or less bowlers in this division; must have 10 bowlers to run the division)

U10 Boys	Bowlers whose birth date is 8/1/2015 thru 7/31/17	U-10 Girls
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*(Will combine boys and girls if there are 10 or less bowlers in this division; must have 10 bowlers to run the division)

** (May need to Combine U-8 & U-10 Boy/Girl if we do not have at least 10 bowlers per division)

U-12 Boys	Bowlers whose birth date is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/2015	U-12 Girls
U-14 Boys	Bowlers whose birth date is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/2013	U-14 Girls
U-16 Boys	Bowlers whose birth date is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/2011	U-16 Girls
U-18 Boys	Bowlers whose birth date is 8/1/2007 thru 7/31/2009	U-18 Girls

Athletes must see these rules and choose their own Division

Entrants from the same center will be scheduled together unless otherwise requested.



CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-2026

CERTIFICATION # 04985

ARIZONA SECTIONALS

RULES & FORMAT

6. **Entry closing date is October 19, 2025.** Tournament entry forms containing the qualifiers’ name, address, and telephone number, date of birth, Bowler USBC ID number, and required fees must be submitted by this date to the tournament director.
7. **Athletes are not mandated to be USBC Junior Gold members. However, athletes who earn a spot in the 2025-2026 Junior Gold Championships through this competition must be USBC Junior Gold members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the USBC Junior Gold Championships.**
8. The tournament format shall be:
Divisions U-8 & U-10 will bowl 3 games on the same pair of lanes. Total pins will determine the winner of U-8 & U-10 divisions from each site.

THIS IS THE LAST LEVEL OF COMPETITION FOR DIVISIONS U-8 & U-10

Divisions U-12, U-14, U-16, & U-18 will bowl 4 games on the same pair of lanes. Total pins will determine who will advance to the state level of competition.

Entry fees are	<u>U-8 & U-10</u>	<u>U12, U14, U-16, and U18</u>
Lineage & Expense:	\$ 15.75	Lineage & Expenses \$ 20.75
Awards:	\$ 9.25	Awards/Scholarships \$ 9.25
TOTAL:	\$ 25.00	TOTAL \$ 30.00

Awards and Scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers.

*Scholarships will be held in SMART Program. Account #08583.

Contact: (800) 514-2695 Ext 8968

9. **AVERAGES:** Bowlers shall use one of the following methods:
 - a. their **highest current certified league average, as of October 20, 2025, of 15 games or more.**
 - b. If no average with the 15-game minimum as of October 20, 2025, then a bowler’s history of a 15-game average bowled closest to the date of competition may be used. **If a bowler has ONLY a sport league average, then USBC Rule 201C will be used. The average adjustment chart in the USBC Rulebook will determine the “correct” average to be used.**
 - c. The highest book average from 2024-2025 bowling season
 - d. If a, b, or c does not apply, Bowler will be given a 220 average.
 - e. **Each league must provide an alphabetical list of their bowler’s averages as of October 20, 2025, to include ONLY bowlers name, total pins, games bowled, and average.**



CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-2026

CERTIFICATION # 04985

ARIZONA SECTIONALS

RULES & FORMAT

10. No substitutes will be permitted **once athletes have started tournament play**. However, replacements may be used for bowlers who are not present 15 minutes prior to the squad time. Competitors shall be allowed 10 minutes of practice time on their starting pair.
11. If no replacement has been made, bowlers arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. **Frames may not be made-up.** Bowlers who are not present when it is their turn to bowl will be credited with a zero for that frame.
12. Only Tournament Bowlers, tournament officials, and center staff shall be permitted in the settee area.
13. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament director no later than the start of the next block or 30 minutes after the completion of competition. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the tournament director. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director within 72 hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.
14. Symbolic awards will be given on a ratio of 1 in 10.
15. Scholarships will be awarded to the first place in each of the U-12, U-14, U-16, & U-18 Boy & Girl Divisions from each of the sectional sites. Additional places will be awarded if entries warrant.
16. Advancement from each of the sectional sites to the state level of competition will be the first 5 places in each of the U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18 Boys & Girls Divisions. In all cases at least one individual per division shall advance
17. Appropriate attire shall be worn and will be neat, clean, and proper fitting. Non-tattered blouses, shirts, or jerseys must have a **Butterfly Collar or a MOCK COLLAR**, it must have sleeves and be hip length if not tucked in. Nice Pants or Jeans with **NO FRAYED HEMLINES; SHORTS may be worn if they go past the fingertips 2 inches while standing with arms relaxed by their side. NO SPORT SHORTS, sweatpants, gym pants, or Leggings WILL BE ALLOWED**). Bowlers will not wear hats/caps (unless medically approved). Youth are to be in bowling attire when checking in and must stay in the approved attire until finish bowling. Youth participants will not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance, or inappropriate Language/gestures during competition (USBC Rule 301b). Athletes may not smoke or consume alcoholic beverages. The settee and concourse areas will be smoke and alcohol free. This includes E-Cigs. Smoking and alcohol consumption by non-participants will be in designated areas only. **No electronic devices will be used by bowlers while bowling in the tournament.**
18. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the State/Zone USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

Tournament Director: Ralph Mellecker, AZ State USBC
Address: 2310 E. Cristina Avenue
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Phone: (602) 614-8330
Email: azusbcyouth@gmail.com



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STATE LEVEL OF COMPETITION IS FOR U-12, U-14, U-16, & U-18 DIVISIONS

Entry Closing Date: February 22, 2026 Tournament Date: March 7, 2026

Location: AMF Union Hills, 3424 W. Union Hills Rd., Phoenix, AZ (623) 581-1595
Check-in time is 8:00 a.m., Bowling starts at 9:00 a.m.

NOTE: Advancers will be notified by the Tournament Director, Ralph Mellecker

State Finals Fees: U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18: \$35.00 Paid at the door.

Payment of fees can be made by cash or league check, money order, personal checks, or cashier's check made payable to:

AZ State USBC
 A fee of \$30.00 will be accessed for all returned checks

This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress and shall be governed by USBC rules.

1. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual who qualified cannot participate in the state/zone competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in previous competition. Replacements must be from the same sectional site as the individual unable to compete.
2. Advancement from the sectional sites will be the first 5 places and ties from the Northern site U-12, U-14, U-16, and U18 Boys and Girls Divisions and the first 5 places and ties from the Southern site for each of the U-12, U-14, U-16, and U18 Boys and Girls Divisions. In all cases at least one person per division shall advance.
3. **Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler must declare one state/zone to continue competing before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.**
4. **Entry closing date is March 1, 2026,** Tournament entry form containing qualifiers name, address, telephone number and Bowler USBC ID number must be submitted to the tournament director per Sectional Rule 6.
5. Divisions are based on the participant's age. *****Athletes are not mandated to be USBC Junior Gold members to enter. However, athletes who earn a spot in the 2025-2026 Junior Gold Championships through this competition must be USBC Junior Gold members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the USBC Junior Gold Championships.**
6. Competition shall be conducted in the following divisions: U-12, U14, U-16, & U-18 Boys & Girls ages as of August 1st, 2025.



CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-2026

CERTIFICATION # 04985

ARIZONA FINALS

RULES & FORMAT

7. **Tournament Format:** The top 5 bowler's boys and girls will advance to the state finals is based on the scores bowled at the sectional sites as stated in rule 2. All previous scores will be dropped. Each bowler will bowl 6 games across 6 lanes, moving 1 pair to the right after every 2 games. The bowler's 6 game score will determine their final standing in this tournament.
8. **Entry fee is \$35.00.** Payable at tournament site by league check, money order, cashier's check, personal checks, or cash will be accepted. If using a check or money order it must be made payable to:

AZ State USBC

A fee of \$30.00 will be assessed for all returned checks

9. No substitutes will be permitted **once athletes have started tournament play**, however, replacements may be used for bowlers who are not present 15 minutes prior to the squad time. **Replacements in the State Finals must be from the order of finish from the Sectional level of competition.**
10. **AVERAGES:** Bowlers shall use one of the following methods:
 - a. their **highest current certified league average, as of March 1, 2025, of 15 games or more.**
 - b. If no average with the 15-game minimum as of March 1, 2025, then a bowler's history of a 15-game average bowled closest to the date of competition may be used. **If a bowler has ONLY a sport league average, then USBC Rule 201C will be used. The average adjustment chart in the USBC Rulebook will determine the "correct" average to be used.**
 - c. The highest book average from 2024-2025 bowling season
 - d. If a, b, or c does not apply, Bowler will be given a 220 average for handicap average.**Each league must provide an alphabetical list of their bowler's averages as of March 1, 2025, to include ONLY bowlers name, total pins, games bowled, and average.**
11. Appropriate attire shall be worn and will be neat, clean, and proper fitting. Non-tattered blouses, shirts, or jerseys must have a **Butterfly Collar or a MOCK COLLAR**, it must have sleeves and be hip length if not tucked in. Nice Pants or Jeans with **NO FRAYED HEMLINES** or **SHORTS may be worn if they go past the fingertips 2 inches while standing with arms relaxed by their side. NO SPORT SHORTS, sweatpants, gym pants, or Leggings WILL BE ALLOWED.** Bowlers will not wear hats/caps (unless medically approved). Youth are to be in bowling attire when checking in and must stay in the approved attire until finish bowling. Youth participants will not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, illegal substances, or inappropriate Language/gestures during competition (USBC Rule 301b).
12. Athletes may not smoke or consume alcoholic beverages. The settee and concourse areas will be smoke and alcohol free. This includes E-Cigs. Smoking and alcohol consumption by non-participants will be in designated areas only. **No electronic devices will be used by bowlers while bowling in the tournament.**



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RULES & FORMAT

13. Competitors shall be allowed 10 minutes of practice on their starting lanes prior to the 6 game competitions. If no replacement has been made, bowlers arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. **Frames may not be made-up.** Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. A bowler who is not present when it is their turn to bowl will be credited with a zero for that frame.
14. Only bowlers, tournament officials and center staff shall be permitted in the settee area. If needed the Tournament Director may authorize additional people in the settee area on a case-by-case basis but if only determined necessary by the Tournament Director.
15. Ties will be broken by a one game roll-off. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by an additional 9th and 10th frame roll-off, (Refer to rule 326a).
16. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament director no later than 30 minutes after the completion of competition. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the tournament director. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director within 72 hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.
17. Symbolic Awards will be given on a ratio of 1 in 10.
18. Scholarships will be presented to finalists on a 1 in 10 ratio of the Sectional Entries in each of the U-12, U-14, U-16, & U-18 divisions. The tournament director is responsible for submitting the scholarships and recipients to the SMART Program, who will administer the scholarships.
Scholarships will be held in SMART Account #08583
Contact: (800) 514-2695 Ext. 8968
19. **The first-place winners of the U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18 Girls and Boys Divisions will advance to the 2025-2026 Junior Gold Championships on July 11th—18th, 2026 in Minneapolis, Minn.**
20. **All advancers to The Junior Gold Championships must have a USBC Junior Gold membership or purchase a USBC Junior Gold membership prior to the championships. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the championships, as well as other prizes and awards. The Arizona State USBC will provide a \$500.00 stipend to the first-place winners of the U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18 Boy & Girl divisions to offset some of their expenses to the Junior Gold Championships. The Stipend will be issued after participating in the Tournament and upon the presentation of supporting receipts of actual expenses to the Tournament Director. All U. S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team 2026 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18 division champions are unable or unwilling to become a USBC Junior Gold member, he/she will not advance to the Championships the athlete will still retain the state/zone scholarships, but the berth and any available stipends to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. Winners are not confirmed as national finalists until they receive a confirmation letter from the National USBC IBC Youth Tournaments Team.**



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21. Eligible advancers must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships; failing to do so, you agree to waive all your rights and replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state level. Replacements will incur all costs associated with changing the airline ticket, if applicable.
22. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high scores for each is the same, then the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.
23. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the State/Zone USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee. The National USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

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