

Georgia

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State Website	www.gastateusbc.com	
League Level Qualifying	October 16-29, 2023	January 15-28, 2024
Sectional Level Qualifying	NA	NA
State Finals	April 6-7, 20, 2024	Bowlero Savannah (Savannah, GA)
State Finals Certification Number		Cert. #04562
Rules	See Below	



**2023/24 Georgia State USBC
Pepsi Youth Championships**
Hosted by the Gr Savannah USBC

RULES AND FORMAT
(July 26, 2023)

All participants must be given a copy of these rules and PICK THEIR OWN DIVISION

1. This Pepsi USBC Youth Championships is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) (#04562) and governed by USBC rules.
2. Competition is open to all 2023 – 2024 USBC Youth members who bowl in certified centers in Georgia. To compete, a bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC league and not be under suspension at the time of qualifying. USBC Collegiate members are eligible if they are 2023 – 2024 USBC Youth members, bowl in a USBC Youth league and have not violated USBC Rule 400. Wheelchair and other physically challenged USBC Youth members are also allowed to enter and bowl.
3. All USBC Youth members in good standing are eligible for the league level competition. There is no entry fee at the league level. Bowling centers having 2023 – 2024 USBC certified leagues are automatic league level qualifying sites.
4. Participants must be aware of each competition level in the state and all associated rules, fees and deadlines.
5. Competition will be conducted in 10 divisions based on the participant’s date of birth as listed below. Participation in the wrong age division will lead to automatic disqualification. Bowlers must stay in the given division in that particular league throughout the entire window. **Bowlers must declare at the time of their first qualifying window within EACH league if they choose to “play up” to a higher age division. All bowlers that choose to “play up” MUST COMPLETE a “Play Up” waiver form PRIOR to competition.** There is one for the Pepsi Championships and a different one for Junior Gold based on U12 or U15 division.

U8	Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 or later	U8	Girls
U10	Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/2015	U10	Girls
U12	Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/2013	U12	Girls
U15	Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2008 thru 7/31/2011	U15	Girls
U18	Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2005 thru 7/31/2008	U18	Girls

*One way to think about this is...If a bowler turns 9, 11, 13, or 16 during the bowling season he/she would be in the next highest age division.

There is no requirement of Junior Gold membership to enter U12, U15, U18 Divisions.

6. USBC earned awards are based on the member’s league average as of that day.
7. The qualifying window average will be the current league average as of the first date of competition (no minimum number of games). Participants must remain in that division for the duration of that window. Bowlers are eligible to compete in a different division in a different league during the league level of competition.
8. League level qualifying windows are October 16 – October 29, 2023 and January 15 – January 28, 2024.
9. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league play. **Pre-bowled or post-bowled scores are not allowed.** Advancement to the next competition level will be from the league level.
10. Bowlers can attempt to qualify in any state where they hold a 2023-2024 USBC Youth membership card. However, the bowler can only advance once using the following criteria:

- A. In the event a bowler qualifies in more than one league in the same division, the bowler must advance from the league where the highest series was bowled. For identical qualifying scores, the member will advance from the league where the first score was bowled.
 - B. If a bowler qualifies in different leagues from multiple divisions, the bowler **must** select one division they will compete in before the subsequent competition.
 - C. If the bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler **must** declare one state to continue competing in before the next competition level.
 - D. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.
11. If any bowler who qualified at the league level cannot participate in the state competition, an alternate will be chosen based on order of finish in the same qualifying league division.
12. Advancement ratio from league level to state competition will be **one (1) for every three (3)** participants per division, which is at least 1 for every 3 entries per division, or major fraction thereof, including last place ties. The base number for each division is the number of league members that would have participated in that division. In all cases at least one (1) person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio (1:3) shall be applied uniformly to all divisions.
- A. Examples: If there are 20 bowlers in a division, and you divide your number of bowlers by 3 and get a major fraction which is 1 more than $\frac{1}{2}$ or greater than you get to send that extra bowler, example: 20 divided by 3 equals 6.6 meaning five (5) bowlers may advance to the State Championships.
 - B. If there is a tie between the last two qualifiers for advancement, both will advance.
 - C. Advancers remain in the division they qualified in during the league level in all subsequent competitions.
13. **Round 1** of state competition will take place **April 6-7, 2024:**
All Divisions U8, U10, U12, U15, U18 will be at Bowlero Savannah, 115 Tibet Ave, Savannah GA 31406, (912) 925-0320.
- The finals will take place Saturday, **April 20, 2024.**
All divisions U8, U10, U12, U15, U18 will be at Bowlero Savannah, 115 Tibet Ave, Savannah GA 31406, (912) 925-0320.
- Coaches will receive confirmation of scheduled bowling dates and times for each bowler, together with addresses, telephone numbers and directions to the bowling center. This information will also be posted on the Georgia State USBC website at www.gastateusbc.com under Youth and the Georg State USBC Pepsi Tournament Group Facebook page.
14. Entries and payments can be submitted via the online USBC tournament portal. A link to the website will be provided via email. **All online entries and payments must be submitted by March 1, 2024. Entries may also be submitted via mail no later than February 16, 2024.** As per rule 310a entries will be postmarked on the first post office business day after the above dates. An entry form for each qualifier (with all information blanks completed) along with the appropriate entry fees must be submitted to the Georgia State USBC Association Manager at the below address:

Nelson Tellames
 210 Falcon Dr
 Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Money Orders & League Checks only will be accepted and must be made payable to: Georgia State USBC.

Bowlers that qualify during the October window are encouraged to submit their entries beginning November 1, 2023 to secure their desired squad date and time.

15. Tournament format is as follows: In the first round of state competition (April 6-7, 2024), Bowlers in the **U8 and U10 divisions will bowl three (3) games** on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers in the **U12, U15 U18 divisions will bowl six (6) games**, moving one pair of lanes after each game. Total Round 1 pinfall will determine qualifiers for the final round of competition. (There will be no carryover of pins from the first round). **The top 10 percent in each division will continue to the final round (April 20, 2024)**, where they will bowl three (3) additional games. Divisions U8 and U10 will not change lanes. Divisions U12, U15, U18 will move one pair of lanes after each game. Total pinfall for these three games will determine the final five qualifiers in each division who will advance to a stepladder competition. Those bowlers advancing to the final round of state competition on April 20, 2024, will be notified by email. The top four (4) alternates in each division will also be notified.

16. There are no fees for league-level qualifying, Entry fees for round 1 of state level competition are:

Online Registration

	U8, U10	U12, U15 U18
Lineage	\$15.00	\$28.00
Scholarship	\$12.75	\$12.75
Expenses	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Awards	\$ 2.25	\$ 3.25
Total Fees	\$32.00	\$46.00

Mail-In Registration

	U8, U10	U12, U15 U18
Lineage	\$15.00	\$28.00
Scholarship	\$12.75	\$12.75
Expenses	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00
Awards	\$ 4.25	\$ 5.25
Total Fees	\$35.00	\$50.00

No additional fees are charged for the final round of the state competition. All award and scholarship fees will be returned 100 % to the bowlers within each division. The SMART program will manage all scholarships awarded. The Georgia State Pepsi YBC SMART account number is 8517. The SMART Program can be contacted at 1-800-514-2695, Ext 8292. Fax Ext 8266. Email: smart@bowl.com. (USBC Rules 301d and 309).

NOTE: Scholarship funds cannot be utilized by the recipient prior to high school graduation. **Entry fees are non-refundable per USBC Rule 314.**

17. Participants are expected to wear suitable attire during the competition. All clothes must be neat, clean, and free of holes or frayed hemlines. Acceptable tops include full length shirts or bowling jerseys with polo, butterfly or sash collars, or t-shirts. Acceptable bottoms include pants, nice jeans, capris, walking/casual shorts, skirts and/or skorts ***The length of these items must go beyond the fingertips when your arms are at rest along your sides.** Hats and headgear are allowed. Attire or equipment depicting alcohol, illegal substances, gambling, or inappropriate language/gestures is forbidden in accordance with USBC Rule 103b. Tournament officials will determine the appropriate attire, and those decisions are final. Attire or equipment depicting alcohol, illegal substances, gambling, or inappropriate language/gestures is forbidden in accordance with USBC Rule 103b.

Tournament Officials will determine appropriate attire, and those decisions are final.

18. Only approved bowling equipment per USBC standards may be used (USBC Rule Chap 8 and Rule 301b). Check on Bowl.com on the "Equipment Specifications" link under USBC Departments. Bowling ball surfaces may only be altered prior to the first person on the squad throwing a ball, this means all equipment. (USBC Rules 17a, 18, Chapter 8: Equipment specifications in the Playing Rule Book).
19. No substitutes will be permitted. Alternates may be used for bowlers who are not present at squad time. Alternates may be chosen only from the same division as the bowler who has dropped out and in the order of finishing at the prior level. Replacement of alternates will NOT be made on the assigned day of bowling. Exceptions will be made only under dire extenuating circumstances, and then only at the discretion of the tournament director. Use the Alternate Entry Form and submit it to the tournament director no later than the 9:00 PM the day before competition.
20. Competitors will be allowed 10 minutes of practice time prior to bowling for score on their starting pair of lanes only.
21. If no replacements have been made, because the bowler has informed the tournament director that he/she will be late, then the bowler arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame being bowled. Frames missed shall be credited with a zero (0). A bowler not present and ready to bowl when it is his/her turn will receive a zero (0) for that frame.
22. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the bowling area.
23. In state finals competition, all ties will be broken by a one game roll-off (when necessary to determine advancement). If a tie still exists, it will be broken by an additional ninth and tenth frame roll-off. (USBC Rule 326a).
24. 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 the tournament. The tournament director shall decide upon questionable errors. 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. Awards will be presented immediately following the completion of the stepladder competition. (USBC Rules 327a, 327b, 327c, 328 and 329 apply).
25. Symbolic awards will be given on a 1-in-10 ratio (USBC Rule 308c). Each of the top five finishers in each of the ten divisions will receive a scholarship; that is, all bowlers competing in the stepladder finals will receive scholarships.
26. The first-place winners of the U12, U15 and U18 divisions for both Girls and Boys will advance to the 2022 Junior Gold Championships in Detroit, MI, July 2024. They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. **Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a Junior Gold membership prior to June 1.** IBC Youth will waive the \$200 (U18), \$150 (U15), and \$100 (U12) entry fee for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the Junior Gold Championships, as well as other prizes and awards. All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2023 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U12, U15 or U18 Division Champion is unwilling to become a Junior Gold member, they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will still retain the state/zone scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. If the U12, U15, U18 Division Champion is unwilling or unable to become a USBC Junior Gold member, they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will still retain the state scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. Eligible advancers must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships, or, failing to do so, agree to waive all rights. Replacements will be selected based on order of finish in their division at state competition. Replacements will incur all costs associated with changing the airline ticket, if applicable. If the eligible advancer decides not to attend the Junior Gold Championships, any stipends offered will be forfeited. However, any scholarships earned at the state level will be retained. If the first-place winners have already earned a spot into the Junior Gold Championships, he/she would retain the scholarship or stipend assigned to their finishing position and the Junior Gold berth would go to the next eligible athlete.

27. All advancers to Junior Gold Championships should expect to be accompanied by a parent, guardian or coach. Also, the advancer must remain in Indianapolis, IN for approximately eight (8) days.
28. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Georgia Pepsi USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee. The National Pepsi Youth Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

For further information or any questions, contact:

Nelson Tellames, Tournament Director
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(912) 655-1699(Cell)
E-mail: kahuna1856@hotmail.com
Website: www.gastateusbc.com