



## 2026 U.S. Open FAQ

### 1. What are the 2026 U.S. Open dates and location?

The 2026 U.S. Open is scheduled for March 1-8 at Royal Pin Woodland in Indianapolis.

### 2. What's new for the 2026 U.S. Open?

The 2026 U.S. Open will feature one day of television coverage as part of a five-player stepladder finals.

The top 32 bowlers will advance to the fourth qualifying round where they'll bowl an additional eight games to determine the top 24 for round-robin match play. The top five bowlers after qualifying and round-robin match play will earn a spot in the stepladder finals.

The stepladder finals will take place on March 8 live on The CW. The winner of the 2026 U.S. Open will take home a Professional Bowlers Association major title and the \$100,000 top prize.

### 3. What is the field size for the 2026 U.S. Open?

The 2026 U.S. Open will feature a 108-player field. Players have earned, or will earn, spots/invitations based on their on-lane performances during the previous year(s), direct qualifiers and the pre-tournament qualifier conducted on-site before the start of the tournament.

### 4. What is the criteria for an invitation/exemption into the 2026 U.S. Open?

Bowlers may qualify for direct entry into the 2026 U.S. Open based on the following criteria in the following order:

Top 75 on the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour points list as of October 1, 2025.

All Past U.S. Open Champions.

Winner of each (up to 2) U.S. Open regional qualifier.

BPAA exemption (applications must be submitted by 1/1/2026).

Individuals who are signed up for the pre-tournament-qualifier who are bowling on the PBA TV show the day before the event, if applicable.

Remainder of field will be filled through an on-site pre-tournament qualifier.

## **5. What is the criteria for an invitation/exemption into the 2026 U.S. Open PTQ**

Bowlers may qualify for direct entry into the 2026 U.S. Open PTQ based on the following criteria in the following order:

Individuals who are 76-100 on the PBA points list as of Oct. 1, 2025.

USBC Masters winners, last three years.

PBA World Championship winners, last three years.

PBA Tournament of Champions winners, last three years.

PBA Players Championship winners, last three years.

USBC Open Championships Regular All-Events winners, last three years.

2025 USBC Senior Masters winner.

2025 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open winner.

Intercollegiate Singles Championships men's winners, last two years.

2025 U.S. Open, top five finishers.

2025 Men's U.S. Amateur, top three men's finishers.

2025 Team USA (men) and Junior Team USA (boys) members.

Bowlers who do not pay their entry fees by Jan. 10, 2026, will lose their spots in the field.

## **6. What is the PTQ format, field size and cost?**

- The pre-tournament qualifier will feature one eight-game block with total pins determining finishing position and qualification into the U.S. Open.
- Maximum field is 108 bowlers.
- Entry fee is \$500.
- Players not making the field for the U.S. Open will be returned half of their entry fee upon completion of the qualifier. The remainder will be placed in the U.S. Open prize fund.

## **7. Why is there a SafeSport requirement for any participant over 18?**

As the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of bowling, and to improve athlete safety across the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's efforts (USOPC), requiring those over 18 to complete SafeSport training improves the mission of ensuring a culture of safety through awareness, education and training programs. It all is part of helping to protect everyone involved.

\*Note: Any competitor who will be 18 years of age or older as of the completion of the 2026 U.S. Open will be required to be current with SafeSport training prior to registering for the event.

## **8. What does it mean to be current with SafeSport training? How long do I have to complete my training?**

To be current with SafeSport training, one needs to have completed either the initial core SafeSport Training module or one of the refresher courses since March 8, 2025. Those who have taken a training class since then can register for the U.S. Open. Training only

needs to be completed once, and SafeSport Refresher Training, which takes approximately 30 minutes, must be completed annually thereafter.

Visit [BOWL.com/RVP](http://BOWL.com/RVP) for information.

SafeSport must be completed by Feb. 17, 2026, or the competitor will lose his/her spot in the field.

**9. Will the 2026 U.S. Open be livestreamed?**

Yes. The event will be livestreamed on BowlTV.

**10. Can I get a refund if I have registered and choose not to bowl?**

Yes. The following guidelines will be used for issuing refunds:

- 1.** A refund will be given:
  - i. less a \$50 cancellation fee, if written notice is received prior to Feb. 1, 2026.
  - ii. less a \$100 cancellation fee, if written notice is received between Feb. 1, 2026, and Feb. 22, 2026.
- 2.** No refund will be given if written notice is received after Feb. 22, 2026.