

Montana

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State Website	N/A	
League Level Qualifying	November 3-16, 2025	January 3-16, 2026
Sectional Level Qualifying	NA	NA
State Finals	March 27-29, 2026	Sleeping Giant Lanes (Helena, MT)
State Finals Certification Number		Cert. #05402
Rules	See Below	



MONTANA USBC
2026 MONTANA YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS
PRESENTED BY SMART
STATE RULES

March 27-29, 2026

Danielle Bolan, Tournament Director
3355 Tricia Street
Helena, MT 59601 (406)
431-7753

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress and shall be governed by the rules of the USBC. The certification number for this MTUSBC Youth Scratch Championships YBC Tournament is 05402.
2. There will be two (2) qualifying league sessions, each session being two weeks long. The first window should be **November 3-16, 2025**. The second window should be **January 3-January 16, 2026**. No pre-bowl or postbowl scores are allowed. Advancement from league is one time entry. Advancers who have paid an entry fee are eligible to bowl the state finals. If an individual qualified and cannot participate in the state competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in the league level. Participation is for USBC Youth members only. Divisions are determined by AGE as follows:

Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2017 or later	U8 Boys / U8 Girls
Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 thru 7/31/2017	U10 Boys / U10 Girls
Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/2015	U12 Boys / U12 Girls
Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/2013	U14 Boys/ U14 Girls
Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/2011	U16 Boys / U16 Girls
Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2007 thru 7/31/2009	U18 Boys/ U18 Girls

*One way to think about this is: If a bowler turns 9, 11, 13, 15, or 17 during the bowling season he/she would be in the next highest age division.

3. Montana Youth Scratch Championships allows parents/players to request a WAIVER to allow their player to “play up” into an older division. Requests and any approval granted are for the current tournament season only. The WAIVER application must be completed and submitted while bowling the league level qualifiers.
4. Advancement ratio for all divisions from league to the state level is one (1) for every four (4) bowlers in each division per league per window, with a minimum of two bowlers in each division. **In all cases, at least two (2) bowlers per division, per league shall advance during each qualifying session.**
5. **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 or zone, the bowler must declare one state or zone to continue competing before the next competition level. Participation in**

any level of competition past the league level in more than one state or zone will result in automatic disqualification.

6. One-time entry fee for qualifiers to participate in the State Finals are as follows:

	<u>U8 Divisions</u>	<u>U10 & U12 Divisions</u>	<u>U14, U16, & U18 Divisions</u>
Lineage	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00
Expenses	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Awards	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Scholarship	<u>\$ 15.00</u>	<u>\$ 15.00</u>	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
	\$ 40.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00

7. **ALL DIVISIONS will compete on a scratch score basis. No handicaps will be used at any level.**

8. **Handicap Event Optional Handicap Events are available in each age division, provided each participant's average can be verified. This event will use scratch scores posted during Friday/Saturday's qualifier and the applicable handicap of 90% of 225 using the highest average (minimum 12 games) of Last Year or March 1, 2026. The top 5 scorers in each division with applicable handicap will receive scholarships. Cost for this event is \$5.00 and average verifications MUST accompany the entry form. Entries without average verifications will be rejected from this Handicap Event.**

9. **STATE FINALS will be held in Helena March 27-29, 2026.**

- Bowlers in all divisions will compete at the same designated center throughout the State Finals at:

**Sleeping Giant Lanes
3355 Tricia Street
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-1004**

Boys & Girls U8 Divisions

FORMAT: All bowlers in these divisions will bowl one three (3) game block on the same pair of lanes. Total pin fall will determine the top six (6) bowlers in each division to advance to the finals round on Sunday.

Qualifying SHIFT TIMES –

Both BOYS & GIRLS U8 Divisions - Friday March 27, 2026 at 4:00 PM

U8 Top-6 Advancers both Boys & Girls FINALS: SUNDAY, March 29, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Advancers must check in 20 minutes prior to the start of the finals round. SCORES WILL START FRESH. The top SIX (6) advancers from Friday's qualifying shift will bowl three (3) games. At the end of the three games placing will be determined by total pin fall of the three games bowled. Any ties will be broken by a one (1) game roll-off. If a tie still exists at this point, the tie will be broken by a 9th & 10th frame roll-off.

Boys & Girls U10 Divisions

FORMAT: All bowlers in these divisions will bowl one four (4) game block on the same pair of lanes. Total pin fall will determine the top six (6) bowlers in each division to advance to the finals round on Sunday.

Qualifying SHIFT TIMES –

Both BOYS & GIRLS U10 Divisions – Friday, March 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM

U10 Top-6 Advancers both Boys & Girls – FINALS: SUNDAY, March 29, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

Advancers must check in 20 minutes prior to the start of the finals round with check-in Closing at 10 minutes before the final round. SCORES WILL START FRESH. The top six (6) advancers in each division will bowl a match-game round robin, using the six-team schedule, followed by a position round, 1st bowling 2nd, 3rd bowling 4th, etc. Bonus pins will be awarded for match play and the position round as follows – 30 points for a win, 15 for a tie. Any ties, going into or at the end of the position round will be broken by a one (1) game roll-off with no bonus pins added. If a tie still exists at this point, the tie will be broken by a 9th & 10th frame roll-off. Total pin fall plus bonus pins will determine placing.

Boys & Girls U12 Divisions

FORMAT: All bowlers in these divisions will bowl one four (4) game block on the same pair of lanes. Total pin fall will determine the top six (6) bowlers in each division to advance to the finals round on Sunday.

Qualifying SHIFT TIMES –

Both BOYS & GIRLS U12 Divisions– Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

U12 Top-6 Advancers both Boys & Girls – FINALS: SUNDAY, March 29, 2026 at 11:30 AM.

Advancers must check in 20 minutes prior to the start of the finals round with check-in Closing at 10 minutes before the final round. SCORES WILL START FRESH. The top six (6) advancers in each division will bowl a match-game round robin, using the six-team schedule, followed by a position round, 1st bowling 2nd, 3rd bowling 4th, etc. Bonus pins will be awarded for match play and the position round as follows – 30 points for a win, 15 for a tie. Any ties, going into or at the end of the position round will be broken by a one (1) game roll-off with no bonus pins added. If a tie still exists at this point, the tie will be broken by a 9th & 10th frame roll-off. Total pin fall plus bonus pins will determine placing.

Boys & Girls U14, U16, & U18 Divisions

FORMAT: All bowlers in these divisions will bowl one six (6) game block moving a pair of lanes after 3 games. Total pin fall will determine the top six (6) bowlers in each division to advance to the finals round on Sunday.

Qualifying SHIFT TIMES :

Both BOYS & GIRLS U14 Divisions – Saturday, March 28, 2026 - 12:00 PM

Both BOYS & GIRLS U16 Divisions – Saturday, March 28, 2026 - 3:00 PM

Both BOYS & GIRLS U18 Divisions – Saturday, March 28, 2026 - 6:00 PM

U14 Top-6 Advancers both Boys & Girls – FINALS: SUNDAY, March 29, 2026 at 11:30 AM.

U16 Top-6 Advancers both Boys & Girls – FINALS: SUNDAY, March 29, 2026 at 2:00 PM.

U18 Top-6 Advancers both Boys & Girls – FINALS: SUNDAY, March 29, 2026 at 2:00 PM.

Advancers must check in 20 minutes prior to the start of the finals round with check-in Closing at 10 minutes before the final round. SCORES WILL START FRESH. The top six (6) advancers in each division will bowl a match-game round robin, using the six-team schedule, followed by a position round, 1st bowling 2nd, 3rd bowling 4th, etc. Bonus pins will be awarded for match play and the position round as follows – 30 points for a win, 15 for a tie. Any ties, going into or at the end of the position round will be broken by a one (1) game roll-off with no bonus pins added. If a tie still exists at this point, the tie will be broken by a 9th & 10th frame roll-off. Total pin fall plus bonus pins will determine placing.

10. For **ALL DIVISIONS:** any ties for 6th place and alternates going into the Sunday finals will bowl a full-game roll-off **on Sunday Morning at 8:00 AM.** All scholarships will be awarded based on amount of entries and any added money available. A plaque will be awarded to the champion in each division. All bowlers will receive a participation patch.
11. CHAMPIONS of the **U12, U14, U16, and U18** Divisions for both Girls and Boys will advance to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships on July 11-18, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN. USBC will waive the entry fee for these athletes. However, 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 July 1. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the championships, as well as other prizes and awards. If U12, U14, U16, and U18 Division Champions are unwilling or unable 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. Replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state level.

If a bowler has already earned a berth into the Junior Gold Championships and wins either the U12, U14, U16 or U18 division in the Montana Youth Scratch Championships, they would receive any scholarship and/or stipend assigned to their finishing position. The spot into the Junior Gold Championships will go to the next eligible athlete in line by order of finishing position.

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 score for each subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.

12. **Entries with Fees in all divisions for the state finals must be postmarked on or before March 10th, 2026. There is an Entry Form for EACH Division. No refunds after entry deadline.**

Send fully completed entry form per division along with appropriate division entry fees AND Average verifications for Handicap Event to the tournament director. The Entry form must include the Parent's name and email.

**Danielle Bolan, Tournament Director
3355 Tricia Street
Helena, MT 59601
(406)431-7753**

Confrmations will be sent to parent's e-mail or mailed to address listed.

13. AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP FEES WILL BE RETURNED 100% TO BOWLERS. Any overage of expense money will be returned to the bowlers in the form of scholarships. All scholarship funds will be deposited to and managed by SMART, Account # 8531, 1-800-514-2695, ex. 8292.

14. **All bowlers must have suitable attire.** Clothing should be neat and clean. **NO caps, hats, tank tops, t-shirts will be worn while bowling. All bowlers will wear a bowling jersey or a collared shirt. Male bowlers will wear SLACKS ONLY. Female bowlers will wear SKIRTS, SKORTS, or SLACKS ONLY. All skirts, skorts must be below the bowlers fingertips when arms are fully straight at the bowlers side. Any bowler wearing clothing deemed offensive or inappropriate (i.e. logos, pants hanging off the hips, sweats, athletic pants, leggings, yoga pants, mid-drift shirts, etc.) will be asked to change.** Cell phones and music devices will not be allowed during the competition. Youth participants will not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance or inappropriate language/gestures during competition. Penalty: First offense will result in a verbal warning and apparel change or removal of equipment. Failure to comply will cause the bowler's scores to be disqualified and the bowler to be removed from the competition.

15. Smoking, smoking-related products or alcohol will not be permitted on the concourse or in the settee area during competition. Smoking or alcohol use by non-bowlers will only be allowed in designated areas. USBC Youth strives to provide the best possible atmosphere for the athletes during this event.

16. Bowlers will be allowed ten (10) minutes practice time on the lanes on which they will be competing during the qualifying rounds on Friday and Saturday. Bowlers will be allowed five (5) minutes practice time on the lanes on which they will be competing during the finals on Sunday.

17. For the Finals Rounds on Sunday, Check-in will be open for 10 minutes, once the check-in period has closed, a missing bowler shall be considered replaced if an alternate is available. A bowler arriving late, and IF he/she has not been replaced, shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then 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 BE CREDITED WITH A ZERO (0) FOR THAT FRAME. No more than one (1) lane courtesy will be allowed.

18. **Only competitors and tournament officials will be allowed in the settee area.**

19. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament director no later than 30 minutes after completion of the tournament. The tournament director will decide questionable errors. All

other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director before awards are given out. Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself.

20. In all matters not covered by these rules and regulations, decisions will be determined by the Montana USBC Youth Scratch Championship Tournament Committee, which includes the MUSBC officers. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee has the right to accept or reject any participant.
21. **USBC transgender policy:** Gender classification is determined by birth certificate. To request a change, a member must petition the USBC in writing and ask for an evaluation.