



2026 U.S. Open PTQ Rules

- The 2026 U.S. Open PTQ (pre-tournament qualifier) is USBC certified. The game of American tenpins will be played.
- **All U.S Open rules apply unless otherwise modified herein.**
- Participants will be required to submit a waiver/release prior to competition.
- All athletes 18 years of age and older as of the last day of U.S. Open competition who are competing in either the PTQ or U.S. Open must be current on their SafeSport training.
- Entries will close 48 hours prior to the start of the PTQ.
- If the number of entrants in the PTQ is equal to or less than the number of spots available in the U.S. Open, the PTQ will not be held, and all entrants in the PTQ will advance to U.S. Open competition.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC TO THE PTQ:

PRE-TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER

- 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.
- Entry fees for direct qualifiers are due by January 10th, 2026 at 5pm EST.
- 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.
- All PTQ entrants must be present at roll call.
- U.S. Open equipment limits are not in effect for the PTQ.

LANE OIL PATTERN

- The pattern will be posted at the tournament venue no later than the start of the official practice session.
- That pattern will be Sport compliant.

PRACTICE SESSION

- Official practice will be 30 minutes.
- The lanes will be reconditioned prior to competition.
- There are no lane assignments for the practice session. Bowlers are free to move around the venue.
- Tournament dress code applies to the practice session.
- Bowlers will be permitted 10 minutes of warmup on their starting pairs prior to the start of competition.



TIEBREAKERS

- If there is a tie for the final position needed to complete the U.S. Open field, one complete game shall be bowled on a neutral pair selected by the tournament director. The bowler with the highest game score from qualifying will choose the starting lane, and the bowler on the odd lane will start. Bowlers shall be permitted two balls on each lane prior to beginning the tiebreaker.
- If a tie still exists at the end of the tiebreaker game, a one-ball roll-off shall determine the outcome. The higher seed shall determine starting lane and position for the roll-off. The next-highest seed shall select their position and so on until all positions are determined. Competitors shall bowl on the same lane and then alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken.
- Alternates for qualifying - Any ties for alternate positions will be decided by high game score. The top five non-qualifiers from the PTQ become alternates for entry into the U.S. Open. Alternates must complete ball cards and turn them in prior to A Squad roll call on the first day of competition.
 - Alternates may participate in the official practice sessions.
 - Alternates must be present at roll call for each squad.
 - In case of a withdrawal or no-show, alternates will be placed into competition based on order of finish.

EQUIPMENT

- All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications and be included on the list of USBC-approved balls posted on BOWL.com; however, certain bowling balls are ineligible for competition even if they appear on the approved list. This includes all slow oil-absorbing high-performance bowling ball (Urethane) models listed in the section below as well as any slow oil-absorbing high-performance balls produced prior to Aug. 1, 2022. In addition, some of the balls listed below are ineligible for other reasons as determined by USBC.
- The bowling balls listed in Appendix A are considered ineligible under USBC rules.
- It is the player's responsibility to ensure all equipment is eligible for competition.
 - Any bowler may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.
 - Plugged bowling balls are allowed.
- If a competitor uses a bowling ball not on the USBC-Approved Balls List or one that does not meet USBC specifications, the bowler will be disqualified from the tournament.

Appendix A



USBC NATIONAL TOURNAMENT INELIGIBLE BOWLING BALL LIST

Events where no slow oil-absorbing high-performance balls are allowed

Applies to: U.S. Open, USBC Masters, PWBA Regional and National Tour, USBC Queens, U.S. Women's Open, U22 Masters and Queens, USA Bowling National Championships, Junior Gold Championships (Match Play and Finals), USBC Intercollegiate Singles and Team National Championships and USBC Collegiate Sectionals.

All slow oil-absorbing high-performance bowling ball models listed in the section below, as well as any slow oil-absorbing high-performance balls (Urethane) produced prior to Aug. 1, 2022, are ineligible for competition. In addition, some of the balls listed below are ineligible for other reasons as determined by USBC. The following balls are considered ineligible under current USBC rules:

Brand	Ball Name	Release Date
900 Global	Altered Reality	11/2/2021
900 Global	Boo-Yah!	6/2/2015
900 Global	HB (Honey Badger) Urethane	12/11/2018
900 Global	Shadow Ops	12/12/2017
900 Global	Wolverine	11/2/2021
ABS	Nanodesu Accu-Line Premium LTD	10/15/2013
ABS	Nanodesu Accu-Line Tour Premium U	12/2/2022
ABS	Nanodesu Accu-Line Tour Premium U (78) Pearl	4/29/2025
ABS	Nanodesu Accu-Line Tour Premium U (78) Solid	4/29/2025
ABS	Nanodesu Accu-Line Tour Premium U Pearl	9/5/2023
ABS	Pure Line II	2/18/2012
ABS	Pure Line III	1/29/2013
ABS	Pure Line Nanodesu	6/4/2011
ABS	Pure Roll Nanodesu	3/14/2017
ABS	Pure Swing 2 Nanodesu	1/13/2015
ABS	Pure Swing Nanodesu	3/25/2014
AMF	Hype Urethane	9/15/2009
Brunswick	Avalanche Urethane	5/12/2010
Brunswick	Karma Urethane Solid	6/22/2012
Brunswick	True Motion	10/17/2017
Brunswick	Urethane Zone	7/19/2011
Columbia 300	The Beast Urethane	2/2/2016
Denver Bowling	Devil	1/5/2010
Denver Bowling	Glacier	1/5/2010
DV8	Tactic Control	6/14/2018
Ebonite	Crush Red Urethane	8/13/2024
Ebonite	The One Urethane 78D	12/10/2024
Ebonite	Thunderbolt Urethane Blue	7/1/2025
Ebonite	Nitro U	7/30/2010
Ebonite	The One Black Urethane	3/7/2023
Ebonite	Turbo II Urethane	3/7/2017
Ebonite	Turbo II Urethane Purple	12/18/2018
Ebonite	Turbo Urethane	12/8/2015
Elite	Alien Impact Black/Silver	5/7/2024
Elite	Alien Impact Blue/Sapphire	5/7/2019
Elite	EZ Black-Silver Pearl	6/6/2023
Elite	EZ Teal-Blue Pearl	6/6/2023
Genesis Bowling	The Judge	4/7/2015
Hammer	Black Pearl Urethane Hammer	12/12/2023
Hammer	Black Urethane	9/17/2015
Hammer	Black Urethane Solid	8/22/2023
Hammer	Black Widow Urethane	11/1/2017
Hammer	Black Widow Urethane Black Pearl	7/2/2024
Hammer	Black Widow Urethane Blue	11/20/2018
Hammer	Magenta Urethane	10/9/2018
Hammer	Magenta Urethane Pearl	6/13/2023
Hammer	Purple Urethane Pearl (All Pins)	9/22/2016
Hi-Sports	Up Beat Pearl SE	8/20/2024
Legends	Jade Diamond	11/12/2024
Lord Field	Burning Up	5/7/2012
Lord Field	Old School	5/5/2015
Lord Field	Zaru Blue Pearl	11/12/2011
Motiv	(Shadow) Tank	9/30/2025
Motiv	Tank (Rampage) Pearl	1/23/2024
PBS (Professionals Bowling System)	Sniper M40A1	7/22/2014
Phiten	Phiten Urethane	9/5/2023
Pro Bowl	Frosted Power	2/25/2025
Pro Bowl	Stallion	12/5/2023
Pyramid Bowling	Enchanted Path Purple-Black-Silver	10/7/2025
Pyramid Bowling	Guardian Pink-Black-White	5/14/2024
Pyramid Bowling	Pathogen Plague	2/27/2018
Pyramid Bowling	Pathogen Plague Pearl	1/14/2020
Radical	Torpedo Direct Hit	3/4/2025
Roto Grip	Fame U	1/3/2017
Roto Grip	Grenade	5/24/2010
Roto Grip	Hot Cell	7/25/2017

Roto Grip	Hustler Black	6/4/2024
Roto Grip	Hustler Deep Purple	9/19/2023
Roto Grip	Hustler Navy	9/5/2023
Roto Grip	Hustler Red	6/4/2024
Roto Grip	UFO Alert	3/9/2021
Seismic	Desperado	11/15/2009
Seismic	Desperado Limited Edition	11/11/2011
Storm	!Q Tour 78/U	10/17/2023
Storm	!Q Tour Red	10/31/2018
Storm	Electrify Solid	3/23/2021
Storm	Natural	5/1/2009
Storm	Natural Pearl	10/12/2010
Storm	Phaze 4	10/12/2021
Storm	Pitch Black	3/18/2014
Storm	Super Natural	1/1/2013
Storm	Sword Perfect	1/17/2017
Storm	Sword U	3/22/2016
Storm	Trend 2	6/22/2021
Strikeforce	Rise Black-Purple Solid	4/29/2025
Strikeforce	Rise Black-Silver Pearl	4/29/2025
Strikeforce	Rise Blue-Teal Pearl	4/29/2025
Strikeforce	Rise Red-Black Pearl	4/29/2025
Strikeforce	Rise Red-Black-Gold Pearl	4/29/2025
Superbowl	Redline	11/15/2010
Swag	Big Bro Burn-Up LE	12/27/2022
Swag	Buffalo	3/7/2023
Track	Shark Urethane	2/28/2017
Track	Theorem Black Pearl Urethane	6/17/2025
Track	Theorem Black Urethane	12/18/2024
Visionary	The Crow	7/12/2016
X-ATK	Demon No. 1	4/1/2025
X-ATK	UX Urethane	8/19/2025

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