



2024 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship Tournament Rules

***All rules for the 2024 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship are subject to change.**

All athlete services shall be conducted electronically whenever possible. Participants will be required to submit a waiver/release prior to competition.

1. Eligibility

- a. All participants must be USBC members in good standing.
- b. All participants must be no less than 16 years of age as of the first day of competition.
- c. Participants must be U.S. citizens and eligible to compete on Team USA in accordance with Olympic Charter - Rule 41: Nationality of Competitors.
- d. To qualify for Junior Team USA 2024, participants must be 20 or younger as of Jan. 1, 2024.
- e. All competitors 18 years of age or older as of Jan. 8, 2024, will be required to be current with SafeSport training.

2. USBC Team USA Qualifying

- a. 2024 Team USA will consist of at least 12 men and 12 women from the 2024 Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship.
- b. Only athletes 18 years of age or older as of Jan. 8, 2024, will be eligible to make 2024 Team USA.
- c. The top four (4) age-eligible male and top four (4) age-eligible female finishers in the 2024 USBC Team USA Trials, based on ranking points, will earn automatic spots on 2024 Team USA, while two (2) additional men and two additional women will be selected from the pool of players that compete at the 2024 Team USA Trials by the National Selection Committee (NSC). The U.S. Amateur champions also will earn a spot on 2024 Team USA. If the champions have already earned a spot, it will be awarded to the next-highest qualifier based on ranking points.
- d. The National Selection Committee has the authority to add members to the team at their discretion.

3. USBC Junior Team USA Qualifying

- a. 2024 Junior Team USA will consist of all those who qualified from the 2023 Junior Gold Championships (12 boys and 12 girls), and six (6) additional boys and six (6) additional girls from the 2024 Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship.
- b. The top four (4) age-eligible boys and top four (4) age-eligible girls in the 2024 Team USA Trials, based on ranking points, will earn automatic spots on 2024 Junior Team USA, while two (2) additional boys and two (2) additional girls will



be selected by the National Selection Committee from the 2024 Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship.

- c. The National Selection Committee has the authority to add members to the team at their discretion.

4. Tournament Entries

- a. Entry fee is \$350.00 USD.
- b. Entries will be limited to the first paid 175 males and 175 females.
- c. Those 18 years of age or older as of Jan. 8, 2024, will be required to be current with SafeSport training to complete their registration.
- d. The members of 2023 men's and women's Team USA qualify for a free tournament entry into the 2024 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship.
- e. The members of the 2023 boys' and girls' Junior Team USA will have 48 hours of entry priority into the event prior to public tournament registration launch.
- f. 2024 Team USA Trials qualifiers through the USBC Open Championships, USBC Women's Championships and Junior gold will be entered directly into the event and must confirm in writing to the tournament director their intent to participate no later than November 1, 2023.

5. General Rules

- a. This tournament is USBC certified.
- b. All individuals allowed in the bowling center will receive a credential that must always be worn.

6. Bowling Equipment

- a. Bowling balls must meet all USBC requirements for surface hardness, weight, balance, size, and number of holes. Bowling ball regulations for professional organizations DO NOT apply.
- b. Only bowling balls listed on the USBC Approved Ball list may be used.
<http://bowl.com/approvedballlist/>
- c. The following bowling balls are prohibited for use: 900 Global Altered Reality, 900 Global Wolverine, Roto Grip UFO Alert, Storm Electrify Solid, Storm Phaze 4, Storm Trend 2.
- d. Any bowler concerned with their equipment should have it checked in the pro shop and/or with a tournament official before competition begins.
- e. Once competition begins, no abrasives, cleaners or polishes may be used on the outer surface of a bowling ball. Only a dry towel may be used. The use of abrasives, cleaners or polishes is permitted during warmup, but NEVER during competition, including during match play. If the surface is adjusted during a game, the penalty is zero pinfall in that game and the ball is removed for the remainder of that round.
- f. No substance, including, but not limited to, talcum powder and EZ Slide, can be applied to the bottom of a player's shoes.



7. Dead Ball Situations

- a. Bowling on the wrong lane constitutes a potential dead ball situation, provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or their opponent in match play) bowls again. If a competitor rolls a strike on the wrong lane, they must re-bowl on the correct lane. If the competitor does not strike, their pin count will stand, and they must shoot the spare on the same lane.
- b. Bowling out of turn constitutes a potential dead ball situation, provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or their opponent in match play) bowls again. If a competitor rolls a strike out of turn, they must bowl again in the correct order of play. If the competitor does not strike, their pin count will stand, and they must shoot the spare.
- c. If a pin is on the lane or in the channel, the deadwood must be removed before the competitor delivers the ball. If a ball is delivered with deadwood on the lane or in the channel, and the ball contacts such deadwood before leaving the lane surface, a dead ball is declared. A competitor must consult the competitors on their pair to determine if it is in play. If any other competitor feels the pin is in play, it must be removed before a shot is thrown. If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while the pin is in play, and the ball contacts the deadwood before leaving the lane surface, they will receive zero for the shot. If a competitor attempts a spare conversion while the pin is in play and any other pin, after contacting the deadwood, knocks down one or more pins, they will receive zero for the shot.
- d. A competitor must re-bowl the frame if it is determined that any pins were missing from the rack at which they shot.

8. Dress Code

- a. All bowlers must wear suitable attire. Name shirts are not required but are suggested for our National Selection Committee. Each athlete must wear a collared shirt during competition.
- b. Mock neck shirts will be permitted along with athletic-style shirts. Sleeves must be worn. No jeans of any color will be allowed at any time, including practice.
- c. Dress slacks for men and skirts, skorts, dress shorts or dress slacks for women are acceptable. Skirts, skorts and shorts must be longer than fingertip length when standing with arms down at your sides.
 - i. Any bowler not in compliance with the dress code will not be allowed to bowl until the issue is resolved. Please check with a tournament official before the start of each block if you have questions regarding your attire.
- d. **Non-Competition Dress Code while in the tournament venue.**
 - i. All competitors clothing shall be presentable, neat and clean, similar to that of modern business casual attire.
 1. Acceptable attire includes but is not limited to.
 - a. Men – Slacks, jeans, dress shorts, collared/polo shirt, sweaters, crew neck bowling branded shirt and closed toed shoes.



- b. Women – Skirts, skorts, jeans, dress shorts, slacks, blouses, sweaters, collared/polo shirt, crew neck bowling branded shirt and dress or closed toed shoes.
2. Prohibited attire includes but is not limited to.
 - a. Hats, gym clothes, t-shirts, tank tops, sweats, distressed or clothing with holes, leggings (unless worn under a skirt, skort or shorts), yoga pants, sandals, flip flops, slides, etc.

9. Eating, Drinking, Smoking

- a. Athletes must not smoke, consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while in competition, i.e., during the entire period of a block of games. In those instances where it is established that a player is in breach of this rule, they may be suspended from the tournament by the tournament director for that block of games.
- b. Non-alcoholic beverages are allowed, provided they are not consumed in the settee area. Any food or drink must be kept behind the settee during competition.

10. Electronic Device Policy

- a. The use of mobile/electronic devices during competition will be prohibited. This includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, iPods and electronic devices of any kind. Devices used during competition will be confiscated and returned at the completion of that day's competition.

11. Format

- a. All bowling is in on a scratch basis.
- b. There are separate divisions for men and women.
- c. Number of bowlers per pair and total squad size shall be determined by the tournament director.
- d. Bowlers will receive 10 minutes of practice prior to the beginning of each qualifying block.
- e. Competition will consist of five blocks of qualifying, with six games in each block. Each block will be contested on a different Sport-compliant lane condition.
- f. Participants will receive ranking points based on finish position for each block (Example: bowler finished second in first block, two (2) points earned). Total ranking points will be determined after completion of all five blocks. The lowest number of points will determine first position overall, the next lowest is second, etc.
- g. All ties will be broken by total pinfall. If bowlers are still tied, and it is critical to break the tie, a one ball roll-off will break the tie. The time and place of the roll-off will be determined by the tournament committee.
- h. A bowler arriving late will begin play and their score will be counted only from the frame then being bowled. A player not present and ready to bowl when it is their turn will not be credited for any pins for the frames missed.
- i. No substitutes will be permitted; however, pacers may be scheduled at the sole discretion of the tournament director.



12. Lane Courtesy

- a. This tournament will use one-pair courtesy. The pair of lanes to a player's right and left must be empty before a player takes their position on the approach for a delivery. Alternating pairs of lanes across the house should have one player on the approach preparing to make their delivery. A player on each of the other lanes should be at the ball return preparing for their turn as soon as those on the approach make their delivery.
- b. Players shall be ready to bowl when it is their turn and shall not delay the start of their approach or delivery if the pair of lanes immediately adjacent to them on both the right and left is clear. If a player does not observe the procedure outlined above, it may be construed as slow bowling. A player failing to observe these procedures shall be warned by an authorized tournament official as follows:
 - i. White card for the first offense (no penalty).
 - ii. Blue card for the second offense (no penalty).
 - iii. Red card for the third and each succeeding offense in any block of games, the game is forfeited.
- c. To enforce this rule, a tournament official will monitor the participants to ensure no pair(s) of lanes get too far behind. Whenever there is any question concerning the enforcement of this rule, or lack thereof, the final decision shall be made by the tournament management committee.

13. U.S. Amateur Championship Stepladder Finals

- a. The top three amateur bowlers after qualifying (as determined by ranking points) will participate in the stepladder format. A "professional" is defined as anyone who currently holds a professional card (PBA/PWBA), has held one in the preceding calendar year or who has ever won a professional title as a member (national, regional or senior).
- b. Stepladders will take place on one pair of lanes for the women and one pair of lanes for the men. The pairs of lanes will be chosen by the tournament committee. All stepladder finals matches will have both players bowl one game on the pair of lanes.
- c. The top seeds (male and female) from qualifying will each choose a lane pattern from the five previous qualifying patterns, and it will be applied to the pair of lanes. The second seeds (male and female), from qualifying also will choose a lane pattern from the five previous qualifying patterns, and it will be applied to the pair of lanes.
- d. The first stepladder matches will be the third qualifying seed vs. the second qualifying seed on the lane pattern choice of the second qualifier. The final stepladder matches will be the winner of the first stepladder match vs. the top qualifier on the lane pattern choice of the top qualifier.
- e. In the event of a tie during the stepladder round, all tied competitors will compete in a one-ball roll-off. The highest-seeded competitor shall determine starting lane and position for the roll-off. The competitors shall bowl on the



same lane, and then alternate lanes in the same bowling order, until the tie is broken.

- f. There will be five minutes of practice on the stepladder lanes before each match, with a warmup pair of lanes made available for the top qualifiers during the first stepladder matches.
- g. Players winning the stepladder finals will be declared the 2024 U.S. Amateur champion.

14. Equipment Storage Rooms

- a. Only tournament bowlers and USBC staff members are permitted to enter the equipment storage rooms. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- b. Security – The equipment storage rooms will be locked one (1) hour after the end of competition for each squad each day and opened one (1) hour prior to the start of each squad for each day's competition.

15. Personnel in Settee Area

- a. Only tournament competitors, USBC staff and tournament volunteers are permitted in the settee area during practice sessions and competition.

16. Practice Sessions

- a. There are no lane assignments for the practice sessions. Bowlers are free to move around the venue.

17. Prize Money and Awards

- a. Daily prize money or applicable scholarship will be awarded to the top four males and top four females based on total pins in each separate round of qualifying. All scholarship money will be distributed to the athlete's SMART account per USBC rules. If the athlete declines the money earned, the next person, based on score for that round, will earn that daily prize money.
 - i. First place - \$500
 - ii. Second place - \$350
 - iii. Third place - \$200
 - iv. Fourth place - \$100
- b. First- and second-place finishers, based on ranking points after qualifying is complete, will be eligible for an optional insurance package provided by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC).
- c. All individuals who hold a USBC Youth membership must complete USBC's Consent Form prior to participation. Failure to do so may impact your USBC Youth eligibility.

18. Protests and Appeals

- a. Protests involving eligibility, scores or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director by the beginning of the next round of the tournament or, in the case of the final round, by completion of the closing ceremonies of the tournament.



- b. Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to the attention of the tournament director. An inspection will be made and then, if needed, corrections will be made. If complaint is determined to be unwarranted, the contestant must proceed to bowl, or the games will be declared forfeited.
- c. Appeals of penalties must be filed with the USBC Rules department immediately upon receipt of notice.
- d. Decision of USBC Rules department is final.

19. Refund Policy

- a. A refund will be given:
 - i. less \$50 cancellation fee, if written notice is received prior to November 15, 2023
 - ii. less a \$100 cancellation fee, if written notice is received between November 15, 2023 and December 31, 2023.
- b. No refund will be given:
 - i. if written notice is received after December 31, 2023.
 - ii. to individuals who have earned spots as 2023 Team USA members.
 - iii. to individuals who have won spots through the USBC Open Championships, USBC Women's Championships or Junior Gold Championships.

20. Re-Racks

- a. Two re-racks per game will be allowed. Any other requests need the permission of a tournament official.

21. Scoresheet

- a. Each bowler is responsible for verification of their own scores. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap forms. Questionable errors will be resolved by tournament management or, upon appeal, by the tournament director.

22. Tournament Management

- a. Tournament management has the final authority to make interpretations of any tournament rules and make decisions regarding anything not covered in the rules.



Termination /Release Clause

To the Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress: I hereby make application to participate in this USBC championship event listed and tender the entry fees required, therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC member. I agree to abide by all tournament playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. I specifically agree for myself and any replacement chosen by me or for me that if I am not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the event, then my prize, bowling, and expense fees shall be forfeited and all sums tendered by me as prize, bowling and expense fee may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrant whose name appears hereon or my authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when that entrant shall be prevented from bowling any event in the tournament through premature termination of the tournament, which may be brought about by war, national emergency or emergencies or causes relating thereto resulting therefrom, fires, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. I further agree that USBC may use my name and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to me and with no fees being paid to me. The entrant whose name appears on this application and/or authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the event, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.