

South Carolina

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State Website	www.scusbc.org	
League Level Qualifying	November 3-16, 2025	January 5-18, 2026
Sectional Level Qualifying	NA	NA
State Finals	March 7-8 & 14, 2026	Strikers Family Sports Center (Rockhill, SC)
State Finals Certification Number		Cert. #05053
Rules	See Below	



SOUTH CAROLINA RULES & FORMAT

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#05053) and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. Dates of league level qualifying are November 3-16, 2025, and January 5-18, 2026. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual who qualified cannot participate in the state competition, his/her replacement will be eligible based on order of finish in the previous level of competition.
3. Advancement ratio from league competition to the state competition is at least **1:3** entries per division, or any fraction thereof, including last-place ties. The base number for each division is the number of individuals that were present at least one week to participate in that division. In all cases at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.
4. **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, the bowler must declare one state to continue competing in before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state will result in automatic disqualification.**
5. Competition will take place at Strikers Family Sports Center (Strikers)124 N Anderson Rd, Rockhill, SC 29730, (phone #803-329-5210) for U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18 divisions at 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 7, 2026, Sunday, March 8, 2026, and Saturday, March 14, 2026. Overall winners in the U8 & U10 divisions are determined by total pin fall. Participants will select squad times where applicable. The overall top 15% in the U12, U14, U16, and U18 divisions will bowl an additional 6 games to determine the top 5 for singles elimination matches on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 10:00 am at Strikers Family Sports Center (Strikers)124 N Anderson Rd, Rockhill, SC 29730, (phone #803-329-5210) at 10:00 AM. Singles elimination, head-to-head stepladder finals will be bowled on the assigned pair of lanes on Saturday, March 21, 2026, immediately following the 10:00 AM squad and a short break.
6. Entry closing date is **February 8, 2026**. Tournament entry forms containing qualifiers' name, address, telephone number and USBC Membership (including league level worksheets) & fees for all entrants must be submitted to the tournament director by this date.
7. Divisions are based on the participant's age. **Athletes must compete in their proper age division in all levels of competition. Athletes must be Junior Gold Members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the Junior Gold Championships.** Competition shall be conducted in the following divisions: Boys U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, & U18 and Girls U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18.

Qualifying competition is held in divisions based on the bowler's date of birth as of the dates below:

U8	Born	8/1/2017 or later
U10	Born	8/1/2015 - 7/31/2017
U12	Born	8/1/2013 - 7/31/2015
U14	Born	8/1/2011 - 7/31/2013
U16	Born	8/1/2009 - 7/31/2011
U18	Born	8/1/2007 - 7/31/2009

8. The tournament format shall be: U8 & U10 divisions will bowl a three-game series. The total score will determine overall winners in the U8 & U10 divisions. U12, U14, U16, & U18 divisions will bowl six games (on the same pair of lanes) then the top 15% overall per

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division will bowl an additional six games. The top 5 will be determined by the highest score of the six games (qualifying first six game totals will be dropped). Top 5 in each division will bowl singles elimination matches on the same pair of lanes to determine the winner.

9. Entry fee is:	<u>U8 & U10 Divisions</u>	<u>U12, U14, U16, U18</u>
Lineage	\$10.00	\$20.00
Expense	5.00	10.00
Awards	1.00	1.00
T-shirt	7.00	7.00
Scholarships	<u>12.00</u>	<u>12.00</u>
Total	\$35.00	\$50.00

Awards and scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers. Scholarships will be administered and deposited into the SMART program (SMART account number 8545). USBC Rules 301d and 309 state that all scholarships awarded during a USBC certified event must be deposited in the SMART Program at USBC headquarters (1-800-514-2695 ext. 8968) 621 Six Flags Dr., Arlington, TX 76011.

- o The Bailey family scholarship will go to the highest scratch series in the Female U12, U14, U16, or U18 division during qualifying on March 7, 8 & 14 (divisions will be combined and only one scholarship will be given).
- o The Bowers family scholarship will go to the highest scratch series in the male U12, U14, U16, or U18 division during qualifying on March 7, 8, & 14 (divisions will be combined and only one scholarship will be given).

10. All bowlers must wear suitable attire at the discretion of the Tournament Director or the designated representative. USBC Rule 301b states Youth Participants will not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance or inappropriate language/gestures during competition. Those violating this rule will be required to change to appropriate clothing or will not be allowed to bowl. Suitable attire is described as: clean clothes without holes, shorts and skirts must be longer than the bowler's fingertips when standing with arms hanging naturally at their sides, covered midriffs (crop tops and tank tops are not permitted while in the act of bowling) and pants must be worn at the natural waistline. Head-coverings (except for medical reasons) are not permitted. Athletes are not allowed to smoke, vape, or use any tobacco products at the tournament site. Smoking for guests is allowed in designated smoking areas only. All electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, music players, etc.) should be turned off and stored during competition.

11. No replacements will be permitted **once athletes have started tournament play**; however, replacements may be used for bowlers not able to attend with 48-hour prior notification to squad time as stated in Rule 2. **Replacements must be based on the order of finish from prior level of competition (i.e., same window, same league and same center as to the "no-show" bowler if replacement is from the league level. They must follow the order of advancement within that window/league.)** No substitutes or replacements are allowed in the top 15% qualifying round. No refunds will be given to bowlers who do not show up without notifying the Tournament Director.

12. 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. A bowler that is not present to bowl when it's their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.

13. Competitors will be allowed 10 minutes of practice time prior to bowling for score on their starting pair of lanes only. Please note that all ball surface adjustments must be made prior to the first person on the squad throwing a ball in competition play.

14. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.

15. Ties will be broken by a one game roll-off. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by an additional ninth 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 the start of the next block or 30 minutes after completion of the 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.

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17. Symbolic awards will be given as follows: Medals and certificates awarded to the top 15% of all state advancers in all divisions
18. Scholarships will be awarded as follows: 1st place in all twelve divisions to receive a \$250.00 scholarship. Additional scholarships may be awarded based on number of participants. The Bailey Family Scholarship and Bowers Family Scholarship are both \$100 scholarships.
19. **The first-place winners of the U12, U14, U16, U18 Divisions for both Boys & Girls will advance to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships. 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 at the SC Youth Scratch Championships (if the bowler wins their division) in order to advance to the National Junior Gold tournament. USBC will waive the \$250 (U16 & U18) \$200 (U14) and \$150 (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. South Carolina will provide a stipend for expenses. All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2027 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U12, U14, U16, & U18 Division Champion is 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 scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. The scholarship, berth and stipend are separate awards.**

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 the order of finish in their division at state level. 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 is the same, the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken. 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.

20. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the South Carolina State Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee. The National USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

Tournament Director:

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Only USBC approved bowling balls will be allowed and MUST have the manufacturer's name, product name and serial number clearly visible at all times for identification purposes. Balls and drilling must meet all USBC specifications. All bowling balls may be checked for compliance with USBC equipment specifications. Individuals who violate this rule are subject to disqualification from the tournament. Please check BOWL.com, and click on the "Specs/Certification" link under Departments. Additionally, be aware of the new rule 301b which addresses youth equipment and apparel in more detail.

