2027 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship Tournament Rules

***All rules for the 2027 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship are subject to change.**

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 2027, participants must be 20 or younger as of Jan. 1, 2027.
e. To qualify for Team USA 2027, participants must be 18 years of age or older as of Jan. 8, 2027.
f. All competitors 18 years of age or older as of Jan. 8, 2027, will be required to be current with SafeSport training.

2. USBC Team USA Qualifying

a. Team USA 2027 will consist of at least 12 men and 12 women from the 2027 Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship. The team will be comprised of the following:
    1) The top four (4) age-eligible male and top four (4) age-eligible female finishers in the 2027 USBC Team USA Trials, based on ranking points.
    2) Two (2) additional men and two (2) additional women selected from the pool of players that compete at the 2027 Team USA Trials by the National Selection Committee (NSC).
    3) The U.S. Amateur champions. If the champions have already earned a spot or are not age eligible, it will be awarded to the next-highest qualifier based on ranking points.
    4) The remaining members will be selected based on one's resume, which must be submitted on or before Dec. 31, 2026. Entry or intent to participate is required to submit a resume. A waiver may be granted for excused absences beyond the athlete's control when communicated in advance. Those eligible to submit resumes are:
        a) Individuals who finished in the top 25 of either the PBA or PWBA points list from the 2026 season.
        b) Any Team USA member in the past five years (Junior Team USA not included).
        c) Any Junior Team USA member from the last two years that were on a travel competition team.

b. The National Selection Committee has the authority to add members to the team at its discretion.

3. USBC Junior Team USA Qualifying

a. Junior Team USA 2027 spots will be awarded at the 2027 Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship to the following:
   1) The top four (4) age-eligible boys and top four (4) age-eligible girls based on ranking points
   2) Four (4) additional boys and four (4) additional girls will be selected by the National Selection Committee from those who competed at the 2027 Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship.

b. Junior Team USA 2027 will also consist of all those who qualified from the 2026 Junior Gold Championships (6 boys and 6 girls) and the 2026 U22 Masters and U22 Queens (4 boys and 4 girls).

c. The National Selection Committee has the authority to add members to the team at its 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. The members of 2026 men's and women's Team USA qualify for a free tournament entry into the 2027 USBC Team USA Trials/U.S. Amateur Championship. Entry must be accepted by Sept. 1, 2026.

d. Individuals who finished in the top 25 on either the PBA or PWBA points list in 2026, any Team USA member in the past five years (Junior Team USA not included), any Junior Team USA members from the last two years that were on a travel competition team and boys' and girls' members of Junior Team USA 2026 will have 48 hours of entry priority into the event prior to the public tournament registration launch.

e. 2027 Team USA Trials qualifiers through the USBC Open Championships, USBC Women's Championships and Junior Gold Championships will be entered directly into the event and must confirm in writing to the tournament director their intent to participate no later than Sept. 1, 2026.

5. General Rules

a. This tournament is USBC certified.

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

6. Bowling Equipment

a. 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. Based on the International Bowling Federations decision, only slow oil-absorbing high-performance (urethane) bowling balls produced at 78D hardness or higher will

be allowed for use. Any ball that measures below 72D will be declared non-compliant and removed from the competition.

b. All slow oil-absorbing high-performance bowling balls (Urethane) must be at least 78 hardness including high-performance balls produced prior to Aug. 1, 2022. This includes all slow oil-absorbing high-performance bowling ball (Urethane) models listed on the National Tournament Ineligible Ball List - 78D Slow Oil Allowed, as well as any slow oil-absorbing high-performance balls produced prior to Aug. 1, 2022. In addition, some of the balls listed are ineligible for other reasons as determined by USBC.
   1) It is the player's responsibility to ensure all equipment is eligible for competition.
      a) Any bowler may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.
      b) Plugged bowling balls are allowed.
   2) Any ball that becomes indistinguishable from a tournament ineligible or non-approved ball due to sanding, drilling or any other means will be treated as the tournament ineligible or non-approved model.

c. Once competition has begun, bowlers may not alter the surface of their bowling ball using abrasives, cleaners, or polish. During competition, the outer surface of the bowling ball may be cleaned only with a dry towel.

d. No foreign substance can be applied to the bowling ball surface, bowling shoes, or the approaches. This includes, but is not limited to, rosin, powder, Easy-Slide, dry bags, slide stone, soap stone, polish, wax, alcohol and like products.

Penalty: Games where the ball is used are subject to forfeiture, and the ball is subject to removal for up to and including the remainder of the tournament.

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 should 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's surface, the delivery counts, but the resulting pinfall does not. If a ball is delivered with deadwood on the lane or in the channel and a pin, after contacting the deadwood, knocks down one or more pins, the delivery counts, but the resulting pinfall does not.

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. Any bowler not in compliance with the following 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.
   1) Name shirts are not required but are suggested so that our National Selection Committee members can identify participants. Each athlete must wear a collared shirt during the competition.
   2) 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.
   3) 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.

b. All competitors in the tournament venue when not competing shall be presentable, neat, and clean, like 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, 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. Format

a. All bowling is 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 director.
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.

11. 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:
    1) First offense: Verbal warning, no penalty
    2) Second offense: Written warning, no penalty
    3) 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 director.

12. Delays and Mechanical Breakdowns

a. If a delay or mechanical breakdown of 10 minutes or longer occurs during competition, tournament management will authorize two (2) warm-up shots prior to the restarting of competition. Timing will begin the moment the tournament director is notified of the breakdown.

b. An alternate pair shall be used whenever possible when awarding warmup in the event of a breakdown.
c. If an alternate pair is not available, two (2) shots will be awarded on the lane opposite of where the competitor will throw his or her next shot for score.
d. If a breakdown requires competitors to move to an alternate pair not previously used in the tournament, each competitor required to move will receive two (2) warm-up shots on each lane. Subsequent incoming bowlers may receive warm-up shots at the discretion of the tournament director.
e. If the pair is repaired, it will remain out of play for all squads unless a re-oil occurs. The pair may be brought back into play if needed due to additional breakdowns.

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 finals.
    1) Men's Division: A "professional" is defined as anyone who currently holds a PBA card, has held one in the preceding calendar year or who has ever won a professional title as a member (national, regional, or senior).
    2) Women's Division: A "professional" is defined as.
        a) Anyone who currently holds a PBA card.
        b) Anyone under the age of 60 who meets the following criteria:
            a) Has won a PWBA national title, regardless of professional status at the time of winning, within the past 10 years (2017-2027); and/or up through their first day of competition at the Team USA Trials.
            b) Has won a PWBA major title, regardless of professional status at the time of winning, within the past 20 years (2007-2027).
            c) Finished in the top 30 on the PWBA National Tour points list at the conclusion of the 2026 season.
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 director. 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 chosen by the second qualifier. The final stepladder matches will be the winner of the first stepladder match vs. the top qualifier on the lane pattern chosen by 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 2027 U.S. Amateur champions.

14. Equipment Storage Rooms

a. Only tournament bowlers, parents/guardians of minor athletes 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 open one (1) hour prior to the start of each squad for each day's competition.

15. Personnel in Settee Area

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

16. Practice Sessions

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 dollars 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.
    1) First place - $500
    2) Second place - $350
    3) Third place - $200
    4) Fourth place - $100
b. 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 a complaint is determined to be unwarranted, the contestant must proceed to bowl, or the games will be declared forfeited.
c. Appeals for penalties must be filed with the USBC Rules department immediately upon receipt of notice.
d. Decisions of the USBC Rules department are final.

19. Refund Policy

a. A refund will be given:
   1) Less $50 cancellation fee, if written notice is received prior to Nov. 15, 2026.
   2) Less a $100 cancellation fee, if written notice is received between Nov. 15, 2026, and Dec. 31, 2026.
b. No refund will be given:
   1) If written notice is received after Dec. 31, 2026.
   2) To individuals who have earned spots as 2026 Team USA members.
   3) To individuals who have won spots through the USBC Open Championships, USBC Women's Championships or Junior Gold Championships.

20. Re-Racks

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

21. Score Sheet

a. Each bowler is responsible for verifying their own scores. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap forms.
b. Any score submitted higher than the scoring system returns will be adjusted to the lower score. Any score submitted lower than the scoring system returns will be left as the lower score.
c. Questionable errors will be resolved by the tournament director.

22. Tournament Management

Tournament management has the final authority to make interpretations of any tournament rules and make decisions regarding anything that is 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.